

CUBAN WINGS

CUBA 360°

tour operator



Day 1 ARRIVAL - HAVANA

Welcome to Cuba! A member of Cuba 360 will pick you up at the airport, look for our logo with your name on it (or the name of the person in your party who booked the holiday). Next, you will be transferred to your accommodation.

Day 2 SAN DIEGO DE LOS BAÑOS

After breakfast, depart to San Diego de Los Baños, a small town in Pinar del Rio province, 90 min west of Havana. Some stops will be made on the way for birding opportunities. In the area around San Diego, we can find more than 100 species of birds, with a high percentage of endemics.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Cuban Solitaire, Olive-capped Warbler, Giant Kingbird, Fernandina's Flicker, Scaly-napped Pigeon, Cuban Grassquit, Cuban Pygmy Owl, Gundlach's Hawk, Stygian Owl.

Day 3 VIÑALES

Depart to Viñales Valley, one of Cuba's most magnificent natural settings, surrounded by steep-sided limestone "mogotes". Known for its fertile soil, which along with its natural micro-climate, make the land suitable to grow some of the finest tobacco in Cuba, hence, the world.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Cuban Solitaire, Olive-capped Warbler, Scaly-napped Pigeon, Cuban Grassquit, Cuban Pygmy Owl and Gundlach's Hawk.

Day 4 LAS TERRAZAS - ZAPATA SWAMP

Our first stop of the day is Las Terrazas, a small community and biosphere reserve hidden by the Sierra del Rosario mountains.



MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Stygian Owl, Cuban Grassquit and some endemics like: Fernandina's Flicker and Cuban Pygmy Owl.

Zapata Swamp is, undoubtedly, the best bird watching area in Cuba, and possibly the entire Caribbean region. It supports all but three of Cuba's 23 avian endemics, as well as many other native species, both winter residents and transients, along with several summer and spring visitors (which breed in Cuba but return south in fall). Over 270 species have been reported in the area.

Day 5 LA TURBA (ZAPATA SWAMP)

Depart for La Turba. This is a marsh habitat. We'll be visiting the Bee Hummingbird's House, a privately run and small refuge where we'll have the best chances to encounter the endemic specie, the smallest bird in the world. We'll find some other species of warblers. We'll also have a walk around Soplillar, a unique trail where we'll be spotting Cuban Nightjars, Bared Legged Owl, Fernandina's Flicker and Stygian Owl.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Zapata Wren, Bee Hummingbird, Zapata Sparrow, Cuban Nightjar, Bared Legged Owl and Red-shouldered Blackbird.

Day 6 LA SALINA (ZAPATA SWAMP)

Birding in La Salina in Zapata. This area has ideal feeding conditions for many waterbirds (flamingos, egrets, ducks, shorebirds), which come to feast on the fishes, crustaceans, and other invertebrates. Lunch at our lodging place. After 3:30 pm, depart to the field again, to search for any missing endemic species and to obtain better views of the birds.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Cuban Black Hawk, Pink Flamingo, Yellow Warbler, Wood Stork, Roseate Spoonbill and many other species of shore birds.

Day 7 BERMEJA (ZAPATA SWAMP)

Depart to Bermeja (a fauna refuge with National Significance), an open area with royal and cabbage palms, brush, and shrubbery, 7 miles (12 km) north of Playa Girón. Bermeja has one of the largest number of endemic birds per square mile in the world.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Fernandina's Flicker, Cuba's two endemic owls (Cuban Pygmy-Owl and Bare-legged Owl), Cuban Nightjar, Bee Hummingbird, Cuban Parakeet, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Tody.

Day 8 TRINIDAD

Depart to Trinidad, birding along the way.

Our first stop will be at Cienfuegos's Botanical Garden, a great



opportunity to spot one of Cuba's endemic birds: The Gundlach's Hawk.

Trinidad is the 3rd oldest city in Cuba, founded by the Spanish crown in 1514. Perfectly preserved, with its cobblestone streets, Trinidad is one of the liveliest places in Cuba, with live music being played in the evenings on almost every corner.

