THE CULTURE AND ENIGMA OF CUBA
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ITINERARY

Day 1  Miami
Day 2  Miami – Havana
Day 3  An Introduction to U.S. – Cuba Relations
Day 4  Colonial Havana
Day 5  Cienfuegos: The Pearl of the South
Day 6  Trinidad Preserved
Day 7  Cuba’s Future
Day 8  Homeward Bound

Embark on a unique Cuban expedition with the L.A. Times. On this specially designed eight-day program, explore Cuba through firsthand interactions with local artists, journalists, historians and filmmakers. Trace the history of Cuba, and discover how the island, less than 100 miles from the U.S., evokes nostalgia, embodies the spirit of entrepreneurship and stimulates hope for the future. Explore the capital city of Havana, admire the French colonial architecture of Cienfuegos, and wander through the cobblestone streets of colorful Trinidad. In this in-depth program, learn about Cuba’s religion, music, art, architecture, healthcare, economics and its relations with the U.S. Throughout, meet with everyday Cubans sharing their stories, expertise and passion for this island.
DAY 1  Arrive in Miami

Arrive in Miami, and check in to the Pullman hotel. Tonight, gather for a reception and panel discussion. Hear from Miami-based experts on U.S.-Cuban relations to develop context for the upcoming expedition. (R,D)

DAY 2  Miami – Havana

Depart Miami this morning for a group flight to Havana. After arriving and passing through customs at José Martí Airport, enjoy an orientation drive of Havana. Stop at El Morro castle for a scenic overlook of the city and Plaza de la Revolución, where many political rallies and speeches have taken place. Check in to the Hotel Parque Central, at the edge of Old Havana. Enjoy a group dinner at a local paladar — privately owned restaurant. Following dinner, attend a jazz performance at a local club. (B,L,D)

EXPEDITION EXPERT

Catherine Watson

Catherine Watson is an award-winning writer and writing coach. She was the founding editor of the Minneapolis Star Tribune’s Travel Section and is the author of two collections of travel essays, “Road Less Traveled” and “Home on the Road.” She is a Distinguished Educator in the University of Minnesota’s College of Continuing Education and teaches workshops in travel writing and memoir in the U.S. and abroad.
DAY 3  Understanding Journalism in Cuba Today

Begin your day exploring U.S.-Cuba relations via a meeting with Rosa Miriam Elizalde. Elizalde, a Cuban journalist, contributor to the Nation and editor of the site Cubadebatei, will discuss the state of media in Cuba, comparing its issues with those faced by media in the United States. After lunch, visit Granma, the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, to learn about the paper’s influence around Cuba today. End the day with a visit to Fábrica del Arte, a former factory-turned-art gallery, showcasing some of Cuba’s contemporary art scene. During this private, pre-opening visit, meet with one of the local artists whose work is currently exhibited. Enjoy dinner tonight as a group at a local paladar, followed by a musical performance. (B,L,D)

DAY 4  Cuba Past and Present

Delve into Havana’s history and architectural heritage with a morning lecture by a renowned Cuban architect and urban planner. Discuss the restoration efforts being carried out throughout the city before embarking on a walking tour through the streets of Habana Vieja, a UNESCO World Heritage site. After lunch, visit the FUNDECINE to meet with young Cuban documentary filmmakers. Learn about the growing importance of Cuban filmmaking around the world and the ways film is being used to touch on important topics in Cuba as race, religion and entrepreneurship. This afternoon, attend a special lecture and discussion led by a scholar and former diplomat on Cuba’s place in the world, from its complicated relationship with the U.S. to its role on the international scene. Tonight, explore Havana’s dining scene as you enjoy a meal at leisure. (B,L)
DAY 5  Cienfuegos: The Pearl of the South

