

BEST OF CUBA

HAVANA, TRINIDAD, CIENFUEGOS
FEBRUARY 1-8, 2026



Spartan Pathways Travel

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Immerse yourself in the vibrant rhythms, colors and tastes of Havana, Cienfuegos, Vinales and Trinidad. Engage in meaningful exchanges with Cubans as you explore all these iconic cities have to offer.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

- Arrivals in Santa Clara Abel Santamaría Cuadrado International Airport
- 2 Nights in Trinidad, Hotel Melia Trinidad Peninsula
- 1 Night in Playa Larga at a privately owned B&B
- 4 Nights in Havana, Grand Aston La Habana
- Departures from Jose Marti International Airport, Havana

HIGHLIGHTS

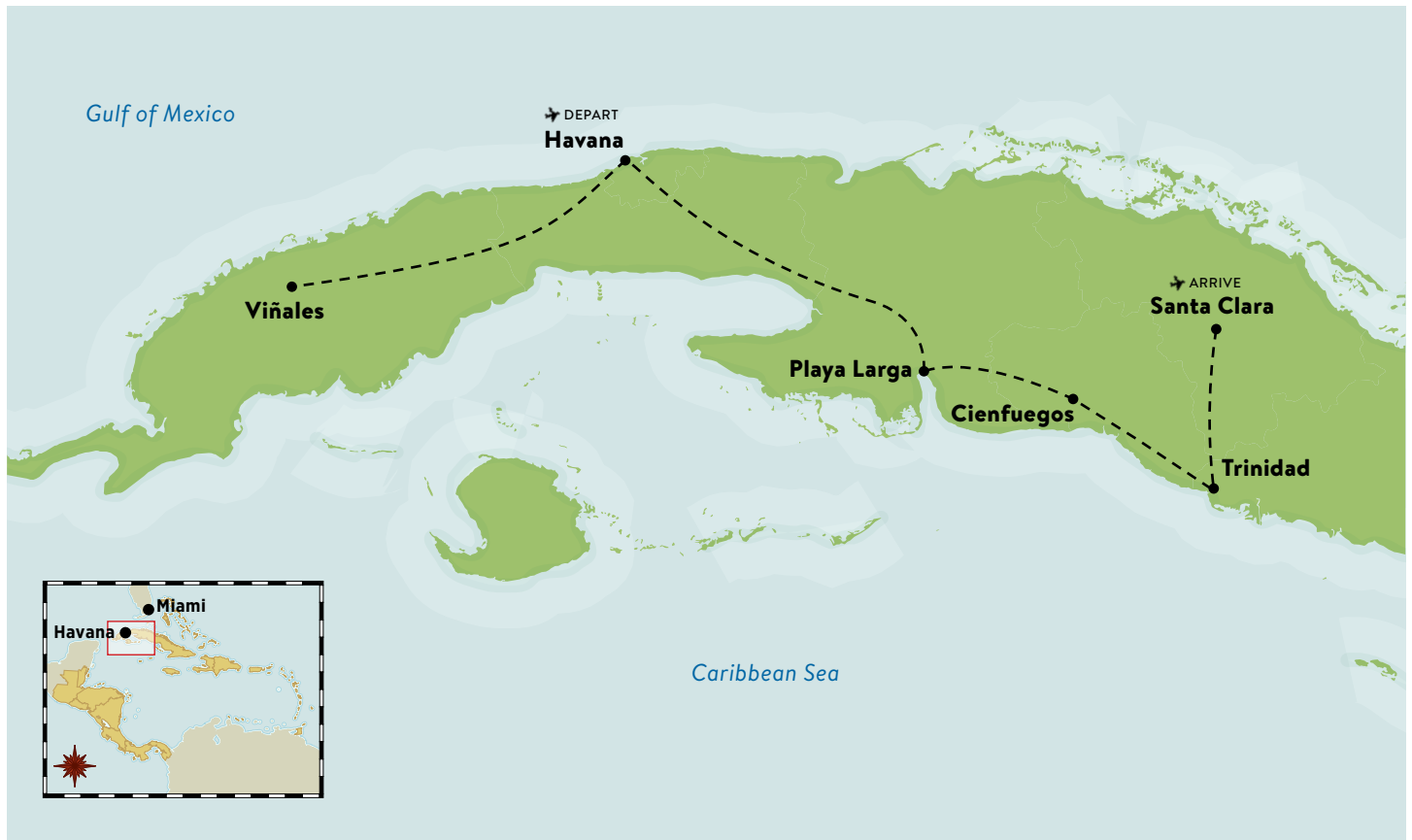
- Stroll Trinidad's cobblestone streets while meeting local artists and artisans, and learn about the sugar industry's evolution in the Valley of the Sugar Mills
- Experience Cienfuegos' main square and enjoy a special private performance by the Guitar Orchestra Ensemble
- Discover Havana while meeting and supporting Habaneros from all walks of life
- Explore Cuba's Afro-Cuban roots and understand the African diaspora's extensive influence on Cuban culture
- Visit a Vinales tobacco farm to learn the process of creating Cuba's famous cigars, with an exclusive pairing experience
- Cruise Havana's Malecon in a classic convertible



