



CUBA: PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR



9 days

\$2,180 (Land only)

Departs: Jan 18, 2014

A Photography Adventure in Cuba

Led by Edmonton Adventure Specialist: **Darlene Hildebrandt**

Travel to Cuba and enjoy a unique photography adventure while immersing yourself in the history, culture and natural beauty of this colourful Caribbean island. The imminent political and cultural change in Cuba makes it something to experience now before it evolves. Wander through Havana's glittering colonial architecture, soak up the clear mountain air among Soroa's vibrant mountain orchards, relax on Playa Ancon's vast white beaches and admire Trinidad's unrivalled ambience. From old cars to fragrant cigars and with plenty of salsa in between, this trip has it all and is the perfect introduction to all things Cuban.

Includes:

- Hotels (2 nights), Homestay (6 nights)
- Photography workshops and tips provided by host
- 8 breakfasts
- Arrival and departure group transfers
- Private Minibus (except for optional touring)
- Intrepid Travel guide
- Havana - City tour including transport
- Morning Specialised photographic Tour
- Afternoon Panoramic Tour Ride in Vintage car
- Soroa - Orchid garden or walk to waterfall
- Vinales – Valley 1/2 day cultural/scenic walking tour
- Vinales – afternoon organic farm visit Cigar rolling demonstration
- First hand Cuban Cigar and Coffee tasting
- 1 hour Introductory Salsa Dance lesson
- Walking tour in Cienfuegos city
- Trinidad- walking tour
- Afro-Cuban Folklore show
- Entrance to Ernesto Che Guevara's Museum and mausoleum



DARLENE HILDEBRANDT

Darlene Hildebrandt is from Edmonton-based Her View Photography. Darlene is a photography tutor and teacher and avid traveller. Throughout the trip she will lead photography workshops and tutorials to ensure every traveller captures the essence of Cuba! Check out: www.herviewphotography.com for more information.

Flip over and check out the full itinerary on the back...

ITINERARY



DAY 1–2 | Havana

Bienvenido! Welcome to the sultry capital of Cuba.

On arrival into Havana you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure until your welcome meeting.

The best way to see Havana's colonial buildings, elegant plazas, vintage cars and cigar-smoking musicians is by foot. Visit the Plaza de la Revolucion and pass giant monuments of the legendary Che Guevara and Jose Marti. The striking baroque facade of the Catedral de San Cristobal de la Habana is a must-see.

The following day you will be met at your hotel for your touring arrangements which will include a panoramic tour in Vintage cars.

Accommodation: Hotel (2 nights)

DAY 3–4 | Soroa / Vinales

Tour the Cuban orchid gardens of Soroa en route to Vinales. One of Cuba's most attractive areas, the fertile valleys and distinctive limestone 'pincushion' hills surrounding Vinales are well worth exploring on a walking tour. Get into the groove with an introductory group salsa lesson and be welcomed on a homestay with a friendly local family.

Accommodation: Homestay/Casa Particular (2 nights)

DAY 5 | Vinales/ Cienfuegos via Bay of Pigs

Cienfuegos' appeal lies partly in the European flavour of its colonial centre, with a wide Parisian-style boulevard and elegant colonnades. There is ambience enough here to have inspired Cuba's most celebrated 'son' singer to write the words 'Cienfuegos is the city I like best'. He was born nearby, which may have helped.

While here we take a visit to the Palacio del Valle. Once a modest home for a local trader, this palace is now Cienfuegos' architectural

pride and joy. The entire edifice drips with ornate carvings in Venetian alabaster.

Accommodation: Homestay/Casa Particular (1 night)

DAY 6–7 | Trinidad

Home to Spanish-style churches and great museums, Trinidad is also the gateway to the Valle de los Ingenios, where sugar cane plantations pan out across the land. Playa Ancon is close by and there's plenty of time to relax on its long, unspoilt beaches. Make an optional visit to a folklore dance and music show to see mambo, cha-cha and rumba intertwined with Afro-Cuban religious ceremonies.

Accommodation: Homestay/Casa Particular (2 nights)

DAY 8–9 | Havana via Santa Clara

Travel to the historical centre of Santa Clara, famously liberated by Che Guevara in 1958. Visit Guevara's resting place on a fascinating visit to his mausoleum. Afterwards, return to captivating Havana. Full of narrow streets, glorious Spanish architecture and pulsating bars and restaurants, this is a wonderful city to explore.

On day 9 you will be transferred to the airport for your onward arrangements. (Note: hotel check out is usually 10am)

Accommodation: Homestay/Casa Particular (1 night)

Contact your Edmonton Adventure Travel Company to reserve your space on this incredible hosted adventure today!