

CLASSIC CUBA
SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE
LED BY: LYNN WHITELAW

Dates: Feb 18-23, 2021

\$2629.00 PP DOUBLE



We are pleased to offer you an exceptional opportunity to visit Cuba, a subject of mystery and culture yourself on a remarkable 6-day exploration. In this classic cultural exchange, you will discover Cuba through the resource that has kept the country vibrant through decades of political strife and isolation from the world: The Cuban people. Advancing cultural discovery and exploration and Support for the Cuban People is the focus for participants of this amazing tour. This group tour will not only visit some of the most important sites and venues, we will be supporting the Cuban People by dining in private paladars (restaurants), supporting private businesses and staying in accommodations consistent with the State Departments list. We will bring donations of hand-made dresses and hand-knit infant hats that are donated by a ladies group from a local church. We hope that you will join us special and meaningful visit to Cuba. This group will be led by Lynn Whitelaw, one of our Cuba tour experts.



Some of your Program Highlights:

- ◆ NON STOP AIRFARE TO HAVANA FROM TAMPA (pending)
 - ◆ 3 NITES HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS /INGLATERRA HOTEL◆2 NITES / MOKA HOTEL
 - ◆ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER DAILY (except one dinner)
 - ◆ REVOLUTIONARY MUSEUM ◆ HISTORIC CANNON SHOT CEREMONY
 - ◆ NATIONAL FINE ARTS MUSEUM, CUBAN COLLECTION
 - ◆ PINAR DEL RIO- INDIAN CAVES- BOAT RIDE◆ BENITO'S TOBACCO FARM
 - ◆ HEMINGWAY'S HOME ◆ LAS TERRAZAS BIOSPHERE
 - ◆ UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES ◆ FINCA MARTA
 - ◆ TROPICANA EVENING SHOW
 - ◆ TOUR OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING ◆ NACIONAL HOTEL/HALL OF FAME
- and SO MUCH MORE

Day 1 FEB 18TH - L, D

Group members meet at the Tampa Airport Marriott lobby no later than 4:45am for the 7:00am departure. Arrive Havana at 8:30am. Upon arrival in Havana, pass through customs, claim baggage, board private motor coach. Panoramic Tour of **Revolutionary Square** and a great time for photo-ops. We will see the University of Havana, the U.S. Embassy, the famous **Malecon, El Morro Castle, the Statue of Jesus** and more. Lunch will be at an interesting community project called **AMOS** where Ramos Batista shares his love of photography with needy children. Lecture and slide show with lunch. Hotel Check-in after lunch, **INGLATERRA HOTEL**.

HOTEL INGLATERRA: Located in Old Havana-Hotel Inglaterra is of the 4-star category, and is one of the most classic and historic hotels in Havana. Hotel Inglaterra is very well-located in Old Havana within walking distance to museums, restaurants, shops and best tourist establishments of the island of Cuba. It is located in Paseo del Prado Ave. #416 between San Rafael and San Miguel Street, Old Havana, City of Havana, Cuba.



Dinner this evening at Mediterraneo, a wonderful-private paladar. After dinner will experience the “CANONAZO A LA CABANA” or shooting of the cannons at the second oldest fortress built by the Spaniards in the West Indies. **Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña** (Fort of Saint Charles), colloquially known as **La Cabaña**, is an 18th-century fortress complex, the third-largest in the Americas, located on the elevated eastern side of the harbor entrance in Havana, Cuba. The fort rises above the 200-foot (60 m) hilltop, along with Morro Castle (fortress).



Day 2 FEB 19TH (B, L, D)

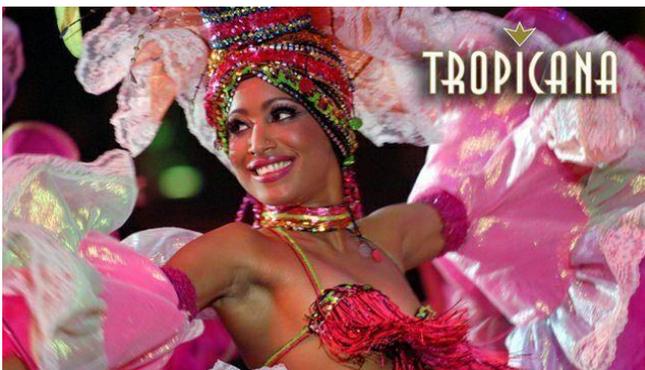
Today, a full guided walking tour of **Old Havana**, a.k.a. Habana Vieja. This is a great opportunity to meet and interact with local Cubans going about their everyday lives on the city streets. In 1982 Old Havana was designated a **UNESCO** World Heritage site and it's brimming with a variety of historical landmarks and interesting things to see. Just walking the four squares of OLD HAVANA is a favorite pastime and will surely result in an unforgettable experience with plenty of chances to meet the locals and to take advantage of myriad photo ops. Visit to Camara Obscura. Donations will be made to an un-wed mother's home and orphanage.



