

## Learn Spanish in Havana

### Day 1 Saturday

Arrive Jose Marti Airport and transfer to your hotel. Check in and get some much needed rest.

### Day 2 Sunday B, D

After breakfast we move to your first class where you are introduced to your tutors. Here you will be assessed on your language level so your tutors know where to begin their lessons.

After your introduction you will be given a brief overview of the history and significance of Cuban culture.

We now move to Old Havana for lunch and then take a walking tour beginning from the Old Square dating from 1559. Surrounded by gorgeous colonial buildings this square was a site for executions, bull fights and fiestas. Another 'must-see' is the Plaza de la Catedral (Cathedral Square). The magnificent church at its centre You might find time for a quick Mojito at Hemingway's bar around the corner.



We return late in the afternoon and dine in the hotel restaurant.

### Monday - Friday B, D

After breakfast we head off to our first proper lessons. The daily program will be:

9.00 - 10.30 lessons

10.30 - 10.45 morning tea

10.45 - 12.30 lessons

12.30 - 2.00 pm lunch

2.00pm - Optional cultural program. You may choose to participate from a range of lectures and visits to various landmarks, institutions, museums etc in this time. A full list of options appears at the bottom of this itinerary.

Return to the hotel for dinner and possible evening cultural excursion. We try to do at least one evening excursion per week. Typical visits include the National Ballet, the Women's

Camerata Orchestra, The Tropicanna, the Buene Vista Social Club or one of several wonderful Jazz or Salsa Clubs.

## **Weekends**

As part of your language tour there are two weekend excursions included . N.B. All the weekend excursions are dependent on numbers and will be cancelled if numbers are insufficient ( 6 minimum) If they are cancelled there will be a full refund for the cost of the excursion. When you book you will be asked to choose two from the following options, the most popular excursions will be run.

### **Vinales, Soroa & Pine Del Rio**

Excursion to Vinales Valley. This is one of Cuba's richest agricultural areas and certainly one of its most picturesque. You will visit the incredible Mural de Prehistorica; an enormous mural on the side of a cliff depicting a huge snail, dinosaurs, sea monsters and humans symbolising the theory of evolution. You will also visit a tobacco farm and have lunch at an organic farm.

In the evening there is a wonderful local Casa De La Trova (house of music) in Vinales square where you can enjoy local musicians and maybe try your dancing skills to the infectious Cuban rhythms.

This trip will include a visit to Soroa, a natural biosphere famous for it's natural fauna and flora.



### **Trinidad & Cienfuegos**

This is a full weekend excursion to "The Museum city of Cuba" The meticulously preserved town offers a window into the past, from its sprawling colonial palaces and plazas to its remnants of sugar mills and slave barracks from another era. Soak up the rich Spanish colonial architecture during your walking tour of this unique city. There hasn't been a new building added since the beginning of the 19th century and the first road to Trinidad was opened in 1972!



#### Lunch in Trinidad

Check into your spectacular all-inclusive hotel, right on the Caribbean sea. Have a swim in these warm, gentle waters. Soak up this tropical paradise and enjoy a spectacular Caribbean sunset with a Pina Colada.

After breakfast enjoy a walking tour of historic Cienfuegos. The unique culture in Cienfuegos is attributed its ancestry as a French enclave. This is in fact the only French city in Cuba, with many French colonists moving here after the slave uprising in Haiti in 1791, many more came directly from Louisiana. The French influence is reflected in the wide streets and typical 19th century French colonial architecture. Many of the buildings were given UNESCO World Heritage listing in 2005.



## **Varadero & Matanzas**

For those who want to have a lazy weekend on the beach then Varadero is for you. The hotels are all inclusive (accommodation, food and drinks) and can be a great way to relax after a full week of study. You will visit the city of Matanzas, a city famous for its musical and literary history. Two pivotal Cuban musical forms, *danzón* and rumba, were hatched here, along with various religions of African origin, including Arará, Regla de Ocha (Santería) and the secret Abakuá fraternity. Matanzas is also the home of Cuba's finest provincial theatre (the Sauto), and was the birthplace of some of its most eloquent poets and writers.



## Santa Clara & Remedios

See the Santa Clara memorial where Ché Guevara is buried along with 29 of his fellow combatants, killed in Bolivia in 1967. Their remains were recovered and brought here 30 years later, to be buried on the site of the Cuban Revolution's final battle. This battle marked the end of the Batista regime and the beginning of the Castro era.



