





INCREDIBLE CUBA
18 Days
Fully Escorted
Departs Brisbane 1 May 2020

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Havana
- Birán
- Santiago
- Morro Castle
- Baracoa
- Coco Farm
- Camaguey
- Sancti Spiritus
- Cienfuegos
- Bay of Pigs

INCLUDES:

- Return Economy Class Airfares & Taxes*
- Private single rooms in quality accommodation
- Meals as per itinerary - 15 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 7 Dinners
- Sightseeing tours and transfers by private vehicle
- Tour Escort – travels with group from/to Brisbane
- Local Guides
- Tipping
- Visa

EXCLUDES:

- Any meals other than mentioned above
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Travel Insurance

From \$9,990.00* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Price is per person Sole Use and subject to availability. Price is correct as at 10 May 2019. Based on Economy class airfare. Tour requires minimum number of passengers to depart. Prices may fluctuate if surcharges, fees, taxes or currencies change. Solo Connections is constantly striving to improve our itineraries and inclusions. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right at any time to vary itineraries and to substitute inclusions of equal value. Beverages, additional meals, hotel mini bars, laundry, phone calls, any items of personal nature not included. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996.



Day 1 – Friday 1 May 2020
Depart Brisbane – Arrive Houston

L

We'll meet early this morning at Brisbane Airport for our flight to Houston.

On arrival in Houston we'll be met and transferred to the Galleria district – home to the largest shopping mall in Texas. We'll stop and have lunch on the way and then check into our hotel. The rest of the afternoon and evening is at leisure and if you wish you can spend some time exploring the many shops and restaurants within walking distance.

Accommodation: Hotel Indigo at the Galleria or similar (1 Night)

Day 2 – Saturday 2 May 2020
Depart Houston – Arrive Havana

B,D

This morning we'll have breakfast at our hotel and then transfer to George Bush International for our flight to Havana.

Welcome to Havana!!! This country is timeworn but magnificent. The atmosphere and architecture are stirring and the people are some of the friendliest and most honest on the planet. In Cuba we will expect the unexpected! Upon arrival into Jose Marti Airport we will be met by our local representative who will assist us in changing some currency into Cuban Currency convertible (CUC) then we will transfer to our hotel and have some dinner after check in.

Accommodation: Hotel Cohiba or similar (2 Nights)

Day 3 – Sunday 3 May 2020
Explore Havana

B,L

After breakfast this morning we'll explore Old Havana. Havana is a city that captures the imagination. The faded glamour of the colonial-era buildings and its cars, bars and wonderful people make it a captivating destination. Quaint cobbled squares; vintage cars on the streets; historic forts, museums, and beautifully restored architectural gems are to be found here. The city tour will include the four most important squares, namely Arms Square, San Francisco de Asis Square, The Old Square and The Cathedral Square. Lunch today will be at a local restaurant and then this afternoon we'll look at modern Havana - stopping in Revolution Square (one of the city's most defining public spaces) and the Forest of Havana – located along the course of the Almendares River.

Day 4 – Monday 4 May 2020
Havana - Holguin

B,L

Early this morning we will transfer to Jose Marti airport for our flight to Holguin. Upon arrival breakfast we will have breakfast at a local hotel. We'll then visit Gibara - the so called white city by the ocean and take a short walking tour to have a look around. Lunch will be at a local hotel before we return to Holguin via the undulating roads and pretty villages, and check into our hotel.

Accommodation: Caballeriza Hotel or similar (1 Night)



Day 5– Tuesday 5 May 2020
Holguin - Santiago

B, L

This morning after breakfast we'll depart for Santiago de Cuba. En route we'll visit Birán – the village that was Fidel Castro's birthplace. We'll stop for lunch today at a local restaurant. On our way into Santiago we'll visit Antonio Maceo Revolution Square with its enormous statue by sculptor Alberto Lescaj. We'll also stop at Santa Iphigenia Cemetery, the final resting place of Jose Marti the national hero, and Fidel Castro. This afternoon we'll check into our hotel and the evening is at leisure.

Accommodation: Melia Santiago or similar (2 Nights)

Day 6– Wednesday 6 May 2020
Santiago

B, L

Today we'll visit the city of Santiago's centre Céspedes Park and the Diego Velazquez Museum. We'll drive out to the bay to Morro Castle (a UNESCO World Heritage site) which sits on a promontory at the entrance to Santiago harbour and was part of the defensive system built when Cuba was occupied by Spain. Lunch will be El Morro restaurant and we'll then return to our hotel for an evening at leisure.

Day 7– Thursday 07 May 2020
Santiago - Baracoa

B, L

This morning will be an early departure for Baracoa, the first colonial settlement founded in Cuba. This unique town with its remote location in the eastern end of Cuba has an insouciant feel and small town atmosphere. Most houses are simple wooden structures, and the flat layout of the town makes for an interesting and easy stroll in whichever direction you take.

We'll travel via La Farola – one of the most scenic drives in Cuba, and stop at La Gobernadora lookout to enjoy the view of the beautiful Guantánamo Valley, and the south coast of Guantánamo Bay.

