

THE Nation. TRAVELS

CUBA ITINERARY | NOVEMBER 10–18, 2017

DETAILS & PRICING

Santiago to Havana, Trail of the Revolution: Experience the magic of Cuba's stunning colonial cities, verdant countryside, and historic sites, as well as the bustling capital of Havana.

B: BREAKFAST
L: LUNCH
D: DINNER



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

B, L, D

Depart Miami, Florida, for Holguin, Cuba.

- Drive to Santiago, the capital of Cuba's southeastern Santiago de Cuba province, facing a bay off the Caribbean Sea, is known for colonial architecture, Afro-Cuban culture, and revolutionary history.
- **Enjoy lunch at Restaurante Setos Cuba.**
- **Visit the Moncada Barracks**, where the first armed assault of the Cuban Revolution took place. Led by Fidel Castro, a group of 90 men took to the barracks on July 26, 1953, to attack the second-largest military garrison on the island. Outnumbered 10 to one, Castro and his men were defeated in the assault. Despite the defeat, once in power Castro converted the barracks into a school and established part of the building as the 26 of July Historical Museum.
- **Check in at Hotel Imperial**, a recently renovated

colonial gem at an unbeatable location and with a wonderful rooftop bar. Rest and relax.

- **Indulge in a welcome dinner at El Palenquito restaurant**, followed by a **private tumba francesa performance**. Tumba francesa is a traditional cultural dance and musical style that emerged in the 18th century in the Oriente province. It combines music from West Africa and traditional French music. Tumba derives from tambours, which is French for "drums." It is one of several Haitian drumming styles that produce an infectious beat, often accompanied by trumpets, the instrument responsible for the distinctive Cuban sound.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

B, L, D

- **Join a discussion with Archeologist Norka Cabrales**, Santiago's leading expert in the preservation and

conservation of historical patrimony, followed by visits to key historical landmarks: the romantic **Parque Céspedes**, the **Museo de Arte Colonial**, the **Casa de Diego Velázquez** (the Spanish conquistador's former residence), and the tree-lined **Plaza de Dolores**.

- **Visit Santiago's most famous landmark, the Cementerio Santa Ifigenia**, which is lined in white marble. Cuban national hero José Martí is buried here, as is Compay Segundo of the renowned Buena Vista Social Club. We will receive a tour from the cemetery staff followed by a discussion session.
- **Have lunch at Roy's Terrace Inn**, Trip Advisor's selection as the best restaurant in Santiago. It is located on a beautiful terrace on the second floor of a colonial house, featuring a great view of the city.
- **Visit the Casa Natal de José María Heredia y Heredia**, the birthplace of the 19th-century poet who was among the first to champion Cuban independence. Enjoy a private performance by the **Vocal Divas**.
- **Visit local art galleries and studios**, including those of Alberto Lescay Merencio and Carlos René.
- **Dine at El Morro restaurant**, located next to the Castillo San Felipe del Morro on the Bay of Santiago. We'll arrive early enough to enjoy the sunset.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

B, L, D

- **Check out and depart for Camagüey**, a beautiful colonial city in the center of the island.
- **Visit the Basílica del Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre**, located northwest of Santiago. Built in 1926, it's considered the most sacred place in Cuba for both Catholics and practitioners of Santería. This shrine

houses an important statue of the Virgin of Charity, the patron saint of the island. We will learn about the history of the church, which the pope visited this past spring, within the context of Cuban religious history.

- **Visit to Bayamo**, the capital city of the Granma province of Cuba, and one of the country's most important historic cities. Take a walking tour of the city's historic center, including the **Parque Céspedes** and the **Iglesia San Salvador Parroquial**. Enjoy lunch in the city center.
- **Depart to Camagüey.**
- **Arrive in Camagüey.** Check in at a bed-and-breakfast, known as *casas particulares* ("private homes"). Since the 1990s, Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms out of their family homes to foreigners. Featuring comfortable accommodations and ample privacy, these lodgings offer a great way to interact with everyday Cubans.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

B, L, D

- **Tour the historic center of Camagüey**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- **Visit a primary school** to learn about the Cuban education system, with an opportunity to interact with students and teachers.
- **Enjoy lunch at Mesón del Príncipe**, a cozy restaurant serving typical Cuban fare.
- **Attend a discussion with a local historian about the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution**, stationed at neighborhoods across the island.

EVENING FREE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**B, L, D**

- Check out and **depart for Havana**, Cuba's bustling capital.
- On the way, stop at the city of **Santa Clara**. Located in the central part of the island, it is the capital of the Villa Clara province.
- **Visit the Mausoleo del Che Guevara**. This memorial houses the remains of executed Marxist revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara and 29 of his fellow combatants killed in 1967 during their attempt to spur an armed uprising in Bolivia. The full area, which contains a bronze 22-foot-tall statue of Che, is referred to as the Ernesto Guevara Sculptural Complex.
- **Enjoy lunch at La Aldaba**, an open-air restaurant located on the second-floor rooftop of the Hostal Autentica Pergola, only two blocks from the city's main square. It has great food and a comfortable ambience.
- **Explore downtown Santa Clara**. Visit the Parque Vidal, a central park boasting some of the city's most important buildings, including the José Martí public library, the Teatro La Caridad, the Museo de las Artes Decorativas, and the historic Hotel Santa Clara Libre.
- Continue on to Havana.
- **Settle into the Hotel NH Capri La Habana**, which was one of the first hotel casinos built by the Mafia in Cuba. Owned by mobster Santo Trafficante Jr. and run by former Hollywood leading man George Raft, the hotel was originally one of the largest casinos in Havana. Located blocks from the Universidad de la Habana, the Coppelia ice-cream parlor, and the Malecón (Havana's seawall), the hotel has recently been remodeled; it now provides first-class amenities while leaving intact the history and original charm of "the Capri."



