

DISCOVER CUBA



Skads Travel Presents

8 Days/7 Nights December 1-8, 2015





Day 1: Arrive Miami

Arrive in Miami and transfer to your Miami airport hotel. This evening an Informational Briefing will be held at the hotel about tomorrow's charter flight to Havana and the start of your people to people experience in Cuba. The evening is at leisure. **Overnight: Miami**

Day 2: Miami - Bienvenidos a La Havana Cuba!

This morning transfer to the Miami International Airport and check in for your short flight to **Havana, Cuba**. Upon arrival at the **Jose Marti International Airport** and clearing customs, we'll meet our local **bilingual Cuban Guide** outside the baggage terminal. Your drive from the airport orients you with Cuba's enigmatic capital city, whose nearly 500-year Old Havana (Habana Vieja), is home to the largest collections of Spanish-Colonial architecture in the Americas. Make a photo stop and learn more about the **Plaza of the Revolution**, the center of Cuban political life and Havana's largest plaza where huge rallies are held. Your Cuban guide speaks below the grandiose portraits of national heroes Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, and gives you time to reflect on the fact that you're standing where millions of Cubans have stood while listening to speeches of Fidel Castro. Next enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Religion has always played an important role in Cuban society that continues today, enjoy a walking tour with a local historian of the fascinating **Colon Cemetery** (Cementerio de Cristobal Colon), founded in 1876 and named for Christopher Columbus. The cemetery is noted for its many elaborate sculpted memorials and contains more than 500 major mausoleums, chapels and family vaults and is considered by many to be the most ornate necropolis in the world and is the final resting place for noted Cubans including artists, writers, musicians and ballplayers. Check into your hotel and unpack for a **five-night stay**. Dinner is included this evening at the hotel.

Overnight: Havana (L,D)

Day 3: Havana - Old Havana (UNESCO) - Casa Fuster

This morning enjoy a **guided walking tour** of pedestrian only **Old Havana**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. See the beautiful **Cathedral de la Havana**, built in baroque style in 1748 and learn about its preservation and continuous restoration. Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier described the building as "music turned to stone." Visit the **Marqueta Vieja Havana Museum** that houses the scale model of the City of Havana and to meet with an expert on the city's architecture and restoration efforts. **Begin with a presentation and lecture from a local architect who discusses Havana's unique architecture, the current challenges of restoring the city's historic buildings and the future of the city's restoration effort.** Following lunch in Old Havana we visit the famous **Museum of the Revolution** that displays documents and artifacts, weapons and planes from the revolution. See artifacts & learn more about the Bay of Pigs, the 1961 historic clash between the CIA trained Cuban exiles & rebel forces, the event that defined US-Cuba relations for decades. The museum is housed in the former Presidential Palace which was the home to Cuba's leaders from the 1920's until 1959. This building offers beautiful architecture as well as an interior that was designed by Tiffany's. Next head to the charming fishing village of Jaimanitas to visit the incredible **Home and Work Shop** of world famous artist, painter and ceramicist **Jose Fuster**, often called the "Picasso of Cuba". He has adorned a neighborhood with colorful ornate murals and domes. Here we spend time with the Fuster family and staff to discuss the influence of the artist's work and their lives and community.

Overnight: Havana (B,L)

Day 4: Havana - Cuban Literacy Museum - Pro Danza

The day starts with a discussion at the **Cuban Literacy Museum** where we'll learn about a national effort to educate rural farmers and families. The two things of which Cuba is most proud, and which it most emphasizes, are health care and education. The campaign to make all illiterate Cubans literate within one year was announced by Fidel Castro in his speech to the United Nations in 1960. By 1961 the campaign had largely succeeded. This small museum's treasures include uniforms worn by literacy campaign participants, books, manuals and more. Next enjoy a performance by the amazing **Habana Compas Dance Group** OR a visit to the **Pro Danza Dance School**. This dance school trains 800 students each year in Cuban ballet and other European styles, folklore dance and more providing all with an opportunity to study, grow, and perform. Interact with the students and teachers to learn more about the Cuban dance culture. Today lunch is included at the **Nacional Hotel**, once Havana's flagship hotel that has hosted celebrities and world leaders during its heyday, such as Winston Churchill and Frank Sinatra, to name a few. Enjoy a tour of this historic property housing pictures and nostalgia from a by gone era. Meet a **former famous professional Cuban baseball player** and join in a discussion regarding the history and love of this game in Cuba and the U.S.

Overnight: Havana (B,L,D)

Day 5: Havana - Vinales Valley (UNESCO) - Pinar Del Rio - Havana

Today we travel out of Havana and into the rural Cuban countryside to the **Vinales Valley** located in the western most mountainous range in Cuba and declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. This region, the western province of **Pinar del Rio** is known for its stunning scenery, a landscape of prehistoric looking flat-top mountains or “mogotes”, tobacco plantations, caves and rivers. Stop at the **Francisco Donatien Cigar Factory** for a guided visit to learn about the manufacturing of fine Cuban cigars and interact with the factory workers about the history and process. The factory specializes in Cohiba & Monte Cristo cigars. Next, visit a traditional **Tobacco Farm and Farmhouse** to meet with the farmer to learn about tobacco cultivation, the drying process and experience a cigar rolling demonstration inside the drying hut. Enjoy a visit inside his farmhouse, meeting and interacting with his family while enjoying some Cuban coffee. A great opportunity to witness up close, how Cuban families live in a rural setting. Later stop at the **Los Jasmynes viewpoint** on the way back to Havana for incredible panoramic views of the **Vinales Valley** and an opportunity to enjoy the spectacular scenery and take photos of this beautiful and unique region.

Overnight: Havana (B, L)

Day 6: Havana - Hemingway Farm - Havana

Today join a discussion and enjoy a choir performance with choir members from the **Cuban Institute of Music** and their director. Next enter the world of Ernest Hemingway with a visit to **Hemingway's Farm, Finca La Vigia** (meaning 'lookout house'). This beautiful property hosts the house where the Nobel Prize winner lived with his wife Martha for 21 years. View the perfectly preserved home where many of the Hemingway personal belongings remain intact. View his yacht on display, the Pilar in which he used to patrol for Nazis in the Caribbean waters and featured in his novel “Islands in the Stream”. Next visit the **San Jose Craft Market and Art Center** or similar to meet and interact with the local artists to discuss and learn of the importance of their art in Cuban culture. Learn from the artists who share their experiences of pursuing the arts with limited access to materials and funding. Before dinner, meet with the local **Old Style Car Club**. Learn why Havana's streets are filled with vintage American automobiles and understand what it takes to keep them on the road. Enjoy a drive through the streets of Havana in a vintage car to your **Farewell Dinner** at a local **Paladar** (a privately owned restaurant). After dinner you have an opportunity to meet and discuss with the owners how this private enterprise works in Cuba.

Overnight: Havana (B,L,D)

Day 7: Depart Havana - Miami - USA

Following breakfast, we'll transfer to the airport for our return flight to Miami, Florida. Arrive in Miami and transfer to your hotel for a one-night stay. This evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Miami (B)

Day 8: Depart Miami, FL - Home

Today transfer to the airport for our return flight home with incredible memories of the people and culture of **Cuba**.



Highlights & Experiences:

- Plaza of the Revolution
- Cuban Institute of Music
- Old Havana Walking Tour (UNESCO)
- Home & Studio of Artist Jose Fuster
- Walking Tour of the Colon Cemetery
- Museum of the Revolution
- Cuban Literacy Museum Discussion
- Hemingway's Farm - Finca La Vigia
- Habana Compas Dance Group Performance OR ProDanza Dance School visit.
- Old Style Car Club Discussion
- Nacional Hotel Visit & lunch
- Former Cuban Baseball Player Discussion
- San Jose Craft Market & Art Center Visit
- Vinales Valley (UNESCO)
- Francisco Donatien Cigar Factory Visit
- Tobacco Farm & Farmhouse Visit
- Farewell Paladar Dinner

Included in Rates:

- Round Trip Airfare from - Miami (MIA)
- U.S. Air Departure Taxes/Fees
- Hotel & Airport Transfers In Cuba
- 7 Nights First Class Hotel Accommodations
- Professional Bilingual Cuban Guide
- U.S. Tour Manager
- Cuban Visa & Cuban Health Insurance
- 13 Meals - (5B, 5L, 3D)
- Daily Bottled Water
- Interactions & Admissions per Itinerary.
- Baggage Handling - (1 Checked Bag p.p.)
- Transportation by Deluxe Air Conditioned Motorcoach
- Gratuities for Hotel Porters, Wait Staff at included Meals, Step on Guides and All People to People Visits & Interactions

Accommodations:

- 1 Night Airport Miami Marriott (marriott.com/miami)
- 5 Nights Melia Havana Hotel, Havana (meliacuba.com)
- 1 Night Marriot Miami Airport Hotel

- Hotels, itinerary, inclusions and people to people visits are all subject to change.

Program Rates:

\$3999 per person/double
\$725 single supplement

DISCOVER CUBA RESERVATION FORM:December 1, 2015 / **BOOKING #91440**

Please submit names exactly as they appear on passports:

TSA SECURE FLIGHT REQUIREMENTPassport Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____
(MM/DD/YY) _____ M F

Passport Number: _____ Date of Issuance: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Roommate's Passport Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____
(MM/DD/YY) _____ M F

Passport Number: _____ Date of Issuance: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Your Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Email Address: _____

CONTACT PHONE # _____ EMERGENCY CONTACT: (Name/Phone #) _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:**A Passport copy is due with payment and this reservation form.**ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DEPOSIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ (\$500 PER PERSON) TO SECURE RESERVATIONS FOR _____ # OF PEOPLE.
RESERVATIONS ARE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY TO SECURE YOUR SEAT.

