



# This Cuban Life

January 17-25, 2018

You want to visit Cuba but you're not looking for a vacation, you're looking for an *experience*. You love to engage, interact, and learn. You aren't afraid of new food, or of talking to strangers. You are friendly, curious, adventurous, open-minded, young-at-heart and *ready for your next adventure*....

If this sounds like you, you may want to consider the Templeton Chamber of Commerce and Gulliver's Travel tour of Cuba. We aim to offer an authentic view of Cuba. A local Cuban guide will help us get around the island with overnight stays at Casas Particulares (guesthouses). This tour is *legal* for US citizens and includes a full itinerary to give you an up close and personal look into the life of Cubans.

- Tour Old Havana
- Enjoy the serene nature reserve of Las Terrazas
- Visit a tobacco farm and the village of Vinales
- Farm-to-fork meal at an organic family run farm
- Swim and snorkel in the Bay of Pigs
- Stay in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Trinidad
- Stop in Santa Clara to see the mausoleum of the iconic Che Guevara



\* 9Days/8Nights - Depart LAX January 17<sup>th</sup> – returns January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

\* Rate: \$2450 – per person / double share                      \$3100 – single

You must obtain a visa to travel to Cuba.

The tour price does not include the price for a visa to Cuba.

Current price is \$50 plus processing fee. We will help you with this process.

81 Higuera Street, Ste 150, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

805-541-4141 [www.slogull.com](http://www.slogull.com) Cst# 20-10100-10

Gulliver's Travel  
of San Luis Obispo



*The purpose of this itinerary is to give you an idea of the types of activities you will engage in during the tour, however, it may change based on factors such as availability, weather, and to take advantage of spontaneous activities and events. Travel by bus may be long and slow, but scenic. It's Cuba.*

## January 17<sup>th</sup> – Day 1: fly to Havana



**We will be organizing a motor coach to LAX departing Templeton/SLO area around 2:00 am. More details will be provided soon.**

**Alaska Air Flight 286 Lax to Havana – departs at 8:50 am  
Arrives Havana at 4:55 pm**

**Welcome to Cuba!** Today we arrive in Havana and settle into our B&B accommodations. We'll meet the local tour leader and have dinner together at a local paladar (privately owned restaurant). **Meals:** Dinner



## Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - Day 2: Havana

The best place to start any Cuba experience is in the Old City. In the morning we take a guided walking tour of Old Havana. In addition to visiting historical sites, we will learn about the impact of the dual-currency economy by visiting commercial centers, where goods are purchased in CUC, and ration or peso stores, where goods are purchased in CUP. We end our day with a visit the fishing village of Jaimanitas and the home of the famous artist Jose Fuster. Fuster has made his entire home, and much of the surrounding neighborhood, into an artwork using tiles in mosaic forms. **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch



## Jan 19<sup>th</sup> - Day 3: Viñales (via Las Terrazas)

Viñales is situated in one of the most picturesque parts of Cuba, among the limestone pincushion hills (“mogotes”) of the Pinar del Rio province. On the way to Viñales we visit in the community of Las Terrazas where we will meet up with our local community leader who will share with us some insight into how the local society works. We will reach Viñales in time to tour an organic farm and learn about sustainable farming in Cuba. Here we meet our local farmer and his family who will show us around the organic farm and explain to us the methods used to cultivate crops without the use of pesticides. With the beautiful sunset as our backdrop, we will enjoy a deliciously fresh and diverse meal prepared by the family, a truly authentic farm-to-fork experience! **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Jan 20<sup>th</sup> - Day 4: Viñales

Today we spend the morning learning the tradition of Cuban cigars from a farmer and expert cigar maker. Get an insight as to how the communist system works, how much tobacco they will keep, how much produce they give back to the government, how they make ends meet! You will learn about the process from tobacco planting to rolling the final cigar. In the afternoon we learn to cook Cuban-style with a cooking demonstration of 'platos tipicos'. Cubanos like congri (black beans & rice), potaje (vegetables & legumes), garbanzo soup, ajiaco (meat & potatoes), and flan. Fun to cook, but even better to eat! **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch



### Jan 21<sup>st</sup> - Day 5: Cienfuegos (via Bay of Pigs)

Today we depart for Cienfuegos the “Pearl of the South”, a city founded by the French, which lends it a distinctly European flavor, with a wide Parisian-style boulevard and elegant colonnades. We drive along the picturesque Bay of Pigs where today there is a museum here that recounts the events of this conflict which resulted in the first defeat of a U.S backed take-over in Latin America. Time permitting we will stop for a swim along the way in the vivid turquoise ocean or take a dip in a sink hole which resembles a huge natural tropical fish tank. Make sure to pack your swimsuit! **Meals:** Breakfast



### Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> - Day 6: Trinidad

The colonial city of Trinidad is home to numerous churches and many beautiful colonial buildings. We begin with a cultural tour of Trinidad. The city had some very wealthy residents in the 18th and 19th centuries who made fortunes out of the sugar industry, and some of their houses have been made into museums. Visiting these will give you a fascinating insight into their lifestyle during that time. On the other end of the social scale were the African slaves, who had a profound influence on the city's culture, music, and religious beliefs, and as part of our walk around the town, we drop by an Afro Cuban temple to Yemaya, an important figure in the Santeria religion. In the afternoon we visit a private dance company and learn about the cultural and social importance that dancing has to Cuba, and take a group salsa lesson in their private dance studio. Nightlife in Trinidad is probably the most accessible and intense in all of Cuba, with numerous live music venues and many dance performances every day of the week, all amongst the enchanting setting of old colonial buildings and the cobblestone streets. **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch





### Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> - Day 7: Trinidad

Today we will learn about the history of the area and the local industry and biodiversity as we take a short hike to a waterfall outside of the city. On the way we stop in a very simple campesino's home to learn about life in the rural areas of Cuba. After cooling off in the natural pools, we return to Trinidad where you'll have the rest of the afternoon to relax and explore. For dinner tonight we have a special meal (maybe on the beach!) with live music and a delicious array of Cuban specialties. **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - Day 8: Havana (via Santa Clara)

On the way back to Havana we first pass by Manaca-Iznaga plantation in the Valle de los Ingenios where we will learn more about Cuba's slave trade. A 147 ft tower was built here to look over the slaves as they worked. Continuing onwards, we stop in at the town of Santa Clara, a key city in the Cuban Revolution. Upon entering Santa Clara, we will see the iconic statue of Ernesto Ché Guevara, built to commemorate his death and that of the revolutionaries who died along with him in Bolivia. We will have our lunch at a small family farm near Santa Clara and head back to Havana where we will have some free time to freshen up before our farewell dinner, and of course, one final fun-filled night of music and dancing! **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



### Jan 25<sup>th</sup> - Day 9: Departure day

Say good-bye to your guide and driver as you head home with your memories (and maybe a cigar or two!). We hope you will return soon!



**Alaska Air Flight 287 Havana to LAX – departs at 5:55 pm  
Arrives LAX at 8:45 pm**

**Motorcoach transfer – Departing LAX around 10:00 pm  
Arriving SLO/Templeton 2:00 am.**



## What Is Included:

- 8 nights accommodation in privately owned **comfort class Bed & Breakfasts** (casa particulares), double occupancy
- Private local Cuban guide throughout
- Private transportation in air conditioned bus
- All activities
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- Airport arrival & departure transfers
- Gratuities for included activities
- Full itinerary of meaningful activities required to comply with general license for People to People travel OFAC 515.565(b)
- International airfare (Motor coach and air from LAX )
- Mandatory medical insurance (approx US\$36 per person)

## What Is **Not** Included:

- Meals not included- 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Cuban Tourist Visa (aka Tourist Card) – \$85.00
- Drinks
- Gratuities for guide and optional activities

## Budget For Additional Costs:

Spending money for meals, souvenirs, additional gratuities: US\$300-500

**Additional comprehensive trip cancellation & trip interruption insurance is available through Gulliver's Travel.**

### Approx cost:

**\$130 – 59 years old and under**

**\$174 – 60 years to 69**

**\$235 – \$392 70 years to 80**



## **Frequently Asked Questions...**

### **Are your tours only for young/old people?**

We welcome travelers of all ages! It is your travel style rather than your age that will determine if our tours are right for you. Our accommodations and modes of transportation are comfortable, but by no means luxurious. Our tours cover a lot of ground and move at a fairly rapid pace, so they are better for a more energetic traveler who can do medium grade physical activity (there's a lot of walking!). If you like to immerse yourself in the culture of a country, from the pretty to the gritty, then we think you'll enjoy our tours whether you are a baby boomer or a millennial.

### **What is "People-to-People"?**

People-to-people is a designation used by the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) to refer to travel to Cuba for educational exchanges that don't involve academic study. Simply put, it's to describe travel to Cuba that is for the purpose of learning and engaging with the people of Cuba, to encourage and support the Cuban people and to promote independence from Cuban government authorities. The goal may be that the more Cubans are exposed to the world around them, the more dissatisfied they will become with their current government, and hopefully that dissatisfaction will effect change. These types of educational tours have been around since 2011, but prior to January 16, 2015 a company had to be licensed by OFAC to provide these tours; a long, arduous, and often expensive endeavor. Now these tours can be provided under the general license.

### **What can I expect from a People-to-People tour?**

You can expect a full-time schedule (around 7-8 hours including travel time) of educational exchange activities that will encourage interaction with locals. With President Obama's new changes as of March 2016, this category applies to both individual travel and tours sponsored by an organization. Our tours qualify you under individual travel, which is why we are able to offer them more affordably than we could offer a sponsored tour, which would require us to send a representative from the US to accompany the group. Additionally, by qualifying under individual travel you have more freedom to decline participation in any activity that doesn't interest you, as long as you still maintain the full schedule required by the law. However, we plan these tours so that you'll be having such a great time, there's nowhere else you'd rather be!

### **What are the entry requirements to Cuba? What is the Visa?**

Tourists are required to have a valid passport and a tourist visa to enter Cuba. There is conflicting validity requirements for your passport, some sources say it must be valid for three months beyond your dates of travel and some say it must be valid for six months. To be on the safe side, it is better to renew your passport if it will expire within a year.

The Cuban Visa or Tourist Card is not unique to US travelers, it is required of travelers from around the world. Although it is commonly confused with the [General License](#), which is specific to US travelers, one has nothing to do with the other.