We enjoy **LUNCH** at one of Old Havana's best paladares. After lunch we will visit the fabulous Museo de Bellas Artes where we will enjoy a personal showing of the Cuban Collection. We will spend a good part of the morning at the **Palacio de Bellas Artes**. From the earliest religious artworks of Nicolas de La Escalera in colonial times to the latest trends in conceptual art produced in Cuba this decade by **KCHO, TOIRAC, GARAICOA** and others, this world class art museum showcases so much of the Cuban artwork.



Afternoon tour of the newly refurbished **Capitol Building**. After a 17- million dollar restoration – it is spectacular. Dinner this evening at private paladar. After dinner we will enjoy the famous **TROPICANA SHOW** with reserved best seating and a drink package.



Day 3- FEB 20TH (B.L.D) Breakfast at hotel is served from 7:00am – 10:30am

This morning we venture to The **Colon Cemetery**, or more fully in the Spanish language **Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón**, was founded in 1876 in the Vedado neighbourhood of Havana, Cuba on top of Espada Cemetery. Named for Christopher Columbus, the 140 acre (57 ha) cemetery is noted for its many elaborately sculpted memorials. It is estimated that today the cemetery has more than 500 major mausoleums, chapels, and family vaults.



Next on our agenda is the **Partagas Cigar factory** visit. Lunch **El Divino** located at **Finca Yoandra**.

After lunch we visit **Ernest Hemingway's Home** and Cojimar Village, and Finca Vigia (Hemmingway's Home) **Finca Vigia**, a hilltop villa 20 kilometers east of Havana, where famed author Ernest Hemingway lived from 1939 to 1960. It is here where the writer completed some of his greatest works, including *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Across the River and into the Trees*, and *Islands in the Stream*.



El Pilar, Hemingway's fishing boat



Hemingway's Bedroom

The villa has been maintained as a museum for the past 49 years. It contains original book and short story manuscripts, letters, over 3000 photographs, Hemingway's fishing tackle and gun collections, furniture, priceless art collection, and a 9000 volume library that contains rare first editions of his books and those of other famous writers.

Finca Vigía has made both the World Monuments Fund List of 100 Most Endangered sites, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Places. Lunch in Cojimar fishing village. Tour around Cojimar fishing village, where Hemingway kept his boat Pilar. The writer is remembered by the town with a small gazebo that encircles a commemorative bust, sculpted from the melted down propellers donated by local fishermen.

This evening we have a surprise for you on the way to the famous **Nacional Hotel** to enjoy an authentic mojito!

THE FAMOUS NACIONAL HOTEL***** The Hotel Nacional showcases old Cuban traditions for luxury and service and suggests that they have not been completely forgotten in the wake of the 1959 Revolution. A face-lift costing \$64 million has brought the hotel back to its former glory. Everything-the simple yet tasteful rooms and apartments, elegant dining areas and vibrant swimming pools-has been restored. Located on a small knoll overlooking the entrance to Havana Bay, this stylish Havana accommodation was originally built in 1929-30 through a joint agreement with the Cuban government and U.S.-based banks. American companies designed and built the Nacional, and as soon as it was completed, tourists from America flooded the hotel's spacious reception areas, dining rooms and gardens. It was "the" place to be in Havana. This hotel was frequented by film legends like Frank Sinatra, Errol Flynn, Clark Gable, and Ava Gardner - their pictures decorate the walls of the hotel's café bar.



Dinner this evening at La Barraca, located on the beautiful grounds of the NACIONAL HOTEL.

Day 4 – FEB 21ST (B.L.D) Breakfast at your hotel is served from 7:00am – 10:30am

We head west to the pioneering eco-village of **Las Terrazas** which dates back to a reforestation project in 1968. Today it's a **UNESCO** Biosphere Reserve, a burgeoning activity center (with Cuba's only canopy tour) and the site of the earliest surviving coffee plantations in Cuba.

A UNESCO biosphere reserve. An outstanding example of eco-sustainable tourism in Cuba is this **biosphere** that was developed based on the use of local natural resources and a strong focus on public environmental education. This area has gone from virtual collapse to a sustainable community. This reforestation program saw about 6 million trees planted over 2400 acres on once-barren coffee stripped land. It is now teeming with plants, animals and a thriving community.



Lunch at Las Terrazas. After lunch we tour the beautiful Orchid farm there with over 700 species of orchids. Lecture and talk on the self-sustained community of Las Terrazas. Check into HOTEL MOKA.

