THE NEW REPUBLIC
Travel

Explore Cuba!
Saturday
Includes: Dinner

Our charter flight (not included) is scheduled to arrive at Havana’s Jose Marti International Airport at 1:30 p.m. Bus transfer to accommodations.

Check into our four-star accommodations in Vedado, Havana, followed by a welcome party with traditional Cuban quartet, Wena Vivre, at Skyline. Dinner will be at Café Laurent, a private restaurant known for its eclectic menu.

Monday
Includes: Lunch and dinner

We’ll start our day with a talk by Professor Marta Nunez, professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Havana, whose work focuses on race and gender, followed by a private performance by the celebrated dance troupe at Habana Compás Dance. This remarkable company has performed all over the world. Its style reflects the rich history, diversity, rhythm, and flow of the island.

We’ll enjoy a classic Cuban lunch at MAREA, located on the beach at Marina Hemingway.

In the afternoon, we’ll visit the home of Afro-Cuban activists La Reina y la Real, a prominent female hip hop-jazz duo. The group’s music and community activism focuses on breaking down gender and racial stereotypes in Cuban society. They will welcome us to their modest home in Luyano, share their music, and discuss the challenges young Afro-Cuban women currently face.

Late afternoon, we’ll visit the home and studio of a family of artists and art professors from the most renowned art institutes in Cuba. Sculptor Yamilé Pardo, painter Edel Bordón, and photographer Pablo Bordon-Pardo will discuss art education in Cuba.

In the evening, we’ll enjoy a discussion and private performance by Yassek Manzano, the most exciting young trumpet player to come out of Cuba in the last decade, at Mamy’s Café. Manzano is also a composer and has performed with major figures like Celia Cruz and the British band Simply Red.

Dinner will follow at Paladar San Cristobal. Located in the heart of Central Havana, this celebrated paladar offers delicious local cuisine and libations. The staff are particularly proud of their photos with President Obama, who ate here (and left a very good tip) during his historic visit.

Hosted by: Charles Bittner
“...The objective of every trip I host in Cuba is to deepen the bonds and understanding between the two countries, to appreciate the triumphs and challenges of the Cuban people, to explore the unique history of the island—and to have a tremendous amount of fun while doing all of it,” says Charles Bittner, who has taken more than 50 groups to Cuba over the last 15 years. A professor of sociology who has taught at the University of Texas, Southern Methodist, and St. John’s University, Charles is a wide-ranging expert on Cuba’s social, medical, cultural, and political institutions. Plus, he’s not a bad salsa dancer.
Havana, is known for its locally sourced seafood and offers outdoor dining on the terrace, which overlooks the Almendares River.

**Tuesday**

Includes: Lunch and dinner

**Depart for Cienfuegos**, one of the country’s oldest and most beautiful cities, which is located approximately three hours from Havana (we will travel in a very modern, air-conditioned bus). Cienfuegos, referred to as the “Pearl of the South,” is one of Cuba’s only cities to display French and Spanish architecture. Located on one of the country’s largest bays, the city offers beautiful oceanfront landscapes and is deeply rich in culture.

We’ll **lunch at El Lagarto**, a picturesque outdoor restaurant with views and breezes from the Bay of Cienfuegos, which specializes in fresh seafood from neighboring waterways. Afterward, we’ll **enjoy a music performance at one of the many historic churches on the square**, followed by an interactive discussion with Cuban musicians and singers.

Late afternoon, we’ve planned a tour of the private local art galleries that surround Jose Marti Park in downtown Cienfuegos. We’ll then continue to **Trinidad**, a UNESCO world heritage site known for its history, cobblestone streets, pastel-colored homes, art, and music.

That evening we’ll **check in at bed and breakfasts, known as casas particulares, or “private homes.”** Since the 1990s, Cuban families have been permitted to rent rooms in their family homes to foreigners. The rooms are all air-conditioned with modern amenities. We’ll eat dinner at **San Jose Paladar**, a charming, modern private restaurant with a diverse menu featuring everything from lobster to pizza.

**Wednesday**

Includes: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

The day will begin with a discussion with Nancy Benitez, local architect, historian, and restoration specialist, who will provide an overview of the city’s history from an architectural, economic, and infrastructural point of view.

A local guide will then lead us on a walking tour of Trinidad’s Historic Center.

**Lunch will be at Adita Cafe**, a quaint restaurant with a diverse seafood menu.

Afternoon free to explore Trinidad or the nearby Playa Ancon.

In the evening, we’ll have the privilege of a discussion with Carlos Mata, Trinidad’s award-winning “Painter of the Night,” and his talented daughter, Amaya, about the city’s historic art scene. Carlos and Amaya meticulously restored their eighteenth-century home, which now houses a gallery and studio. Enjoy local music, appetizers, and beverages—try a canchanchara, Trinidad’s storied local cocktail—at a private party in the courtyard of the beautiful home.

In the evening, we’ll enjoy a Trinidad farewell dinner at El Secreto, located in the historic Plaza Mayor. This private restaurant is housed in a wonderful eighteenth-century home filled with antiques and even a Wurlitzer jukebox from the 1950s. Chef Alejandro specializes in locally sourced seafood, fruits, and vegetables.

We’ll end the night with dancing and live salsa music at the popular Casa de la Musica.
Thursday
Includes: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Breakfast, checkout of casas, and return to Havana.

