

# 21st Century Cuba - Havana & the Viñales Valley



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## About Us

Cuba Educational Travel (CET) is a leader in cultural travel to Cuba. CET unlocks the best of Cuba by providing access to the country's top artists, academics, tastemakers, and cultural figures. CET's tailor-made programs enable clients to experience Cuba's vibrant culture and gain a deeper understanding of the island, while ensuring full compliance with all U.S. regulations.

CET has been on the frontlines of cultural collaboration, helping to bring Cubans to the U.S. and Americans to Cuba. From Yoga retreats to concerts to dance performances, CET has wide-ranging experience and contacts. Recent highlights include organizing the Diplo Major Lazer concert in Havana, which drew a crowd of over 500,000 people and bringing Liza Alfonso Dance Cuba, the country's top dance group, to perform at the Latin Grammys.

By leveraging this business expertise and curated travel capabilities, Cuba Educational Travel offers a product that is unrivaled. This combined with the beauty and intrigue of Cuba make for truly unforgettable experiences. CET has designed and executed executive retreats, board meetings, quarterly business reviews, incentive trips, industry specific investment delegations and conferences for some of the world's most respected companies and organizations.



[www.cubaeducationaltravel.com](http://www.cubaeducationaltravel.com)

## Support For the Cuban People

The U.S. Government permits legal travel to Cuba under 12 different categories that range from professional meetings and sporting competitions to religious and humanitarian travel. One of the broadest and most common categories of travel is "Support for the Cuban People," which requires travelers maintain a fulltime schedule of activities that involve meaningful interaction with individuals in Cuba and that those activities help Cubans become more independent. There are many ways in which travelers can easily fulfill this requirement while having an incredible experience in Cuba and being thoughtful, respectful and kind with the many Cubans you interact with during your travels.

Cuba Educational Travel (CET) has a long history of working with entrepreneurs, cultural groups, religious organizations, community projects and families and individuals that are involved in interesting and exciting initiatives in Cuba. Our trips have always been aimed at supporting the Cuba people through connecting them with travelers visiting the island, so that all parties can benefit from the friendships and professional relationship that result. Moreover, we believe strongly in supporting innovative and impactful businesses and social and cultural initiatives and make sure there are economic benefits to our partners on the island.

Your program will vary based on your specific interests, number of days on the island and other factors, but will include activities that directly benefit the Cuban people through conversations, knowledge sharing, follow-up initiatives, donations, normal business dealings and a variety of other actions. Excessive free time and recreational activities are not permitted, and travelers are required to work with CET and our local partners to maintain a full-time program that includes incredibly fun and interesting site visits, discussions, performances, tours, happy hours and meals that help our incredible neighbors on the island.



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## Day 1 - Sunday

**Arrival in Havana. Meet your CET host** at the exit of the terminal and transfer to accommodations. (airport transfers included)

**Check in at accommodations.**

- 6:15 pm **Orientation talk with your local guide:** overview of the agenda, discussion about local transportation, nearby markets, internet access and other logistics, safety, cultural norms and current events in Cuba.
- 7 pm **Discussion and private performance by Victor Campbell and his jazz band.** Victor is one of the most talented pianists in Cuba, having played with all of the island's top musicians, and is currently recording his first solo album.
- 8 pm **Welcome dinner at La Habanera.** This private restaurant is set in a house from 1930 restoring and preserving its hydraulic tile floors, French windows, marble staircase and outstanding elements of its elegant architecture. Prior to dinner, **we will be joined by Cuban entrepreneur(s)** for an overview of the private sector in Cuba and some of the challenges and opportunities start-ups face. The conversation will provide an interesting look into the Cuban economy and also give you a starting point for thinking about ways that your visit can help support Cuban entrepreneurs.

