

# PERSONAL & PRIVATE TOURING IN CUBA

## “CUBA FENOMENAL”

### 15 DAYS PROGRAMME

#### **Tour departures:**

Daily from Havana (from other cities on request)

What you will experience on this tour: friendly people, exotic & safe country, beautiful scenery, culture and architecture, rainforest, beaches, salsa, politics, cigars, rum, seafood/lobster, cycling and walking. However, you can change the priorities according to your interests as we are flexible and have contacts in all fields to adjust the itinerary to your preferences.

#### **Tour Highlight & Concept:**

##### **Guides to an astonishing land and culture.**

Be prepared: Cuba is unlike any other country in the world! And there is no better way to experience it than with one of our two guides, los “Cubans fenomenales”.

Either one will guide you and provide you with a great experience that you will fondly remember for a long time whether you come for 9 days only or for an entire month.

They speak good English and are familiar with our ways of life as they have travelled outside their country too. They know how to make the tour the very best for you because they can understand how you wish to spend your holidays and what you expect. Even in Cuba a private tour - the way we proudly designed it - leaves quite a bit of flexibility to fit in your personal requirements. Unlike many guides, our tour guides offer a broader perspective to this fascinating island. With us, you will discover that Cuba is not just about the Revolution even though like any other tourist you will be thrown into the midst of it the moment you set foot on this beautiful land.

#### **Transportation**

Most probably our guides will drive you around with “Sunny Boy” Pepe in his 52 aircon Ford. He has an official taxi licence, one of the number of emerging private businesses... and if it is not Pepe, Ricky, Camelo or Luiba will be just as good, friendly and reliable.

#### **Accommodation & food**

“Casas Particulares” or “Bed & Breakfast’s” are another astonishing private business in Cuba. Many owners live in old villas from the time of the sugar barons. These B & B’s have modern amenities like en-suite and air-conditioning, with the added benefit that you will be staying with a family and enjoy real Cuban hospitality. Breakfast of fruits, juices, eggs (sometimes meat), toast, coffee or tea is always included.

Occasionally we eat dinner at the B&B’s but more often we eat out, in a restaurant with music, on a (roof) terrace, along the sea, on a plaza or in a side street. The food spectrum has greatly improved in Cuba too.

#### **Itinerary:**

##### **Day 1**

HAVANA, 3 nights

Arrival any time of the day into Habana. You will be met by your tour guide at the airport. Transfer to your Bed & Breakfast.

## **Day 2**

### HAVANA

We take a stroll through the modern part of Havana, visit the “unsuspected” Museo Napoleonico in an interesting old residence. We enjoy sunset at the famous Malecon (seafront) and dine on the terraces of an excellent restaurant.

## **Day 3**

### HAVANA

We visit a cigar factory and our guide then takes you for a stroll through the old town with entries to two museums. In the evening we visit Havana Fort and we see a historic ceremony that takes us back to colonial times.

## **Day 4**

### HAVANA TO LAS TERRAZAS, 1 night

We depart Havana in the morning in a minibus or taxi. Our destination is the nature reserve of Las Terrazas. During our interesting drive we stop for a visit to the Museum of Humour and also visit the ruins of one of the earliest Coffee Plantations. Tonight we stay at the peaceful and unique Hotel Moka.

## **Day 5**

### LAS TERRAZAS TO VINALES, 2 nights

Today's drive will be very enjoyable as we ride through beautiful scenery along the little visited north coast. After about 7 hours including a lunch stop along the coast we reach Vinales. The lush fields, verdant forests and the bulbous lime stone cliffs make Vinales Valley one of Cuba's most magnificent countryside. It is also Cuba's main tobacco growing area.

## **Day 6**

### VINALES

Either early morning or late afternoon we go for a walk through the beautiful country side, visit a Tobacco Farm and maybe go for a swim in one of the ponds. This walk can last 1 to 5 hours, it is up to you and your fitness. The rest of the day will be dedicated to sightseeing by car: Cave, mural paintings & scenic outpost.

## **Day 7**

### VINALES TO CIENFUEGOS, 2 nights

This will be a long drive of about 8 hours with stops at Playa Giron famous for the battle of the Bay of Pigs where we might visit the museum. Lunch will be at a beautiful natural spot where you can swim in a clear waterhole (cenote). In Cienfuegos, you will be staying with a family in one of the magnificent houses in the classic neighbourhood of Punta Gorda. Enjoy a Mojito at the Yacht Club before heading for dinner!

## **Day 8**

### CIENFUEGOS

The town is often referred to as the pearl of the South (arranged around a beautiful natural bay) or the Paris of Cuba because of its French founder and its French architecture and lifestyle. We visit the famous Parque Marti and surroundings with its magical buildings like Teatro Thomas Terry, the Cathedral, Casa de la Cultura, Museo Provincial and enjoy a sunset cruise in the magnificent bay.

## **Day 9**

### CIENFUEGOS TO TRINIDAD, 3 nights

We rise early to maximize our chances to see Pelicans, Flamingos and other varieties of birds at a lagoon on our way to Trinidad. The drive with many magnificent views over the coast or to the mountains will be enjoyable and leisurely. We stop for lunch in a small hotel along the waterfront and you can go for a swim in the pool.

## **Day 10**

### TRINIDAD

Trinidad is a well preserved Spanish colonial settlement that has become rich through the sugar boom 200 or so years ago. It is unique and fascinating, a national monument and a Unesco World Heritage site. We will discover the beauty of this town on walk during which we will visit the main sights like the Museo Historico, Plaza Mayor, Museum of Architecture, finishing the day at Casa de la Musica where we enjoy smashing Salsa rhythm.

### **Day 11**

#### **TRINIDAD**

Day excursions into the scenic Sierra (mountains) of Topes de Collante where it will be refreshingly cool at a height of approx. 1000m. The climate is ideal for coffee growing. We will also undertake an excellent hike through rainforest with a knowledgeable guide to a waterfall and swimming pool.

### **Day 12 & Day 13**

#### **ANCON BEACH, 2 nights**

We will spend 2 days at beautiful Ancon Beach which is only 1 hour drive from Trinidad. Our hotel is right on the 6 km long, white, sandy beach. These 2 days are a relaxing break from travelling and sightseeing. All meals (with drinks) at the hotel are included. Diving and snorkeling are available.

### **Day 14**

#### **ANCON BEACH TO HAVANA**

We return to Havana and you have the choice either to do some more sightseeing on the way or to arrive early in Havana for more visits of the capital and to attend a show (optional) at one of the famous musical venues (Tropicana, Buena Vista Social Club).

### **Day 15**

Transfer to Havana Airport for your international departure.

### **Departure dates:**

Daily

### **Price**

Please contact us for prices

### **Includes**

Our programme includes all accommodation at superior Bed and Breakfast, twin room with en-suite and air-condition, all breakfast, all dinners with softdrinks or 2 alcoholic drinks and all the important sightseeing with your tourguide and your own taxi and driver.

### **Availability of tour:**

We like to make sure that this tour and sightseeing programme will be the very best in Cuba and this depends first and foremost on the guide. We only work with 2 guides and if they are not available we cannot confirm this programme but we might be able to offer an alternative. It is important that you book early.

### **Extra:**

Airfares, Travel insurance,

**MonikaTravel**

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