

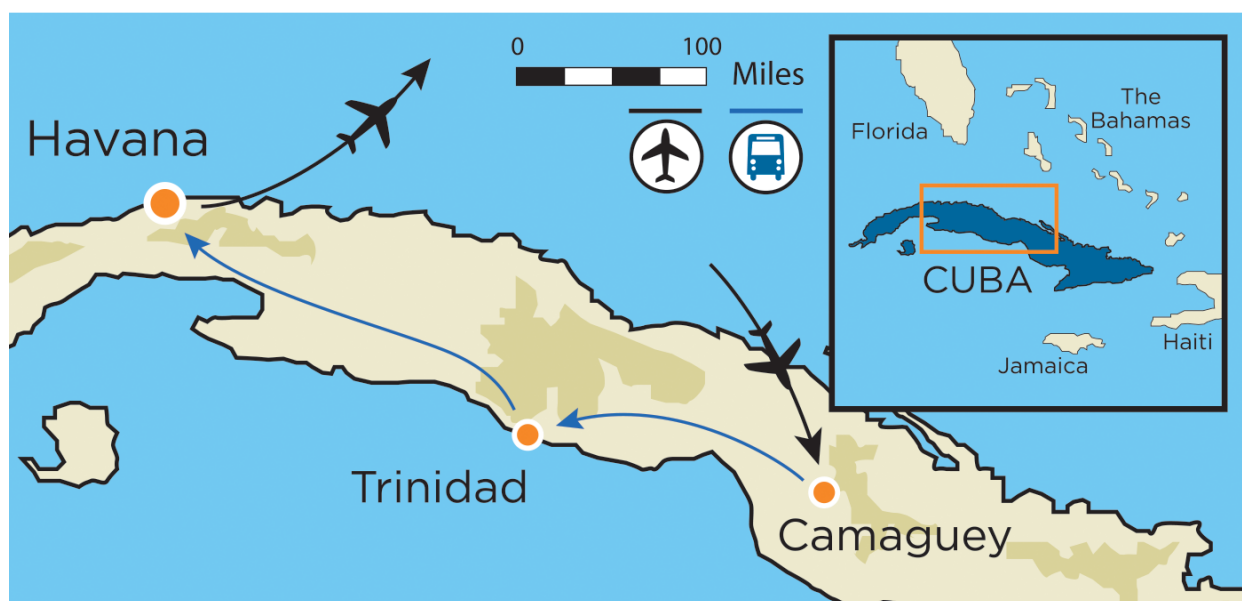
CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Immerse your senses in Cuba's thriving art, music, and cultural scene during stays in three distinct cities and towns
- ▶ Engage in insightful exchanges with women entrepreneurs and local artists
- ▶ Summon your inner salsa diva during a lesson from the pros
- ▶ Paddle a kayak through Cienfuegos Bay and catch a rare glimpse of Cuba's coastline
- ▶ Master cocktails and mocktails with a professional Cuban mixologist
- ▶ Live the Havana lifestyle as you stroll, cook, and cruise the city neighborhoods by classic car

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 Arrive in Camagüey, welcome dinner
- Day 2 explore Camagüey, pottery workshop, salsa class, take in some live music
- Day 3 drive to Trinidad via Santa Clara, explore the Che Guevara Mausoleum, arrive in Trinidad
- Day 4 visit a coffee grower, hike in Topes de Collantes, optional evening in town
- Day 5 kayak in Cienfuegos Bay, arrive in Havana
- Day 6 explore Old Havana, join a fashion design printing workshop, tour Havana by classic car, dinner with live music
- Day 7 Spend the morning with an art curator, attend a dance performance, participate in a cocktail class, experience Havana nightlife
- Day 8 visit the fishing village of Cojímar, cooking class, farewell dinner
- Day 9 depart Havana

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$7,345
Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,500

TRIP DATES

February 15 - 23, 2025

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DAY 1
Saturday
2/15/25

Arrive in Camagüey

Camagüey, Cuba's third-largest city, was one of the seven original settlements founded in Cuba by the Spanish and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. Camagüey offers a delightful "get lost" adventure through its zigzagging warren of streets.

Arrival Information

Arrive in Camagüey, Cuba (CMW) before 3:00pm.

Pick-up and Transfer

You will be picked up at the Camagüey airport and transferred to your hotel. Check-in is typically between 3:00 and 4:00pm.

