



2014-2015 GlobeQuesters “Best of Cuba”following the passions of *Ernest Hemingway*

Sample Itinerary

Santa Clara/ Varadero / Habana 8 Day - 7 night Program

B = Breakfast • L= Lunch • D = Dinner

To enjoy this experience to the fullest, a sense of adventure is essential. Willingness to accept the unexpected and a high degree of flexibility are needed to travel happily in CUBA. (*Your personal safety is not an issue, as Cuba especially respects and looks after foreign visitors.*) You also should be comfortable traveling in a group of diverse personalities and be able to walk moderate distances. The Itinerary provided here is an example of one of our very successful experiences; the exact Itinerary you may be offered could be different -- depending upon availability of local arrangements -- as determined by the Cuban Government.

Day 1

- Charter Flight Miami-Cienfuegos
- Transfer to Hotel in Cienfuegos
- Welcome Cocktail upon arrival
- Orientation session
- Dinner at Palacio del Valle with Cultural Performance to learn about how music is a influence in daily Cuban life

MEALS: D

Day 2

Cienfuegos / Trinidad / Santa Clara

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Drive to Trinidad, and official “World Heritage” site (approx 1.5 hours)
- Guided walk around the main square surrounded by the magnificent manors of the sugar barons and through the surrounding colorful neighborhoods, including a visit to the Iglesia Parroquial de la Santisima.
- During walking tour of the historical center of Trinidad, speak with the locals about the challenges of living in rural Cuba
- Visit with our knowledgeable guide to visit a rationing store and learn how locals buy eggs and other staples
- Lunch at Local Paladar, privately owned restaurant in heart of the city housed in a beautiful restored family palace. Speak to the owner about his restoration efforts, how he has managed to obtain materials, antiques, etc. and enjoy the traditional Sol Ananda Restaurant on your own
- Drive to Cienfuegos (approx 1 hour)
- Visit to the Jardin Botanical Gardens and speak with the horticulturists
- Walking tour of Cienfuegos Center, interact with locals on the boulevard with its shops and small restaurants, discuss challenges of shopping in Cuba
- Visit to the Thomas Terre Theatre
- Drive to Santa Clara
- Check in to Hotel with Dinner there

MEALS: B/D

Day 3

Santa Clara / Varadero

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Check out of Hotel
- View exterior of the impressive monument* of Che Guevara in Santa Clara. (
- Visit a local Produce Market to learn about local products and how these emerging entrepreneur vendors meet the challenges of doing business in Cuba
- Drive to Varadero (approx 2 hours)
- Lunch en-route on your own
- Arrive Varadero
- Check in Hotel -- Welcome Cocktail Dinner at the historic former DuPont Mansion – where we gain additional insights into the cultural evolution of Cuba

Meals: B, D

Day 4

Varadero / Mantanzas / Hershey / Habana

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Check out of Hotel
- Drive to Mantanzas.
- Visit the 1879 Triolet Pharmacy, which is in remarkable condition. Guided tour through the large pharmacy and learn from current and former staff how pills and other things were made. community life then and now.



- Short walking tour of the city with a stop at the Publishing House, La Vigia, devoted to producing limited editions of books made by hand, page by page with ecofriendly paper. Speak with the workers about how they ply their unique trade.
- From here experience a historic local train journey through a typical Cuban landscape far away from tourism to the town of "Hershey." On the way see the fields, where you will learn how to cut sugar cane or how to make "guarapo" (sugar cane juice). Duration of the train tour is approximately 2 hours. The village of "Hershey" was named after the American chocolate king, who managed his sugar empire from here until the 1940's. On a short walking tour through the "Batey" with the ruins of the former sugar central and houses built in typical Pennsylvania style. NOTE: The Hershey train is subject to availability – if not working that day, a private coach will be used to complete the journey to Habana.
- Coach to our Hotel
- Check in Hotel with Welcome Cocktail