Day 9 CAMAGUEY

Birding in the morning. **DEPART TO CAMAGUEY IN THE AFTERNOON.** Welcome to the maze! Camaguey (originally named Puerto Principe) was the 4th village founded by the Spanish crown on the southern coast of the region where it's settled now. It was relocated in 1528, after some native rebellions and pirate attacks, being the last the reason why the city was designed like a maze, in order to confuse the attackers.

Day 10 NAJASA - MORON

Depart to Najasa, a biosphere reserve. Among the birds that can be observed in the area are: Plain Pigeon, Palm Crow, Cuban Parrot, and many endemics, including the elusive Gundlach's Hawk. **AFTER LUNCH, DEPART FOR CONTINUE TO MORON.**

Moron, a small town founded in the first half of the 16th century that stills preserves buildings that match its age. Moron is only 30 miles away from Cayo Coco, which makes it the perfect base to for our birdwatching adventure in the area.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Plain Pigeon, Palm Crow, Cuban Parrot and Gundlach's Hawk.

Day 11 CAYO COCO

Cayo Coco is the second-largest key in Cuba (recently connected to the mainland by a rock-fill road). It's mostly covered by semideciduous forests; there are also mangroves, coastal shrub, patches of grass, and lagoons. A total of over 200 species has been reported, including many Cuban rarities with several new birds to add to our list: Cuban Gnatcatcher, a race of Zapata Sparrow, and Oriente Warbler. Also, other birds will be sought, including Western Spindalis and Cuban Bullfinch. There are many waders and one of the largest populations of American Flamingo in the Caribbean. In fall Merlin and Peregrine Falcon are not uncommon.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Cuban Gnatcatcher, a race of Zapata Sparrow, Piping Plover, Key West Quail-Dove and Oriente Warbler.

Day 12 CAYO GUILLERMO

Birding around Cayo Guillermo. The main habitats of this key are sandy-coast vegetation and mangroves. Well over 100 species have been reported in the area, including Thick-billed



Vireo (a described endemic subspecies cubensis) and Bahama Mockingbird (very rare in this area), among them.

MAIN TARGETS IN THE AREA:

Thick-billed Vireo, Bahama Mockingbird, Mangrove Cuckoo, Cuban Gnatcatcher, Clapper Rail and West Indian Whistling Duck.

DAY 13 HAVANA

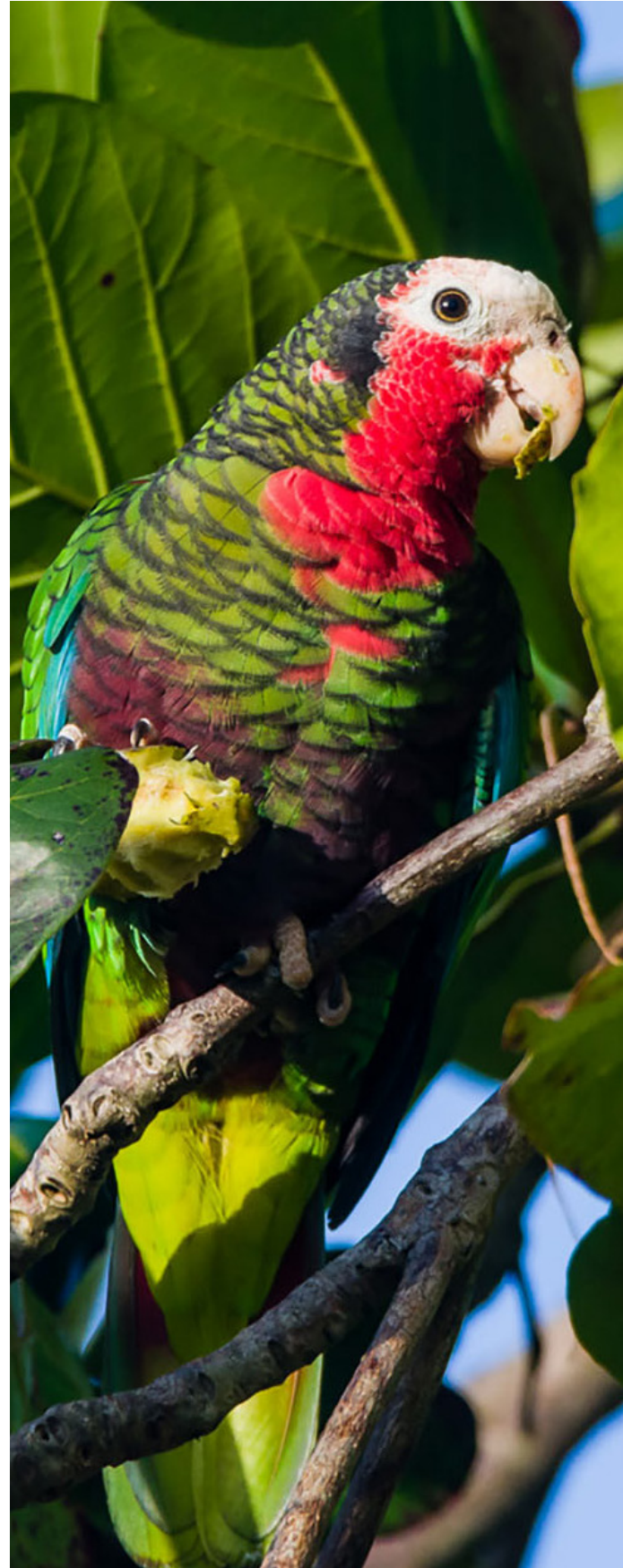
Travel day! Let's make our way back to Havana, with stops for birding along the way.

