



People to People

Ashé Cultural Tours, LLC
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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 • Hemingway House • 1950s American Classic Convertible Tour

Top Rated Hotels in Miami and Viñales
Homestays in Havana and Trinidad
16 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners, 3 Lunches
Round Trip Airfare from Miami Airport (MIA)
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 air-conditioned Motor-coach
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 are 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

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

10 Days • 16 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners, 3 Lunches

Day 1 (Friday): Make your way to Miami, FL

Make your way to Miami by flying into either FLL or MIA. Around 6PM many of us will head out 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 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 1-2 hour tour of the city! When we return to our homes, our hosts will greet us with a welcome drink and a fantastic home-cooked meal. *Lunch and dinner included today.*

Day 3 (Sunday): Havana

After breakfast, we will enjoy a private salsa class right in our homestay. Our host family will join us for fun and laughs! Afterwards we will head to the world-famous Callejón Hamel, an alley known for its Sunday rumbas and fascinating murals, most of which have been inspired by Afro-Cuban culture and religions. Here we will chat with a representative of painter Salvador González Escalona. We then enjoy lunch at Bicky's, one of Havana's most successful (and delicious) new private restaurants. We will tour Vedado (once a highly affluent neighborhood full of casinos), passing by the University of Havana, Coppelia (an outdoor ice cream shop that fills an entire city block), Havana Libre (where Castro established his first headquarters after the revolution), and La Rampa (the commercial center). Finally, 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. 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, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, 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. We will have a chance to meet with several of the artists and learn about their pro-

cess and inspiration. The region's biggest attraction is its verdant natural surroundings, which are ideal for hiking, relaxing and birdwatching. After spending a few hours with an incredibly knowledgeable local guide, we will enjoy lunch at El Romero, known for its locally grown vegan fare. In the late afternoon, we will continue an additional 2 hours to the mountain town of Viñales, where we will check into our hotel and enjoy the sunset as it casts a magnificent light on the mountains and valley. 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. 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 cave 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 from a local campesano. Lunch on your own back in town will be 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

After breakfast in our homestay, 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). This is the most photographed part of Havana. You'll want plenty of time to explore this part of town and its shops. After lunch on your own in Old Town, we will take a ride to Ernest Hemingway's house in Cojimar, about 30 minutes outside the Havana Center. In the evening, weather permitting, 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

Weather-permitting, we'll visit one of Cuba's beautiful white sand beaches to enjoy its warm aquamarine waters. The pristine beach of Playas de Estes is about 30 minutes east of Havana. We will head over first thing in the morning so we can beat the crowds and get umbrellas and beach chairs. 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 - Cienfuego - 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 explore Trinidad and have dinner at their personally selected restaurants. *Breakfast included today.*

Day 9 (Sunday): 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 to 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 or our local guide can 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 (Sunday): 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 2:30PM in Florida, 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:

Trip costs include round-trip air transportation from Miami 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 available on a first come, first served basis. Triple accommodations are not available.

Trip requires minimum participation of 14 clients. Deposits will be refunded if the minimum is not met by deadline stated on website.

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. 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 have sparsely stocked shelves, making it difficult to obtain most consumer items. 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, possibly 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 and air conditioning. Most have a private bathroom. 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 Cento 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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