Welcome Dinner

Enjoy a lively welcome dinner at a family-owned restaurant, known in Cuba as a paladar. Get to know your fellow travelers this evening. Share stories and learn about why each woman in your trip is excited to explore Cuba!

Accommodations

Local Bed and Breakfast

Meals Included

dinner

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DAY 2
Sunday
2/16/25

Camagüey

The symbol of the city of Camagüey is the clay pot, or tinajón, used to capture rainwater to be used later, keeping it fresh. Clay pots are everywhere, some as small as a hand, some large enough for two people to stand up in, either as monuments or for real use.

Explore Camagüey

Head out on a walking tour of Camagüey this morning. Most Spanish colonial cities have streets that were laid out on a grid. Camagüey's streets, however, are wonderfully abstract, with tangled alleyways leading to small plazas all over the city. Exploring the back streets outside of the popular squares will reveal endless surprises.

Visit a Local Gallery

Visit a local artist's gallery to begin your discovery of the vibrant and diverse Cuban art scene.

Pottery Workshop

Try your hand at making your own Camagüey clay pot at a pottery workshop this afternoon.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at a nearby paladar after your active morning.

Afternoon at Leisure

There's ample time this afternoon to relax, refresh, and explore the plazas near your accommodations.

Salsa Class

Cuba is known for its rhythm and music. Today you will have a chance to learn how to move like a local in a professionally led salsa class. Don't worry, there's no judgement! Just have fun!

Evening Plans

Head out with your group for a late dinner. After dinner, explore the local nightlife! Visit Camagüey's Casa de la Trova for music and dancing (subject to local schedule; entrance fee included, beverages on your own)

Accommodations

Local Bed and Breakfast

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 3
Monday
2/17/25

Camagüey to Trinidad via Santa Clara

Continue to colorful Trinidad, hailed as Cuba's most photogenic town. Trinidad is one of the best-preserved cities in the Caribbean from the time when the sugar trade was the main industry in the region.

Drive to Santa Clara

Leave Camagüey's charming streets before 8:00am and drive to Santa Clara. The drive will take about four hours. Your guide has planned drinks and breaks!

Che Guevara Mausoleum

Visit the Che Guevara Mausoleum in Santa Clara. This location was chosen in remembrance of Guevara's troops taking the city on December 31, 1958, in the Battle of Santa Clara. This was the last battle of the Cuban Revolution and caused Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista to flee into exile.

Lunch

A local Santa Clara guide takes us on a tour of the city followed by lunch in his favorite paladar.

Drive to Trinidad

After lunch, your journey continues for approximately 2 hours to Trinidad, Cuba's colonial gem.

Afternoon and Evening

Settle in and relax at your all-inclusive hotel for the next 2 nights. Enjoy dinner at the hotel with your group tonight.

Accommodations

Melia Trinidad Peninsula

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 4
Tuesday
2/18/25

Trinidad

Trinidad is a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its beautifully preserved colonial cobblestoned streets and pastel-lined alleyways. Trinidad is also home to Topes de Collantes National Park, a beautiful natural area in the Escambray Mountains.

Visit a Local Coffee Grower

Coffee from Topes is not well-known but fetches more than \$25 a pound internationally. Visit a local coffee grower and learn about his life in Cuba. Sample his delicious coffee before you leave!

Hike in Topes de Collantes

Topes is known for the numerous bird species, scenic hikes, and stunning waterfalls that canvas the national park. Head out for a morning hike through the tropical forest to one of the region's waterfalls. The hike will be moderately difficult, down to the waterfall with an uphill hike on the return. Bring along a swimsuit if you'd like to take a dip in the pool below the falls.

Homemade Lunch

After working up an appetite, enjoy a homemade lunch in the garden of the coffee grower's home.

Afternoon Activities

Take the early afternoon to explore Trinidad on your own, or just kick your feet up and relax after your morning hike.

In the late afternoon, take a walking tour of this captivating town which served as the center of the world's sugar production during the Spanish conquest of the Caribbean Islands and Central America.

Dinner

Head out for a sunset cocktail on a rooftop, and then enjoy dinner with your group in a paladar.

Optional Evening in Town

For those who are interested, your guide will escort you to Trinidad's outdoor entertainment venue, Casa de La Música. Entrance fees and drinks are on your own.

Accommodations

Melia Trinidad Peninsula

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 5
Wednesday
2/19/25

Trinidad to Havana

Havana, the leading cultural center of Cuba, boasts museums, palaces, public squares, avenues, churches, fortresses, art, and music.