## Day 2 - Monday

- Optional **Socio-economic discussion with urban planner Miguel Coyula**, whose presentation will touch on housing, infrastructure, investment and restoration programs. It's bound to leave you with a better understanding of why Havana looks the way it does today and possibilities moving forward. **\*\*\*Following the discussion, the CET team will provide an overview of community projects working on development issues and social programs that visitors can support through volunteer work and/or donations, in-kind or monetary.**
- 10:30 am **Walking tour of the Old City.** Explore the historic center and learn about the history and architectural importance of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982. **Venture to the side streets to meet and support local families and organizations** (opportunity to donate supplies). *Visits include:*
- **A home in Old Havana and discussion with the family** about the ration card and purchasing power, jobs, *el paquete*, transportation, and other social issues and topics of their daily life.
  - **Barrio Habana**, a nonprofit organization that leads a community sports-arts program in Old Havana for children, at-risk youth and elderly people, while also contributing to preserve the heritage of the city.
- \*\*\*Travelers will have the opportunity to make donations, including clothes, sporting equipment and school supplies.**
- 12:30 pm **Lunch at Doña Eutimia paladar.** Famous for its *ropa vieja* and frozen mojitos, this cozy paladar made Newsweek Magazine's top 100 restaurants in the world in 2012. Following the meal, we'll be joined by the chef and owner to discuss entrepreneurship in Cuba, and the challenges and opportunities facing the business.

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- 2 pm **Visit two of Havana's most popular private business** to meet the owners and learn about their startups.
- **Clandestina**: a great little shop selling artisanal pieces such as contemporary posters, T-shirts, homewares and jewelry. This rising small business is owned by graphic artist Idania del Río and it commercializes and promotes the imagination and creativity of young Cuban designers.
  - **Dador** is Havana's hottest new clothing brand with fresh fabrics and Cuban-made clothing. Founded and owned by three Cuban women.

- 3:30 pm **Visit to the Litz Alfonso Academy, a women-led dance company and school for local youth**, specializing in various types of dance. We will watch a private performance by the adolescent dance group and sit with the dancers afterward to discuss how they came to join the school and the impact it has had on them. The talent and work ethic at this school is impressive.

*Evening free*

- 8 pm **Dinner reservation at El Del Frente**, one of the coolest restaurants in town, this private restaurant is located on a spacious rooftop terrace/bar surrounded by Old Havana's historic architecture. O'Reilly no. 303, Old Havana (dinner not included – to be paid on the ground)

Day 3 - Tuesday

- 10 am **Driving tour of the city in classic cars from the 1950's**. Classic cars are one of Cuba's first private businesses that emerged after the new economic changes, becoming an important source of income for local families.
- Coast along the **Malecón**, Havana's seawall, and visit **Miramar neighborhood**, a residential district of the municipality of Playa, where many embassies are located including the landmark Russian embassy. Drive along the famous **Quinta Avenida** (Fifth Avenue) and see the mansions that used to belong to many of Havana's upscale residents prior to the Revolution.
  - Explore **Vedado Neighborhood** stopping off at the **Revolution Square**, the gathering place for political demonstrations and the home to many important government offices.
- 12 pm **Lunch at Paladar Atelier**. This restaurant is equally known for its atmosphere and exquisite cuisine. The lighting and textures of the house, which was home to a pre-revolutionary senator, coupled with walls adorned in modern art, create a cozy, but modern setting. Prior to lunch, **take a tour of the kitchen and meet Atelier's owner**, Niuris Higuera, for a talk about running her private business in Cuba.

*Early afternoon free*

- 6 pm **Cigar tasting with a local expert at Café Madrigal**. He will explain the qualities and traits of fine Cuban cigars and how to properly light and smoke what is considered the finest tobacco in the world. **Café Madrigal**, owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales, is housed in a beautiful colonial mansion with the walls lined with captivating artwork.
- 8 pm **Dinner at Rio Mar**, a private restaurant located in the luxurious Miramar neighborhood, it has a whole terrace overlooking where the Almendares river flows into the sea. (Dinner included) **Meet the owner** and learn about his experience running a private restaurant in Cuba.

