

CUBA



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HISTORY, GARDENS, AGRICULTURE, & CULTURE

Exclusive tour with National Tropical Botanical Garden

Hosted by Chipper & Hau'oli Wichman

April 7 – 12, 2022



Explore Cuba's unique flora by way of botanical gardens, organic farms, private gardens, and rural fincas with your hosts Chipper & Hau'oli Wichman. This 6-day program will introduce you to the history and culture of Havana, with its many plazas, museums, churches, fortresses, and other buildings under restoration. Travel to Viñales Valley, one of the most beautiful regions of Cuba. Along the way, witness firsthand the passion of the Cuban people that is evident at every turn, from their music, dance, and food to their appreciation of the natural beauty found on this small Caribbean island.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Cuba's public and private gardens, including the National Botanical Garden of Cuba, family-owned gardens, and an urban organoponic cooperative garden in Havana.
- Travel to the Viñales region, known for its agriculture and mogotes (limestone formations), and observe plants common to the mogote vegetation complex.
- Stroll through the butterfly house and snail nursery at Quinta de los Molinos Garden, Cuba's oldest botanical garden.
- Explore historical Old Havana on a walking tour, enjoy a private dance performance, and take in a cabaret show.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

APRIL 7 - OLD HAVANA

Upon arrival at the José Martí International Airport, you will be met by your guide and driver and transferred to your hotel in Old Havana. After check-in, you will have leisure time to explore on your own until you meet up with the group for a special dinner at the private restaurant (paladar) La Guarida, where the Oscar-nominated Cuban film “Strawberry and Chocolate” was filmed. *Overnight at Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana. (D)*

APRIL 8 - OLD HAVANA

This morning take a guided walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Discover the four plazas in Old Havana: Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, and Plaza de Armas. Learn about the ongoing restoration projects throughout Havana, and see the giant model of the city. After lunch at Ernest Hemingway’s Old Havana favorite, Sloppy Joe’s, enjoy a private performance by Danza-Teatro Retazos. This incredibly talented group of dancers and their instructor will amaze and delight you, as they have been doing for audiences not only in Cuba, but internationally in the US and Europe. Dinner this evening will be at Café Laurent. *Overnight at Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana. (BLD)*

APRIL 9 - VIÑALES

Today begin your travels to western Cuba, stopping first at the National Botanical Garden on the outskirts of Havana. Explore the collections with a specialist guide from the garden. She will then join you in your vehicle as you drive the expansive acreage of the garden’s arboretum, featuring trees from many different countries and regions. Enjoy lunch at El Bambú, an ecological restaurant located within the garden. Next, continue your journey to Viñales, home of the limestone formations known as mogotes: flat-topped hills dating to the Jurassic period that can be found in only four countries in the world. Viñales is also famous for its rich soil and agriculture, including tobacco production. Dinner this evening is at a local paladar called the Agroecológica, situated in the hills surrounding Viñales. Savor all the dishes made with produce from the land where the restaurant is located. *Overnight at Los Jazmines. (BLD)*

APRIL 10 - OLD HAVANA

This morning, visit the finca of farmer Raúl Reyes. Learn about his crops and how he makes a living in this area. Take a walk on the Cueva de la Vaca trail, which not only goes through Raúl’s finca, but also gives you a chance to see plants common to the mogote vegetation complex, including the “mogotes triad”: *Bombacopsis cubensis*, *Gaussia princeps*, and *Spathelia brittonii*. You will then be taken into town for lunch at a typical café, followed by a visit to a local botanical garden that has been in the same family for many years. Located on one acre right in the heart of the neighborhood, this delightful home and garden is quite whimsical. After your short time at this private garden, travel back to Havana and your hotel. This evening is at leisure to enjoy the many dining and entertainment options found in Old Havana. *Overnight at Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana. (BL)*

APRIL 11 - OLD HAVANA

This morning visit the oldest botanic garden of Cuba, La Quinta de los Molinos Garden. It was founded in 1864, and has a butterfly house as well as a breeding nursery of *Polymita* spp., a terrestrial, eastern-endemic genus of very colorful mollusk. Continue your exploration by going to the now-famous Alamar Organoponic Gardens. Meet with one of the cooperative representatives and learn about the garden’s history, accomplishments, and horticultural practices of organoponics in Cuba. Take a guided tour to see the various crops and the “old-

school” Cuban style of “city farming.” Return to Old Havana for a free afternoon to do some shopping at the indoor San José Artisans’ Market along the docks, or perhaps take a stroll through Old Havana and visit some of the museums and cafes not seen previously. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at the paladar El Atelier, followed by a show at Cabaret Parisién inside the famous Hotel Nacional. *Overnight at Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana. (BD)*

APRIL 12 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana International Airport for your flight to Miami. (B)



VIÑALES TOBACCO FARM AND MOGOTES BY GUILLAUME BAVIERE

LAND PRICING

\$3,875 (based on minimum 12 participants)

Cost includes accommodations, activities, and meals as indicated in the itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, in-country transportation, full-time guide, all gratuities, bottled water on the bus, Cuban visa, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature.

A tax-deductible donation paid directly to NTBG (\$1,000) is required for participation on the trip.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. 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.

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

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip add \$1,425 per person. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until January 2, 2022, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travel/ntbg-cu22 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or schmidt@holbrooktravel.com