

Discover CUBA

Highlights of Havana & Varadero



business and community growing together

Booking Discount
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\$100 pp!
See inside for details!



Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce presents

May 11, 2016





DISCOVER CUBA - Highlights of Havana & Varadero

Day 1: Arrive Miami

Arrive in Miami and transfer on your own to your Miami airport hotel. This evening an Informational Briefing will be held at the hotel about tomorrow's charter flight to Havana and the start of your *people to people experience* in Cuba. The evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Marriott Miami Airport

Day 2: Miami - Bienvenidos La Havana Cuba - Varadero

This morning transfer to the Miami Airport and check in for your short flight to **Havana, Cuba**. Upon arrival at the **Jose Marti International Airport** and clearing customs, we'll meet your local **bilingual Cuban Guide** outside the baggage terminal. Your drive from the airport orients you with Cuba's enigmatic capital city, whose nearly 500-year Old Havana is home to the largest collections of Spanish-Colonial architecture in the Americas. Make a photo stop and learn more about the **Plaza de la Revolucion**, the center of Cuban political life and Havana's largest plaza where huge rallies are held. Your Cuban guide speaks below the grandiose portraits of national heroes Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, and gives you time to reflect on the fact that you're standing where millions of Cubans have stood while listening to speeches of Fidel Castro. Enjoy lunch at a **La Torre Restaurant** offering incredible panoramic views high above Havana and the ocean. Depart Havana on a scenic drive that takes you past rural landscapes, small towns to the beautiful turquoise Caribbean Sea. Stop at the **Bacunayagua Bridge overlook** for photos. Check into your all inclusive resort located directly on a pristine white sand beach offering beautiful views of the **Caribbean and Varadero Peninsula**. Enjoy a welcome drink before unpacking and exploring the resort. Dinner is included this evening.

Overnight: Melia Varadero Resort (L,D)

Day 3: Varadero - Matanzas - Varadero

This morning following breakfast we head to the town of **Matanzas**, founded in 1693 and known as the *"Athens of Cuba"*. Enjoy a brief walking tour of the town square and see the **Sauto Theater** (a national monument of Cuba and opened in 1863), the **San Carlos Cathedral**, the **Pharmaceutical Museum** and more. Next visit the **Ediciones Vigia (book making shop)** to see books being hand made and learn about this craft. Also meet with a famous local **Cuban artist and sculptor** in his studio and art gallery. Visit the **Matanzas School of Art and Music**, a high school for talented children from different provinces throughout Cuba. An opportunity to talk with and interact with the teachers and students to learn about their work and aspirations. Lunch is included at a local restaurant. Next travel back to Varadero and visit an **arts & crafts**



market with an opportunity purchase art and items and to meet and interact with local artists and craft workers. Later enjoy a fun filled **Salsa Lesson Class** with the locals. Salsa represents a mix of Latin musical genres, but its primary component is Cuban dance music. The roots of salsa originated in Eastern Cuba (Santiago de Cuba & Guantanamo) about 1920 and Afro-Cuban dance such as the Rumba. Dinner is included this evening at the resort.

Overnight: Melia Varadero Resort (B,L,D)

Day 4: Varadero - Havana

After breakfast this morning we travel to **Havana**. Religion has always played an important role in Cuban society that continues today, enjoy a walking tour with a local historian of the fascinating **Colon Cemetery** (Cementerio de Cristobal Colon), founded in 1876 and named for Christopher Columbus. The cemetery is noted for its many elaborate sculpted memorials and contains more than 500 major mausoleums, chapels and family vaults and is considered by many to be the most ornate necropolis in the world and is the final resting place for noted Cubans including artists, writers, musicians and ball-players. Next enjoy a performance by the amazing **Habana Compas Dance Group**. Interact with the students and teachers to learn more about the Cuban dance culture. Today visit the famous the **Nacional Hotel**, once Havana's flagship hotel that has hosted celebrities and world leaders during its heyday, such as Winston Churchill and Frank Sinatra, to name a few. Enjoy a tour of this historic property housing pictures and nostalgia from a by gone era. Meet a former famous professional **Cuban baseball player** and join in a discussion regarding the history and love of this game in Cuba and the U.S. Check into your hotel for a four night stay. Enjoy dinner this evening at a local Paladar (privately owned restaurant) with an opportunity to talk with the owners about the challenges of running a private business in Cuba.

Overnight: Melia Havana (B,L,D)