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### Day 4 - Wednesday

- 9 am **Depart for Viñales.** Considered by many to be the most beautiful place in Cuba, the Viñales Valley National Monument holds stunning landscapes. The area is also famous for being the premier tobacco growing area in the world.
- 12 pm **Visit to a private farm in the valley owned by the large family of Concha and Paco Hernandez.** The descendants of Concha and Paco have farmed the same plot of land for many generations and their land is involved in the production of a multitude of fruits, vegetables, grain and tobacco. Members of the family will give us a tour of this beautiful 40-acre farm before bringing us back to the farmhouse. **Enjoy lunch at the farm.**
- 3 pm **Check-in at family-run bed and breakfasts.**
- Evening Enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by your hosts.
- Dance Time.** Following dinner, get ready to learn some new moves with private salsa [dancing lessons with a private instructor. Once you've got it down, head to the town square for an evening party with the Viñales townspeople.

### Day 5 - Thursday

- Morning **Take a stroll through tobacco fields** to learn about the Valley's most important crops and meet with farmers and their families. Learn about life in the countryside, and how the local tourism development has helped them improve their lifestyle and family incomes.
- Lunch Choose to enjoy another fabulous home-cooked meal by your Cuban host or head to another eco-friendly farmhouse for a country-style lunch.
- On the way back to Havana, stop by one of the following community projects:*
- **Love and Hope community program in Pinar del Rio.** This program, offering art and other courses for community members with down syndrome, has had an important impact locally.
  - **Pelegrin's Patio.** Impactful neighborhood project in a small country town that features youth art programs and workshops in the areas of music, dance, theatre and art. (lunch included)
- 4:30 pm Check-in at accommodations in Havana.
- Evening free*
- 7:30 pm **Dinner reservation at La Guarida paladar**, famous not only for its delectable dining, but also as the location for the film *Strawberry and Chocolate*. Tis private restaurant is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house with the charming ambience of the early 1900s. Concordia e Gervasio y Lealtad, no. 418 altos, Centro Habana (dinner not included – to be paid on the ground)

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### Day 6 - Friday

- 9 am **Behind-the-scenes tour of Old Havana.** Walk around the old city to witness Cuban life first-hand and interact with locals. Visit to local bodegas, markets and the popular gathering places where Habaneros play dominos and discuss sports, transportation, jobs and other topics of their daily life.
- 10:30 am **Boxing with locals.** Take in a training session with amateur and professional boxers. You'll have an opportunity to make donations for the youth, including school supplies.
- 12:30 pm **Lunch at Mas Habana,** a modern private restaurant in Old Havana which has become very popular amongst locals and visitors.
- Afternoon **Behind-the-Scenes Art Tour.** Visit the homes and studios of independent Cuban Artists.
- 7:30 pm **Private tour of La Fabrica de Arte Cubano,** the brainchild of Afro-Cuban fusion musician X-Alfonso, this is one Havana's finest new art projects, an intellectual nexus for live music, art expos and fashion shows that has turned into a meeting spot for a young, eclectic crowd of Cubans and foreigners.
- 8 pm **Farewell dinner at Tierra,** Havana's newest international dining spot. Located inside a container in the Fábrica de Arte Cubano, this private restaurant mirrors the eclectic crowd, serving dishes from around the world. (dinner included)

Following dinner, **enjoy live music, art and dancing at La Fábrica de Arte Cubano.**

### Day 7 - Saturday

- Morning Check-out and depart for the airport (2 ½ hours before your flight departs).

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## MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING / SALES AGREEMENT 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cuba—Havana & the Viñales Valley

Please carefully read our company policies listed below. It is your responsibility to inquire about, and fully understand, change and cancellation policies regarding your travel arrangements.

### GROUND PACKAGE DATES AND PRICING:

<u>Departure Dates</u>	<u>Private Apartment Double Occupancy</u>	<u>Private Apartment Single Occupancy</u>	<u>High-End B&amp;B Double Occupancy</u>	<u>High-End B&amp;B Single Occupancy</u>
Dec. 26 2019 – Jan 2, 2020	<i>Contact us for program &amp; pricing for this special New Year's departure.</i>			
Jan. 19-25, 2020	\$2,450 per person	\$2,750 per person	\$3,450 per person	\$3,850 per person
Feb. 23-29, 2020	\$2,450 per person	\$2,750 per person	\$3,450 per person	\$3,850 per person

