



Congleton U3A - Beautiful Cuba 03 May 2017 – 15 Days

Twin/Double Room £2,549.00 per person & Single Room £400.00 supplement

Price based on minimum 30 paying people

Non-Refundable Deposit £250.00 per person

Itinerary

Tuesday 03 May 2017: Depart Manchester for Havana (-/-/D)

Board the coach in Congleton to travel to Manchester in airport in time for your flight.

KL1072	Manchester	Amsterdam	05.55	08.20
KL723	Amsterdam	Havana	10.30	14.45

You will be met on arrival in Havana by your local guide and transferred to your hotel for the next 3 nights. Upon arrival you will be greeted by a welcome cocktail before enjoying your dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Memories Miramar 4* as first option

www.memoriesresorts.com/en/resort/havana.aspx or at Hotel ROC Presidente 4* as second choice <http://en.roc-hotels.com/hotel-roc-presidente-hotel-in-havana/>

Wednesday 04 May 2017: Havana (B/L/D)

After breakfast at the hotel you will visit Old Havana. A walking tour through the typical streets of the old town: The four main Squares in the historical area of city, Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja, Plaza San Francisco de Asis and Plaza de La Catedral, which are all rich architectural symbols of the past. You will also visit Obispo Street which is the most visited place in Old Havana. Continuing your journey, you will visit the hotel "Ambos Mundos" which is a historical place where the Nobel Prize winner Ernest Hemingway stayed. You will then visit "Floridita" restaurant which is world famous for its Daiquirí, a typical Cuban cocktail which you will have the opportunity to taste. You will then visit the Museo de los Capitanes Generales that shows the history of the Colonization era. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant "La Cabaña" which will be followed by a visit to Havana Club Foundation, where you will have a little rum tasting.

In the afternoon, you will visit the external area of Gran Parque Histórico Militar Morro-Cabaña, the Caribbean biggest fortress complex. You will also visit the Cristo de La Habana which is a wonderful spot where you can relax with an incredible view of Havana. You will be head back towards the hotel where dinner will be served.

Thursday 05 May 2017: Havana-Viñales Valley-Havana (B/L/D)

Following breakfast you will be picked up at the hotel and journey in direction of Pinar del Rio. On arrival you will enjoy a panoramic view of the city, visit the artisanal rum factory "Guayabita del Pinar" and visit a Tobacco Factory, where you will learn the steps of cultivation and processing of one of the world's best cigars. Continue your journey in direction to Viñales, a beautiful place which is a World Heritage Site. There you will visit and have lunch at the Mural de La Prehistoria, an enormous rustic mural which was painted by Liovigildo Gonzales, a Diego Rivera disciple.

After lunch you will visit La Cueva del Indio, an incredible boat ride where natural and complex rock formations can be seen. Finally, you will visit Los Jazmines belvedere where you will enjoy a little cocktail before being transferred back to Havana. Upon arrival at the hotel dinner will be served at the hotel.

Friday 06 May 2017: Havana- Guamá (B/L/D)-Cienfuegos

Having eaten breakfast you will check out of the hotel and you will be picked up before heading towards Ciénaga de Zapata. The Ciénaga de Zapata is an impressive wetland located west of the Bay of Pigs. Guamá is at the heart of Laguna del Tesoro which is the largest natural lake in Cuba and is located within Montemar Natural Park.

You will visit the Crocodile Farm and will enjoy a boat trip over the lake to Taíno Village. Taíno Village is a replica village of local tribes and highlights the daily activities of the indigenous Cuban people before the arrival of the Spaniards many centuries ago. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant "Abey". In the afternoon, continue your journey towards Cienfuegos which is an incredible city also called "La Perla del Sur" because of its strong French influenced architecture. Check in at the hotel and enjoy your dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Jagua as first preference www.hoteljagua.com or Hotel boutique La Union www.hotellaunion-cuba.com or Hotel Palacio Azul www.hotelpalacioazul.com

Saturday 07 May 2017: Cienfuegos (B/L/D)

After breakfast you will visit Cienfuegos which is an elegant city with a neoclassical architecture. A welcome cocktail at the patio from "Palacio de Valle" will be your first stop. You will then continue visiting famous attractions of Cienfuegos such as the Thomas Terry Theatre and the Plaza Marti. Lunch will be served at the local restaurant "Los Laureles" which is located in Punta Gorda, right in front of the sea.

In the afternoon you will visit La Catedral which is a spectacular church where you can see incredible details from classical French architecture such as marvellous stained glass windows. Finally, you will visit the Casa Cultural Benjamin Duarte, where you will assist a little performance by local children. Dinner will be served at the hotel and you will have the rest of the evening at leisure.

Sunday 08 May 2017: Cienfuegos-Trinidad (B/L/D)

Following breakfast you will visit Trinidad which is the most iconic colonial town of Cuba and also known as 'The City Museum'. Start your visit with the museum Palacio Cantero, followed by the bar "Canchanchara" where you can taste a special cocktail. You will then stop by the Casa del Alfarero which is a traditional regional pottery. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant (Plaza Mayor or similar).

