

# CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

A scenic view of a Cuban town, likely Trinidad, featuring palm trees in the foreground, colorful buildings with red roofs, and a prominent yellow church tower with a red dome in the background. The town is nestled in a valley with green hills and mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Cuba

Havana, Cienfuegos & Trinidad



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

TRAVEL + LEISURE

## The Ultimate Cuba

For all you've heard about life in post-revolution Cuba, one of the country's great surprises is how much of its pre-Castro history has been preserved. This fascinating expedition includes the colorful colonial cities of Trinidad and Cienfuegos, where you explore cobblestoned streets, walk in lush mountains and snorkel on the tropical coral reef in the Bay of Pigs. In Havana, wander the 500-year-old city and out to Hemingway's home. Throughout, you'll interact closely with coffee-growers, artists, dancers, historians, and everyday Cubans.

Join us on the Havana Jazz Festival dates and enjoy all of the experiences in this itinerary against the backdrop of music throughout your days and evenings in Havana. You'll also enjoy three extraordinary 'only with Classic Journeys' experiences: sit down for drinks and a discussion with a musicologist (a personal friend of our guides), a private jazz session with a group of musicians who take you on a journey through different elements of Cuban music, and special access tickets to a concert so you get to the performance without having to arrange the details yourself.



DAY 1 »

## Old Havana

- Explore Old Havana's historic streets with a local historian, uncovering centuries-old stories
- Create authentic Cuban dishes alongside a local chef, followed by a private rooftop jazz concert

After thinking about it for so long, you're finally in Havana! Your journey begins with a stroll through Habana Vieja (Old Havana) with a local historian, offering you a very 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.

Following your exploration of Old Havana, you'll meet with Roberto Salas, a photojournalist who had virtually unfettered access to Castro. You'll have the chance to hear stories of the last half-century and learn the back stories behind some iconic photos.

Tonight, enjoy a pairing of exclusive 'only with Classic Journeys' experiences. First, a local chef invites you into their kitchen to help prepare some popular Cuban dishes in a hands-on cooking instruction that leads to an unforgettable dinner. After savoring what you've made, make your way to their rooftop for a private jazz performance. Under the stars, soak in the sounds of world-class Cuban musicians who often perform in the Havana Jazz Festival, and tonight perform just for you

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: HAVANA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

## Havana / Hemingway's House

- Witness traditional cigar-making techniques at a working factory with an expert aficionado
- Discover Hemingway's Cuban life at Finca Vigia, guided by the property's curator

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 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.

On your way to Revolution Square, you'll pass by the U.S.S. Maine and Gramma Memorial. Your guided walk continues along Paseo el Prado and through Parque Central, where you'll see the capital building and the Gran Teatro de La Habana.

In the afternoon, you'll visit Finca Vigia, Ernest Hemingway's Cuban home. The curator of the property is a personal friend, and so she steps away from her normal schedule to spend time with you, walking through the grounds, and providing you a fascinating look into Hemingway's personal life as well as 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."

This evening, strike out on your own to discover one of the privately owned and operated restaurants called paladares. Afterward, you can retire for the evening, or join your guide to retrace Hemingway's footsteps on a nighttime walk that ends up at El Floridita, a small bar Hemingway loved, where you can catch some live music and sip a daiquiri.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: HAVANA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

## Havana

- Cruise Havana's streets in classic cars, ending at a private restoration workshop
- Learn salsa moves from professional dancers in an intimate, locally-owned studio

Your day begins with a colorful and unique experience. You'll be met at your hotel by craftsmen who work on classic cars. They'll take you for a tail-finned cruise along the Malecón and through Revolution Square before arriving at their workshop. Here, you'll get a terrific inside look into Cuba's car culture at this privately-owned business where artisans restore classic cars (and paint them in just about every color you can imagine). You'll have time to talk with our friends about the cars they treasure and the challenges of being small-business owners.

During your exploration today, you also 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 government-owned rations stores where families buy rice, beans, sugar and other staples.

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 welcomed into 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.

In the evening, you'll have a fascinating cocktail conversation with a former Cuban diplomat and professor of political science, who will provide candid insights on the once close and always complicated history between Cuba and the United States. 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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

## Bay of Pigs

- Snorkel Bay of Pigs' vibrant coral reefs, guided by a local marine naturalist
- Savor farm-to-table cuisine in Trinidad, sourced from nearby organic farms and fishing villages

This morning, you head for the Caribbean coast. A local naturalist will introduce you to the rich habitat of the Zapata Peninsula, a rich and biodiverse ecosystem that is one of the best preserved anywhere on the island. The peninsula's most famous spot is the Bay of Pigs, the otherwise quiet bay that was fixed in our collective memories by the failed 1961 attempt to invade Cuba. Linguists say that the name "Bay of Pigs" is actually a mistranslation of a word that means "triggerfish." When you look down into the bay's coral reef through a snorkel mask, you'll agree that the real name makes more sense. In the company of a naturalist Cuban guide, you can go in search of striped goatfish, peacock flounder, or Creole wrasse among countless others.

The day comes to a climax as you arrive in the World Heritage City of Trinidad. Tonight offers another enriching opportunity to experience culture through cuisine. First, you're now along the south coast while also right at the foot of the Escambray Mountains. Our chef sources fresh vegetables from a local organic farm, while the fish and lobster are exceptionally fresh, coming right from the nearby fishing village of Casilda.

