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Please note that the use of credit and debit cards is currently very unreliable in Cuba. Banks, ATMs and POS services for credit/debit card payments are often not working and it is important to arrive to Cuba with cash to avoid inconveniences. Please see the “Money Exchange” section of the Tour Details for more information.



Cuba Explorer

9 days, Havana to Havana

Trip code CCCE

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Arrival transfer

- Havana City tour in vintage automobiles
- Cigar factory tour in Pinar del Rio with demonstrations
- Area tour from Trinidad
- Catamaran excursion to Cayo Blanco
- Visits and entry to the Che monument and historical sites in Santa Clara
- Free time in Havana and Viñales
- Informal Spanish lesson
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing July 8th, 2016 - December 31st, 2016

Itinerary



Itinerary Notes

Right now is an exciting time in Cuba with rapidly changing legislation and local conditions. Cuba has seen a massive increase in tourism lately, which has put a strain on local tourist infrastructure. While we will strive to operate our tours as closely to published itineraries as possible, conditions often change from one day to the next, and minor tour modifications may be necessary with no advance notice.

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Havana

Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer included to your casa particular (a Cuban home used as a bed and breakfast) for an authentic Cuban experience.

Arrive in Havana at any time and transfer your casa particular. One of the oldest cities in the western hemisphere, Havana was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1982. It contains a wealth of colonial architecture, and the old city and streets around the malecon (ocean-side walkway) are best discovered on foot.

After the group welcome meeting at 6pm, we will be heading out for a meal in a nearby local restaurant (optional). If you arrive late, the leader will leave you a message at the front desk.

It is important to note that Cuba tends to be quite different to other areas of the world you may have travelled in. Buildings and infrastructure are generally old and may not have been maintained to the highest standard. Elevators, internet and A/C often break down, things happen very slowly and water pressure and hot water can be minimal. Cuba is an amazing place to visit but to fully enjoy and relax, western expectations should be left at home and your sense of adventure should be your guide.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Arrival Transfer

José Martí International Airport - Havana

30m

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the start location to start your adventure. Please note, the included arrival transfer is from Havana's José Martí International Airport (HAV). If you are flying into Varadero (VRA) you will need to pre-pay a supplement (70 USD per person or equivalent in your booking currency) to receive the service.

Day 2

Havana

Enjoy a walking tour of historic Old Havana before hopping in a vintage automobile to cruise through the city. Enjoy free time in the afternoon to explore Cuba's capital.

Learn more about the city's history on an included walking tour of Old Havana. After, enjoy an included tour in vintage automobiles. Revel in the bustle, history, and rhythms of this fascinating Caribbean capital city. After lunch spend time exploring Havana with a free afternoon.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Havana City Walking Tour

Havana

2h

Take a walking tour of Havana and find out what your CEO loves best about this amazing city. See city highlights that may include La Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana, the Palacio de los Marqueses de Aguas Claras (which now houses a restaurant), the Museo de Arte Colonial and the Plaza de Armas, with its statue of Manuel de Céspedes (one of the leaders of the Cuban independence movement). Use this walk as a jumping off point to explore the rest of this lively city.

Havana City Tour in Vintage Car

Havana

1h

A fantastic way to experience most of Havana—and in style! Hop into a well-preserved car from the 1950s and cruise around, soaking in the city's atmosphere.

Free Time

Havana

Spend the afternoon discovering some of Havana's iconic sites. Opt to visit Plaza de Armas, stroll the Malecón, or relax at a café while soaking in authentic Cuban culture.

Day 3

Havana

Take advantage of a free day to explore Havana and discover the city's rhythm. Enjoy dinner in a local restaurant with the group.

Our last full day in Havana, spend the morning taking in the sights, sounds, and hustle-and-bustle of the city.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Free Time

Havana

Make the most of your time in this vibrant city.

Day 4

Havana/Viñales

Travel to lush Viñales with a cigar factory tour en route.

A short trip west brings us to "The Garden Province" of Pinar del Rio and to the Valley of Viñales with the town of the same name. Enjoy an included cigar factory tour en route before getting your cameras ready for the lush vistas and pincushion hills around Viñales, called mogotes.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Tobacco Farm and Cigar Tour

Viñales

Pinar del Rio is tobacco country. Fans of the ubiquitous Cuban cigar will be hard-pressed not to be impressed by the fields of green plants punctuated by thatch roof drying hut. Then witness a demonstration of how the cured leaves are hand-rolled, cut and packaged. Prepare for the heady smell of tobacco. Opt to buy a box to bring home to friends or enjoy them all by yourself.

Private Vehicle

Havana - Viñales

2h30m

189km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Take a walk through the countryside to enjoy the stunning outdoors. Enjoy free time in Viñales in the afternoon. Opt to explore the region by horseback or by foot.

