



# CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

# Havana

Long Weekend in Cuba



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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. 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 Granma 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 »

## Havana - Vedado & The Malecón

- Stroll from Vedado along the Malecón to the legendary Hotel Nacional for a personalized tour
- Savor a farewell lunch in a tucked-away paladar and browse Old Havana's artisan shops

Wake to the gentle hum of Vedado, Havana's leafy, quietly glamorous district where your boutique hotel feels like a well-kept secret among friends. This morning, you set out on foot, tracing the shaded boulevards toward the U.S. Embassy. The walk is cinematic—palms swaying, classic cars gliding by, and the salty breeze from the Straits of Florida in your hair. Your expert local guide, who seems to know every story tucked behind every façade, shares tales of intrigue and resilience that have unfolded along this very stretch. The embassy itself is more than a building; it's a symbol of the complex dance between two nations, and you feel its gravity as you pass by, the Malecón's iconic seawall beckoning just ahead.

You continue along the Malecón, Havana's beloved promenade, where locals gather to fish, flirt, and philosophize. Soon, the grand Hotel Nacional rises before you—a symbol of Cuba before the Revolution and before that of the glam, luxury, and mob activity in 1950's Cuba. With your guide's insider access, you 'slip behind the velvet rope' for a personalized tour to see where the anti-aircraft batteries were stored in the gardens during the Cuban Missile Crisis, to hear the stories of the array of celebrities who stayed here in the decades leading up to the Revolution, and even to learn about its role in The Godfather Part 2. Then, if time allows, savor a rich Cuban coffee on the terrace, the city's pastel skyline unfurling before you. It's a moment to linger, to imagine, and to feel Havana's pulse beneath your feet.

After your morning of discovery, you make your way back to Old Havana, where a final lunch awaits in a tucked-away paladar. Here, you dine like a true Habanero—sharing laughter and stories, sampling flavors that linger long after the last bite. Before heading to the airport, you have a little time to wander the cobblestone streets for last-minute treasures: vibrant art or perhaps a perfectly imperfect ceramic from a local artisan. As you say your goodbyes, you realize this isn't just a farewell to Havana, but a promise to return. You've walked at eye level, met the makers, and tasted the real Cuba—an experience only Classic Journeys could have curated, and one you'll carry home in your heart.

MEALS: B      OVERNIGHT: NONE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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"**.

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

## Tour Hotels



### [La Reserva](#)

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

**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	2.5	3	4

#### ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Havana. Generally, the walks are level, with very little 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: 3:00 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 3 nights
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- 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

### ▶ 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.