

HAVANA JAZZ FESTIVAL

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.

THERE ARE SEVERAL OPTIONS OF PLACES TO CHECK OUT DURING THE EVENINGS. AFTER ALL, HAVANA'S NIGHTLIFE IS AS UNIQUE AS ITS CULTURE AND HISTORY. WE'LL BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE SOME OF THEM FOR YOU IF YOU WANT US TO. HERE ARE SOME OF THE OPTIONS:

- Visit the Cuban Art Factory (or FAC as locals call it), a space that joins together good drinks with some of the best Cuban contemporary art (Photography, Sculpture, Interior Design, Fashion, Painting, Music, Film, Theatre, etc.). The Cuban Art Factory only opens on weekends and sometimes closes for special events that happen in Havana.
- Head to San Carlos de La Cabaña fortress and witness the Cannon Shot Ceremony, a unique and picturesque show that has been happening every night for the last 300 years.
- Enjoy a unique show at world-famous Tropicana Cabaret, one of the few bastions of Havana's Las Vegas-style nightlife to survive the revolution.

Day 2 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.

EVENING:

Your guide will keep you posted on the schedule of the Jazz Festival so that you decide the best venues to attend. Also, do keep your VIP ACCESS Jazz Pass at hand to make sure you have complete access to concerts and music events. Since there are several different venues with very diverse options, you are free to choose which ones to attend. Transportation to the venues IS NOT INCLUDED.

Day 3 DAY TRIP TO VIÑALES

Discover Viñales Valley, one of Cuba's most magnificent natural settings. 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. Our first stop will be at Los Jazmines, a lookout point from where you can enjoy the beauty of Viñales's landscape. Later, we'll visit the Prehistoric Mural, stunning wall painting on the side of a mountain, and the Indian Cave with a boat trip through a subterranean section of the San Juan river. We'll enjoy lunch at one of the local restaurants, where traditional dishes are made with ingredients that go straight from the farm to the table. After lunch, we'll visit one of the local tobacco plantations where farmers will explain the process of (artisanal) cigar production. This visit is a great opportunity to witness how people live in the countryside, and the good impact tourism makes in their lives.

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Day 4 HAVANA

Adventure into western 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.

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.

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Day 5 HAVANA

Explore Finca Vigía, a villa on a hill in San Francisco de Paula, 15km southeast of Havana, where the American writer Ernest Hemingway lived continuously for 20 years. When he departed for the US in 1960 soon after Fidel Castro's revolution, he generously donated his house to the 'Cuban people.' It is now a museum and almost unchanged since the day Hemingway left. In the heavily wooded grounds below the house, you'll encounter the swimming pool where Ava Gardner once swam naked, a cockfighting ring and Hemingway's beloved fishing boat, Pilar, grounded on what was once his tennis court.

Next, we'll show you one of our favorite spots in the whole city, a rooftop terrace in Old Havana. Here, you'll learn how to make a mojito and a canchanchara, two classic Cuban cocktails. There are non-alcoholic options as well. You'll be able prepare your own and you can drink as many as you like.

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Day 6 HAVANA

Learn about the Rum production in Cuba with a visit to Havana Club's Rum Museum. The evolution and history of the whole process will be explained to you in a guided visit, which includes a tasting of a seven-year-old añejo (aged rum) at the end of the tour, along with the opportunity to buy some of the precious liquid.

Let's have a look at one of Havana's oldest and most famous cigar businesses, the Real Fábrica de Tabacos Partagás was founded in 1845 by Spaniard Jaime Partagás. It was built in response to the increase in demand this industry experienced during the second half of the 19th century. Specializing in full-bodied cigars, today some 400 workers toil for up to 12 hours a day in here rolling such famous cigars as Montecristos and Cohibas. In your visit, you'll learn about the long and re-fined process of cigar manufacturing.

Dive into San Jose, this former harbor-side warehouse was built in 1885 and is considered the oldest depository in Old Havana. Nowadays the largest handicraft market on the island, Havana's artisans have here an ideal place in which to exhibit and sell their items, mostly functional yet beautiful accessories in the form of handbags, wallets, shoes, sandals and belts; costume jewelry; toys; masks; and ornamental items made of papier-mâché; paintings, sculptures and ceramic items; clothes; humidors and Afro-Cuban percussion instruments, among others. Don't forget to look out for guayaberas, the traditional Cuban men's loose linen shirt. The Center also has a National Patrimony Office that issues the necessary certifications for exporting certain items, such as artwork.

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Day 7 HAVANA - DEPARTURE

Transfer to Havana's International airport. It's time to say good-bye 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.