Kayak in Cienfuegos Bay

Start your morning with a rare glimpse of Cuba's stunning coastline. You'll enjoy a kayaking trip along Cienfuegos Bay - Double and single kayaks are available.

Lunch

Have lunch in Cienfuegos today at a paladar offering stunning views of the bay and the Escambray Mountains in the distance.

Explore Cienfuegos

Cienfuegos is the only city in Cuba that was founded by the French, which becomes immediately apparent with the French-colonial architecture. Explore the city center on foot with your guide.

Check-in and Dinner

Upon arrival in Havana, check into your hotel and relax after a long day of travel. Dinner is included tonight, at a lovely paladar nearby.

Accommodations

INNSide Habana Cathedral
by Melia

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 6
Thursday
2/20/25

Havana

Havana turned 500 years old in 2019. It is one of this hemisphere's greatest treasures from the colonial expansion of Spain. Old Havana is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, dating back to 1519. It features a mix of Baroque and neoclassical architecture, balconies with wrought-iron gates, and Spanish courtyards in a beautiful tropical setting.

Explore Old Havana

Walk the streets of La Habana Vieja with your guide as they come to life. Explore the four main plazas and learn about the history, culture, architecture, and romance that have endeared the old town to so many cultures over the centuries. Stop to visit a few female cuentapropistas (private business owners) who specialize in fashion design.

Printing Workshop

Explore Cuba's largest arts and crafts market by visiting a local female cuentapropistas (private business owners) who specialize in fashion design and join them for a printing workshop.

Lunch

Enjoy tapas and lighter fare at a paladar owned by a female cuentapropista who studied to be a physicist before deciding to become a restaurateur.

Tour Havana by Classic Car

Explore Cuba's capital by classic car, cruising through the diverse neighborhoods of the city and seeing the landmarks that are not to be missed when exploring Havana. Your stylish ride ends at the iconic 1930 Hotel Nacional, made famous during the time of gangsters and crooners. Tour the grand lobby and Hall of History and sip a refreshing cocktail in their gardens overlooking Havana's seaside avenue, the Malecon, at sunset.

Dinner

Tonight's dinner promises a delightful experience at an Italian restaurant featuring live Latin jazz every Thursday evening.

Accommodations

INNSide Habana Cathedral
by Melia

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 7
Friday
2/21/25

Havana

“Some of the World’s Best Art is Made in Cuba” is the title of an article from Huffington Post. Cuban art is an exceptionally diverse cultural blend of African, South American, European and North American elements, reflecting the diversity of the island.

Morning of Art

Meet an art curator this morning who will host your exploration into Cuban art today. Bellas Artes, Havana’s fine arts museum, is a uniquely curated collection of Cuban art. It is broken down by timeline, pre- and post-revolutionary. Your art curator will bring the story of Cuba’s history to life through the museum’s fascinating exhibits.

Fast forward to Havana’s current art scene as you visit a contemporary studio. Meet the artist and learn more about the new challenges facing Cuban artists under Cuba’s current government.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at a local paladar.

Dance Performance

A local dance company will host you for a tour of their studio and a short performance. Afterwards, take time to refresh after a busy day and to get ready for a night of artful exploration.

Cocktail Lesson

Before dinner tonight, you will learn to make Cuba’s signature cocktails during a visit to a local bar for a cocktail lesson with a professional Cuban mixologist. Non-alcoholic cocktails will be available as well.

Dinner on Your Own

Dinner reservations have been made for you this evening at small tables in a paladar located inside of the famed Fabrica de Arte Cubano. The menu features dishes from all over the Latin world. Dinner is on your own.

Accommodations

INNSide Habana Cathedral
by Melia

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch

Havana Nightlife

Following dinner, it's time to explore the amazing amalgamation of art, music, dancing, at the local meeting place known as Fabrica de Arte Cubano. Your guide and drivers are available until 11:00pm for your convenience.

Accommodations

INNSide Habana Cathedral
by Melia

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch

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DAY 8
Saturday
2/22/25

Havana

Cuban cuisine is a blend of Spanish, African, and other Caribbean cuisines. A typical meal consists of rice and beans. When they are cooked together it is called "conгри" or "Moros", and when they are cooked separately it is called "arroz con frijoles." Taste amazing meals at local paladares.

