



SCHOLASTIC EXPEDITIONS ITINERARY

Program Agenda Cuba Adult Exploration - 10 days / 9 nights

DAY ONE - Arrive in Cuba / Havana

- Arrive at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport
 - Meet guide and private transfer to your "casas particulares" for check-in
 - Lunch at El Torre perched 25 stories above Havana
 - Visit Historic Old Havana: Plaza San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de Armas, and Plaza de la Catedral
 - See Camera Oscura, one of only 4 such cameras in the world
 - Welcome dinner at El Aljibe, Cuba's most famous chicken restaurant
 - Return to casas
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DAY TWO - Havana

- Breakfast served in casas
 - Visit "Fusterlandia", home an neighborhood of Jose Fuster, known as the "Picasso of the Caribbean".
 - Meet with a faculty member of the University of Havana to discuss the economic history of Cuba from the perspective of the past, present and future.
 - Lunch provided at El Rejoneo, a true Cuban neighborhood "paladar"
 - Visit Revolution Square and Museo Militar, the Cuban government's military museum of past wars and conflicts
 - Visit Old Havana art studios and workshop with Cuban artist as your guide
 - Attend historical Canon Firing Ceremony
 - Return to casas
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DAY THREE - Pinar del Rio / Viñales

- Early breakfast in casas
 - Full day excursion to the beautiful mountainous province of Pinar del Rio, approximately 180 kms. This western most region is known for it's amazing valleys, landscapes and mountains
 - Lunch provided at the only Cuban Organic farm on the island, Finka de Organico. Take a tour of the farm led by it's owner and founder
 - Visit one of the famous tobacco farms (Finka de Tabaco). Learn how this mainstay crop of Cuba is planted, harvested and prepared for shipping to tobacco factories to bring to final product.
 - Return to Havana casas
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DAY FOUR - Havana

- Breakfast served in casas
- Meet with U of Havana professor speaking to us about how the Mafia effected Cuban culture. this will include a 2 hour tour of Mafia "hot spots" in Havana
- Walking tour of a local tobacco factory. Discover how the leaves are transformed into cigars
- Lunch provided at Old Havana paladar
- Ferry across Havana bay to the town of Regla, famous for it's immersion into Santeria
- Free time to explore Havana and interact with the local Cubans
- Return to casas

DAY FIVE - Havana

- Breakfast in Casas
- Visit an elementary school to visit a classroom. See how a student spends a normal day. We ask that everyone bring at least one spiral lined notebook with pencils for the kids
- Lunch provided at Las Terrazas in Cojimar. This is the famous fishing village where Ernest Hemingway wrote *Old Man and the Sea* and other novels
- Remainder of day at San Jose market exploring Cuban arts, clothing and paintings
- Return to casas

DAY SIX - Havana / Varadero

- Breakfast in casas
- Check out and board bus for a 1.5 hour ride to the famous beach town of Varadero to check into our casas. We will take a quick town tour, have lunch and go to Cueva Saturno for an in cave underground swim.
- Lunch provided
- Remainder of day to explore Varadero and interact with the Cuban people
- Return to casas

DAY SEVEN - Varadero

- Breakfast in casas
- Board our private bus headed to the marina to jump on our private *catamaran* for 6 hours of swimming, snorkeling, lunch and music!
- Return to casas

DAY EIGHT - Varadero / Cienfuegos

- Breakfast in Varadero casas

- Check out of our casas and hit the road for a 2 hour journey to the Cienfuegos, a water front city on Cuba's south coast known as the "Pearl of Cuba" for its beauty and pristine condition
 - Stop along the way to visit the Playa Giron for lunch and the Bay of Pigs museum
 - Check into local casas
 - City tour including a Visit to The Palacio del Valle
 - Return to casas
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DAY NINE - Cienfuegos / Trinidad

- Breakfast served in casas
 - Travel to one of the most historic cities in Cuba for walking city tour Trinidad
 - Learn about Cuban religion of Santeria from an authentic Babalawo (priest)
 - Time to explore Trinidad and interact with the local Cubans
 - Lunch provided
 - Drive for a mountain expedition to the incredibly scenic and breathtaking destination of Topes de Collantes, replete mountain rivers and waterfalls. Enjoy swimming in the El Cubano pools and nature hiking
 - Return to Cienfuegos for Farewell Dinner
 - Return to casas
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DAY TEN - Havana + Trip home

- Breakfast in casas
- Check out of casas and head to Jose Marti Int'l Airport in Havana for trip home

- **Times and activities may vary depending on flight schedule**