

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Havana Long Weekend in Cuba

 CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Lively Exposure to Cuban Arts & Culture

In the first half of the 20th century, Americans hopped down to Havana for a long weekend, spiced with the culture of the tropics. Now that idea is back for you to connect with the city's artists, musicians and dancers, and even get in a salsa lesson. To get a feel for everyday life, shop in a farmers' market with the locals, cook lunch with a Cuban chef, and meet a family that restores classic tail-finned cars. Enjoy dining at the city's finest privately-owned restaurants and exploring historic landmarks from a working cigar factory to Ernest Hemingway's home. If you join us on the Havana Jazz Festival date, you'll enjoy this itinerary against the backdrop of music and three 'only with Classic Journeys' experiences: sit down for a meal with the director of the Jazz Festival (a friend of our guide), a private jazz-making session with a group of musicians, and in-demand tickets for live concerts each evening.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy-going walks on cobbled streets and countryside paths.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Havana / Muraleando

After thinking about it for so long, you're finally in Havana! And all of your thoughts, ideas, and images will begin to crystallize to give you a true sense of this fascinating city and country. Starting immediately, you get an inside look at the lives of everyday Cubans as you visit a market where you can chat with the locals and the farmers tending their stalls. You also stop at one of the rations stores where families buy rice, beans, sugar and other staples.

La Murleando is a neighborhood covered in bright murals, wall paintings, and art installations. (The shrine surrounded by banana-yellow hubcaps is always a favorite.) We'll meet our friends Manuel and Victor, and hang out with local artists and musicians. And when those musicians start playing, remember this: Cubans love to dance...and nothing makes them happier than when you join in. They don't care if you have the moves; they just want you to let the beat take over!

Later, you'll go for a stroll in Habana Vieja (Old Havana) with a local historian for their personal take on Cuban history. This 500-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site is the original heart of Havana, built by the Spanish, burned to the ground by pirates, and still a fine district of baroque and neoclassic buildings. While many of the buildings are well preserved or restored, you also get a sense of the challenges that lie ahead as you see a number of buildings that fell into ruin over the past half-century and await restoration.

Not long ago, the government of Cuba finally allowed entrepreneurs to start their own privately owned and operated restaurants known as paladares. Your evening begins with dinner at one of our favorites. Afterward, you can retire for the evening, or you can join your guide to retrace Hemingway's footsteps on a nighttime walk that ends at El Floridita, a small bar Hemingway loved, where you can catch some live music and sip a daiquiri.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: HAVANA

DAY 2 »

Havana

This morning, you have one of those experiences you can only get in Havana, as you visit a traditional, working, cigar-making factory. As you'll see, there's nothing automated about the process. Our aficionado-friend Augustine walks you through the rows of small stations where workers listen to the 'reader' recap the day's events from the pages of the local newspaper, while they select leaves and roll each cigar by hand. It's a fascinating process and you'll have a chance to light up a cigar if you're so inclined.

Then a former Cuban diplomat and professor of political science leads you on an exploration of the island's history. On visits that include the U.S.S. Maine, the Museum of Revolution and Hotel Nacional, you'll have a chance to ask your questions and get candid insights on the once-close and always complicated history of our two countries.

After lunch, you get a terrific inside look into Cuba's car culture at a privately-owned business where artisans restore the classic cars (and paint them in just about every color you can imagine). You'll have time to talk with our friends, husband and wife Julio and Nidialys, about the cars they treasure and the challenges of being small-business owners. They've hosted famous visitors from Michelle Obama to Mark Zuckerberg. Today it's your turn, as the craftsmen who work on the cars take you for a tail-finned cruise to the Malécon, 5th Avenue and Revolution Square.

Time magazine recently named Fabrica de Arte Cubano (Cuban Art Factory) one of the World's Greatest Places. This complex is the pinnacle of the Cuban arts scene and on a curated visit you'll meet some of the artists personally and hear about what's inspiring them nowadays. If you find a piece that appeals to you, you can purchase it directly from the artist who created it. Then the choice is yours: Stick around afterward for dinner and a lively evening or head off to the Tropicana or maybe the Buena Vista Social Club for a performance.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: HAVANA

DAY 3 »

Havana / Finca Vigia

No American was ever more identified with Cuba than Ernest Hemingway. This morning, with a local friend you'll visit Finca Vigia, the author's Cuban home. On the grounds, you'll get a fascinating look into rooms that are furnished as they were from 1939 to 1960, the period when the author lived here and wrote works including "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Midday, a local chef invites you into the kitchen to help prepare some popular Cuban dishes in a cooking instruction. Then you sit down to lunch on the very tasty results.

You've gotten the picture by now that the Cubans have an infectious enthusiasm for the arts. One of the best examples is the local private dance company that's excited to give you a performance of Afro-Caribbean dance music. These young dancers have an energetic, percussive style that really captures the Cuban tempo, and it's a treat to see them in action.

When you select your outfit for dinner tonight, think about what will move with you on the dance floor. The perfect complement to this day comes at the hands (and hips) of professional dancers. You're off to a privately-owned dance studio for a salsa lesson that will have everybody swiveling and smiling and getting a real feel for the native Cuban spirit.

Your farewell dinner this evening is at Havana's most elegant paladar, famous for its role in the Cuban movie "Fresa y Chocolate".

MEALS: B, L, D OVERNIGHT: HAVANA

DAY 4 »

Havana

Did you ever meet Castro in person? No? Well the good news for you is that the photojournalist you meet this morning had virtually unfettered access to him. So, you'll have the chance to hear stories of the last half century as well as to learn the backstories behind some iconic photos.

You'll have time for a final Cuban lunch on your own before you return to the airport for your homebound flight.

MEALS: B OVERNIGHT: NONE

YOUR TRIP IS 100% LEGAL! »

Here's Why...

Thanks to the personal hospitality and generous spirit of the individual Cubans who have become our friends over many years and repeated visits to the island, all of the interactions and activities you enjoy during your time in Cuba are fully compliant with the U.S. government's **"Support for the Cuban People"** general license guidelines. Count on Classic Journeys to make sure **your trip is 100% legal** and to do all of the record keeping for the Treasury Department and OFAC on your behalf. It's just another reason why **National Geographic Traveler** named our Cuban trips on of their **"50 Tours of a Lifetime"**.

Tour Hotels



[La Reserva](#)

In the heart of the vibrant El Vedado, this exquisitely renovated colonial mansion has luxury rooms, a tropical garden with bar, and an in-house art gallery featuring contemporary Cuban artists.

NIGHTS: 3 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of first night's accommodation**
START CITY: **Havana**
START TIME: **10:00 AM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **José Martí Airport**
END CITY: **Havana**
END TIME: **3:00 PM**