Check out of the Havana hotel this morning. Visit the Organipónico Alamar, an urban organic farm. Meet with a local farmer to discuss urban gardening and agriculture in Cuba. Then enjoy a guided tour of Finca Vigía, Ernest Hemingway’s home in Cuba. Meet with a museum expert as you learn about Hemingway’s strong connection to the Cuban people and the Cuban way of life. Enjoy lunch at a local paladar before driving three hours southeast to Cienfuegos. After checking into the Hotel Jagua, have some time to relax before a group dinner at a local paladar. (B,L,D)

DAY 6  Trinidad Preserved

Depart Cienfuegos to travel to Cuba’s best-preserved colonial city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Trinidad. Meet with a representative from the Office of the City Historian for a lecture and walking tour, learning about the city’s preservation efforts and challenges. This afternoon, attend a panel discussion with local experts to discuss healthcare and the economy in Cuba. Learn how Cuba’s healthcare system is recognized internationally. Return to Cienfuegos late in the afternoon, and enjoy the remainder of the day and evening at leisure. (B,L)

DAY 7  Cuba’s Future

This morning, enjoy a guided walking tour through the port city of Cienfuegos, viewing the French colonial architecture. Engage with local cuentapropistas (independent business owners) on Cienfuegos’ main commercial street. After lunch, visit 5 de Septiembre, the local Cienfuegos newspaper. Meet with journalists and editors to discuss the role of media in Cuba. End the day with a private performance by the Orquestra de Guitarras of Cienfuegos. Tonight, enjoy a farewell reception and dinner to toast your Cuban expedition. (B,L,R,D)

DAY 8  Homeward Bound

After breakfast, depart for Jaime González Airport to check in for the group flight back to the U.S. (B)

ACCOMMODATIONS

| 1 NIGHT | The Pullman Hotel | The Pullman hotel is conveniently located near Miami International Airport and offers contemporary ambience and modern amenities. |
| 3 NIGHTS | Hotel Parque Central | Within walking distance of Old Havana, the Parque Central offers comfortable rooms with modern amenities. |
| 3 NIGHTS | Hotel Jagua | The Hotel Jagua is situated in the area of Punta Gorda. |

Call 855-890-5298 or visit LATexpeditions.com
DATES & PRICING

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<td>Nov. 11 – 18, 2018</td>
<td>$6,995</td>
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<tr>
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The price of this program does not include the cost of round-trip, group airfare between Miami and Cuba. Please note that there is an additional airfare cost of $450 per person, subject to change, at the time of booking. See complete Terms and Conditions at LATexpeditions.com.

The Los Angeles Times’ travel programs are managed by Academic Travel Abroad Inc. (ATA), a professional travel company hired as an independent contractor.

LAND COST

Prices are listed in U.S. dollars and are based on a person sharing a room with another. Although we do our best to maintain the listed price, because our prices are set over a year in advance, we reserve the right to increase costs due to circumstances beyond our control, tariffs, taxes and VAT received after prices are published and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. The land cost is based on a minimum number of guests as described on the trip page.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Comprehensive educational program by content experts and professional on-site guides
- All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary
- All ground transportation within the itinerary unless otherwise indicated
- All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees
- Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides for all included arrangements
- Transfers to and from airports for those arriving or departing according to the designated itinerary (exceptions may apply)
- The assistance of an ATA expedition manager for comprehensive logistical and customer service management on the expedition
- Wireless listening devices
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights or other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure information about the destination and what to expect on the expedition, including a suggested reading list

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. domestic or international airfare or other transportation from your home to the departure point of the trip and from the end point of the trip to your home
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance
- Passport, visa, airport departure and baggage fees
- Meals not specified in the itinerary, and food and beverages not part of the included meals
- Personal items such as telephone, fax and Internet charges, laundry, room service and alcoholic or other beverages not specified as included
- Gratuities for non-group services
- Expenses you may incur resulting from delays due to bad weather, road conditions, sickness, government action and flight delays
- Expenses incurred in making individual travel arrangements in conjunction with the trip, and sightseeing not included in the itinerary

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