

Colonial Cities of CUBA

Featuring Camagüey, Trinidad, Cienfuegos & Havana



Referred by:

The W&L Traveller

9 days **April 5-13, 2014**

WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY





Day 1: Arrive Miami

Arrive in Miami and transfer on your own to your Miami airport hotel. This evening an Informational Briefing will be held at the hotel about the day 2 charter flight to Havana and the start of your people to people experience to Cuba. The evening is at leisure. **Overnight: Miami**

Day 2: Miami - Flight to Camagüey Cuba

Early this morning transfer to the Miami International Airport and check in for your flight to **Camagüey**, Cuba's third-largest city. Upon arrival, clear custom's and meet your professional bilingual Cuban guide. Enjoy a walking tour of **Camagüey** and the city's beautifully restored plazas and explain why it is nicknamed the "City of Squares." One of the first seven villages founded by the Spaniards and declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. After lunch at a local restaurant, join in a discussion with local artists about the inspirations for their work, importance to the community, and how art motivates people. Over dinner, enjoy traditional Flamenco dance and music brought to Cuba by Spanish settlers. Afterward, meet members from the **American Car Association** and enjoy a ride in an old classic American car.

Overnight: Camagüey Meals: (L,D)

Day 3: Camaguey - King Ranch

Today, meet the dancers of the world-renowned **Camagüey Ballet Company**, which has performed in over 40 countries. You'll have a chance to meet and interact with the dancers, teachers and costume makers as well. Next travel to **King Ranch**, an expansion of the famous ranch of the same name in Texas, and its neighboring village, including stepping inside a rural home and school to discuss rural life and education. Then, over a barbecue lunch, an opportunity to interact with the cowboys who call the ranch home. Stop at **Casanova Pottery Studio** to learn about Camagüey's famous *tinajones*, large red pots found outside homes, the symbol of the city. See the traditional way of making them and interact with the artists to learn about the this local process.

Overnight: Camaguey Meals: (B, L)

Day 4: Camaguay - Trinidad - Cienfuegos

Travel to **Trinidad**, the crown jewel of Cuba's colonial cities, founded in 1514 and today a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and charmingly pre-



served. Explore the **Valle de los Ingenios** (Valley of the Sugar Mills). This lush and picturesque valley was once the center of the sugar trade industry and home to Old World haciendas. Stop at the **Manaca-Iznaga Lookout Tower** offering panoramic views of the countryside and try some fresh sugar cane juice. Meet with local community members while here. Next enjoy a walking tour of **Trinidad**, a cobblestone showcase of colonial architecture and pastel-colored houses decorated with wooden shutters and wrought-iron grilles. Caged songbirds outside the home is a Trinidad tradition that is still prevalent today. Interact with the librarian at the local library, built from the estate of an American woman in the early 1900s, and learn about the library system in Cuba and how the facilities are supported. Trinidad is well-known for its pottery. We'll meet a family of potters, who have been passing on the tradition for generations, visit their studio and enjoy a pottery demonstration. Depart Trinidad later this afternoon and arrive in **Cienfuegos** for a two night stay. Dinner is included this evening.

Overnight: Cienfuegos Meals: (B,L,D)

Day 5: Cienfuegos

Cienfuegos was settled by French immigrants more than 150 years ago, and is often referred to as the "Pearl of the South" because of its impressive beauty and colorful history. Enjoy a panoramic overview of its Old Town, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and a fine example of the architecture of 18th century Cuba. Meet with a local historian to learn about the history of the beautiful **Thomas Terry Theatre**, built in 1889 by Leno Sanchez Marmol and completely in its original state adorned with incredible painted frescoes on the ceiling. Next enjoy a performance by the local **Cienfuegos Choir or Orchestra** and an opportunity to meet and interact with them to learn more about the musical history of this choir group and the music culture. Next, an opportunity to engage with tobacco rollers at a **cigar factory** and to learn about the importance of tobacco, both culturally and commercially, for Cuba.

