

Eileen's Travel Adventures

Presents

CUBAN 8-DAY EXPLORER PEOPLE2PEOPLE PROGRAM

Tues, November 15, 2016 - Tues, November 22, 2016



\$3,050 per person - single room \$527 extra - Land Only

Prices include visa, travel affidavit and Cuban travel insurance.

Round Trip Flight from Tampa to Havana - approximately \$500.

Day 1 - Tuesday, Nov. 15th, 2016

- Arrival at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. Expedited airport service. Collect our bags and go through customs.
- Private transfer from the airport to our hotel located in Old Havana.
- Private check-in with assistance from our guide.
- Free time to settle in and rest up at our hotel, the Hotel Nacional or similar hotel.
- This evening we'll enjoy a group dinner at our hotel. After dinner the rest of our evening is free time.

Day 2 - Wednesday, Nov. 16th, 2016

- After breakfast at our hotel we'll begin our morning visit to the Maqueta de La Habana Vieja. It is incredibly detailed and provides an excellent way of geographically acquainting ourselves with the city's historical core.
- We'll then enjoy a walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll visit four of the five historic plazas that make Havana unique in the western hemisphere.

Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza on the island.

Square of Arms, an ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers, surrounded by impressive buildings such as Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.

Palacio del Segundo Cabo (Palace of the Second Lieutenant) which dates from 1770.

Museo de Artesania at Castillo de la Real Fuerza, the oldest remaining fortress built by the Spaniards in the West Indies.

- We continue onto San Francisco Square, one of the oldest plazas in the historical quarter, and then onto Plaza Vieja, the only civic square of colonial - **Note the absence of churches and government buildings** - the square is in contrast surrounded by opulent aristocratic 17th century residences.
- Group welcome lunch at Mercaderes, a private restaurant
- After lunch we'll visit Callejon de Hamel (Hamel Alley) to see the artwork of famed Afro-Cuban Artist Salvador Gonzalez for a chance to see rumba performances.
- We'll visit the Centro Cultural Antiguos Almacenes de Deposito San Jose. This marvelous restoration of an old dock warehouse has resulted in a gigantic market exhibiting the wares of hundreds of Cuban artists and craftspersons.
- We'll return to our hotel to rest - dinner will be on our own tonight.

Day 3 -Thursday, Nov. 17th, 2016

- After breakfast at our hotel we'll visit the UBPC Vivero Organoponico Alamar, 15 km (9.3 miles) east of Havana. Established in the early 1990s, the Alamar cooperative has over 20 members and provides a range of healthy, organic vegetables to the community.
- Lunch will be at private Restaurant Ajiaco.
- After lunch we'll visit Cojimar, a small fishing village which was one of Hemingway's favorite places in Cuba.
- Return to the hotel followed by dinner tonight at Decameron private restaurant.
- The rest of the evening is free to explore the city.

Day 4 - Friday, Nov. 18th, 2016

- Following breakfast at our hotel we'll depart to the western agricultural province of Pinar del Rio for a morning tour of Vinales Valley. Vinales village is a picturesque town in the heart of Cuba's prime tobacco growing region. The town itself sits in the center of a flat valley surrounded by stunning karst hills formations known locally as mogotes. Mogotes are irregularly shaped steep-sided hills that can rise as high as 300m (985 ft.) and have bases ranging from just a few hundred yards in diameter to as much as a couple of kilometers in length. The mogotes comprise part of the Sierra de los Organos mountain chain, and were formed by eons of erosion. Many consider this the most beautiful nature spot in Cuba.
- Upon arrival we'll visit Cueva del Indio which are Indian caves. Then we'll visit Mural de la Prehistoria.
- Lunch will be at El Palenque de los Cimarrones restaurant.
- We'll be visiting the tobacco farmers where the famous Cuban cigars come from.
- Following a tour of the town square of Vinales village, we'll return to Havana where we will on our own for dinner and have time to explore the sights and sounds of the city. This will be our last night in Havana.

Day 5 - Saturday, Nov. 19th, 2016

Following breakfast at our hotel we'll be checking out and heading to Zapata National Park and Playa Larga. The Zapata Swamp is one of Cuba's most unique spots where several types of ecosystems can be found.

- En route we stop at Guama and visit a crocodile-breeding farm.
- Lunch will be at Restaurant La Boca.

- After lunch we'll be visiting Playa Giron, the most transcendental site in Cuban history, world-wide renowned because of the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961.
- We'll visit a museum that commemorates the battle. Located on the east side of Bay of Pigs is the last sandy beach of the area, ideal for fishing and diving.
- Check-in at Hotel Playa Larga.

Day 6 - Sunday, Nov. 20th, 2016

- After breakfast we'll have a tour of Playa Larga where Cuban militiamen and the people mobilized during the historic events in April 1961. We are located at one of the best beaches on this part of the Caribbean.
- Lunch will be at our hotel. Then we'll be leaving Playa Larga and heading to Varadero located on the Hicacos Peninsula, Cuba's most northern land, a protected natural park with beautiful white sand and warm waters, lots of vegetation and several caverns.
- Check-in at our hotel in Varadero, Melia Varadero or similar. Dinner will be at our hotel.

Day 7 - Monday, Nov. 21st, 2016

- After breakfast in the hotel we'll have a city tour of Varadero which is named one of the best resorts in the world where the so-called "Blue Beach of Cuba" is located. The resort offers excellent conditions for nautical sports of all kinds. There are over 50 hotels in the area. There are over 40 different types of coral making it an ideal place for divers.
- Lunch will be at the hotel with the afternoon free to enjoy sightseeing and the beaches.

- Dinner will be at our hotel.

Day 8 - Tuesday, Nov. 22nd, 2016

- After breakfast we will check out of our hotel and transfer to Jose Marti International Airport for our flight back to Florida.

AIR FARE FROM YOUR HOME CITY TO TAMPA IS EXTRA. Our land price includes hotels, meals as indicated in itinerary, ground transport, Cuba visa, drivers and guides. Currently we will be flying on Jet Blue and their flights to Havana are early in the morning, so you should plan on a one-night stay in Tampa.

I'm booking this trip through Scand-America International who is a licensed Travel Service Provider for Cuba.

Their Florida Seller of Travel License No. is ST-39653.

The group will be a minimum of six people and a maximum of 12. I expect this trip to fill quickly.

To reserve contact me at 781 925-1612 and arrange to send a \$500 deposit to me.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Happy Travels,

Eileen, Travel Addict

Eileen's Travel Adventures