I (WE) WISH TO PURCHASE THE CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER AT THIS TIME: YES NO

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ (\$250 PER PERSON) TO SECURE THE CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PREMIER WORLD DISCOVERY**

(FOR PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD CHECK ONE:) VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ DISCOVER _____ AMERICAN EXPRESS _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

AMOUNT \$ _____ SIGNATURE _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

REFERRED BY - CONTACT INFORMATION:

Skads Travel/ ATTN: Kathy Skadsberg

6250 Excelsior Blvd

Minneapolis, MN 55416

Mail or Fax Completed Reservation Form to:

ph: (952) 927-7311 fax: (952) 927-7314

E-mail: kathy@skadstravel.com**PASSPORT INFORMATION:** A valid U.S. passport is required for this program and is the responsibility of each passenger. Passports should be valid for a minimum of six (6) months beyond the travel dates. All names must be submitted on reservation form above must be exactly as they appear on passenger passports.**INCLUDED STANDARD CUBAN TRAVEL VISA** (\$80 per person). A Visa is required for travel to Cuba and applies to United States citizens only. Cuban born passengers require a different Visa process which can take from 2-3 months to complete. (additional charges apply)**INCLUDED U.S. AIR DEPARTURE TAXES/FEES** are \$58 pp (subject to change).**CHARTER FLIGHT BAGGAGE FEES** are not included and must be paid in cash at the airport. At time of printing, MIA-HAV bag fee was \$25 (up to 44lbs.) and there was currently no bag fee from Havana to Miami. (subject to change)**INCLUDED CUBAN MEDICAL INSURANCE:** Since 2010, the Cuban government requires that all travelers to Cuba must have medical insurance under an approved plan. This medical insurance is **INCLUDED** in the program price. Some pre-existing conditions are excluded.**CUBAN AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAXES** are approximately \$35 U.S. (25 CUC-local currency) and **NOT INCLUDED** and can only be paid in cash at the airport in Cuba upon departure.**OPTIONAL CUBA CANCELLATION WAIVER is \$250 per person and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. The Cuba Cancellation Waiver must be paid with deposit OR with Final Payment and is non-refundable.** Payment of the per person Cuba Cancellation Waiver (waiver fee) guarantees full refund on all payments (including deposit), except the waiver fee itself, made for program rates in case of cancellation up to the time & date of departure due to passenger's personal illness (medical documentation required) or death of a member of the immediate family (official documentation required). If the passenger must return early due to personal illness (medical documentation required) or death of a member of the immediate family (official documentation required), payment of the waiver fee guarantees a refund for the Unused Services. The waiver fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. The waiver is non-transferable and valid

for each applicant only. The waiver does not cover any services not purchased through Chamber Explorations / PWD. Full policy details available. Please note that your cancelled check or credit card statement will serve as your receipt for the policy.

CANCELLATION FEES: Cancellations not covered by the Cuba Cancellation Waiver OR if the Cuba Cancellation Waiver is not purchased, are subject to the following per person penalties / fees:

Cancel up to 75 days prior to departure - \$250 per person is retained OR the \$250 Cuba Cancellation Waiver is retained.

Cancel 74-45 days prior to departure - 25% of total price is retained.

Cancel 44-31 days prior to departure - 50% of total price is retained.

Cancel 30 days or less prior to departure/no shows - No refunds.

RESPONSIBILITY: Premier World Tours LLC dba Chamber Explorations (hereafter CE) and dba Premier World Discovery (hereafter PWD), whose vouchers are used by respective agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, interactions and transportation, hold themselves free of responsibility for any damages occasioned from any cause whatsoever. (CE)(PWD) will not be responsible for any damages or inconvenience caused by late arrivals, departures and change of schedule or other conditions nor will they be responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passenger is not on board their conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airline concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of this program, and/or passenger. (CE) (PWD) does not hold any responsibility for the conduct of any of its members, hotel, motorcoach, train, airline or other personnel. (CE) (PWD) reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this program at its discretion. (CE) (PWD)&/or its program host / guide retain the right to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, if determined to be in the best interests of health, safety & general welfare of the group or of the individual participant. Arbitration - I/We agree, any and all disputes concerning this contract or any other material concerning the trip, or the trip itself must be resolved exclusively pursuant to binding arbitration in the state of California, pursuant to the then current rules of the American Arbitration Association. Payment of the deposit for this program constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Itinerary and hotels are subject to change. CST #2048841-40. This program is operated by Chamber Explorations / Premier World Discovery.