



ONCE IN A LIFETIME TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY!



Referred by:

Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

DISCOVER CUBA

9 Days August 21, 2012



REGISTRATION IS VERY LIMITED.
SIGN UP EARLY TO SECURE
YOUR SEAT!

 **AKLAND**
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Serving the Business Community Since 1905

 chamber explorations



Chamber Explorations has been issued a specific license by The Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which authorizes registered guests of our programs to visit Cuba legally. There are no applications to complete, and your travel with us is fully authorized. Prior to departure, you will receive a copy of our Specific License and a Letter of Authorization which legalizes your travel to Cuba.



Day 1: Depart LAX on your flight to Cuba (D)

Overnight: Havana

Upon arrival at **Jose Marti International Airport** in Cuba, meet your Cuban host. Check into your hotel for a **three night stay**. Enjoy a welcome cocktail upon arrival and receive a short briefing from our Cuban Tour Guide. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 2: Havana (B,L)

Overnight: Havana

The day begins with a guided orientation of **Cuba's capital city**. We'll explore the **Cathedral de la Havana**, built in baroque style in 1748 and learn about its preservation and continuous restoration. Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier described the building as "music turned to stone," words that still ring true today in the local culture. We'll stop for a group photo at the **Plaza de la Revolucion**. See the **Greek Orthodox Church** and the Scale Model of the city of Havana. Lunch will be included at a local restaurant. From there, we'll visit the **Museo Fine Arts** and explore the beautiful **Museo de la Revolucion** that displays documents and artifacts telling the country's history. The museum is housed in the former presidential palace which was home to Cuba's leaders from the 1920s until 1959. This building offers beautiful architecture as well as an interior that was designed by Tiffany's of New York. Later, visit **La Marketa de Havana** in **Old Havana**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. This is a collective association of small craft workers where you will meet local merchants and artists. The evening is at leisure.

Day 3: Havana - Terrazas Region of Vinales - Havana (B,L,D)

Overnight: Havana

Travel to **Las Terrazas region of Vinales**. The western province of **Pinar del Rio** is known for its stunning scenery, a landscape of prehistoric looking flat-top mountains or "mogotes", tobacco plantations, caves and rivers. Visit **Las Terrazas**, a small cooperative village that was set up in the 1960s to be self-sufficient. We will visit its local village called **Rancho Curujey** to learn about the self sustaining successes in reforestation, historic preservation, environmental balance and a good life. Next we meet with **local artists** and **craft workers** in their homes and studios and walk the ruins of a **French Coffee Plantation** built in 1801. Next, take a **boat ride** to see the **Indian Caves**. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before seeing local tobacco fields and the **Cathedral Church in Vinales**.

Day 4: Havana - Cienfuegos - Trinidad (B,L,D)

Overnight: Trinidad

Following breakfast we'll leave Havana behind and depart to **Trinidad**. Along the way we will drive through the beautiful province of **Cienfuegos**, Cuba's "*Pearl of the South*". We'll stop for lunch at a local restaurant en route. Arrive in **Cienfuegos**, founded in 1819 by French settlers and currently one of Cuba's newest cities offering harmonious architecture and urban planning. Begin with a panoramic overview of its **Old Town**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** followed by a visit to the **Botanical Garden**. This afternoon we continue our journey to **Trinidad** and check into the **Hotel Brisas Trinidad del Mar** for a **two night stay**. After a welcome cocktail and dinner, it's time to dust off your dancing shoes and learn to **dance the Salsa**.

Day 5: Trinidad (B, L, D)

Overnight: Trinidad

Today, we'll have a **walking tour of Trinidad de Cuba**, one of the country's oldest cities, founded by the Spaniards in 1514. A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, it was established on orders of the conquistador Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar, who traveled to Cuba with Columbus in 1493. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the **Plaza Mayor**, **Museum of Architecture**, **Museum of the Romantic Era**, and other amazing sites. We go to a **sugar plantation** and the mirador lookout over the **Sugar Mill Valley**, also a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Here sugar barons constructed their opulent countryside mansions and huge refineries. Trinidad is well-known for its pottery. We'll meet a family of potters, who have been passing on the tradition for generations, visit their studio and enjoy a pottery demonstration. Dinner is included this evening.



This itinerary provides a full time schedule of activities that result in meaningful exchanges through people-to-people contact. U.S. law requires all travelers joining this program adhere to the full time schedule and imposes on Chamber Explorations the responsibility to ensure such observance.