Day 5: Old Havana (UNESCO)- Museum of the Revolution - Casa Fuster

This morning enjoy a **guided walking tour** of pedestrian only **Old Havana**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. See the beautiful **Cathedral de la Havana**, built in baroque style in 1748 and learn about its preservation and continuous restoration. Visit the **Marqueta Vieja Havana Museum** that houses the scale model of the City of Havana and to meet with an expert on the city's architecture and restoration efforts. Begin with a presentation and lecture from a local architect who discusses Havanas unique architecture, the current challenges of restoring the city's historic buildings and the future of the city's restoration effort. Following lunch in Old Havana we visit the famous **Museum of the Revolution** that displays documents and artifacts, weapons and planes from the revolution. See artifacts & learn more about the Bay of Pigs, the 1961 historic clash between the CIA trained Cuban exiles & rebel forces, the event that defined US-Cuba relations for decades. The museum is housed in the former Presidential Palace which was the home to Cuba's leaders from the 1920's until 1959. This building offers beautiful architecture as well as an interior that was designed by Tiffany's. Next head to the charming fishing village of Jaimanitas to visit the incredible **Home and Work Shop** of world famous artist, painter and ceramicist **Jose Fuster**, often called the "Picasso of Cuba". He has adorned a neighborhood with colorful ornate murals and domes. Here we spend time with the Fuster family and staff to discuss the influence of the artist's work and their lives and community. Dinner is on your own this evening allowing you to experience the restaurants, cuisine and jazz clubs of Havana. Perhaps even take in the world famous **Tropicana**

Cabaret Show on your own. The Tropicana Cabaret opened in 1939 and is an extravagant spectacle with a revue of glamour and nostalgia. Before the revolution, the Tropicana was a casino owned by gangsters and visited by the Rich and Famous. An evening of music and history that is not to be missed at this famous nightclub show that presents song-and-dance performances reminiscent of 1950's Cuba.

Overnight: Melia Havana (B,L)

Day 6: Havana - Vinales Valley (UNESCO) - Pinar Del Rio - Havana

Today we travel out of Havana and into the rural Cuban countryside to the **Vinales Valley** located in the western most mountainous range in Cuba and declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. This region, 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. Stop at the **Francisco Donatien Cigar Factory** for a guided visit to learn about the manufacturing of fine Cuban cigars and interact with the factory workers about the history and process. The factory specializes in Cohiba & Monte Cristo cigars. Next, visit a traditional **Tobacco Farm and Farmhouse** to meet with the farmer to learn about tobacco cultivation, the drying process and experience a cigar rolling demonstration inside the drying hut. Enjoy a visit inside his farmhouse, meeting and interacting with his family while enjoying some Cuban coffee. A great opportunity to witness up close, how Cuban families live in a rural setting. Later stop at the **Los Jasmynes viewpoint** on the way back to Havana for incredible panoramic views of the **Vinales Valley** and an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular scenery and take photos of this beautiful and unique region. Return to Havana and the evening is free to explore on your own. **Overnight: Melia Havana (B, L)**

Day 7: Havana - Hemingway Farm - Old U.S. Classic Car Club - Farewell Paladar Dinner

Next enter the world of Ernest Hemingway with a visit to **Hemingway's Farm, Finca La Vigia** (meaning 'lookout house'). This beautiful property hosts the house 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. View his yacht on display, the Pilar in which he used to patrol for Nazis in the Caribbean waters and featured in his novel "Islands in the Stream". A photo stop is made at the **Morro Castle**, built in 1589, to protect the mouth of the Havana Harbor. "Morro" in Spanish means a rock which is very visible from the sea and therefore serves as a navigational landmark. Perched on the headland on the opposite side of the harbor from Old Havana it can be viewed from miles around as it dominates the port entrance. Next visit the **San Jose Craft Market and Art Center** or similar to meet and interact with the local artists to discuss and learn of the importance of their art in Cuban culture. Learn from the artists who share their experiences of pursuing the arts with limited access to materials and funding. Before dinner, meet with the local **Old Style Car Club** owners. A chance to interact and talk with the owners and learn why Havana's streets are filled with vintage American automobiles and understand what it takes to keep them on the road. Enjoy a drive through the streets of Havana in a vintage car to your **Farewell Dinner** at a local **Paladar** (a privately owned restaurant). After dinner you have an opportunity to meet and discuss with the owners how this private enterprise works in Cuba. **Overnight: Melia Havana (B,L,D)**

Day 8: Depart Havana - USA

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for our return flight home with incredible memories of the culture and people of Cuba and your **Highlights of Havana & Varadero - Discover Cuba Tour. (B)**



Highlights & Experiences

- Melia Varadero All-Inclusive Resort
- Varadero & Matanzas
- Matanzas School of Art & Music
- Havana & Museum of the Revolution
- Old Havana Walking Tour (**UNESCO**)
- Home & Studio of Artist Jose Fuster
- Walking Tour of the Colon Cemetery
- Hemingway's Farm - *Finca La Vigia*
- Habana Compas Dance Group Performance
- Old Style Classic Car Club Discussion
- Nacional Hotel
- Former Cuban Baseball Player Discussion
- Pinar Del Rio & Vinales Valley (**UNESCO**)
- Francisco Donatien Cigar Factory Visit
- Tobacco Farm & Farmhouse Visit

Inclusions

- Round Trip Airfare from Miami, FL (MIA)
- U.S. Air Departure Taxes & Fees
- Havana Airport Departure Taxes
- Hotel & Airport Transfers In Cuba
- 7 Nights First Class Hotel Accommodations
- Professional Bilingual Cuban Guide
- U.S. Tour Manager
- Cuban Visa & Cuban Health Insurance
- 16 Meals - (6B, 6L, 4D)
- Daily Bottled Water
- Interactions & Admissions per Itinerary.
- Baggage Handling - (1 Checked Bag pp)
- Deluxe Air Conditioned Motorcoach
- Gratuities for Hotel Porters, Wait Staff at included Meals, Step on Guides and All People to People Visits & Interactions

Accommodations

- 1 Night Airport Miami Marriott
(www.marriott.com/miami)
- 2 Nights Melia Varadero Resort, Varadero
(www.meliacuba.com) - All Inclusive Resort
- 4 Nights Melia Havana Hotel, Havana
(www.meliacuba.com)

***BOOKING DISCOUNT *\$3995pp dbl**

Regular Rate \$4095pp dbl

\$600 single supplement

***\$200 per couple / \$100 pp booking discount.
See flyer back for booking discount details.**

Hotels, itinerary, inclusions and people to people visits are all subject to change.