Arguably one of the prettiest natural areas in Cuba, we have many options for exploring the area, whether it be horseback riding, hiking, or simply sitting back and enjoying the view.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Free Time

Viñales

Hike or ride a horse to explore one of the prettiest areas in Cuba, or sit back, relax, and take in the view - you're in paradise!

Viñales orientation tour

Viñales

Explore the stunning Cuban country side on a walk with your CEO.



Optional Activities - Day 5

Viñales Hiking

Viñales

The countryside around Viñales is lush, fertile and punctuated with mogotes – limestone “haystack” hills. Hire a guide or head off with some friends to explore the area. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. You may stumble upon a cave with an underwater spring. Dive in and cool off.

Horseback Riding

Viñales

Saddle up and hop on your horse as you set off to explore the lush valleys of Viñales. Ride past farmers working in their fields of coffee and tobacco. See the mogotes – limestone hills – on the horizon. Stop at one of the many caves in the area, head inside and take a dip in the cool natural pools.

Travel to Trinidad, tour the city, and opt to take a salsa dancing lesson.

A trip south brings us through the beautiful Topes de Collantes region to the southern coastal city and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Trinidad. We include a tour of the area to get your general bearings; the rest of the time is free to wander the cobblestone streets, shop, and experience the great music scene that has made this city famous.

In Trinidad, we spend 2 nights in a Casa Particular, the Cuban equivalent of a Bed & Breakfast. Utilizing local accommodation puts you closer to the Cuban people and lifestyle and often provides a higher standard of service and comfort than in a hotel. The Casas have air conditioning, hot water, en-suite and are located right in the center of Trinidad.



Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Viñales - Trinidad

9h

524km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Trinidad Guided Tour

Trinidad

Enjoy the sights and sounds of this UNESCO World Heritage Site and get your bearings through a guided tour.



Optional Activities - Day 6

Salsa Lesson

Trinidad

Loosen up those hips and get ready to salsa. Led by expert Cuban instructors, rumba, mambo and cha-cha-chá your way across the floor. Never danced salsa? Have no fear, Cubans are happy to share the secrets behind one of their national pastimes.

Day 7

Trinidad

Board a catamaran for an excursion to Cayo Blanco with lunch and snorkeling. Enjoy a free evening in Trinidad to discover this Spanish colonial town that was founded in the 16th century and still preserves a look and feel of the past.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



Today's Activities

Free Time

Trinidad

Opt this evening to visit a Casa de la Trova for live music.

Cayo Blanco Catamaran Excursion

Trinidad

4h-6h

Enjoy a day on the water to Cayo Blanco by Catamaran with time to snorkel and lunch included. Please note this activity is subject to availability, and may not be offered on all departures due to weather and operational constraints.



Optional Activities - Day 7

Casa de la Trova Visit

Trinidad

For nearly four decades, the Casa de la Trova has been the centre of culture and nightlife in Trinidad. This bar/performance space is home to some of Cuba's finest singers and musicians. These former "trovadores" (troubadours) once walked the streets in twos and threes, performing ballads (boleros). Now - people come to them to listen, dance and soak in the laid-back rhythms of this made-in-Cuba music.

Day 8

Trinidad/Havana

Take a guided tour of key historical sites, including the famous Che monument in Santa Clara and the town of Sancti Spiritus, en route back to Havana. Opt to stroll around Plaza Serafin Sánchez for superb people-watching by night.

Head east along the Carretera Central to the city of Santa Clara, a key location in the history of the Revolution. On your way into town visit key historical sites, including the massive Che monument (Santa Clara is also the final resting place of Che Guevara) before settling in for the night.

After exploring some of the revolutionary sites, enjoy a guided tour of Sancti Spiritus, one of the best preserved cities in the Caribbean from the time of the sugar trade.

Travel back to the north coast to Havana for your final night on the town with the group.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

Sancti Spiritus Guided Tour

Santa Clara

Enjoy a guided tour of spectacular Sancti Spiritus, one of the best preserved cities in the Caribbean from the time of the sugar trade. It was one of the original seven Cuban cities founded in the 1500's by the Spanish. Take a stroll around its main square, the Plaza Serafin Sánchez, or check out the Iglesia Parroquial Mayor, a church originally built in the 1500's and then rebuilt in the 17th century due to being a victim of pirates several times.

Private Vehicle

Santa Clara - Havana

4h

281km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Trinidad - Santa Clara

2h-2h30m

122km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Che Guevara's Monument Visit

Santa Clara

Set eyes on a 6.7m (22ft) bronze statue of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara standing tall atop a mausoleum erected to mark the 20th anniversary of Guevara's murder in Bolivia. Tour the mausoleum lit by an

eternal flame ignited by Fidel Castro. Visit the adjacent museum, containing a number of exhibit pieces ranging from medical materials to Guevara's pistol, and photographs that include pictures from his childhood.