- **Enjoy dinner at the hotel.**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**B, L, D**

- **Listen to a socioeconomic discussion with urban planner Miguel Coyula**, whose presentation will touch on housing, infrastructure, investment, and restoration programs in the city. It's bound to leave you with a better understanding of why Havana looks the way it does today and the possibilities moving forward. (At the Hotel Nacional.)
- **Enjoy a traditional Cuban meal while overlooking the Straits of Florida at the Hotel Nacional**. Tasty Cuban food will be served family-style while we enjoy a great view of the Malecón and the Castillo de los Tres Reyes Magos del Morro (an old Spanish fortress). This setting evokes the 1950s for many who visit it, harking back to an era when the Mafia held its annual meetings at this historic hotel.
- **Take a walking tour of the Habana Vieja (the "old city," Havana's historic district)**. Wander through the **Plaza de Armas**, a scenic, tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is dotted with many of the most important structures in the city. See the **Plaza de San Francisco**, a cobbled square surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century and dominated by the baroque **Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco**, dating from 1719. Visit the **Plaza Vieja**, surrounded by sumptuous houses of the Havana aristocracy from the 18th and 19th centuries. Visit the **Plaza de la Catedral** and the **Catedral de San Cristóbal de La Habana**.
- **Attend a reception at the AltaMira art loft, the home and studio of a family of artists**. A few years ago, Edel Bordón and his family embarked on a journey to establish an arts collective in their apartment building. He and his wife, Yamilé Pardo, created the art space, which features an exhibition and work space off its main lobby and displays the couple's collaborations with their neighbors.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**B, L, D**

- **Join a panel discussion** with economist **Yaima Doimeadios** and sociologist **Marta Nuñez**.
- **Visit the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes da La Habana.** We will be accompanied by **Nelson Herrera**, an art historian, who will provide an overview of Cuban art and artists over the last four centuries.
- **Have lunch at San Cristóbal.** Located in the heart of Central Havana, this paladar (privately owned restaurant) has a reputation of excellence in both atmosphere and local cuisine. Enjoy great food while the locale takes you back to the 1940s and '50s.
- **Enjoy a performance by Habana Compás Dance,** which encompasses the rich rhythm and flow of the island, performing traditional and modern dances born from Spanish, Cuban, and Afro-Cuban heritage.
- **Revel in a rum and cigar tasting at Café Madrigal,** owned and run by film director Rafael Rosales. The café is housed on the second floor of a beautiful home in the bustling Vedado neighborhood. Here, we'll be surrounded with captivating artwork on the walls as we enjoy our libations.



- **Visit the Liszt 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 their lives. The talent and work ethic at this school are impressive.
- **Attend a farewell dinner at The-Merger,** a collaborative studio/gallery of three renowned Cuban artists: Mario Miguel Gonzalez, Niels Moleiro, and Alain Pino.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18****B, L, D**

- Check out and depart for the airport, Havana to Florida.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17**B, L, D**

- **Engage in a morning discussion with Carlos Alzugaray Treto,** former Cuban diplomat and expert on US-Cuba relations, to learn about the countries' bilateral relationship and Cuban foreign policy.
- **Visit a health clinic to learn about Cuba's health-care system.** We will receive a tour of a typical neighborhood health clinic and have the chance to ask questions of the clinic's doctors and nurses.

LUNCH AND EARLY AFTERNOON FREE

PRICING

GROUND PACKAGE PRICING*

Double (per person):	\$5,865
Single:	\$6,165

*Rates are based on standard accommodations. Suites, superior rooms and other upgrades carry an additional fee. Round-trip airfare on group flight from Florida not included above (\$380)

INCLUDED

- Two nights, four-star accommodations in Santiago, two nights in a private guest house in Camaguey, (a casa particular), and four nights in four-star accommodations in Havana
- Daily breakfast
- Lunches and dinners as listed on the itinerary
- All local ground transportation
- Speaker fees
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Coordination of all listed activities
- Pre-trip departure information
- Cuban insurance (health and evacuation) with group flight
- Cuban visa with group flight
- Compliance with US Treasury Department regulations

PAYMENT

- A \$1,000 deposit is due immediately in order to register for the trip. Early deposits are encouraged to lock in your registration.
- To complete your registration, please submit your registration form, signed terms and conditions document, and your deposit to Cuba Educational Travel.
- Full payment will be due no later than 75 days prior to departure: **August 28, 2017**
- All payments are to be made with a check, cashier's check, or money order, and mailed to the below address. Credit card payment is not accepted.

Cuba Educational Travel
Attn: Nation Travels – November
72 Highland Ave.
West Islip, NY 11795

NOT INCLUDED

- Round trip group airfare (Miami/Holguin and Havana/Miami, \$380*)
- Airline baggage fees
- Airfare to/from Florida
- Lodging in Florida
- Individual house/hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc.)
- Meals other than those listed on itinerary

*Group airfare rate is valid through August 28th; after that date market rates apply