

Cuba: Art and Culture for Students

10 days and 9 nights in the safest and most cultured country in the Americas!

VISIT HAVANA, CIENFUEGOS, TRINIDAD | DETAILS AT WWW.HELLOCUBA.CA

DAY 1 – SATURDAY – HELLO CUBA

- Arrival at Havana's José Martí International Airport.
- Group welcomed by your CubaNatura Guide and Bus Driver.
- Transfer to **Hotel Saint Johns**, located in Havana's cultural center: Vedado near the Malecón seawall.
- Private group check-in with assistance from your guide.
- Take a refreshing swim in one of two hotel pools.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY – DISCOVERING HAVANA

Guided walking tour of Old Havana, an UNESCO **World Heritage Site** to experience four of its five historic plazas.

Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza on the island. Named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture: the **Cathedral of Havana** built by the Jesuit order.

Square of Arms, an ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers, surrounded by impressive buildings such as:

- **Palacio de los Capitanes Generales**, former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.
- **Palacio del Segundo Cabo**, seat of the second authority of the island. Today it houses important publishing concerns.
- **Museo de Artesanía** at **Castillo de la Real Fuerza**, the second oldest fortress built by the Spaniards in the West Indies. Today it displays treasures of artistic ceramics by the most prestigious Cuban artists

from the middle of the last century to present. The institution is host to the Ceramic Biennial.

We continue onto **San Francisco Square**, one of the oldest in the historical quarter.

And later to **Plaza Vieja**, the only civic square of colonial times. Absent are churches and government buildings. We'll visit an important center for the visual arts.

In each of the plazas we'll stop at key attractions including a visit to the **Scale Model of Old Havana**.

We spend time in Rumba performance at **Callejón de Hammel**, an alley in which the façades of all the buildings display murals inspired by AfroCuban religions themes. We'll meet alley artist **Salvador Gonzales** and visit his studio.

Tonight we have a Cuban band playing for us! We learn how to perform and dance to Salsa, Son, Rumba and other popular Cuban rhythms from **Grupo Dulce María**.

DAY 3 – MONDAY – MODERN HAVANA

Meeting with **Mario Coyula Cowley**, Director of the **Group for the Integral Development of Havana**, at its headquarters that also houses Scale Model of the City of Havana. Mr. Coyula has been a leading figure in urban design urban policy and community development for over 45 years, garnering design accolades, awards and public leadership roles.

This will be followed by a panoramic motor coach tour of **Modern Havana**. We visit places like The Plaza de La Revolución (Revolution Square), Universidad de La Habana (University of Havana), Malecón (Seawall),

the Vedado and Miramar neighbourhoods, Hotel Nacional, Cementario Colon (Colombus Cemetery), and many others.

We will also see important examples of Art Deco style architecture such as Lopez Serrano Building, The House of Catalina Laza, and The America Theatre.

In the afternoon there will be three options (entrance fee not included):

El Capitolio (The Capitol Building) designed by Cuban Architects and built by the American construction company of Purdy & Henderson. This monumental building is one of Cuba's most outstanding architectural heritage sites packed with art work from Cuban and foreign artists.

Centro Asturiano, inaugurated in 1927 and designed by Spanish Architect Manuel del Busto. This building features solid heavy façades constructed in Capellania Stones with clear influences from the Spanish Renaissance. It houses the new Museum of Fine arts inaugurated in 2001.

Centro Gallego, built in 1915 by Belgian Architect Paul Belau. The façades are richly decorated and inspired by baroque and renaissance styles. Today the centre houses El Gran Teatro de La Habana (The Grand Havana Theatre) and Alicia Alonzo's National Ballet.

In the evening we witness Havana's most impressive and longstanding tradition: The Firing of the 9:00pm Cannon at the **Fortress of San Carlos de La Cabana**.

DAY 4 – TUESDAY – HAVANA

In the morning we will take a ferryboat ride across Havana harbor to the municipality of **Regla**. This Afro-Cuban community has a long, rich and still active tradition of African-inspired religions.

We'll visit the local church dedicated to the Black Virgen de Regla Yemayá African goddess of the sea in the Yoruba religion and the patron saint of sailors.

Tour of the Municipal Museum to learn the origins of this unique community and its religions.

We visit home studio of painter, master printmaker and designer, Antonio Canet.

In the afternoon you will have time to visit the beautiful **Playas del Este** (East Beaches) where you can relax and enjoy water sports.

Optional evening venue: Enjoy the best Jazz live at **La Zorra y El Cuervo Club**.

DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY – HAVANA

Morning visit with faculty and students of the **Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA)** – a center for advanced studies in the fields of theatre, dance, music, visual arts and communication art. ISA's campus and buildings were designed after the Revolution by Cuban **Ricardo Porro** and **Italians Roberto Gottardi** and **Vittorio Garatti**. Planned to take the form of five beautiful parkland pavilions, only three were completed. In 1965 the project was put on hold due to the urgent need for housing. Its buildings, described as "magic-realist architecture and landscape," were listed by the World Monument Fund as one of the world's 100 most endangered structures. In December 1999, with renewed funding, the original architects have reunited to complete the most important architectural project of the Revolution.

Lunch hosted by **José Fuster**, one of Cuba's most important ceramists and painters at his whimsical studio in Jaimanitas, just outside of Havana.

Afternoon visit to the studios of artists for an exchange about their work. A unique opportunity to purchase art directly!

Evening is free to explore the city with your classmates, faculty and new Cuban friends.

DAY 6 – THURSDAY – CIENFUEGOS

Morning departure to **Cienfuegos**, renowned for its wealth of buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Upon arrival we'll have a guided tour of the city and an explanation of the origins of this beautiful cosmopolitan city founded by French immigrants in the early 1800s.

We'll explore Cienfuegos' Plaza Martí where the ceremony of foundation of the city took place, and where you'll find a reproduction of the Arc de Triomphe of Paris.

We'll see such neoclassical buildings such as the main Cathedral, built with donations from wealthy slaveholding families like the Lebrancs, the Albis, the Terrys. Inside are reproductions of the 12 Apostles in stained glass imported from Paris. Also the original machinery of the clock tower – still in place and working – was built in France. We tour the Tomas Terry Theatre, built at the end of the 19th century, which still displays original elements of construction including wood and iron works, paintings, and more.

Check in at the [Guajimico Resort](#), a beach-front hotel with direct access to the warm waters of the Caribbean sea.

DAY 7 – FRIDAY – CIENFUEGOS

Full day work and cultural exchange with high school students in the Cienfuegos countryside.

Lunch in the high school cafeteria or at a local eatery.

After lunch we will participate in a friendly sports game and cultural activities.

Late afternoon return to our hotel.

DAY 8 – SATURDAY – CIENFUEGOS/TRINIDAD

Today we explore on foot one of the oldest cities founded by the Spaniards in the West Indies, Trinidad, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

We will visit its Plaza Mayor, Museum of Architecture, Museum of Romance, the main parish and other amazing sites, some dating back centuries. We will also stop at a mirador (lookout) over the [Sugar Mill Valley](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the sugar barons had their countryside mansions and mills.

Trinidad is well known for its pottery makers. We meet with a family that has been passing the tradition for generations: the Santanders.

Free time to wander the streets of historical center or enjoy the beach.

DAY 9 – SUNDAY – CIENFUEGOS

Free day to enjoy the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea, or explore historic sites of Cienfuegos. Snorkel equipment rental fee not included in tour price.

DAY 10 – MONDAY – GOODBYE CUBA

Check out of hotel and transfer to Havana's José Martí International Airport for international departure.

SERVICES INCLUDED

- All breakfasts included and served from 7:00 am to 10:00 am daily.
- Some lunches and dinners as noted in this program's itinerary.
- Clean comfortable safe hotels. Two double beds, daily maid service. Showers and toilet en suite and many enjoyable amenities.
- Modern luxury air-conditioned coach and professional driver for all activities in the program.

- Group in and out airport transfers in Cuba.
- Expert Cuban multilingual guide and translator throughout the program.
- All activities, services, entrance fees and venues unless noted as "not included" or "optional."
- Custom tour website for your school's student/parent orientation and tour administration. See "Schools to Cuba" at www.HelloCuba.ca for examples.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED

- Cuban airport departure tax 25.00 CUC.
- Gratuities for guide, bus driver, hotel restaurant staff, chambermaids, porters and taxis.
- Lunches and dinners unless noted in this itinerary as "included." *Your guide will assist you in finding eateries that meet all tastes and budgets.*
- Return air to and from Cuba. Contact us for air costs from your city. *We can help with economical tickets!*
- Substitute teacher costs, if any, to cover teacher tour leaders while in Cuba.
- Overweight luggage charges.
- Optional extended medical coverage for students and teachers. Please note: provincial medical services cover nearly all medical issues that may arise while in Cuba.
- Optional travel cancellation/interruption insurance. Please see our terms and conditions regarding cancellation at www.HelloCuba.ca

COSTS AND SERVICES FOR THIS CUBA TOUR

All Cuban-side costs must be paid in the Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC). Cuban pricing is guaranteed through October 2007. For precise Canadian dollar prices reflecting today's exchange rate please go to <http://www.HelloCuba.ca/arts>

When you schedule a Cuba tour with us we can ensure Canadian costs. Hotel services are based on double-room occupancy. Triple rooms and private homestays are not possible.