*\*Please contact CET for pricing & availability at a compliant 4- or 5-star hotel in Havana in addition to the options above.*

### INCLUDED

- 6 nights' accommodations in Cuba
  - 5 nights in Havana
  - 1 night in Viñales in *casas particulares*
- Daily breakfast
- Meals (as specified on the itinerary)
- Meal reservations (as specified on the itinerary)
- Professional, bilingual guide for listed activities
- Local ground transportation for listed activities
- Pre-trip departure information
- Compliance with U.S. Treasury Department regulations
- Speaker fees
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Coordination of all listed activities

### NOT INCLUDED

- Round-trip airfare
  - Cuban Visa (*visas for non-Cuban born travelers are available for purchase from U.S. airlines. In some instances, CET can process your visa for \$100 per traveler*)
- Meals and activities other than listed on itinerary
- Individual house or hotel expenses (*mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc.*)
- Tips for local guides, drivers, restaurant service, etc.

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## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### **PAYMENT:**

- A deposit of \$1,000 per person is due at time of booking.
- A signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding must be turned in with the deposit.
- Final payment will be due 90 days prior to departure.
- Please inquire if you are interested in purchasing trip insurance from a certified, third party.

Payment can be made with a check, cashier's check, or money order. Credit cards are not accepted. Checks should be made out to Cuba Educational Travel and mailed to:

Cuba Educational Travel  
Attn: Havana & Viñales  
42 Fire Island Ave., Suite 100  
Babylon, NY 11702

### **CANCELLATION and REPLACEMENT POLICIES:**

- The sale is final.
- Cancellations made before 120 days prior to the trip are eligible for a full refund.
- Cancellations made 119-91 days prior to trip departure are eligible for a 50 percent refund.
- Cancellations made within 90 days of trip departure are not eligible for a refund.
- In some instances, time permitting, a different traveler can take the place of a scheduled participant for a processing fee of \$350.
- ***If U.S. policy is altered to make it so that the trip is not compliant with U.S. law regarding travel to Cuba, a full refund will be granted. This will ONLY be the case if there is no legal avenue for travel to Cuba that would allow for the trip to move forward.***

### **UNUSED SERVICES & REFUNDS:**

No refund or adjustment can be made for any portion of the services not used such as voluntary non-usage of hotel accommodations, scheduled meals or any planned activity described in your itinerary.

### **PASSPORT AND VISA:**

All travelers are required to carry a valid passport and a Cuban visa. Those without a valid passport and visa will not be allowed to enter. Travelers who were born in Cuba may require a special visa in order to enter the country. Passport should be valid for a minimum of 6 months after departure date. You may obtain a visa from CET or the airline and CET will advise on the process.

### **IMPORTANT:**

Your trip is designed and implanted to comply with U.S. regulations on travel to Cuba as well as local laws in Cuba. Cuba Educational Travel is not responsible for violations as a result of travelers ignoring advice, altering programs on the ground or breaking Cuban law.

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### RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Cuba Educational Travel serves only to assist in making necessary travel arrangements for its participating members, and in no way represents, or acts as agent for, transportation carriers, hotels, and other suppliers of services connected with this tour. Therefore, is not liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strike, hostilities, wars, natural disasters or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Cuba Educational Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation or delay incurred by the purchase of an airline ticket. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. Cuba Educational Travel reserves the right to make changes in the published itineraries whenever, in its sole judgment, conditions so warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants.

Cuba Educational Travel also reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in the tours, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such an action is determined by the appropriate Cuba Educational Travel representative to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group, or of the individual participant.

The undersigned has read carefully the schedule of activities for this tour. The undersigned recognizes that there is a moderate level of physical activity involved in the tour and the tour may require participants to walk long distances and climb stairs. The undersigned accepts any risks thereof and the conditions set forth therein. The undersigned agrees to release and hold harmless Cuba Educational Travel any of their officers or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries or death, or for the loss of or damage to, his/her property however occurring during any portion of the program.

Client Name \_\_\_\_\_

CET Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature \_\_\_\_\_

CET Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Name 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cuba-Havana & Viñales

Trip Date \_\_\_\_\_