WHAT TO EXPECT ON A CUBA JOURNEY

This active itinerary features multiple locations with fully scheduled days. Expect walking and standing for up to 2 hours at a time, covering up to 2 miles unassisted during half-day excursions, with 4-6 hours of daily physical activities and multiple motorcoach embarkations/disembarkations. Walking visits involve uneven cobblestone streets in historic areas, often with extended sun exposure in a tropical climate. Some activities and meals take place in historic buildings without elevators, requiring 2-4 flights of stairs. While bedrooms and private vehicles are air-conditioned, most public places are not. Transportation is by private motorcoach without toilet facilities, with drives of 2-6 hours between cities on occasionally poorly maintained roads. Rest stops occur every 1.5-2 hours on longer drives. Accommodations represent the best available options permitted under US Department of Treasury OFAC restrictions. Flexibility is essential, as itineraries may change based on daily conditions, with your expert Cuban guide managing any necessary adjustments.

We trust that Cuba's beauty and the warmth of its people will compensate for any service limitations. Cuba is truly unlike any other destination. You will return home transformed by your journey.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

ARRIVAL IN SANTA CLARA - TRINIDAD

Meet in Miami Airport for your included flight to Santa Clara, Cuba.

Upon clearing immigration and customs at Abel Santamaría Cuadrado International Airport, your Cuban Host will greet you at the exit.

Time permitting, we'll take a brief walk around Santa Clara's main square before driving (2 hours) to Trinidad de Cuba. After checking in and freshening up at our hotel, we'll enjoy dinner at a privately owned paladar, featuring Trinidad's local specialty cocktail *canchanchara*, made with Cuban Aguardiente, honey, and fresh lime juice.

Melia Trinidad Peninsula (D)

DAY 2 - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 TRINIDAD

After breakfast, we'll take a guided walk through Trinidad's historic center - one of Cuba's original Spanish settlements and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This pristine example of Spanish colonial Caribbean architecture celebrated its 500-year anniversary in 2014. As we explore the picturesque cobblestone streets, we'll meet independent business owners, local artists and artisans, and support a handcrafts community project providing income for women. Lunch will be at a paladar.

This afternoon, we'll drive into the UNESCO World Heritage Sugar Mill Valley to explore the San Isidro de los Destiladeros archaeological site.

Evening at leisure with many paladar dining options throughout town.

Melia Trinidad Peninsula (B,L)

DAY 3 - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

CIENFUEGOS AND PLAYA LARGA

After an early breakfast, we'll depart for Cienfuegos, founded by French settlers who arrived after the Haitian revolution. The city boasts outstanding architecture and hosts a vibrant artistic community. We'll walk around the main square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and enjoy a *Special Highlight: Private Performance by the Guitar Orchestra Ensemble*.

Following lunch at a paladar, we'll continue to Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs), site of the historic 1961 clash between CIA-trained Cuban exiles and Cuban rebel forces. We'll discuss the Cuban perspective of this incident at the local museum.

By late afternoon, we'll reach Playa Larga, situated on the coast in the Zapata Wetlands conservation area. We'll check into our privately owned B&B across from the beach and enjoy a home-cooked meal on the rooftop terrace. *Privately-owned B&B (B,L,D)*

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

FINCA VIGIA AND HAVANA

After breakfast, we'll head north to Havana. The approximately 3-hour countryside drive offers a unique glimpse into Cuban transportation, including numerous horse-drawn carriages. We'll arrive in Cojimar in time for lunch at a paladar.

Continuing to San Francisco de Paula, we'll visit Hemingway's former home, Finca Vigia. A Cuban private interpreter will provide insights into the famed writer's life and memorabilia. Afterward, we'll proceed to Havana and check into our hotel.



After freshening up, we'll walk to dinner at a nearby paladar.
Grand Aston La Habana (B,L,D)

DAY 5 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 HAVANA

After breakfast, we'll begin exploring Havana on foot, focusing on Old Havana's four main plazas:

Plaza de Armas, Havana's oldest square and founding site, rich in history and heritage. Next is *Plaza de San Francisco*, which faces the harbor and gained importance in the 16th century as a stopping point for Spanish galleons. The plaza features the Basilica San Francisco de Asis and Cuba's first 'Wall Street.'

We'll stroll along Calle Obispo and San Ignacio, supporting Havana's *cuentapropistas* selling handmade crafts, books, and art, while discussing Cuba's dual-sector economy. Continuing to *Plaza Vieja*, laid out in 1559, we'll admire Havana's most architecturally eclectic square, where Cuban Baroque meets Gaudi-inspired art nouveau. Our walk concludes at *Plaza de la Catedral* with its traditional Baroque Cathedral de la Habana and boutiques run by Cuban entrepreneurs. Local Habaneros in traditional costumes offer photo opportunities in the plaza.