In the afternoon, you will discover the 'Valle de los Ingenios' or 'Valley of the Sugar Mills' which was a centre for sugar production from the late 18th until the late 19th century and is located just outside the city of Trinidad. You will then return to the hotel in Trinidad for dinner and will have the evening at leisure. Do not miss visiting "Manaca Iznaga" tower from where you can see all of Trinidad. Dinner in a local restaurant

Also, Trinidad has a very interesting nightlife and music whirls from every street corner. You might want to consider a visit to the Casa de la Trova or Casa de la Música for a little bit of cultural and musical blend.

Accommodation: Premium Guesthouse Such as Hostal 1830, Hostal Lola, Guesthouse of Sotolongo at Plaza Mayor or Hostal del Regidor (between the best at the Historical Center) – these are better located than the local hotels and are of a comparable if not better standard.

Monday 09 May 2017: Trinidad-Caribbean Sea-Trinidad (B/L/D)

After Breakfast you will set sail on the Caribbean Sea along the shoreline of southern Cuba. On board a comfortable catamaran or yacht, you will enjoy the turquoise colours of the magnificent sea. Along the way, the captain will anchor close to a coral reef for those more adventurous that would like to snorkel and check out the spectacular underwater world. Later, the boat will moor at Cayo Macho which is a small paradisiacal island with white pearly sand and a colourful underwater world such as gorgonians, sponges and coral.

A seafood lunch will be served with fish, lobster and shrimp and the remaining of the afternoon is at leisure for you to lie on the beach or to dive into the Caribbean Sea. Return to Trinidad where dinner will be served in the hotel and where you will have the evening at leisure.

Tuesday 10 May 2017: Trinidad -Topes de Collantes (B/L/D)- Remedios City-Caibarien fisherman town- Cay Santa María

Following breakfast, travel from Trinidad to Topes de Collantes. The Gran Parque Topes de Collantes is located just 20 kilometres north of the city of Trinidad and 800 meters above sea level in the heart of the Escambray Mountains. While the temperatures in Trinidad are quite high year-round (30+ degrees Celsius), it is much cooler in the nearby mountains. The beginning of the trip up the mountain will take you uphill during a panoramic tour with a visit to local communities such as Cuatro Vientos and Guanayara. Once at the top, the trail runs downhill towards the waterfall, El Rocío, followed by the river and finishes by the mountain lake, El Venado. You will continue the descent downwards where lunch will be served at "La Casa de la Gallega", which was a local farmhouse but was repurposed as a restaurant with the increase of ecotourism. In the afternoon you will transfer to Hotel in Cay Santa María

Accommodation: Hotel Playa Cayo Santa María 5* standard room All Inclusive
www.gaviota-grupo.com/en/hoteles/playa-cayo-santa-maria or similar such as
Memories Paraiso Azul www.memoriesresorts.com/en/resort/paraiso-azul.aspx or
Hotel Starfish Cayo Santa María
www.starfishresorts.com/en/resort/cayosantamaria.aspx

Wednesday 11 May - Saturday 14 May 2017 (B/L/D) - Cay Santa María

The next 4 days are at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities

Sunday 15 May 2017: Cayo Santa María – Santa Clara- Havana (B/L/D)

After breakfast you depart for Santa Clara. On arrival visit the historical City of Santa Clara, starting the Tour for the monument made in tribute to El Che, Santa Clara Mausoleum, which located in La Plaza de la Revolución where rest El Che and him comrades who died in Bolivia in 1967. Continue your visit with the Armored Train which was involved in Santa Clara Battle in 1958 during the Cuban Revolution.

Lunch will then be served at the restaurant "Los Caneyes". In the afternoon, you will visit park Leoncio Vidal where you will have some time at leisure. Continue on to Havana where you check in and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

This evening you will visit Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña colloquially known as La Cabaña which is an 18th-century fortress complex, the third-largest in the Americas, located on the elevated eastern side of the harbour entrance in Havana, Cuba. The fort rises above the 200-foot (60 m) hilltop, along with Morro Castle (fortress). The complex is now part of a historical park, along with the El Morro fortress, and houses several museums open to the public. Every night a cannon is fired at 9pm, the so-called "El Cañonazo de las 9", a custom kept from colonial times signalling the closure of the gates in the city wall.

Accommodation: Hotel Memories Miramar or Hotel ROC Presidente 4*

Monday 16 May 2017: Depart Havana (B/-/-)

In the afternoon you will transfer to the airport for you international flight back to the UK.

KL724	Havana	Amsterdam	16.50	08.15+1
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Tuesday 17 May 2017: Arrive UK

KL1081	Amsterdam	Havana	10.15	10.30
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Coach transfer back to Congleton

B-Breakfast, L- Lunch, D-Dinner

Twin/Double Room £2,549.00 per person & Single Room £400.00 supplement

Price based on minimum 30 paying people

Non-Refundable Deposit £250.00 per person

What's included in this trip

- Return flights in standard class with KLM from Manchester to Havana via Amsterdam – 20kgs hold luggage included
- Return airport transfers in the UK
- 13 nights - 3 night's accommodation in Havana, 2 night's accommodation in Cienfuegos, 3 night's accommodation in Trinidad, 4 night's accommodation in Cay Santa Maria & 1 night's accommodation in Havana.
- English speaking tour leader throughout
- Meals as specified
- Entrances

What's not included in this trip

- Cuban Visa – approx. cost £15.00 per person
- Services not mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals & drinks not included in the itinerary
- Tips for leaders, guide & driver
- Daiquiri at Floridita Bar/restaurant
- Entrance to the room Hemmingway used to rent at the Hotel Ambos Mundos



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