Visit the Fishing Village of Cojímar

Approximately 20 minutes east of Havana lies the fishing village that served as the backdrop for Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*. See the town which inspired his fishing spirit and the bust that was sculpted from funds raised by residents who, to this day, remember and speak fondly of Papa Hemingway.

Cooking Lesson and Lunch

After a quick tour, you visit an organopónico (urban garden) that grows vegetables for the paladar where you are having a cooking lesson and lunch today. Besides learning a special recipe for mojito, you will also learn how to cook a traditional Cuban stew: ajiaco!

Afternoon on Your Own

There's time this afternoon to relax or head out to find some last-minute souvenirs.

Farewell Dinner

Head out for a farewell dinner at what many consider to be Cuba's finest paladar. The dinner is scheduled for 7:00 pm to allow sufficient time to catch a show or enjoy Havana's entertainment before your departure tomorrow. Guides and drivers will be available until midnight for your convenience. Please note that entrance fees to the show and post-dinner drinks are your responsibility.

Accommodations

INNSide Habana Cathedral
by Melia

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 9
Sunday
2/23/25

Depart

Say goodbye to your guide and farewell to Cuba after an incredible adventure.

Morning on Your Own

Have the morning at leisure after your late night. Your driver and guide will be available for any last-minute sightseeing or shopping.

Transfer to the Airport

Say goodbye to your new AdventureWomen friends as you transfer to the airport for your flights home.

Departure Information

Depart from Havana, Cuba (HAV) before 2:00pm today.

Please note that, for your safety, we advise strongly against consuming any food at the Havana airport. Kindly plan your lunch accordingly.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Local Bed and Breakfast

Guests will be organized into two groups and accommodated in separate hotels: the Hostal San Rafael and Apodaca.

Guests of the Hostal San Rafael, a charming bed and breakfast on Plaza San Juan de Dios in Camagüey, can enjoy the bar's expert mixology, the restaurant's inventive cuisine, and the staff's undying devotion to Cuban coffee in the mornings. The rooms are unpretentious but warm, and they all feature beautiful Cuban landscape paintings over the beds.

Amenities: private baths, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning, Wi-Fi

This boutique B&B Apodaca, located in the heart of Camaguey, provides convenient accommodations in a historic home steeped in character. Guests can feel the

Melia Trinidad Peninsula

Accompanied by the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea, views of the stunning Sierra del Escambray mountains and all the charms of the colonial city of Trinidad, this modern hotel promises a stay full of exceptional experiences. The Meliá Trinidad Peninsula's prime location offers both spaces for relaxation in the heart of nature and proximity to several of the top historical and cultural attractions. Spacious rooms, a wide range of dining options, infinity and swim-up pools, are just some of the features on offer in this attractive destination.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, hair dryer, minibar, cable/satellite TV, safe, air conditioning, Wi-Fi

INNSide Habana Cathedral by Melia

Nestled in a prime location, INNSide Habana Cathedral is a delightful place to stay to visit the city rich of history and tradition. The hotel also features bright and comfortable rooms, with unique design and modern decoration. The rooftop allows visitors to admire Havana from above. The swimming pool has breathtaking views of the lighthouse and the sea.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, hair dryer, safe, coffee/tea, air conditioning, Wi-Fi

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Accommodation Details

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ Airport transfers on the scheduled arrival and departure days
- ▶ Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ English-speaking guide(s) throughout the trip
- ▶ Two non-alcoholic drinks (water or soda) per person with included meals at paladares
- ▶ Bottled water in the vehicles
- ▶ Gratuities for local guides and waitstaff

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from Cuba
- ▶ Mandatory Cuban Tourist Card (arranged through the airline)
- ▶ Enrollment in Cuba medical emergency insurance (required by Cuban government and provided through US airlines)
- ▶ Optional activities
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities for head guide and drivers

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellation must be made in writing to AdventureWomen, LLC (email will be accepted). Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date.

- For cancellations received 89-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the package price is non-refundable and non-transferable.

- For cancellations received 59-0 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the package price is non-refundable and non-transferable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase **trip cancellation insurance** to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

You can transfer your deposit to another trip with no additional fee if you notify us within 120 days of the original trip departure date. We can hold your deposit for up to six months as a credit. Failure to book a new trip within this timeframe will result in the forfeiture of your deposit.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen trips.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes trips all over the world for women who want an active, out of the ordinary experience, and meet new friends. **Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!** In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure trips, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!