DAY 14 HAVANA

Take a walking tour around the heart of Cuba, Old Havana. Discover the magic that hides in every corner of this audacious city. More than 500 years of history make this the perfect place to unleash your curiosity. Hundreds of buildings from the 19th, 18th, 17th, and even 16th centuries spread around the narrow streets of this romantic city. Walk around this open air museum and delight yourself with the infinity of amazing views that go around in every direction, making impossible not to look and try to capture the moment with your camera. Wander around all the main squares, all of them with their own special places you shouldn't miss. Also, have a look at the majestic cathedral that stands as an icon of the city, its history and architecture. Discover iconic places like the National Capitol, the Paseo del Prado, the Floridita, La Bodeguita del Medio, the Parque Central, etc.

Jump in a convertible car and explore the more modern parts of the city. Drive through different neighborhoods and discover the highlights of Vedado and Center Havana. Have a look at the Revolution Square, where Fidel Castro used to give endless speeches in front of thousands of his supporters. Drive by the Colon Cemetery, one of the biggest and most important in the world. Enjoy the breeze at El Malecon, Havana's evocative 7km-long sea drive, a favored meeting place for assorted lovers, philosophers, poets, traveling minstrels, fishers and wistful Florida-gazers. Some of the landmarks we'll see include the American Embassy, the Hotel Nacional, Havana's Forest and many more.

Wander along the Callejon de Hamel, Havana's high temple of Afro-Cuban culture. A whole street full of mural paintings and shrines. The project started back in the 90's, when artist Salvador Gonzalez decided to repair the deteriorated facades of houses in the alley and covered them with murals related to the Afro-Cuban syncretism. Sunday is the best day to visit it, since it's when the alley shows its true spirit. That day, the neighbors, dressed up as ancient gods of Yoruba Pantheon, Orishas, welcome visitors and drums go aloud. Adventure into west-



ern Havana and discover Fusterlandia, a huge tilework masterpiece built by local artist Jose Fuster over the last 20 years. If Gaudí reincarnates and decides to go for a tropical spin, this is it. Fuster's work has covered several suburban blocks with whimsical but highly stylized public art. The centerpiece is the artist's own house, which you can explore as you check on the different galleries where some of his art is sold, including ceramic tiles and paintings.

DAY 15 HAVANA - DEPARTURE

Transfer to Havana's International airport. It's time to say goodbye to Cuba, at least for now. It's sad to see you go back to your country, but this adventure together has come to an end. We hope to see you again in our country, until then:

TAKE CARE, WE'LL MISS YOU.