Remedios was founded in the early 1500s. Rumour has it that the founder, Vasco, in order to avoid tax payments to the crown, maintained the village hidden from the knowledge of the King of Spain as long as he could, but the village grew quickly, and at some point it had to be recognized. In 1682, a major dispute arose among the settlers, led by Father Gonzalez de la Cruz, who claimed that satanic forces had taken hold of the place. This led the Spanish Crown to send a Royal Decree, transferring the settlement to another place. Only 18 families left the town and went on to establish the village of Santa Clara, today an important city in the centre of Cuba.





## **Themes for Cuban Cultural Lectures and Excursions Associated with your Lessons.**

### **1. Overview of the architecture of Cuba - principally Havana**

Colonial architecture

Architectural styles from different eras

Visits to: Museum of the city, the Model of the city, and the model of Old Havana and meetings with architects.

### **2. Overview of Cuban cinema**

Cinema and art in the 1980's in Cuba

Cinema and young movie makers

Cuban cinema before 1959

Cuban cinema after the creation of The Institute of Cinematic Art

Visits to: The institute for the protection of Cuban movies, meeting with directors, the Institute of Cinematic Art, the school of cinematic studies.

### **3. Overview of visual arts in Cuba**

Cuban representative fine arts

Painters and styles

Fine arts - Cuban art

Fine arts - Universal art

Fuster and his project and its influence on his community

Visits to: National Museum of Fine Arts, the Wlifredo Lam Centre, San Alejandro Academy, University of Arts, galleries and exhibitions particular to your time of visit.

### **4. Overview of Cuban Theatre**

Cuban theatre in different eras

Cuban theatre after 1959

The theatre project "Escambray" and others

Visits to: Theatre companies, directors, and community theatre groups



5. **Overview of Cuban Dance**

Traditional AfroCuban dances and their influence on Cuban culture

Popular ballroom dancing in Cuba

Salsa and casino dances

Traditional Spanish dances and their preservation

Music and dance styles

Teaching dance in Cuba, Cuban ballet schools

Visits to: Museum of dance, companies, schools, dance specialists

6. **Overview of Cuban Music**

Cuban music from different eras and the composers

Cuban music principals, composers and interpretation

Visits to: Museum of music, schools, concerts, exchange with musicians and composers, lessons in Cuban rhythms - clave

7. **Overview of Cuban Politics**

Community projects

Systems of teaching arts in Cuba

The protection of Cuban culture

UNEAC ( National Union of Writers and Artists) the guardian of Cuban culture

Visits: Organic farms, community projects, UNEAC, exchange with teachers and specialists in community projects

8. **Overview of afrocuban Culture**

Afrocuban religion

Rites and myths of Afrocubans

Music and dance in Afrocuban culture

Vist to: The Yaruba Association of Cuba, museum of Guanabacoa, museum of Regla, visit a Babalo (Afrocuban priest) , teacher of Afrocuabn arts, exchange with experts in Afrocuban culture.



# Terms & Conditions

## **HOW TO BOOK**

Complete the online Booking Form. If you would like us to organise your Visa we will need a photocopy of the front page of your passport.

## **DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS**

Your deposit is due at the time of booking. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Final payment is due 60 days before your lesson/tour date. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. Payments are accepted in cash and by cheque, bank transfer Visa and Mastercard.

## **CANCELLATION & REFUNDS**

### **a) Cancellation by You**

– Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Cuban Cultural Travel. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Cuban Cultural Travel as shown below, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more Forfeit of deposit

59 – 45 days 25% of tour cost

44 – 31 days 50% of tour cost

30 – 15 days 75% of tour cost

Less than 15 days 100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Cuban Cultural Travel such as hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

### **b) Cancellation by Us**

– We reserve the right to cancel a lesson/tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Cuban Cultural Travel. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Cuban Cultural Travel.

## **PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS**

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport with a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. Visas are not included in the tour cost but can be arranged by Cuban Cultural Travel. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of your visit.

## **TOUR/LESSON PRICES**

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Cuban Cultural Travel.

## **FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION**

Most of our tours require a moderate level of fitness. If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may want to have a doctor's appraisal. We are happy to discuss this at any time.