**Day 6: Trinidad - Playa Giron - Havana (B,L)****Overnight: Havana**

After checking out of our hotel, we'll drive back to Havana, stopping at the town of **Playa Giron**. This coastal region was the site of the historical 1961 clash between the CIA trained Cuban exiles and rebel forces, the event that defined U.S. Cuban relations for decades. We'll tour the Bay of Pigs Museum that tells the story of the invasion and the infamous battle. We'll see many historical artifacts, including a **Sea Fury fighter aircraft**, photos, and maps which outline each step of the failed plan. Today, we'll also visit a local school. We arrive in **Havana** for a **three night stay** with dinner on your own this evening.

**Day 7: Havana - Hemingway Farm - Cojimar (B,L,D)****Overnight: Havana**

Today we'll enter the world of Ernest Hemingway with a visit to **Hemingway's Farm, Finca La Vigia**. This beautiful property hosts the home where the Nobel Prize winner lived with his wife Martha for 21 years. View the perfectly preserved home where many of the Hemingway personal belongings remain intact. You may walk the grounds and climb the stairs for the panoramic view from his study or view his yacht, the Pilar in which he used to patrol for Nazis in the Caribbean waters and featured in his novel "Islands in the Stream." Next, visit the picturesque **Cojimar Fishing Village** made famous by Hemingway's novel "Old Man in the Sea" that garnered a Pulitzer Prize in 1953 as well as the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. From here we'll venture into the **Guanabacoa Region**, rich with religious diversity. This village has some of the finest colonial churches where locals worship both Catholic and Santeria saints. We'll visit the **Museo de Guanabacoa of Santeria Orishas** and see exhibits on the fascinating Afro-Cuban culture. Visit the **Partagas Cigar Factory**, one of the oldest cigar brands in the world, established in Havana in 1845. Learn about the manufacturing of fine Cuban cigars and interact with the factory workers about the history and process. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.

**Day 8: Havana - (B,L,D)****Overnight: Havana**

Today, we'll visit the **Callejon de Hamel**, a street in central Havana where cultural rescue and expansion has been expressed through the artist Salvador Gonzalez. His murals and sculptures have taken over entire buildings and facades. We'll meet with local artists to learn more about this art form. Next, see the **Colon Cemetery**, founded in 1876 and famous for its elaborate sculptures. This afternoon explore the **Morro Castle**, built in 1589, it protects the mouth of the Havana harbor. Next visit the **Cuban Literacy Museum** where we'll learn about a national effort to educate rural farmers and families. **A Farewell Dinner** this evening at a local restaurant offering traditional Cuban cuisine and lively music.

**Day 9: Havana - USA (B)**

Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll transfer to the airport for our return flights with incredible memories of Cuba!

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Old Havana (**UNESCO World Heritage Site**)
- Cathedral de la Havana
- Museo Fine Arts
- Pinar Del Rio
- Indian Caves
- Cienfuegos (**UNESCO World Heritage Site**)
- Trinidad (**UNESCO World Heritage Site**)
- Church of Trinidad
- Sugar Mill Valley (**UNESCO World Heritage Site**)
- Partagas Cigar Factory
- Playa Giron/Bay of Pigs Museum
- Hemingway's Farm - *Finca La Vigia*
- Cojimar Fishing Village

INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip Airfare from Los Angeles (LAX)
- Cuban Travel Visa
- Cuban Health Insurance
- 8 Nights First Class Hotel Accommodations
- 21 Meals (8 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 6 Dinners)
- Sightseeing & Admissions per Itinerary
- Professional Cuban Bilingual Host / Guide
- Hotel & Airport Transfers and Baggage Handling
- Transportation by deluxe air conditioned motorcoach

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS:**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERACTIONS**

- La Marketa de Havana
- Las Terrazas Cooperative Village
- Salsa Dancing Lessons
- Traditional Pottery Studio Visit and Demonstration
- Bay of Pigs Museum
- Guanabacoa Museum
- Callejon de Hamel
- Cuban Literacy Museum
- Cuban School

ACCOMMODATIONS:

- 3 Nights Havana - Melia Cohiba, Melia Habana Libre or Melia Habana (or similar)
- 2 Nights Trinidad - Hotel Brisas Trinidad del Mar, Cienfuegos - Hotel Jagua
- 3 Nights Havana - Melia Cohiba, Melia Habana Libre or Melia Habana (or similar)

Hotels and Itinerary are subject to change.