We’ll eat lunch at Le Petit, a private restaurant in the heart of Old Havana and then check in at our accommodations.

In the afternoon, Camilo García López-Trigo, an economist and former U.N. ambassador, will engage us with a discussion on Cuba’s economic welfare.

We’ll end the day with a private musical performance by renowned activist, singer, and songwriter Frank Delgado at Café La Bombilla Verde, a bohemian gathering spot for art and music, followed by dinner at a private restaurant.

Friday
Includes: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

After breakfast we’ll visit the Museo de Bella Artes, Cuba’s fine arts museum, accompanied by Cuban art historian Claudia Laguna.

Lunch will be at El Del Frente, a hip private restaurant with rooftop dining, and then we’ll visit the studio of Acosta Dance. This privately owned modern dance company was founded by legendary Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta, currently director of the Royal Ballet in London.

We’ll enjoy a late-afternoon private performance and discussion with the classical musicians of the Orquesta del Lyceum de La Habana at Seminario San Carlos. These 24 young musicians just returned from performances in Paris, Berlin, and San Francisco.

Dinner at Al Carbone, a beautiful private restaurant in Old Havana created by the owners of the immensely popular Iván y Justo, with an optional evening of jazz at La Zora y El Quervo, a live music venue located just a block from the hotel.

Saturday
Includes: Breakfast

Breakfast, followed by free time pending flight departures.
Explore Cuba!
Registration Form

Full name (as on passport)  
Name you go by  
Home address/Street/City/State/Zip  
Phone no.  
Email  
Passport no.  
Exp. date  
Citizenship  
Gender  
Single/double (list roommate if applicable)  
Occupation  
Describe your health (i.e., allergies, health concerns, special needs, etc.):  
Dietary requests/restrictions  
Emergency contact/relationship/phone number  

CANCELLATION AND REPLACEMENT POLICIES:
A full refund, less a $175 processing fee, is available until 60 days prior to departure. After, refunds are not available. We highly recommend trip cancellation insurance from certified third-party vendors. Please inquire if you are interested in purchasing trip cancellation insurance.

UNUSED SERVICES & REFUNDS:
No refund or adjustment can be made for any portion of the services not used, such as voluntary non-usage of accommodations, scheduled meals, or any planned activity described in your itinerary.

RESPONSIBILITY & LIABILITY STATEMENT
The New Republic and its travel partners serve only to assist in making necessary travel arrangements for their participating members, and in no way represent, or act as agents for, transportation carriers, hotels, and other suppliers of services connected with this tour. Therefore, they are not liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in performing any of the services involved.

Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strike, hostilities, wars, natural disasters, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided.

The New Republic and its travel partners do not accept liability for any airline cancellation or delay incurred by the purchase of an airline ticket. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The New Republic and its travel partners reserve the right to make changes in the published itineraries whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions so warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants.

The New Republic and its travel partners also reserve the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in the tours, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such an action is determined by the appropriate New Republic staff representative to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group, or of the individual participant.

The New Republic and its travel partners shall not be responsible for a delay or failure to perform due to causes or events not within their control, including, without limitation, an act of God or government, illness, civil disturbances, fire or other catastrophe, electrical or computer failure, telecommunication failure, disruption of public transportation, storm or other severe weather conditions.

The undersigned has read carefully the schedule of activities for this tour. The undersigned recognizes that there is a moderate level of physical activity involved in the tour and the tour may require participants to walk relatively long distances and climb stairs. The client accepts any risks thereof and the conditions set forth therein. To the extent allowed by law, client agrees to release and hold harmless The New Republic and its travel partners and any of its officers or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries or death, or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of the program.

I have read the Responsibility & Liability Statement and agree to it.

To pay with a debit or credit card:

Please charge my card 

Visa  Mastercard  AmEx  Discover  

Name on card  

Card Number  Billing address  

Expires  Security Code  

Signature  

A $1,500 deposit per person is due with your registration. Full payment will be due approximately 60 days prior to departure.

Payment can be made with a check, cashier’s check, money order, or credit card. Checks should be made out to The New Republic and mailed to: The New Republic, Attn: David Myer, 1 Union Square West, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10003 or email your completed registration form with credit card information to Charles Bittner: charlesbittner@verizon.net

Initial Please initial here that you understand the cancellation policy and that you’ve read our recommendation for travel insurance.
Explore Cuba!

Pricing

Double (per person):
$3,985

Single:
$4,485

Tour price includes:
- Five nights’ accommodation in Havana
- Two nights’ accommodation in Trinidad, Cuba
- Daily breakfast
- Lunches and dinners as listed on the itinerary
- All local ground transportation
- Speaker fees
- Admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary
- Coordination of all listed activities
- Pre-trip departure information
- All other activities and events listed on the itinerary

Tour price does not include:
- Airline baggage fees
- Airfare to/from Havana (We will offer a group charter flight, round trip from Miami to Havana, for an additional fee.)
- Cuba tourist visa (available at airline ticket counter or included if you choose to take the charter flight)
- Hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc.)
- Meals other than those listed on itinerary
- Trip cancellation insurance
- Any deviation from the itinerary
- Gratuities to the Cuban tour guide and driver

For further information or to register, contact Charles Bittner.

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