Pre-Departure Itinerary

The Colors of Cuba
Join The Club’s First Exclusive Tour of Cuba
2019 President’s Trip
Saturday, November 2-Saturday, November 9, 2019 $2,999*
February School Vacation Week
Saturday, February 15-Saturday, February 22, 2020 $3,199*

JOIN TRAVEL CLUB PRESIDENT, TIM MONTGOMERY, THIS NOVEMBER AS WE CROSS A CULTURAL DIVIDE, exploring the art, history and culture of the Cuban people. (Or, choose the February departure over School Vacation Week!) Develop an understanding of who they are when meeting with local shop keepers, musicians, artists, dancers and more. We’ll spend three nights in Havana at the historic Hotel Nacional and explore La Habana Vieja, the Old City of Havana, visit the Museo de Bellas Artes and enjoy a performance at the Gran Teatro. Visit Finca La Vigía—the Ernest Hemingway Farm—where he lived for more than 30 years in the small town of San Francisco de Paula. We’ll see his writing studio and fishing boat, Pilar, which featured in his Islands in the Stream, before lunch with local fisherman in Cojimar, the fishing village depicted in The Old Man and the Sea. Spend two nights in Cienfuegos and take in the colonial feel of “La Perla del Sur” or Pearl of the South. Join a meeting of UNEAC, the Union of Artists and Writers, hear a local youth orchestra and dance to a local salsa band. Back in Havana we’ll meet contemporary artists along Paseo del Prado and visit a community arts project before a performance by the Havana women’s chorus Coro Luna. All breakfasts are included in your program and all dinners will be enjoyed at local paladares—small, family-run restaurants, usually in a converted part of a home and one of the best ways to enjoy local Cuban cuisine. Throughout our journey we’ll experience the power of travel to unite two peoples in a true cultural exchange.

Includes
• Round-trip, non-stop regularly scheduled JetBlue flights from Boston to Havana
• Seven nights’ accommodations: five nights Havana, two nights Cienfuegos
• Fourteen meals: seven breakfasts, seven dinners
• Round-trip, airport/hotel transfers
• Cuba visas
• Services of professional Tour Guide

NOT INCLUDED: Tips for bus driver, guide, porters, chambermaids, and meal servers.

*prices are per person double occupancy
INCLUDES round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Single supplement is $700. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport and visa required. Per person deposit is $600.

Accommodations
DAY 1  Flight from Boston
DAYS 1-3  Hotel Nacional, Havana
DAYS 4-5  Cienfuegos
DAY 6-7  Hotel Nacional, Havana
DAY 8  Return flight to Boston

Features:
Havana: Old City of Havana, Museo de Bellas Artes, Gran Teatro performance, Capitol Building, Hall of Lost Steps, Paseo del Prado, Plaza de la Revolución, community arts project. Hemingway Farm, Cojimar fishing village. Cienfuegos: Plaza Jose Marti, Union of Artists and Writers, local youth orchestra.
DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart Boston on JetBlue (or similar airlines) direct service to Havana. Arrive in Havana, clear customs formalities, and transfer to the historic Hotel Nacional. Enjoy a welcome drink in the “Hall of Fame” bar, while you view the murals of famous guests dating to the 1930’s. Dinner will be served family style in a Paladar this evening. (D)

Day 2: This morning we will explore La Habana Vieja, the Old City of Havana. The Old City is home to perfectly preserved monuments of Cuba’s colonial period. Cultural centers will open their doors with art exhibits, dance performances, and theater presentations. Later we’ll walk through Cuba’s artistic history from colonial times to today as we visit the Museo de Bellas Artes. This afternoon, attend a breathtaking performance at Gran Teatro, the magnificent theater that exemplifies Cuba’s dedication to the performing arts, especially ballet. We’ll have time for lunch on our own in the Old City. Be on the lookout: there will be secret pop up galleries everywhere.
This afternoon, enjoy a rehearsal by a contemporary dance company such as Malpaso or Danza Combinatoria, and have the opportunity to meet with them afterwards to discuss the place of the arts in Cuban society.
Dinner this evening in a Paladar. *(B,D)*

