



People to People

Ashé Cultural Tours, LLC
204 Crossgate Drive
Church Hill MD 21623
301-237-2651
www.asheculturaltours.com

Washington College Alumni

Presents....

A Cuba Experience with WC Music and Anthropology Faculty 10 Days | Departure October 4, 2019

Highlights...

Havana • UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves • Viñales • Horseback Riding
Trinidad • White Sand Beaches • Tropicana Night Club
Jazz Clubs • Hemmingway House • 1950s American Classic Convertible Tour

Top Rated Hotels in Fort Lauderdale and Viñales

Homestays in Havana and Trinidad

15 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners, 3 Lunches

Round Trip Airfare from Fort Lauderdale Airport (FLL)

Visas (Cuban Tourist Card)*

Sightseeing: See attached Itinerary

Led by Two WC College Professors with a combined 25 years of experience in Cuba

Intercity and Airport transportation via deluxe airconditioned Motocoach

Cuban Medical Insurance

All Taxes and Service Charges

Per Person Rate: Double: \$2,999 | Single \$3299 (limited availability)

Included in above prices: Roundtrip Airfare, Attraction, Air Taxes, Hotel Transfers &
Two Medical Insurance Policies (policies cover health care in Cuba, as well as Emergency Medical Evacuation & Medical Reunion)**

Not included in above prices: Travel Insurance, Checked Baggage Fees

* Cuba Visas (Tourist Cards) will be provided for participants who are non-Cuban born. Participants born in Cuba will need to obtain their own visas directly from the Cuban Embassy.

** All Participants will be provided with medical insurance that covers care within the Cuban Medical System. Participants who opt not to buy their own Travel Insurance will also be provided with a Travel Medical Insurance policy covers Emergency Medical Evacuation and Medical Reunion.

A Cuba Experience with WC Music and Anthropology Faculty



Highlights

Havana • Tropicana Night Club
UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Bio-
sphere Reserves • Viñales • Horseback Riding
Trinidad • White Sand Beaches • Jazz Clubs
• Hemmingway House • 1950s American
Classic Convertible Tour

10 Days • 15 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners, 3 Lunches

Day 1 (Friday): Make your way to Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Make your way to Fort Lauderdale, by flying into either FLL or MIA. Around 6PM, many of us will head out to for dinner and get to know one another. But, you can check in as late as you prefer.

Day 2 (Saturday): Flight to Havana. Full day of activities

Today we rise early, and take an early morning flight to Havana. Once we clear customs, we'll board our coach bus, drive 30 minutes to our homestays, and drop off our luggage. From here, we'll walk two blocks to the iconic oceanfront Malecón where we'll have lunch together at Castropol. Afterwards we will take a leisurely stroll to the Prado (Havana's tree-lined pedestrian boulevard), just four blocks from our homes and explore Havana's best outdoor artist market. Then we'll hop in 1950s classic American convertibles and enjoy a 2 hour tour of the city! When we return to our homes, our hosts will greet us with a welcome drink and a fantastic homecooked meal.

Lunch and dinner included today.

Day 3 (Sunday): Havana

After breakfast, we will head over to the Hotel Nacional, to enjoy the ocean view and witness the magnificent architecture of this infamous hotel with a strong connection to mob/gangster history. We will walk through Vedado (once a highly affluent neighborhood full of casinos), down La Rampa to see the Havana Libre (formerly Havana Hilton), Coppelia (an outdoor ice cream shop that fills an entire city block), and the University of Havana. We will then enjoy lunch at Bicky's, one of Havana's most successful (and delicious) new private restaurants. From here, we will continue on to the world-famous Callejón Hamel, an alley known for its extensive murals, Sunday rumbas, and fascinating murals (most of which have been inspired by Afro-Cuban culture and religions). Then we'll head over to the Museum of the Revolution. After dinner, your hosts will happily walk everyone over to some of the night spots along Obispo, where dozens of bands will be playing music in bars, restaurants and hotel lobbies. *Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included today.*

