

Get to know Cuba and its people with Cathryn Griffith, January 5-12, 2019

Spend a week traveling and exploring this rapidly changing island nation.

Meet friendly Cubans from all walks of life and learn about their lives and living conditions as you tour the Spanish colonial cities of Havana and Trinidad, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.

In Havana, we will walk the four plazas of Old Havana and learn about the program to restore the city's historic buildings, such as the Museum of the Revolution (formerly the Presidential Palace) and the National Theater where the internationally renowned Cuban ballet performs. In Trinidad, we will hear the clip-clop of horses' hooves on the cobbled streets and see rows of brightly colored houses with their windows covered by wrought-iron grilles.

Experience the emerging Cuba first-hand as you eat in family-run *paladars*, see important monuments to Cuban history, and visit photogenic locations including Ernest Hemingway's home, an abandoned Hershey factory, and the zoological park where African animals roam and model-makers sail their miniature boats.

Our special license allows us to create an in-depth learning experience for American travelers. A preliminary itinerary is attached. **Photographer Cathryn Griffith**, who has traveled to Cuba eighteen times since 2003, will lead this one-week trip.

INCLUDED:

- Visa and other required documents.
- Land transportation in Cuba by private, air-conditioned bus.
- English-speaking guide, who will accompany the group daily.
- Hotel rooms in Havana and Trinidad.
- All breakfasts and several other meals.
- Basic first aid insurance.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

You must be able to participate in a full schedule of events each day, including climbing stairs and walking two or three miles unassisted on cobblestone streets and uneven terrain. The trip is not appropriate for people using wheel chairs, walkers or other mobility aids.

ENROLLING:

Cost of the trip is [to be determined], based on double occupancy. The supplement for single occupancy is [to be determined]. The group will be limited to 12-14 people.



For more information and enrollment forms, contact:
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Travel services are provided by Common Ground Education & Travel Company/ www.commongroundtravel.com

SAMPLE ITINERARY, SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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People to People Exchanges

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Cuban culture, art and history

Getting to Know Cuba and Its People with Cathryn Griffith

Saturday Day 1

- 6:00 am Check in at Miami airport for flight to Havana. Other departure cities may be possible.
- 9:00 am Depart for Havana on flight number *to be determined* (noted as "TBD" in future entries).
- 10:00 am Arrive Havana, change money to Cuban CUCs. Meet Cuban bus driver and guide. Enjoy panoramic overview of the city on bus ride to the city from the Havana airport.
- 12:00 pm Lunch (not included) at *paladar* location TBD.
- 3:00 pm Check in to the hotel (TBD).
- Orientation and Welcome Dinner (included) at location TBD.

Sunday Day 2

- 7 – 8:00 am Breakfast (included) at the hotel.
- 9:30 am Bus to the **Zoological Park**. Welcome and bus tour of the zoo. Highlights included zebra on the "African Plain" and lions being fed. Cuban photographer Wildy Diaz and several friends brought model boats to the lake, where we had the opportunity to hear the men describe the process of constructing the boats, and then watch the models in the water.
- 2:00 pm Bus to Old Havana for lunch (not included) at a location TBD.
- 3:00 pm Walking tour of the four major plazas of Old Havana: Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza de Armas, Plaza Vieja and Plaza de San Francisco de Asis.
- 4:30 pm Return to hotel by bus.
- 6:30 pm Bus to dinner (not included) at a location TBD. Cathryn's assistant and friend Esley Perez may join us and talk about the food ration system.
- 8:00 pm Bus to **La Cabaña fortress** for the cannon blast ceremony that recreates the traditional cannon shot of the colonial period.

Monday Day 3

- 7 – 8:00 am Breakfast (included) at the hotel and check out.
- 8:30 am Visit the store and then the **Partagás Cigar Factory** in Central Havana.
- 10:30 am Visit with ICAP, the **Cuban Association of Friendship with the Peoples**.
- 12:30 pm Lunch at a *paladar* (included) location TBD.
- 2:00 pm Depart by bus for Trinidad. Check in at hotel.
- 6:00 pm Dinner (included) at the hotel.

Tuesday	Day 4
7 – 8:00 am	Breakfast (included) at the hotel.
10:00 am	Walking tour of Trinidad.
12:30 pm	Lunch (included) at a local <i>paladar</i> .
2:00 pm	Visit to the Valle de los Ingenios , an area of colonial sugar mills.
Evening	Dinner (included) at the hotel. Option of attending floor show or musical performance.
Wednesday	Day 5
7 – 8:00 am	Breakfast (included) at the hotel and check out.
9:00 am	Return to Havana, stopping in Cienfuegos, one of the latest settlements established during the colonial era, for a walking tour, followed by free time to explore the cathedral, the Tomás Terry Theater and the monuments around the Parque José Martí.
1:30 pm	Lunch (included) in Cienfuegos, likely at a waterfront restaurant.
2:30 pm	Continue to Havana.
5:45 pm	Check in at hotel.
8:00 pm	Opportunity to attend performance at the famous Alicia Alonso theater near our hotel. (On a recent trip, it was the newly formed dance troupe <i>Danza Acosta</i> , founded by Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta. Tickets cost 30 CUC, which is equivalent to about \$35.)
Evening	Dinner on your own.
Thursday	Day 6
7 – 8:00 am	Breakfast (included) at the hotel.
9:00 am	Visit to educational institution, possibly ISA art schools for guided tour of the architecture and opportunity to meet teachers and students in the School of Visual Arts designed by Cuban architect Ricardo Porro.
11:00 am	Visit the Museum of the Revolution in the former Presidential Palace.
12:30 pm	Lunch (not included) at <i>paladar</i> , location TBD.
2:00 pm	Bus tour of Modern Havana. Stop at the Plaza of the Revolution and tour Colón Cemetery with a guide, followed by visit to Callejón de Hamel in the heart of Cayo Hueso. Witness the fusion of African and Spanish cultures in a rumba performance by local musicians.
Evening	Your time is free the rest of the afternoon and evening. Walk on Obispo Street to see local shops. Enjoy a drink on the roof of the Inglaterra Hotel or in the lobby of the Hotel Parque Central. Stop at Floridita bar, frequented by Ernest Hemingway. Listen to live music in one of the many cafes and hotels.
Friday	Day 7
7 – 8:00 am	Breakfast (included) at the hotel.
10:00 am	Visit the Museum of Fine Arts with guided tour of art by Cuba's most significant artists.
12:00 pm	Visit Finca Vigía , Hemingway's house and museum.

- 1:30 pm Lunch (included) served family style at **El Ajiaco** restaurant in Cojímar or other.
- 2:30 pm Bus tour of the town of Cojímar and fishing harbor, where Ernest Hemingway used to fish.
Continue along the north coast of Cuba to the photogenic town of **Hershey**, now in ruins.
NOTE: Cuban photographer Wildy Diaz may accompany the group on today's excursion.
- 5:15 pm Return to Havana by bus.
- 8:00 pm Farewell dinner (included) at a gourmet Havana restaurant.
- 9:30 pm Socialize at our hotel, including opportunity to say goodbye to new friends you may have made.
- Saturday Day 8**
- 7:45 am Check out of hotel and transfer to airport.
- 11:15 am Depart for Miami (or other U.S. destination). Flight to be determined

Travel services provided by

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