Upon arrival in Baracoa, we'll take a walking tour of the centre of the town including Notre Dame of Baracoa Parish Church. Lunch today will be at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Porto Santo Hotel or similar (1 Night)

Day 8– Friday 08 May 2020
Baracoa - Santiago

B, L

This morning we'll take a cocoa tour at Duaba Farm. Experience the rural lifestyle and an opportunity to learn in depth about Baracoa's cocoa in a light-hearted way. There are educational trails where the plants of the precious fruit are displayed and the entire traditional growing, harvesting and processing methods used by local farmers are shown. We can also sample a charote – a particularly delicious chocolate drink.

Today our lunch at a local restaurant will be serving a typical Baracoan cuisine and featuring chocolate of course.



This afternoon we'll make our way back to Santiago to check into our hotel there and the evening is at leisure.

Accommodation: Melia Santiago or similar (1 Night)

Day 9 – Saturday 09 May 2020
Santiago – Bayamo - Camaguey

B,L

After breakfast today we depart for the city Camaguey. Cuba's third largest city contains no less than 15 churches in its UNESCO historic centre. The city has a great love of art and culture and is home to famous poets, artists, and musicians. We'll visit Cuba's Patroness Saint Sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin of Charity of Copper, and learn why it has been visited by three Popes and honoured with Ernest Hemingway's Nobel Prize.

Accommodation: Santa Maria Hotel or similar (1 Night)

Day 10 – Sunday 10 May 2020
Camaguey – Sancti Spiritus - Trinidad

B,L

This morning we'll take a walking tour of the old Plazas of Camaguey, declared World Heritage by UNESCO, and known as the city of churches and bicycles. Lunch today will be at a local restaurant.

This afternoon we'll drive to Sancti Spiritus - one of Cuba's oldest settlements - and as such has plenty to charm visitors, as well as some curious facts, legends and myths that you may find interestingly bemusing. We'll continue to Trinidad crossing the Valley of the Sugar Mills - a series of three interconnected valleys. More than fifty sugar mills were in operation here at the industry's peak in the 19th century. Once in Trinidad we'll check into our hotel and this evening is at leisure.

Accommodation: Las Cuevas Hotel or similar (2 Nights)

Day 11 – Monday 11 May 2020
Trinidad

B,L

Today we'll take a walking tour the City of Trinidad, one of the first seven villages founded by the Spaniards. Trinidad is Cuba's best-preserved colonial town, with the old part of Trinidad being a UNESCO heritage site since 1988. Like most of Cuba's colonial towns, it is gorgeous with brightly coloured buildings and cobblestone streets. Lunch will be at a local restaurant.

This afternoon we'll visit Ancon Beach for a quick swim. This ribbon of white beach on Sancti Spiritus' Caribbean shoreline is only 12km from Trinidad. We return to our hotel this afternoon and the evening is at leisure. A visit to Casa de la Trova might be in order to sip on a Cuban beer and listen to some traditional music?

Day 12 – Tuesday 12 May 2020
Trinidad - Cienfuegos

B,D

Today's travel will be a scenic drive along the beautiful coastline to the French-founded city of Cienfuegos. The "Pearl of the South" has a more French feel to it with its wider streets and classical architecture. We will tour the wide



Parisian-style boulevard with its elegant colonnades, and make a short stop at Valle´s Palace, an historic villa designed by Italian architect, Alfredo Colli. Checking into our hotel and dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Jagua Hotel or similar (2 Nights)

Day 13 – Wednesday 13 May 2020
Playa Giron

B, D

Today we will head for Girón which is main town along the Bay of Pigs and located on the eastern end of the bay. In Cuba, the US invasion is known by the name of this town and not by the name "Bay of Pigs". Playa Giron was one of the main places where the invading troops disembarked, for the Bay of Pigs battle that lasted for around three days. Giron still proudly honours the victory against the US army's Brigade 2506 and we will visit the Museo de la Intervencion. The museum itself boasts a former war plane and tank. We'll also have a chance to have a swim in Caleta Buena, a rocky cove by the Caribbean.

Day 14 – Thursday 14 May 2020
Cienfuegos - Havana

B, D

Today we'll make the drive back to Havana (around 3 hours) and once in Havana the rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Dinner tonight is at Havana's famous Tropicana Club. Las Vegas may now be known for show girls in feathered headdresses and skimpy attire but the tradition was born here in Havana. The cabaret dates back to 1939 and served as the centre of Cuba's jet-set nightlife during the 1940s and 1950s. The cabaret is located in lush tropical gardens and is a Cuban institution.

Accommodation: Hotel Cohiba or similar (2 Nights)

Day 15 – Friday 15 May 2020
Havana – Vinales - Havana

B, D

After an early breakfast, we travel to Vinales, which is famous for its tobacco growing. A small town in the midst of brown fields and towering rock formations, the town is the perfect combination of natural beauty and traditional Cuban culture. We'll visit a farm to see a drying house for tobacco leaves and the cigar making process. Then continue on to Los Jazmines to enjoy the view of the breath taking valley of Vinales – a UNESCO declared cultural landscape.

Our farewell dinner tonight be at one of Havana's well known restaurants.

Day 16 – Saturday 16 May 2020 – Day 17 – Sunday 17 May 2020
Depart Havana

B

Today we say goodbye to Cuba as our tour here ends here but the memories remain. The morning is at leisure and this afternoon we transfer to the airport for our flight home.

Day 18 – Monday 18 May 2020
Arrive Brisbane