Chamber Explorations Reservation Form (Cuba)



OPTIONAL CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. The Cuba Cancellation Waiver must be paid with deposit 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 program 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). If the passenger must return early due to personal illness (medical documentation required) or death of a member of the immediate family (official documentation required), payment of the waiver fee guarantees a refund for the Unused Services. The waiver fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. The waiver is non-transferable and valid for each applicant only. The waiver does not cover any services not purchased through Chamber Explorations / PWD. Full policy details available. Please note that your cancelled check or credit card statement will serve as your receipt.

CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER - \$280 per person

CANCELLATION FEES: Cancellations not covered by the Cuba Cancellation Waiver OR if the Cuba Cancellation Waiver is not purchased, are subject to the following per person penalties / fees:

Cancel up to 75 days prior to departure - Deposit is retained or the Cuba Cancellation Waiver is retained.

Cancel 74-45 days prior to departure - 25% of total price is retained.

Cancel 44-31 days prior to departure - 50% of total price is retained.

Cancel 30 days or less prior to departure/no shows - No refunds.

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. This program is operated by Chamber Explorations

IMPORTANT NOTES

•**PASSPORT INFORMATION:** A valid U.S. passport is required for this program and is the responsibility of each passenger. Passports should be valid for a minimum of six (6) months beyond the travel dates. All names must be submitted on reservation form above must be exactly as they appear on passenger passports.

•**INCLUDED CUBAN TRAVEL VISA:** (\$85 pp) A Visa is required for travel to Cuba and applies to United States citizens only and is included in the tour rates. Cuban born passengers require a different Visa process which can take from 2-5 months to complete. (additional charges apply)

•**INCLUDED U.S. AIR DEPARTURE TAXES/FEES** are \$58 per person.

•**INCLUDED CUBAN MEDICAL INSURANCE:** The Cuban government requires that all travelers to Cuba must have medical insurance under an approved plan. This medical insurance is included in the program price. Some pre-existing conditions are excluded.

•**INCLUDED CUBAN AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAXES** are \$25 U.S. per person.

•**CHARTER FLIGHT BAGGAGE FEES** are **NOT INCLUDED** and can only be paid in cash at the airport in Miami. At time of printing, Miami - Havana bag fee was \$25 pp (up to 44lbs.) and there was currently no bag fee from Havana to Miami. (subject to change)

DEPOSIT, FINAL PAYMENT & BOOKING DISCOUNT

Deposit of \$500 per person is due with Reservation Form to secure reservations. Final Payment is due 75 days prior to departure.

***BOOKING DISCOUNT - Deposit by January 31, 2016**
by check or credit card and make your Final Payment by check & receive **\$200 per couple/\$100 per person Booking Discount!**

Reservation Form

Discover Cuba

May 11, 2016

Booking #98169

Make Checks Payable to: Chamber Explorations

Contact Information/Mail Reservation Form to:

Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce • Attn: Terry Dason

841 Spruce St. • Winnetka, IL 60093

847.446.4451

director@winnetkanorthfieldchamber.com

Enclosed please find a deposit in the amount of \$ _____ (\$500 per person) to secure reservations for _____ # of people.

I (We) wish to purchase Cancellation Waiver & Post Departure Plan at this time Yes ☐ No ☐

Enclosed please find payment in the amount of \$ _____ (\$280 per person) to secure the Cuba Cancellation Waiver.

Total Payment \$ _____

A Passport copy is due with payment and this reservation form.

To avoid change fees, submit full Passport names (first/mid/last) exactly as they appear on Passports

Passport Name _____ DOB (MM/DD/YY) _____ Gender ☐ M ☐ F

Roommate's Passport Name _____ DOB (MM/DD/YY) _____ Gender ☐ M ☐ F

Passport #: _____ Exp Date (MM/DD/YY) _____ Country of Issuance _____

Roommate's Passport #: _____ Exp Date (MM/DD/YY) _____ Country of Issuance _____

Your Address _____ ☐ Check if Roommate's address is the same

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Tel # _____

Email Address _____ Mbl # _____

Cardholder Name (if paying by credit card) _____



Amount to be charged \$ _____ Credit card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Cardholder Billing Address: ☐ Check if address is the same as above _____

Signature Required (for credit card use & acceptance of terms*): _____ Today's Date: _____

*I (We) agree to pay according to the credit card issuer agreement. I understand and accept the cancellation fees/policy and other terms.