MEALS: B, L, D      OVERNIGHT: TRINIDAD

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

## Valley of the Sugar Mills / Trinidad

- Walk through sugar cane fields, meeting local farmers and witnessing rural Cuban life
- Participate in traditional sugar cane processing at a historic hacienda with a local family

Sugar cane, introduced to Cuba in the early 16th century, transformed the island into the world's leading sugar producer by the 19th century, shaping its economy and society. As you walk through El Valle de los Ingenios – the Valley of the Sugar Mills – this morning, the scenic vistas are spectacular, with lush green fields stretching to the vibrant Escambray mountains and glimpses of the beautiful sea in the distance. Along the way, you'll encounter local farmers tending their crops, children walking to school, and even oxen-drawn carts, offering a glimpse into the valley's enduring rural lifestyle.

Your journey leads you to Hacienda El Abanico, a historic quinta or estate. With your expert local guide, you'll learn about the tremendous scale of the sugar enterprise, the dependence on slavery, and the rich history of the area. You'll join the family for a hands-on sugar cane crushing and juicing demonstration, and have a chance to sip guarapo, the classic sugarcane juice drink. Afterward, you'll enjoy lunch with the family, experiencing a unique and personal perspective on Cuba's agricultural heritage.

The city of Trinidad has a vibe all its own as you'll instantly realize while you explore with a local who is your insider guide. It can feel like time has stood still since the mid-19th century when Trinidad was the unofficial capital of the sugar industry. The sense is made even stronger as you move through the streets and learn about the forces of business, colonialism and politics that gave birth to this city. Along the way, you'll see talented artists at work in their home.

MEALS: B, L      OVERNIGHT: TRINIDAD

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

## Escambray Mountains Coffee Plantation / Trinidad

- Hike Escambray Mountains' diverse ecosystems, spotting unique flora and fauna with naturalists
- Experience coffee cultivation and production firsthand at a family-run mountain plantation

Che Guevara used the nearby Escambray Mountains as his staging ground. That same terrain that offered his revolutionary guerillas protection from government troops is also the perfect terroir for growing coffee beans. Your walk leads to a family-run coffee plantation where you are a welcome guest. With the next generation of coffee-growers, you learn about the agricultural heritage of the industry – and even have a chance to help with harvesting, sun-drying, roasting, or grinding the beans. Of course, you also get to taste the ultimate cup of homegrown, homemade coffee before sitting down with the family for lunch.

These same mountains also offer you a diverse ecosystem of lush rainforests and cloud forests, waterfalls, hiking trails and incredible biodiversity to explore in the company of your naturalist guide. With them, you'll walk through mahogany, cedar, teak, pine, and Cuba's national tree the royal palm. Along the way, you'll cross a hanging bridge and reach magnificent waterfalls where you'll pause to marvel at their jaw-dropping beauty and perhaps even take a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear pools below. As you continue your journey, you'll spot a wide variety of orchid species, Cuba's national bird the Tropicbird, the Pygmy Owl, the Cuban Parrot and the Bee Hummingbird (the world's smallest bird).

This evening after dinner, you have the 'only with Classic Journeys' experience relaxing with an expert sommelier, who gives you a master class in Cuban rum and cigars, complete with a tasting and instruction in each.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: TRINIDAD

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

## Cienfuegos / Havana

- Explore Cienfuegos' French-influenced architecture with a local historian, uncovering its unique heritage
- Reflect on your Cuban journey during a farewell lunch en route to Havana

A brief morning drive takes you to Cienfuegos, a seaside UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Pearl of the South." Its story is unique, as you'll discover on a walk led by a local historian. Founded in 1819, the city was settled by immigrants from France and Louisiana. Even now, you see clear hints of Paris and New Orleans in the architecture. It's also very well preserved thanks to its role as a prosperous center of shrimping and industry.

You'll transfer back to Havana, with lunch along the way, and arrive at the airport for flights home.

### Special thanks to the Cuban people.

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 Office of Foreign Assets Control ('OFAC') on your behalf.

MEALS: B, L

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

## 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



### [La Casona](#)

A colonial ranch on the edge of Santa Rosa Valley, La Casona's terraced rooms are decorated with local art. The large garden and yard look out on the ruins of a colonial fort.

**NIGHTS:** 3 nights

## Curated Walks

### CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

### CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	2	3	4
Day 2	3	4	5
Day 3	2.5	3.5	5
Day 4	*	*	*
Day 5	4	5	6
Day 6	2.5	4.5	6
Day 7	2.5	4.5	5.5

\*No scheduled walks

### ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Havana, Trinidad, and Cienfuegos; as well as well-maintained mountain, countryside and coastal trails of compressed dirt and stone that offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain; with some elevation gain and loss.

### THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

### CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

## Arrival & Departure

### → ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of first night's accommodation  
CITY: Havana, Cuba  
TIME: 10:00 AM

### → DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: José Martí Airport  
CITY: Havana, Cuba  
TIME: 5:30 PM

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES
  - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES
  - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS
  - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS
  - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED
  - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ REGENERATIVE TRAVEL
  - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

## What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 4 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

### ▶ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.

### ▶ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

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

## Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.