Overnight: Cienfuegos Meals: (B,L,D)

Day 6: Cienfuegos - Playa Giron - Bay of Pigs - Havana

Today we travel through the countryside, passing banana plantations and sugar cane fields. We'll make a brief stop in the town of **Playa Girón** for a guided visit of the **Bay of Pigs Museum**, housed in an old sugar mill and used by Fidel Castro as his center of operations during the 1961 invasion. We'll see many historical artifacts, including a Sea Fury fighter aircraft, photos, and maps which outline each step of the failed plan. Over lunch, join in a lecture and discussion with a local Naturalist. Travel along the Cuban National Highway and arrive in **Havana**, Cuba's vibrant capital city later this afternoon. A stop is made in the charming fishing village of Jaimanitas to visit the incredible home and work shop of world famous artist, painter and ceramicist, **Jose Fuster**, often called the "Picasso of Cuba". He has adorned dozens of houses with colorful ornate mozaic murals and domes. Here we spend time with the Fuster family and staff as well as the local residents of the town to discuss the influence of the artist's work and their lives and community. Check into your hotel for a **three night stay**. The evening is free to enjoy dinner on your own or relax at the hotel.

Overnight: Havana Meals: (B,L)



Highlights & Experiences:

- Camaguay (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- King Ranch
- Camagüey Ballet Company
- Casanova Pottery Studio
- Trinidad (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Thomas Terry Theatre
- Cienfuegos (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Cienfuegos Choir or Orchestra
- Cigar Factory Visit
- Playa Giron - Bay of Pigs Museum
- Old Havana (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Hemingway's Farm - Finca La Vigia
- Tour Home & Studio of Artist Jose Fuster
- Colon Cemetery
- Museum of the Revolution
- Plaza of the Revolution
- Cuban Institute of Music

Day 7: Havana

Make a stop and learn more about the **Plaza of the Revolution**, the center of Cuban political life and Havana's largest plaza where huge rallies are held. Your guide speaks below the grandiose portraits of national heroes Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, and gives you time to reflect on the fact that you're standing where millions of Cubans have stood while listening to speeches of Fidel Castro. Next visit the Marqueta Vieja Havana Museum that houses the scale model of the City of Havana and meet with an expert on the city's architecture and restoration efforts. Enjoy a guided **walking tour** of pedestrian only **Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. See the beautiful Cathedral de la Havana, built in baroque style in 1748 and learn about its preservation and continuous restoration. Cuban writer Alejo Carpentier described the building as "music turned to stone." Next tour the famous **Museum of the Revolution** that displays documents and artifacts, weapons and planes from the revolution. See artifacts & learn more about the Bay of Pigs, the 1961 historic clash that defined US-Cuba relations for decades. The museum is housed in the former Presidential Palace which was the home to Cuba's leaders until 1959. Next visit the **San Jose Craft Market and Art Center** to meet and interact with the local artists to discuss and learn of the importance of their art in Cuban culture. Learn from the artists who share their experiences of pursuing the arts with limited access to materials and funding.

Overnight: Havana Meals: (B,L)

Day 8: Havana

Religion has always played an important role in Cuban society that continues today. This morning enjoy a walking tour with a local historian of the fascinating **Colon Cemetery** (Cementerio de Cristobal Colon), founded in 1876 and named for Christopher Columbus. The cemetery is noted for its many elaborate sculpted memorials and contains more than 500 major mausoleums, chapels and family vaults and is considered by many to be the most ornate necropolis in the world and is the final resting place for noted Cubans including artists, writers, musicians and ballplayers. Today enjoy a choir performance and participate in a discussion with choir members from the **Cuban Institute of Music** and their director. Next enter the world of Ernest Hemingway with a visit to **Hemingway's Farm, Finca La Vigia** (meaning 'lookout house'). This beautiful property hosts the house where the Nobel Prize winner lived with his wife Martha for 21 years. View the perfectly preserved home where many of the Hemingway personal belongings remain intact. View his yacht on display, the Pilar in which he used to patrol for Nazis in the Caribbean waters and featured in his novel "Islands in the Stream". Before dinner, meet a **former Cuban baseball player** and join in a discussion regarding the history and the love of this favorite pastime in Cuba and in the U.S. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

Overnight: Havana Meals: (B,L,D)

Day 9: Depart Havana - USA

After breakfast, depart for the airport and your return flight to Miami with memories of the **Colonial Cities of Cuba**.

Meals: (B)

Chamber Explorations has been issued a specific license by The Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which authorizes registered guests of our programs to visit Cuba legally. There are no applications to complete, and your travel with us is fully authorized. Prior to departure, you will receive a copy of our Specific License and a Letter of Authorization which legalizes your travel to Cuba. This itinerary provides a full time schedule of activities that result in meaningful exchanges through people-to-people contact. U.S. law requires all travelers joining this program adhere to the full time schedule and imposes on us the responsibility to ensure such observance.