Meals: B

Day 5

Colonial Habana

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Enjoy a guided walking tour exploring the old city center through the alleys and over the squares of Old-Havana: Plaza de Armas Temple, Palace of the Generals, Cathedral Square, Plaza Vieja, Hemingway's "Bodeguita."
- Visit the Angela Landa School to interact with teachers and students.
- Explore the Barrio de Santo Angel (a very typical working class community in Old Havana) to interact with the locals and visit a Barber school, that serves a community project for adolescents in the neighborhood.
- In this neighborhood, you can also visit a center for the elderly in the community that serves as a dining hall and social activities center.
- Lunch at the roof terrace of the hotel "Ambos Mundos" in HABANA vieja. – where Ernest Hemingway had a room for many years.
- Research the "Museo de la Revolución". Over 9000 exhibits, weapons, photos and documents from the struggle against Batista's dictatorship and the battles of the independence wars.
- Visit to the organic farm La Yoandra, interact with the workers to gain an overview of the sustainable farm effort in Cuba. Dinner at the beautiful outdoor Paladar restaurant on the farm grounds "El Divino."

MEALS: B, L, D

Day 6

Habana-Pinar del Rio Province-Habana (Cuban Countryside)

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Visit a local cigar factory and interact with the factory workers to learn about the entire cigar-making process, their work schedules expertise, etc.
- Meet a tobacco farmer and his family as they share stories about growing tobacco, selling of their crops and rural life.
- Visit the small rural town of Viñales and walk its main streets to mix with the locals and talk about their daily activities.
- Enjoy lunch at the Mural de la Prehistoria (an immense mural painted on the mountainside, depicting scenes of prehistoric times).
- Visit an organic farm and meet the farmer who will conduct a tour of his crops explain how they are sold, and meet the farmer's family onsite.
- Return to Habana.

MEALS: B, L

Day 7

Colonial Havana

- Breakfast at Hotel.
- A Panoramic driving tour through modern parts of Habana, including a picture stop at the famous Plaza de la Revolución. The Square has been the site of Fidel Castro's speeches and visits by two Popes. Also view Malecon, Capitol and el Prado, Vedado, Habana harbor, etc.
- Visit to Casa Fuster to meet artist or his son and learn about this artist community project and speak to the locals.
- Guided tour through the museum "de Bellas Artes". It houses the country's largest collection of paintings by artists from all over the world.
- Stop at Taller Experimental de Grafica, meet the artists and discuss how they creatively express their visions in the Cuban environment.
- Inspect room 511 of the hotel "Ambos Mundos", where Ernest Hemingway wrote his novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and learn about how he and Cuba influenced each other.
- Then on to Lunch at the restaurant "Las Terrazas" in Cojimar, one of Hemingway's lesser-known favorites. Specialties are fish and seafood.
- Visit the dance school of Liza Alfonso. Every year more than thousand students are trained for professional dancing. Talk to the teacher students and see them working. (Dance School may not be available for all dates -- if so, there will be a visit to the Muraleando art project to participate in the dance workshop for the local kids).
- Visit the Museum of Orishas and meet a Santeria priest (Babalao) to understand the role of this special religion in Cuban society.
- Finally, visit Ernest Hemingway's home Finca Vigia. His famous fishing yacht the Pilar still stands on the grounds. Learn about the 30 plus years the great novelist spent in Cuba as you explore his beautiful property.
- Drive to scenic restaurant "La Divina Pastors" for our Farewell Dinner -- followed by the traditional canon salute.

MEALS: B, L, D

Day 8

Habana / Miami

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Check out of the Hotel
- Airport Transfer
- Charter Flight to Miami

MEALS: B

End of your unique people-to-people experience in developing a better understanding of Cuba's multi-national heritage, political-socio-economic system, cultural assets and quality of life governing its hospitable citizens.....

We hope you had an enjoyable and memorable experience with us in CUBA!