Day 4 (Monday): Havana - Las Terrazas - Viñales

This morning we'll board an air-conditioned coach for the start of our two-day excursion to Piñar del Rio province. Our first stop is at the pioneering ecovillage of Las Terrazas. Today it's a Unesco Biosphere Reserve, a burgeoning activity center and the site of the earliest coffee plantations in Cuba. Close by, in the picturesque whitewashed village that overlooks a small lake, there's a vibrant art community with open studios, woodwork and pottery workshops. But the region's biggest attraction is its verdant natural surroundings, which are ideal for hiking, relaxing and birdwatching. After spending the afternoon in this region, we will continue an additional 2 hours to the mountain town of Viñales, where we will check

into our hotel (La Ermita) and enjoy the sunset as it casts a magnificent light on the mountains and valley below. In the evening, bands often play at the hotel. You can also head in to town around 9 or 10PM to enjoy music at the Polo Montañez Cultural Center. It's a 1km walk, so you will want to rely on taxis to move you in and out of town. *Breakfast and lunch included today.*

Day 5 (Tuesday): Viñales - Havana

Today we will explore Viñales and its environs. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the striking karst landscape of the Viñales Valley is notable for its mogotes, a series of tall, rounded hills that rise abruptly from the flat plain of the valley. It is also significant for its cultural associations, particularly its traditional agricultural practices related to growing tobacco. Because mechanical methods of cultivation and harvesting lower the quality of tobacco, time-honored methods such as animal traction are still used. The lush landscape is largely rural in character. Most of the buildings scattered over the plain are simple, built of local and natural materials and used as homes or family farms. The valley is home to an original culture, a synthesis of contributions from indigenous peoples, Spanish conquerors and African slaves who once worked the tobacco plantations. We have choices this morning. Some of you may opt for a 2-hour horseback ride into the valley. Others may wish to go and explore a frequently visited tourist cave outside of town. The steep walk culminates with a short boat ride on an underground river! Everyone will visit a working farm, and learn about tobacco, coffee, and subsistence farming. After lunch on your own back in town followed by a 2.5 hour bus trip back to Havana. In the evening, we'll have plenty of time to enjoy an intimate concert at La Zorra y El Cuervo, Havana's most famous jazz venue. *Breakfast and dinner included today.*

Day 6 (Wednesday) Havana

Wednesday morning, we will venture into Havana's Old Town (Havana Vieja), where we will guide you through Havana's four main squares (Plaza de Catedral, Plaza de San Francisco, Plaza de Armas, and Plaza Viejo). After our tour, we invite you to wander the old town at your leisure. This is the most photographed part of Havana and is where all the cruise ships come in to dock. You'll want plenty of time to explore this part of town and its shops. Around noon, we will finish the tour and encourage you to find lunch on your own. There are many great restaurants in this area. After lunch, we will take a ride Ernest Hemmingway's house in Cojimar, about 30 minutes outside the center of town. In the evening we will head to the Tropicana, an outdoor night club with 5 stages featuring live music and hundreds of dancers! *Breakfast and dinner included today.*

Day 7 (Thursday): Havana

Today we have choices! Some of you will undoubtedly want to experience the beautiful white sand beaches east of Havana. These pristine

beaches are about 30 minutes east of Havana. Others will opt to visit the home of ceramics artist Jose Fuster about 30 minutes outside of the city center in Jaimanitas. Fusterlandia is magical place, multi-level art complex straight from a Dr. Seuss book. After lunch, we'll tour the Capitolio, the former seat of government and a magnificent building. In the evening, we'll have options, including several music choices. *Breakfast and dinner included today.*

Day 8 (Friday): Havana - Cienfuegos - Trinidad

Today, we board an air-conditioned coach for the start of our two-day excursion to Trinidad de Cuba. Our first stop, about 4 hours into the trip, will be Cienfuegos, known for its beautiful colonial buildings and even more beautiful bay, called by some "the pearl of the South." During our short stay here, we will tour the town center (Parque José Martí) and the Moorish-inspired Palacio de Valle. The Palacio was built in 1917 on a dramatic piece of land that juts into the bay and is comprised of an outrageous jumble of tiles and turrets, crenellated edges and scalloped arches. In the mid-afternoon, we will leave Cienfuegos and make our way to Trinidad, a dramatic drive with towering mountains to our left and ocean views to our right. Trinidad is a beautiful colonial city situated on the edge of the 2nd largest mountain range in Cuba and overlooking the Caribbean. Founded in 1514, it is the third oldest-settlement in Cuba. Full of wonderful restaurants and several music venues (most notably, Casa de Music, Casa de Trova, and El Palenque de Los Congos Reales), everything is easily accessible within 2-4 blocks of our homestays. Music

is audible from our homestays 365 nights a year. Tour participants will have this night to independently explore Trinidad and have dinner at their personally selected restaurants. *Breakfast included today.*