Inclusions:

- Round Trip Airfare from Miami, FL (MIA)
- U.S. Air Departure Taxes/Fees
- Hotel & Airport Transfers In Cuba
- 8 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- Professional Bilingual Cuban Tour Guide
- Tour Manager
- Cuban Travel Visa & Cuban Health Insurance
- 18 Meals - (7 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 4 Dinners)
- Interactions & Admissions per Itinerary.
- Baggage Handling - (1 Checked Bag per person)
- Transportation by Deluxe Air Conditioned Motorcoach
- Daily Bottled Water
- Gratuities for Hotel Porters, Wait Staff at included Meals, Step on Guides and All People to People Visits & Interactions

Accommodations:

- 1 Night Miami Airport Hilton or Sheraton Miami Airport Hotel
- 2 Nights Gran Hotel, Camaguey
- 2 Nights Jagua Hotel, Cienfuegos
- 3 Nights Melia Havana Hotel, Havana

Flights, Hotels, Itinerary, Inclusions and people to people visits are subject to change.

Program Rates:

\$3,995 per person/double
\$550 single supplement

COLONIAL CITIES OF CUBA RESERVATION FORM:**APRIL 5-13, 2014 / BOOKING #77907***Please submit names exactly as they appear on passports:***TSA SECURE FLIGHT REQUIREMENT**

Passport Name: _____	Date of Birth _____	Gender _____
Passport Number: _____	(MM/DD/YY) _____	M F
Date of Issuance: _____	Expiration Date: _____	
Roommate's Passport Name: _____	Date of Birth _____	Gender _____
Passport Number: _____	(MM/DD/YY) _____	M F
Date of Issuance: _____	Expiration Date: _____	
Your Address _____		
City _____	State _____	ZIP _____
Email Address: _____		
CONTACT PHONE # _____	EMERGENCY CONTACT: (Name/Phone #) _____	

PAYMENT INFORMATION:*A Passport copy is due with payment and this reservation form.*

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DEPOSIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ (\$500 PER PERSON) TO SECURE RESERVATIONS FOR _____ # OF PEOPLE. RESERVATIONS ARE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. PLEASE SIGN UP EARLY TO SECURE YOUR SEAT.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHAMBER EXPLORATIONS

(FOR PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD CHECK ONE:) VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ DISCOVER _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

AMOUNT \$ _____ SIGNATURE _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

REFERRED BY:

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Lexington, VA 24450

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MAIL OR FAX COMPLETED RESERVATION FORM**PASSPORT INFORMATION:** A valid U.S. passport is required for this program and is the responsibility of each passenger. Passports should be valid for up to six (6) months beyond the travel dates. All names must be submitted on reservation form above must be exactly as they appear on passenger passports.**STANDARD CUBAN TRAVEL VISA** is **INCLUDED** (\$75 per person) and is required for travel to Cuba and applies to United States citizens only. In order to process your Standard Cuban Travel Visa & Air Charter Service, several forms will be required with or prior to your final payment deadline. These forms include Charter Air Reservation Form & Travel Affidavit and will be sent to you prior to Final Payment Deadline. Cuban born passengers require a different Visa process which can take from 2-3 months to complete. (additional charges apply)**INCLUDED U.S. AIR DEPARTURE TAXES/FEES** are approximately \$58 per person and are **INCLUDED** in the price of your program.(subject to change)**CHARTER FLIGHT BAGGAGE FEES** are not included and must be paid in cash at the airport. At time of printing, MIA-HAV bag fee was \$25 (up to 44lbs.) and there was currently no bag fee from Havana to Miami. (subject to change)**INCLUDED CUBAN MEDICAL INSURANCE:** Since 2010, the Cuban government requires that all travelers to Cuba must have medical insurance under an approved plan. This medical insurance is **INCLUDED** in the program price. Some pre-existing conditions are excluded.**CUBAN AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAXES** are approximately \$35 U.S. (25 CUC-local currency) and **NOT INCLUDED** and can only be paid in cash at the airport in Cuba upon departure.**CANCELLATION INSURANCE AND TRAVEL PROTECTION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.** Please contact Washington & Lee University Office of Special Programs for detailed information.**CANCELLATION FEES:** Cancellations are subject to the following per person penalties / fees:

Cancel up to 75 days prior to departure - \$250 per person is retained

Cancel 74-45 days prior to departure - 25% of total price is retained.

Cancel 44-31 days prior to departure - 50% of total price is retained.

Cancel 30 days or less prior to departure/no shows - No refunds.

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