



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 or Hotel Sevilla. (D)*

## 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 or Hotel Sevilla. (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 or casas particulares. (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 area's unusual geological formations, known as mogotes, and visit a tobacco farm. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Los Jazmines or casas particulares. (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 for 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

Go snorkeling this morning. 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. Have lunch on your own and spend time exploring Old Havana. This evening, have dinner at the hotel before attending a show at the famed Buena Vista Social Club. *Overnight at Hotel Ambos Mundos or Hotel Sevilla. (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

**\$2,645** (15 participants + 1 leader)

**\$2,865** (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, full-time for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2020.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

## THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. 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. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](https://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)