



FINCA SAN VICENTE IN VIÑALES VALLEY BY GUILLAUME BAVIERE

CUBA

Ecological Riches and Cultural Exploration of Western Cuba

9 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **OCT - JUN**

Cuba is home to diverse ecosystems, fascinating wildlife, and a rich cultural heritage. On this 9 day expedition to Havana and Western Cuba, you'll learn about ongoing conservation efforts from local experts as you explore beaches, reefs, waterfalls, and limestone caves. Visit Guanahacabibes Biosphere Reserve for an in-depth look at marine conservation programs. Experience Cuba's many cultural offerings, including a musical performance and a walking tour of historical Old Havana, and meals in paladares (restaurants run in private homes).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the unique wildlife of Cabo de San Antonio National Park.
- Take guided hikes in Viñales, home to the distinctive limestone formations known as mogotes.
- Enjoy a snorkeling expedition by boat to reefs around the tip of the Guanahacabibes Peninsula.
- Visit the Soroa Waterfall & Orchidarium and Sierra del Rosario, home of Las Terrazas, a self-sustained community named after the reforestation project initiated in 1967.
- Explore Cuba's unique culture and history on the streets of Old Havana, and visit an urban organic farm, or "organopónico."

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



CLASSIC CAR IN HAVANA BY GRAHAM CAMPBELL

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - HAVANA

Upon arrival at the José Martí International Airport, you will be met by your guide and driver and transferred to your hotel. You will be able to check in and exchange money, and then enjoy the remainder of the afternoon to explore your surroundings before your welcome dinner at a paladar. *Overnight at Hotel Ambos Mundos. (LD)*

DAY 2 - HAVANA

Today explore Old Havana's cobblestone streets, visiting the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza de la Catedral, and Plaza Vieja. In the afternoon visit Organopónico Vivero Alamar, an incredible urban garden located outside of central Havana, widely considered one of the most successful organic farms in the city. After the economic collapse in the early 1990s Cuba was forced to develop new methods to feed its population without the support of the Soviet Union. Now, the country is filled with more than 7,000 urban allotments of "organopónicos", which cover approximately 81,000 acres. During the tour, learn about the advances Cuba has made with respect to organic farming. *Overnight at Hotel Ambos Mundos. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - VIÑALES

Travel to Soroa. En route, visit Sierra del Rosario, 61,000 acres of evergreen forest and home of Las Terrazas, a self-sustained community named after the reforestation project initiated in 1967. Also visit the Soroa Waterfall & Orchidarium. Continue on to Viñales for dinner and overnight. *Overnight at Hotel Los Jazmines. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - VIÑALES

This morning visit Cueva del Indio, a limestone cave set adjacent to hills covered in lush vegetation. Here, board a boat and enjoy an underground magical world of stalagmites, stalactites, and folklore as you take a short cruise through this cavernous wonderland. The cave is an ancient indigenous dwelling rediscovered in 1920. This afternoon hike the unusual geologic formations in the area known as mogotes, as well as visit a tobacco farm. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Los Jazmines. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - GUANAHACABIBES

Depart for María La Gorda in the Guanahacabibes Peninsula, a Biosphere Reserve in the Pinar del Río province. Stop en route to look for the Bee Hummingbird, the world's smallest bird. If time permits, enjoy snorkeling this afternoon from the

sandy beaches of your hotel. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel María La Gorda. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - GUANAHACABIBES

This morning visit La Barca beach to learn about beach characterization and an opportunity to snorkel at this location. Continue on to Cabo de San Antonio National Park, where you will join a snorkeling expedition by boat to various reefs around the tip of the peninsula. *Overnight at Hotel María La Gorda. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - GUANAHACABIBES

Morning snorkeling. After lunch, meet with conservation staff to talk about the work they are doing in the area, with time at leisure this afternoon. *Overnight at Hotel María La Gorda. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - HAVANA

This morning return to Havana. Lunch on own and time at leisure in Old Havana. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel before the Buena Vista Social Club show. *Overnight at Hotel Ambos Mundos. (BD)*

DAY 9 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana airport for your flight back to the U.S. *(B)*

PROGRAM PRICING

\$3,195 (20 participants + 2 leaders)

\$3,385 (10 participants + 1 leader)

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included. Valid for travel in 2019.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe