CUBA

HAVANA &
THE VIÑALES VALLEY

DEC 6-13, 2024
**ITINERARY**

**Friday, December 6**
**Miami**
Arrive independently and check in to Sonesta Miami Airport. (The hotel night is included in the program cost.)

**Saturday, December 7**
**Miami/Havana, Cuba**
Meet your tour manager and depart on our recommended morning flight to Havana. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and transfer to the Grand Aston Hotel Havana for a light lunch. Before dinner enjoy a demonstrative lecture on Cuban music history by Alberto Faya, a Cuban radio and TV personality and one of the most successful guitarists and composers of his generation. Savor a welcome dinner of traditional Cuban cuisine. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, December 8**
**Havana**
Today we tour Old Havana, including the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza de San Francisco (with buildings dating from the 18th century) and the Plaza Vieja, the oldest in Havana, dating from the 16th century. Enjoy a cultural exchange at the Taller de Grafica Experimental, Havana’s printmaking and lithographic workshop. Visit the Museum of Cuban Art with an art historian and curator. The museum is dedicated exclusively to Cuban art. Tonight we have dinner at El Cocinero, located in the ruins of an old oil factory and decorated by the work of independent Cuban artists Damian Aquilez and Arles del Rio. Then visit the nearby FAC, the Fabrica de Arte Cubano (Factory of Art). (B,L,D)

**Monday, December 9**
**Havana**
Hear a lecture on Cuban history and economics by award-winning journalist Cristina Escobar, who covered the historic visit of President Obama. Experience Finca Vigia, home of American writer Ernest Hemingway for two decades. He bought the house in 1939 and it was opened as a museum in 1964. Continue to the whimsical home of artist José Fuster, who has made a major contribution to rebuilding and decorating the fishing town of Jaimanitas on the outskirts of Havana. Then meet art curator and entrepreneur Sandra Borges (one of the country’s most recognized art and design experts) who will introduce us to local artists. (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, December 10**
**Viñales Valley/Havana**
Considered by many the most beautiful place in the island, the Viñales Valley National Monument holds stunning landscapes. The area is also famous for being the premier tobacco growing area in the world. Upon arriving in Viñales, we visit a sorting house and the family farm of Concha and Paco Hernandez. A member of the family will give us a tour of their 40-acre farm that grows of a multitude of fruits, vegetables, grain and tobacco. Enjoy a true farm-to-table lunch. Then take a short walking tour of the small town of Viñales including the Viñales Art Market. Return to Havana for dinner on your own. (B,L)

**Wednesday, December 11**
**Havana**
Hear a lecture from Martha Deus, a leader in the private entrepreneurial movement in Cuba. Experience the studio space of multi-awarded Cuban choreographer Rosario Cardenas. Meet the dancers and enjoy an educational exchange. We then visit a local bodega (grocery store) to learn about how locals receive their monthly products. Then stop at the Hotel Nacional, designed by New York Architectural firm McKim, Mead and White and developed by Purdy and Henderson. It includes a mix of styles including Sevillian, Roman, Moorish and Art Deco. Return to the hotel for dinner on your own. (B,L)

**Thursday, December 12**
**Havana**
Hear a lecture from Lecture by Rafael M. Hernandez. Rafael is a lawyer, historian, author, and editor of Temas, a Cuban quarterly in the field of social sciences and humanities. Then depart for a panoramic architectural tour of Vedado neighborhood. Visit the monumental Christopher Columbus Cemetery, this elaborate massive necropolis covers nearly 8% of the City of Havana, and contains and endless sea of poignant memorials, architectural jewels. Stop by the Plaza de La Revolucion, the center of political and cultural life of the country, and landmark of the city. Our farewell dinner is at La Guarida, one of the best paladares in Havana. It is housed on the third floor of a large, old town house carrying the charming ambiance of the 1920s. (B,L,D)

