

Cuba Kayaking West, 8 Days

Day 0:

Miami, Florida to Havana on our charter flight with the rest of the group will be the main route travelers take. If you would like to discuss other flight or travel arrangements, please contact us.

Day 1:

Welcome to Cuba! **Havana**, Habana Vieja, & UNESCO World Heritage

Leaving Miami, Florida you will depart to a top Cuban destination, Havana. This is a large and exciting city full of people and friendly faces. The sites await you as you arrive and you will spend the rest of the morning admiring all that Havana has to offer. The ride from the airport to Havana will ensure you that you are in a place like no other. A private Cuban restaurant will feed you dinner after you walk through Old Havana. Bed is awaiting or you have the option to take part in the Cuban nightlife scene.

Accommodations: Havana Hotel

Meals Included: L,D

Day 2:

Criadero de Cocodrilos, the Bay of Pigs, and Arrive at Zapata National Park

A bus will take us to Boca de Guama which was named because of the Taino chief Guama who put a defense against Spanish colonists. This is where the crocodile breeding facility is located. Both American and Cuban crocodiles are brought up here and you will be able to learn about the different stages of their life. You can even taste some crocodile meat before we head out to the small village of Playa Larga.

A modest home will house you for the night. Spend some time relaxing or

taking a stroll before we go out on a kayak excursion! The Bay of Pigs is where we will explore by paddle as you hear the guide tell the exciting stories about the area. The two-hour session will breeze by and you can spend some time on the beach for the sunset before an enjoyable dinner.

Day 3:

Rare Opportunity to Kayak the Wetlands of Zapata National Park

A satisfying breakfast before we head off on a dirt road to go on an adventure through the Zapata National Park. We will paddle across the waters of the Zapata Peninsula as a guide takes the lead. Wildlife in plenty will be seen such as flamingos, birds, and more. The tropical ecosystem is very important and will be explained further on this outing. Snorkeling in a small cay will be a time to stretch our legs or just enjoy your surroundings.

Lunch will be served as a guide shares his stories and love for his land. We will return to Playa Larga so you can learn about some of the Cuban ways of dance, cultures, and theatre. The Director of the National Park will present about the mission and reasoning for the park.

Dinner will follow which will be full of fresh and local foods.

Accommodations: Playa Larga Hotel

Meals Included: B,L,D

Day 4:

Museum Playa Giron, Coastal Snorkeling, Botanical Gardens in Cienfuegos, and Trinidad

The beautiful beaches of Playa Giron await you as we head to that tranquil town. The Museum located in this town will teach about the Bay of Pigs invasion and the stories from the Cold War. A prime snorkeling location full of colorful fish is the next stop as you learn more about the importance of the ecosystem. Lunch will follow before we travel past Cienfuegos and head over to the Jardin Botanico Cienfuegos. This is one

of Cuba's largest botanical gardens full of 2000 species of plants. The staff will have the opportunity to communicate with you and answer questions to engage in an uplifting and knowledgeable discussion.

An hour away the town of Trinidad will be our night destination where we will check in and then head to a local restaurant for dinner before getting a good night's rest.

Accommodations: Trinidad Casas Particulares

Meals Included: B,L,D

Day 5:

Morning Kayak, Walking Tour of Colonial Trinidad, People-to-People with Julio Munoz

Feel rejuvenated as you wake up in Trinidad! Colonial style and culture is found in this remarkable city. Kept very well this city has a lot of personality and things to do. A paddle on the river makes for an excellent view of Trinidad on this easy route. A tour guide will take you on a walking tour of the city. Explore the streets and admire the fine art and architectural detail of the buildings. A well-known photographer, Julio Munoz, will host us in his home as we discuss the history and culture of Trinidad.

Dinner will be country style as we go to a traditional pig roast before heading to the local casas for the night.

Accommodations: Trinidad Casas Particulares

Meals Included: B,L,D

Day 6:

Paddling in the **Guanaroca Nature Reserve and on to Cienfuegos**

The area of "Laguna de Guanaroca-Yaguanabo-El Nicho" cover about 10,000 acres. This is a wildlife refuge that we will arrive at in the morning before we take a paddle in a large lagoon. You will view wildlife and enjoy

the serenity and peace of the scenery. The larger Bay of Cienfuegos is where you will paddle to before a seafood lunch awaits you onshore. Next, you will travel with the others to the city of Cienfuegos which is also referred as the Pearl of the South. It has a French feel because it was colonized by the French. A social life is big in this city and you can take part in that during the afternoon before the walking tour. On the walking tour we will visit Teatro Tomás Terry which is a beautiful theater located on the north side of Parque José Martí. It is an excellent example of Creole architecture that you can enjoy. The local casas will provide your accommodations for the night.

Accommodations: Cienfuegos Casas Particulares

Meals Included: B,L,D

Day 7:

Ernest Hemingway Museum, Cojimar, and Driving Old Convertible Cars in Havana

This will be the last full day of festivities and will start with the drive back to Havana. The Ernest Hemingway Museum is before Havana and we will stop there to learn more about the author. Artifacts and attractions will be found in this old home that has been restored. After the museum you will be able to learn as we visit the historic fishing hamlet where Hemingway parked his boat.

For dinner you will be amazed as we travel to and from in many convertibles. These classic cars will take you to visit Havana's Plaza de la Revolucion which is an extensive city square. It has quite the history and in the evening all the murals are lit on the buildings. La Casa, an authentic Cuban restaurant, will feed you dinner before you go to your accommodations for the night to prepare for departure in the morning.

Accommodations: Havana Hotel

Meals Included: B,L,D

Day 8:

Fill up before you arrive at the airport to catch your returning flight back to Miami, Florida. Remember to switch your Cuban currency back to American currency before you leave!

Also note: Travel in Cuba requires a flexible attitude. Our days are full and things don't always run on time. Note that the activities and visits listed are not guaranteed but we endeavor to do our best to provide the content intent of this People-to-People program. Visiting developing countries can be eye-opening and life-changing, and hopefully visiting Cuba is both. Accommodations may not be up to the standards you are used to. We ask all our guests to appreciate the authenticity of your cultural encounters as well as the people, food, culture, and adventures that are exceptional in their difference.

Meals Included: B