Day 9

Havana

Depart at any time.

Check out from the hotel is approx. 12pm midday.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

What's included

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- Free time in Havana and Viñales
- Informal Spanish lesson

- All transport between destinations and to/ from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Cruise through Havana in a vintage automobile, Watch local experts make the famous Cuban cigar, Explore the fascinating culture and history of Cuba, Stay at local homestays for an authentic Cuban experience

Itinerary Notes

Right now is an exciting time in Cuba with rapidly changing legislation and local conditions. Cuba has seen a massive increase in tourism lately, which has put a strain on local tourist infrastructure. While we will strive to operate our tours as closely to published itineraries as possible, conditions often change from one day to the next, and minor tour modifications may be necessary with no advance notice.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Cruise through Havana in a vintage automobile, Watch local experts make the famous Cuban cigar, Explore the fascinating culture and history of Cuba, Stay at local homestays for an authentic Cuban experience

Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Are there Itinerary notes?

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What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

ESTA VISA NOTE:

Please note that nationalities requiring an ESTA visa for travel to or through the US may be affected by having travelled to Cuba. We recommend that you contact a US embassy to be clear on the ESTA requirements and implications in order to get the most up-to-date information regarding travel to Cuba.

ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

WIFI

Please note, free WiFi is not widely available throughout Cuba and most places will require payment to use it.

MEDICAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

From 01 May 2010, all tourists entering Cuba will require "Medical Travel Insurance". We urge you to check with your insurance provider to ensure your policy covers Cuba. If it is not, tourists will be forced to purchase a Government approved policy on arrival in Cuba. The cost of buying this insurance in Cuba will be in addition to any insurance already purchased, and it is likely the rates for these policies will be inflated compared to what you may purchase in advance from home.

DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS

Please note that debit and credit cards that are issued by American banks are not accepted in Cuba and will not work at ATMs. In addition, it is recommended to contact your bank to advise you will be travelling in Cuba regardless of your nationality, as local ATMs are likely to block your card unless a travel notification has been set up.

What is the group leader like?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders, a G Adventures representative, or an expedition team. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

How large will the group be?

Max 16, Avg 10.

What meals are included in this trip?

8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Resorts, hotels, and government-run restaurants are notorious for mediocre buffets and subpar food quality, but at casas and locally run restaurants you get the chance to taste real Cuban cuisine. Options may not be as diverse as back home, but you can expect to have simple, good, quality food.

Based on Cuba's economic situation, there may be fluctuations in food supply and there are occasionally shortages of certain ingredients - which provides a great opportunity to try something new! Cubans rarely uses spices for cooking, so it's recommended to bring some of your favourite spices or hot sauce for a bit of added punch.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Private vehicle, vintage automobiles, walking.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (6 nts), casas particulares/homestays (2 nts).

Will I get my own room?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

Accommodation on this trip is in 'casas particulares', the Cuban equivalent of a bed & breakfast. These local accommodation options allow you to participate in a typical Cuban living experience by staying with a family in their home. The family rents a bedroom or two (twin or single) with private bathroom shared amongst guests. Groups are usually spread across multiple casas with a central meeting point for evening socializing in the towns. The casas have air conditioning, hot water, and are usually very centrally located and a great base for exploring Cuban towns and cities.

Hotel service standards can be fairly low in Cuba and in complete contrast to the price paid for these accommodations. Utilizing the local accommodation puts you closer to the Cuban people and lifestyle and often provides a higher standard of service and comfort than in a hotel.

What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through G Adventures in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous. Please note, the included arrival transfer is from Havana's José Martí International Airport (HAV).

If you are flying into Varadero (VRA), you can purchase a transfer to the starting hotel. Please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent for more information.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a G Adventures sign with your name on it, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. There most likely will be many signs, so please check carefully for your name.

If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line or you can go to the the office of Cubanacan, the government agency, and ask for the Representative of Cubania (our local provider). If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Operator (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. Included arrival transfers are provided from the nearest airport to your starting location. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office San Jose, Costa Rica During Office hours (Weekdays 9am-5pm Local Time): +506 4001 8474
After hours emergency number: +51 997 582 712.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER in CUBA (24/7):
+53 5216-5408.

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll Free: North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

If you would like to book an airport Departure transfer for your tour, please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent in advance of travel.

Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying and handling your own luggage.

What should be on my packing list?

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: Please bring a pair of closed shoes if you plan on taking in the Tropicana show, accompanied by semi formal attire (dresses/skirts/long pants/dress shirts). No sandals or shorts are permitted into the theatre.