**Friday, December 13**
**Havana/U.S.**
Transfer to the airport for flights home.

*Itinerary is subject to change*
WHAT TO EXPECT

Travelers must be in overall good health and with good mobility in order to enjoy this program fully. There is considerable walking over uneven terrain and old city streets throughout the tour. Many places have stairs without handrails. In addition, many buildings do not have elevators, or the elevators may not be functioning. Restaurants in private homes often require walking up several flights of stairs. This is a busy program, with many activities. We are sure you will enjoy the trip, but want you to be aware of the physical requirements and pace.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES:
December 6-13, 2024

GROUP SIZE:
Pricing is based on a minimum of 15 travelers and a maximum of 25

COST:
$5,650, per person, based on double occupancy; $6,595 single occupancy

INCLUDED:
Included: 7 nights accommodation (1 night Miami, 6 nights Havana); meals as listed in itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch and D=dinner); Includes at least one beverage: water, beer, mojito, or soft drink.; Wine with welcome and farewell dinners; airport transfers for recommended flights; bottled water; air conditioned bus throughout the trip; admission to all museums and public buildings listed in itinerary; speaker fees and conference room rentals; professional tour manager throughout; Commonwealth Club World Affairs tour representative with 15 travelers; gratuities for all group activities – including meals, baggage handling, bus driver, and local Cuban guide; Cuban Tourist Visa; Compliance with US Treasury Department.

NOT INCLUDED:
Airfare to Miami; airline baggage fees; meals and beverages other than listed on itinerary; individualized hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, internet); personal activities and additional gratuities.

Terms and Conditions:

Reservations: A $1,000 per person deposit, along with a completed and signed Reservation Form, will reserve a place for participants on this program. The balance of the trip is due 90 days prior to departure and must be paid by check.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- 91 days or more prior to departure: $500 per person
- 90-60 days to departure: $1,000 deposit
- 59-1 days prior to departure: 100% fare

Tour can also be cancelled due to low enrollment. Commonwealth Club World Affairs does not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour.

Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance: We strongly advise that all travelers purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance as coverage against a covered unforeseen emergency that may force you to cancel or leave trip while it is in progress. A brochure describing coverage will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

Medical Information: Participation in this program requires that you be in good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

Itinerary Changes & Trip Delay: Itinerary is based on information available at the time of printing and is subject to change. We reserve the right to change a program’s dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. If a trip must be delayed, or the itinerary changed, due to bad weather, road conditions, transportation delays, airline schedules, government intervention, sickness or other contingency for which Commonwealth Club World Affairs or its agents cannot make provision, the cost of delays or changes is not included.

Limitations of Liability: Commonwealth Club World Affairs and Owners, Agents, and Employees act only as the agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with this program (“other providers”), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. Commonwealth Club World Affairs shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider, and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against CWC for any such loss, damage, injury, or death. By registering for the trip, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. Commonwealth Club World Affairs shall not be liable for any air carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the traveler. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.
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**PAYMENT:**

- Here is my deposit of $______ ($1,000 per person) for ___ place(s).
- ___ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Commonwealth Club World Affairs).
- OR
  - ___ Charge my deposit to my ___ Visa   ___ MasterCard   ___ AMEX

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Authorized Cardholder Signature: ____________________________

After receipt of your deposit, a confirmation packet will be sent with several forms for you to complete. **Final payment must be paid by check** and is due 90 days prior to departure.

**Tour Conditions:** (It is required that you initial in following three spaces and sign below)

- ____ Travel to Cuba under the General License category requires that everyone must participate in our scheduled activities. Therefore, I intend to comply with this Office of Foreign Assets Control requirement and attend the scheduled activities.
- ____ We require membership to Commonwealth Club World Affairs to travel with us. Please check one of the following options: I am a current member of Commonwealth Club World Affairs. Please renew my membership with the credit card information provided here. I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.
- ____ I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for this program and agree to them.

Signature: ____________________________

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:**

Commonwealth Club Travel
110 The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105