\$3,799 per person double

\$600 single supplement

DISCOVER CUBA RESERVATION FORM:

AUGUST 21, 2012 / BOOKING #67082

Please submit names exactly as they appear on passports:

TSA SECURE FLIGHT REQUIREMENT

Passport Name: _____ (MM/DD/YY) _____ M F
 Date of Birth _____ Gender

Passport Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Roommate's Passport Name: _____ (MM/DD/YY) _____ M F

Passport Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Email Address: _____

CONTACT PHONE # _____ EMERGENCY CONTACT: (Name/Phone #) _____

NOTES: _____

A Passport copy is due after initial reservation.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DEPOSIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ (\$500 PER PERSON) TO SECURE RESERVATIONS FOR _____ # OF PEOPLE. RESERVATIONS ARE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY TO SECURE YOUR SEAT. FINAL PAYMENT DUE 75 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

I (WE) WISH TO PURCHASE CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER AT THIS TIME: YES NO

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ (\$199 PER PERSON) TO SECURE THE CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Chamber Explorations FOR PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD: VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ DISCOVER _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

REFERRER'S CONTACT INFORMATION:

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Chamber Explorations

Mail or Fax Completed Reservation Form to:

Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce/ Attn: Amanda Medina

ph: (510) 874-4800 ext. 319

475 14th Street

fax: (510) 839-8817

Oakland, CA 94612

email: amedina@oaklandchamber.com

PASSPORT INFORMATION: A valid passport is required for this program and is the responsibility of each passenger. Passports should be valid for up to six (6) months beyond the travel dates. All names must be submitted on reservation form and must be exactly as they appear on passenger passports. **A Passport copy and other information such as Mother's Maiden names are required for air ticketing and entry into Cuba.**

INCLUDED TRAVEL VISA: A standard Cuban Travel Visa is required for travel to Cuba and is **INCLUDED** in the price of your program and applies to United States citizens only. There is no official application process and your Cuban Visa will be sent to you in your final travel documents.

U.S. DEPARTURE TAXES/FEES are approximately \$58 per person and are **NOT INCLUDED** in the price of the program. This \$58 per person departure tax will be billed to each traveler at final payment. (subject to increase/change)

CUBAN AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAX is approximately \$35 U.S. (\$25 CUC - local currency) and **NOT INCLUDED** and can only be paid at the airport in Cuba upon departure.

INCLUDED CUBAN MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Cuban government requires that all travelers to Cuba must have Cuban medical insurance under an approved plan. This insurance is **PROVIDED and INCLUDED** in the price of your program. Brief Description of Benefits: Medical Expenses because Illness/Accident (\$25,000), Repatriation & Transport (A-of deceased - \$7,000/B-of injured/illness - \$7,000). Full policy details are available.

OPTIONAL CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER is \$199 per person and highly recommended. The Cuba Cancellation Waiver must be paid prior to OR with Final Payment and is non-refundable. Payment of the per person Cuba Cancellation Waiver (waiver fee) guarantees full refund on all payments (including deposit), except the waiver fee itself, made for tour rates in case of cancellation up to the time & date of departure due to passenger's personal illness (medical documentation required) or death of a member of the immediate family (official documentation required). The waiver is non-transferable and valid for each applicant only. The waiver does not cover any services not purchased through Chamber Explorations. Full policy details are available.

CANCELLATION FEES: Cancellations not covered by the Cancellation Waiver or if the Cancellation Waiver is not purchased, are subject to the following per person fees: Cancel up to 75 days prior to departure - \$250 per person or \$199 Cxl Wvr is retained; Cancel 74-45 days prior to departure - 25% of total price is retained; Cancel 44-15 days prior to departure - 50% of total price is retained; Cancel 14 days or less prior to departure/no shows - No refunds.

This program is operated by Chamber Explorations.

RESPONSIBILITY: Premier World Tours LLC dba Chamber Explorations (hereafter CE) and dba Premier World Discovery (hereafter PWD), whose vouchers are used by respective agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, interactions and transportation, hold themselves free of responsibility for any damages occasioned from any cause whatsoever. (CE)(PWD) will not be responsible for any damages or inconvenience caused by late arrivals, departures and change of schedule or other conditions nor will they be responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passenger is not on board their conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airline concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of this program, and/or passenger. (CE) (PWD) does not hold any responsibility for the conduct of any of its members, hotel, motorcoach, train, airline or other personnel. (CE) (PWD) reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this program at its discretion. (CE) (PWD) &/or its program host / guide retain the right to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, if determined to be in the best interests of health, safety & general welfare of the group or of the individual participant. Arbitration - I/We agree, any and all disputes concerning this contract or any other material concerning the trip, or the trip itself must be resolved exclusively pursuant to binding arbitration in the state of California, pursuant to the then current rules of the American Arbitration Association. Payment of the deposit for this program constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Itinerary and hotels are subject to change. CST #2048841-40