When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our accommodations for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

U.S. citizens and residents:

Because of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations enforced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), G Adventures does not accept bookings for U.S. citizens and residents at this time. Please check current travel restrictions before booking travel to Cuba. G Adventures reserves the right to cancel any reservations made by U.S. citizens, residents or other persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL PASSPORT HOLDERS:

We recommend that you avoid flying to Cuba via the US airports. If you are connecting through the US, regardless of your nationality, you will be required to submit a signed form certifying that you are traveling under one of the 12 travel categories authorized by Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The traveller is responsible for qualifying under one of these travel categories. Tourism is not one of these 12 categories. More information can be found in the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Cuba FAQs.

Please note that nationalities requiring an ESTA visa for travel to or through the US may be affected by having travelled to Cuba. We recommend that you contact a US embassy to be clear on the ESTA requirements and implications in order to get the most up-to-date information regarding travel to Cuba.

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

The currency in Cuba is the Cuban Peso (CUP).

Currently the best currency to bring to Cuba is the EUR. We advise that you bring EUR cash in small denominations as many bars and restaurants will accept payment in EUR at a very advantageous exchange rate. We recommend you wait until you speak to your guide before exchanging large amounts of EUR into local currency.

Bringing cash is the easiest way to travel in Cuba, though please take extra security precautions to avoid theft. Please note that until further notice AUD and NZD are not accepted in Cuba. Because of these difficulties we recommend that you arrive in Cuba with CAD, EUR, GBP, or Mexican pesos which can be easily converted into Cuban Pesos at official CADECA exchange offices. Please be aware that the unofficial or "street" rate of exchange is currently much higher than the official rate of exchange.

People traveling in Cuba with Visa or Mastercard credit cards can use them for payments in supermarkets and some government owned hotels, restaurants, bars and stores. All card transactions are in USD and will be subject to a fee. Bank cards from US banks do not work in Cuba, and cards using the Cirrus or Maestro systems are nearly impossible to use. The best credit cards to bring are Visa Plus or Mastercard. Please note that ATMs are not widespread and some debit cards do not work in Cuba.

If you plan to use a bank card, it would be advisable to check with your bank directly prior to your departure as to whether the card should work in Cuba.

We do not recommend you bring travellers cheques, as it is very difficult to exchange them in Cuba.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE TIP: Please be advised that slightly torn notes, notes that have been heavily marked or are faded may be difficult to exchange. It is best to bring notes in fairly good condition, in denominations lower than 100USD (or equivalent).

You are advised NOT to change money on the street outside the airport or your hotel. Reliable money exchange may only be done at CADECA (change houses), Banks, or Hotel Reception.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates:
www.xe.com

It is prohibited to enter or leave Cuba carrying Cuban Peso (CUP) currency. Please make sure you have spent or exchanged any remaining CUP prior to passing through immigrations when you leave Cuba. You can do this at the CADECA exchange office at the airport but we recommend you do this before reaching the airport as queues can be long.

Any drinks, snacks, duty free and souvenirs in the Airport will now need to be paid using a credit card or cash (GBP, CAD, AUD, USD, EUR etc.).

How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is customary in Latin America to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$5-10 USD per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Tipping of your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer is very much appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however as a guideline \$5- 7 USD per person, per day is our recommendation in the region. However, if you felt your CEO did an especially outstanding job, any additional amount will always be welcome.

What activities are optional on this trip?

- All prices are per person, estimates in either CUC amounts or USD. Please see the Money Exchange section above regarding the currency situation in Cuba. And are subject to change as services are provided by third party operators.

Havana:

- Las Terrazas \$38 Tropicana show \$60-\$100 (prices depend on seat location) Museum entrances \$2-\$3 Dance lesson \$12-\$15/hour

Viñales:

- Guided hike (3 hrs) 15 CUC Visit to Indian Cave 7 CUC

Trinidad:

- Bicycle rental \$5 full day Snorkelling (rental) \$5 Diving \$60 (2-tank dive) Museum entrances \$2-\$3 Topes de Collantes Park \$30 (price per taxi, round trip) \$6.50 (entry) Conga Lessons 10\$ Tour to Cienfuegos 48 CUC Sunset cruise (minimum 10 people) 15 CUC per person Music House entrances: \$1-\$3

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

What are the trip specific safety considerations?

MAKING FRIENDS WITH LOCALS

Sexuality is very open in Cuba and that can shock some travellers, especially women. There are many Cuban men and women (known as Jineteros), who make a living escorting foreigners. Offers of this service are very common in Havana. Be aware of this practice and keep in mind that some locals who approach you may do so to take advantage of your presence.

NB. We advise traveling around the streets of Havana City in small groups, rather than individually (especially for women travelers). In addition, we suggest not carrying any easy targets for potential troublemakers like cameras, purses, or anything that is easy to snatch or grab. We advise this not expecting trouble, but rather erring on the side of caution.

What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.