After lunch at a paladar, we'll experience the city in classic American cars that have remained in use since the 1950s and 60s. We'll drive along the Malecon, passing the US Embassy and Revolution Square, then through Miramar's western neighborhood along Fifth Avenue with its historic mansions, now private homes and embassies. We'll visit the Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation headquarters to learn about their conservation initiatives and view the founder's collections. FANJ is your trip's Cuban host organization.

This evening, we've arranged a reservation at a paladar, but the meal is at your own expense, allowing you to order as you please.

Later, we'll visit the historic Hotel Nacional with our Cuban guide. This landmark reflects America's ties with Cuba during the 1940s and 50s when Havana was a playground for America's elite. Built in 1930 by American firms, the Nacional has hosted world leaders, royalty, and celebrities for nearly a century. We'll explore the Hall of History, imagining Havana during the 1946 'Havana Conference' when the Mafia sought refuge from U.S. crackdowns. Walking through the grounds overlooking the Malecon, we'll see the lush setting with city views and former site of anti-aircraft guns during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Grand Aston La Habana (B,L)

DAY 6 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 VINALES / HAVANA

After an early breakfast, we'll depart for a full-day exploration of Viñales. A tobacco farmer will demonstrate the process of growing tobacco and creating Cuba's famous cigars. We'll enjoy a farm-to-table lunch at an organic farm and, as a special highlight, experience a rum and cigar pairing before returning to Havana.

Dinner is on your own. Several paladars are within walking distance of the hotel, and your Cuban guide can assist with reservations. **Grand Aston La Habana (B,L)**

DAY 7 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 HAVANA

We'll begin our day at a neighborhood market in Old Havana selling produce, meat, and flowers, learning how Cuba's informal markets operate and how locals source fresh products.

Next, we'll visit Beyond the Roots, a project founded by private business owners in the Afro-Cuban community that enhances Afro aesthetics and identity while serving the local community.

With our Beyond the Roots guide, we'll explore Guanabacoa's deep cultural roots and African ancestry connections through spiritual



practice, music, food, and art. We'll meet a Babalawo (Yoruba spiritual leader) to learn about traditional African spiritual cleansing practices that remove negative energy and restore balance. We'll then enjoy a vegetarian lunch of traditional foods prepared by our hosts, followed by a lively musical performance accompanied by traditional *canchanchara* cocktails.

Returning to Old Havana, we'll visit *Almacenes de San Jose Artisan*, an artisan market in a reclaimed 1800s warehouse along the harbor. Home to self-employed vendors and artisans, this market offers nearly every type of Cuban handicraft, from paintings and sculptures to clothing. We'll meet entrepreneurs to learn about their sourcing and business practices.

After freshening up, we'll enjoy our farewell dinner at a paladar.

It's Saturday night in Havana, and there are ample opportunities to engage with, and support local musicians at venues around Havana. If you still have the energy for a late night, take in an optional Live Music Pub Crawl. The action starts late, after 10 p.m. and going until 2 or 3 a.m. Choose one venue or sample several. Your guide will know what's hot. Support live music and musicians directly: Cover charges, refreshments and tips to musicians are at your own expense. ***Grand Aston La Habana (B,L,D)***

DAY 8 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to Miami. Your transfer time will be confirmed in Havana by your Cuban Guide and scheduled to arrive approximately three hours prior to flight departure. **(B)**

Please Note: This itinerary is preliminary and may be adjusted according to conditions on the day of operation.

BEST OF CUBA

HAVANA, TRINIDAD, CIENFUEGOS

February 1–8, 2026

\$5,599 per person, double occupancy

\$5,835 per person in a single room

Deposit: \$1,000

Final Payment Due Date: October 1, 2025

Register online at

www.conservancytravel.org/MSU26_HOLA



INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ International Airfare Miami-Santa Clara/Havana-Miami
- ✓ Accommodations and activities as described
- ✓ Expert private Cuban guide and vehicle per itinerary
- ✓ Certification of participation in a pre-planned Support for the Cuban People travel program under U.S. Department of the Treasury general license
- ✓ Meals as noted (B, L, D): 7B; 6L; 4D
- ✓ 2 drinks per included lunch and dinner (local beer, bottled water, soft drinks, house wine if offered)
- ✓ Bottled water during guided excursions
- ✓ Gratuities for included meals and luggage handling
- ✓ Cuban tourist visa for entry and departure

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airfare to/from Miami
- Meals not mentioned as included
- Optional activities not included in the itinerary
- Tips for hotel housekeeping and live music during meals
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities for Cuban Guide (recommended US \$20 per day/per guest)
- Gratuities for Driver (recommended US \$10 per day/per guest)

Cancellation Fee Schedule All cancellations are effective from the date that written notification is confirmed as received by Conservancy Travel. Airfare penalties additional.

- Up to 120 days before departure: Deposit
- 119 - 90 days before departure: 50% of total fees owed
- 89-0 days before departure: no refund



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
 contact@conservancytravel.org
 334-770-1700

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.conservancytravel.org/MSU26_HOLA