Day 9: Trinidad - Valle de los Ingenios - Trinidad

This morning begins with a tour of Trinidad's beautiful countryside where we learn about Cuba's sugar history, while visiting plantations, mills, and historic mansions. After concluding this tour, we will return to Trinidad where tour participants can independently experience the historic downtown where shopping is abundant, the food is wonderful, and the music is ever-present. For those interested in a different view, for an additional cost, trips to the local beach may be arranged. For those interested in pottery, our local guide will arrange transportation over to the Santander family pottery studio. Here you will be able to see their pottery and (hopefully) see the artists at work. *Breakfast included today.*

Day 10: Trinidad - Santa Clara - Tour Ends

Today we leave Cuba. After breakfast in our homestays, we leave for the Santa Clara airport at 9:00AM. A 2 hour drive, we'll arrive around 11:00, with plenty of time to check in for our 1:30 flight to Fort Lauderdale. Arriving a little after 2:30, be sure to leave plenty of time to clear customs when making your return arrangements. We suggest at least three hours (but cannot be responsible for any costs associated with missed connections due to delays). *Breakfast included today.*

PLEASE NOTE:

The trip costs include roundtrip air transportation from Fort Lauderdale to Cuba. If you wish to meet the group in Havana, you may opt to purchase your own airfare, visa and (if necessary) ground transportation from Havana airport to our homestays. Please inform Ashé Cultural Tours of your desires/plans and we can discount your fee appropriately. In order to fully participate in the first days programming, you should arrive by 11:00AM.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Triple accommodations are not available.

Approximate travel time between Havana and Trinidad is 5 hours. Between Havana and Viñales is 2.5 hours.

Ashé Cultural Tours, LLC, operates the people-to-people program to Cuba under a general license issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and, as dictated by U.S. law, all participants are required to adhere to a full-time schedule of activities designed to inform, educate and promote meaningful interaction with the people of Cuba. You should expect to have limited personal free time. Ashé specifically designs its Cuba itinerary in order to comply with OFAC rules and requirements. Pursuant to such regulations, participants agree to adhere to the full-time program established by Ashé. We reserve the right to make changes to the published itinerary, due to inclement weather, lack of accessibility or other unforeseen circumstances but we will use our best efforts to replace the delayed or canceled people-to-people activity with another qualifying or equivalent activity.

IDENTIFICATION:

Passports are required for this tour at your own expense. Cuba requires a minimum of 6 months passport validity from the date of return home. We recommend that our clients take a photo of their passport and carry it with them, and leave a copy at home with their emergency contact, as well.

CONDITIONS IN CUBA

Cuba is experiencing a shortage of food, medicine, and consumer goods. People with restrictive diets may find it challenging to find the foods that they require or desire. Convenience stores are non-existent. Clients with health concerns should realize that medicine is difficult to obtain, and should plan to bring any prescription and/or OTC medicines they require or desire. This tour requires average physical activity.

You should be in good health, able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances, possible over uneven grounds, broken concrete, and cobblestone streets. *Please note:* Cuba is not ADA compliant and can be difficult to navigate for people with mobility issues.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Whenever possible, Ashé Tours uses homestays rather than hotels. Guests will typically live in Cuban homes, each with 2-4 private rooms. Each room has its own lock, private bathroom, and air conditioning. The rooms are modest, but are clean and secure. Our homestays in Havana are located in a working class neighborhood, just 2 blocks from the ocean and 4 blocks from the edge of the tourist district (Paseo de Martí of Centro Havana). In Trinidad, we generally stay less than 200 meters from the center of tourist activity. In Viñales, we will hopefully stay in a beautiful hotel that overlooks the dramatic valley of Viñales. Again, we emphasize...this is NOT a resort experience.

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