**Day 3:** Today we explore every phase of Cuba’s dynamic five hundred year history. Wander through living history from the time of its founding in 1519, to the Spanish Colonial period, through the Wars of Independence, the fifty years of US control, the Revolution, the Soviet Period under Fidel Castro, and finally Cuba’s new beginning right now.
Enjoy a guided visit to Havana’s newly renovated Capitol Building. You will be awestruck by La Republica, inspired by the Greek goddess, Athena. It is the third largest interior statue in the world. You will also walk the gleaming Hall of Lost Steps, and visit the unusual garden statue of Lucifer.

Dinner at a Paladar is included this evening. *(B,D)*

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**Day 4:** Depart for Cienfuegos - This morning we drive to Finca La Vigia, the Hemingway Farm. This beautiful property hosts the house where the Nobel Prize-winning author lived, with his third wife Mary, for over 30 years. Look into the open windows and doors to see the home in perfect condition with Hemingway’s personal belongings as he left them. Walk the grounds to see his private writing studio, swimming pool, and beloved fishing boat, Pilar. The boat is featured in his novel "Islands in the Stream."

Enjoy lunch in Cojimar, the fishing village depicted in the “Old Man and the Sea”, where we have lunch (on our own) with local fisherman.

We continue on to Cienfuegos, where we arrive in time for dinner. *(B,D)*

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**FINCA LA VIGÍA—ERNEST HEMINGWAY’S HOME IN CUBA**

It’s no secret to anyone that Hemingway passionately loved Cuba. So much so, that he lived there for more than 30 years and owned a permanent residence ten miles east of Havana, Hemingway’s Cuba house, Finca Vigía, meaning "lookout house". Finca Vigía is located in the small, working-class town of San Francisco de Paula. Built in 1886 by a Spanish Architect Miguel Pascual y Baguer, Finca Vigia was purchased by Hemingway in 1940 for a cost of $12,500. There, Hemingway wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. *A Movable Feast* was written there as well. After years of neglect, restoration and preservation work has begun. Finca Vigía has made both the World Monuments Fund list of 100 Most Endangered sites, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 11 Most Endangered Places.
Day 5: Explore Cienfuegos, the Pearl of the South, with a short walking tour through Plaza Jose Marti, the main square in Cienfuegos. Meet with members of UNEAC, the Union of Artists and Writers and hear the city’s history. Later we’ll hear a performance by a local youth orchestra, and have a opportunity to meet with members of the orchestra and their families.
Dine in a Paladar this evening and later enjoy listening and dancing to the latin rhythms of a local salsa band. *(B,D)*
Day 6: This morning we drive back to Havana, and arrive in time meet with contemporary artists in their studios or as we walk along Paseo del Prado. *(B,D)*

Day 7: Our morning begins with a drive through Plaza de la Revolución and a visit to Muraleando, a community arts project. It is run by a group of artists who began with a huge rusty old water tank and
transformed it into a social program that has beautified the neighborhood and offers music and art programs for all the local residents.

Afterwards, we will be instructed in Cuba’s second most popular game: dominoes, play in a dominoes tournament including local players.

Later this afternoon we enjoy a private performance by the Havana women’s chorus Coro Luna, and have the opportunity to talk with them about music education in Cuba.

Farewell dinner in a Paladar. *(B,D)*

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**Day 8:** Return flight from Havana to Boston. Depending on the time of our flight, we might have time to do some last minute shopping at the open air markets.

**What is a paladar?**

*Paladares are one of the best ways to enjoy local Cuban cuisine. A paladar is a small, family-run restaurant, usually in a converted part of a home. Many paladares appear and operate much like a normal restaurant.*
**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.