

7-day Cuba Sample Itinerary Zephyrus Sailing Charters

Note: Please keep in mind that, though the U.S. does not permit its citizens to travel to Cuba as tourists, it is legally permissible for U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba for people-to-people educational activities exchanges. What does this mean? U.S. citizens are permitted to travel to Cuba provided that an itinerary is determined in advance of departure from the U.S., and that they are accompanied by a sponsor, in this case, Zephyrus Sailing Charters, in executing the itinerary. The prefixed itinerary will allow you, the U.S. traveler, to visit Cuba for the purpose of engaging, while in Cuba, in a full time schedule of activities intended to enhance contact with the Cuban people, resulting in meaningful interaction between the traveler and individuals in Cuba, led by Zephyrus Sailing Charters. The planned activities are educational and engaging with the Cuban people, but you will not escape a great experience exploring this frozen-in-time bygone era that is soon subject to change forever as travel restrictions vanish.

Day 1 Our Cuba people-to-people travel begins when we depart from Key West at 4 PM aboard the S/Y Zephyrus; dinner aboard and unwinding as we sail toward the country stuck in time.

Day 2 Arriving in Cuba about 7 am, we begin by clearing customs, obtaining visas, enjoying a Cuba-inspired beverage in Hemingway Marina, interacting with officials of Cuba and some of the locals where we will be staying. We can catch a ride in a classic car in Havana to take an afternoon walk along the **Malecón**, Havana's seaside thoroughfare. After exploring the art and history on display at the **Hotel Nacional de Cuba**, maybe pick up a book about Cuba's history, then mingle with the locals and enjoy the sunset. For dinner, head to either **La Fontana** or **La Cocina de Lilliam**, two of the city's best *paladares*, which are restaurants in private homes; enjoy interacting with the family. Reservations should be made as soon as we arrive at the dock, because these places book up fast. After dinner, more mingling with the locals at a live jazz performance at **La Zorra y el Cuervo**, jazz Cuba style. The colonial city of Havana is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Day 3 Starting the morning off in **La Habana Vieja**, we will visit the **Plaza de la Catedral**, the **Plaza de Armas**, **Plaza Vieja**, and **Plaza de San Francisco** and then **Museo de la Ciudad** and the **Castillo de la Real Fuerza** to take in the history, architecture, and art of the areas. We can lunch at **La Bodeguita del Medio** and after lunch, head toward **Parque Central** (the heart of Havana in the 1950's and 60's) and visit **El Capitolio** (home to the academy of sciences), and then later, the **Museo de la Revolución**. The afternoon finishes along the outdoor art exhibit that is **Callejón de Hammel** - on Sunday's they have **Sunday rumba sessions**. Then off to the legendary and historic **Tropicana**, detailed in the book "Tropicana Nights", for its Cuban popular culture, dinner and a show; it's one of only six Cuban buildings included in the landmark 1954 Museum of Modern Art exhibit entitled "Latin American Architecture since 1945.

Day 4 From Santa Clara, we'll head to **La Cayería del Norte** (in a rental car or in a classic car taxi), to survey some of the finest beaches in Cuba, stopping for a bit in the tiny, colonial-era town of **Remedios** on the way to visit and shop with local shop owners. The highly protected & pristine ocean ecosystem of Cuba is not to be missed and can only be seen guided and with a mask & snorkel.

Day 5 An organized day tour is the most effective way to experience **Viñales Valley**, where we will see some of Cuba's best natural scenery before visiting a tobacco farm and cigar-rolling facility to learn about the processes and the history of Cuban cigars. We'll also visit the Guayabitas liquor

factory in **Pinar del Río** to learn about rum making from sugar crops to the bottle, then market to table, ending with a quick tour through **La Cueva del Indio** (cave of the Indian, rediscovered in 1920). This jam-packed day tour will still get us back to Havana in time for a dinner at one of the city's in-home *paladares* for another wonderful people to people experience, followed by some local musical artists at **La Zorra y el Cuervo** or the **Jazz Café**, where we'll learn about the life of a musician in Cuba.

Day 6 We pick up a rental car and head for **Cienfuegos**, a bustling port city on the southern coast, with a compact, yet very attractive colonial-era core rich in history. We'll see the old center around **Parque José Martí**, a national monument with historic importance, visiting the **Catedral de la Purísima Concepción** and the **Teatro Tomás Terry** built 1886-89. In the afternoon, head out to the Punta Gorda district to tour the community, then visit the **Palacio del Valle**, built 1913-1917 by local and foreign architects for a wealthy sugar merchant. For dinner, we'll walk downstairs to the dining room or to the basement for the tapas.

Day 7 Departing Havana Cuba at 4 pm, enjoy dinner aboard, relax, and enjoy the sailing.

Day 8 Arrive at Key West & wait offshore for the U.S. Coast Guard to board and release our boat. Immediately upon docking the boat, passengers disembark with luggage and travel to airport to clear customs/immigration.

CUBAN SHORESIDE EXPENSES AT CLIENTS EXPENSE

TRANSPORTATION

Havana Bus Tour – hop on, hop off – more than 60 stops - \$5 each/ per day/ Rt 1, 23 miles round trip/ Rt 2, 40 miles round trip

Scooter - \$24/day

Bicycle - \$12/day

Viazul Bus – all of the big cities - \$10 each/ one way

Car Rental – minivan \$145/day – car \$35-150/day

TOURS

Snorkel with lunch – minimum 6 persons - \$19 each

Tropicana - \$64-90 includes transportation, show, 1 drink, (with dinner higher price)

Seed to Table – guided – 6 hours - \$150 each

Havana City guided walking tour – 3 hours – 8 people - \$125 total

Havana classic car guided tour – all day – 4 people - \$150

Havana minibus guided tour – all day – 6 people/\$40 each, or 8 people/\$35 each

Santa Clara guided tour – includes guide, car, lunch, motorboat - \$65 each

“Real Cuba” guided tour – includes guide, transportation, boat, overnight stay, food – 9 people/\$125 each