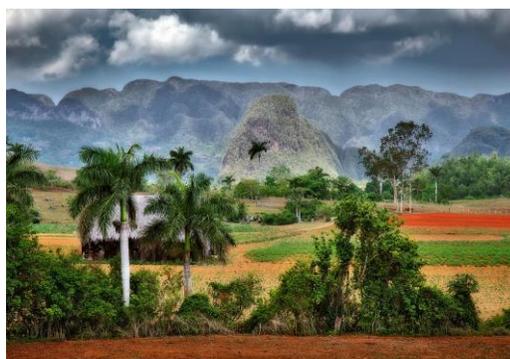
Located approximately 73 kilometers west of Havana in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, Hotel Moka is one of Cuba's most unique hotels. It was purposefully designed to meld seamlessly with the forested hills of Las Terrazas, and the effect is unparalleled ecological comfort and style. In short, the Moka is romantic, intimate, and fully deserving of your time. Las Terrazas is located in an area of some 5,000 hectares, developed as a sustainable project based on the rational use of natural resources. It combines a small community of about 1200 people, many of them artists, with eco-tourism. Like Hotel Moka, all other buildings in Las Terrazas are designed to blend with their surroundings.



Dinner this evening at Case del Campesino

Day 5- FEB 22ND (B,L) Breakfast at your hotel is served from 7:00am – 10:30am

Early departure to **Pinar Del Rio**. If you've ever wondered where the world's finest cigars start out, it's in the lovingly cultivated tobacco plantations of Cuba's westernmost province, Pinar del Río. But those plantations are only part of the area's magic. With its unusual mogotes (rounded limestone mountains) strung along flat plains, Pinar del Río's spectacular scenery rivals any in the world. These plains, where Cuban cowboys roam and dreamy villages doze, are ringed by mountain ranges crowned by vast stretches of tropical forests. We will visit the pre-historic mural, the Indian village and take a walk through a cave with boat ride.



BENITOS FARM. After lunch you will visit with some of the tobacco farmers, organic farms and mingle with the locals. Here you will be offered Cuban coffee with rum and you can purchase hand-rolled cigars at the price of 10 for 10!! We will learn how tobacco is grown, picked, stored, sorted and sold for cigars. Benito will also let you sample his hand-rolled cigars. Head back to Hotel Moka. Dinner on your own this evening after gathering for a group drink at Moka Hotel bar.



Day 6- FEB 23RD (B,L) Breakfast at your hotel is served from 7:00am – 10:30am

Check out of hotel, and drive to **FINCA MARTA**. Finca Marta is an amazing sustainable farm. They have dug their own well, raised cows to make methane gas for cooking, raise bees for honey and grown acres and acres of fresh vegetables and herbs. This is always a favorite on our Cuba tours. Lunch at the farm before heading to the airport for our 5:40pm flight home.

PROPOSED FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

Southwest #3952	Tampa – Havana	7:00am- 8:15am
Southwest #393	Havana- Tampa	5:40pm-8:30pm

*If you are joining us from another gateway, please call us for assistance with flights.

TOUR PRICING AND INCLUSIONS:

Full Air/Land Package pp Double Occupancy: **\$2629.00 pp double occupancy (min 12 passengers rgrd)**
(add +200.00 for single occupancy)

Your Cultural Visit to Cuba includes:

- *Round-trip non-stop air from Tampa to Havana (flights pending)
- *3 Nights’ accommodations at the Inglaterra Hotel, well-located
- *2 Nights accommodations at the Moka Hotel
- * Breakfast, lunch, dinner daily (except for one dinner)
- * Our hand-picked English Speaking Guide and private motor coach transfers in country
- *This tour includes several UNESCO World Heritage site visits
- * All tours, museums, entrance fees listed herein
- *Daily exchanges and donations with local people to engage in community projects
- * Bottled Water daily on bus
- *Medical Insurance while you are in Cuba (included)
- * OFAC required Support for the Cuban People authorization letter
- *Bottled water daily on bus
- *Major gratuities to our main guide and bus driver
- *Cuban medical insurance
- *Escorted by Lynn Whitelaw- professional Cuba tour leader
- ***Cuban visa is additional at \$85.00 per person and is not included

Insurance: Required Cuban medical insurance is included. Additional cancellation, delay, and baggage insurance is **strongly recommended and will be offered on this tour \$174.00 additional.** **Documentation:** Valid passport with at least 6 months’ validity required of all U.S. citizens. Cuban Visa (\$85.00), Authorization Letter, Travel Affidavit, and Air Ticket-all will be provided to you.

Participants should know that Cuba is a special destination, and so please understand that all elements of this itinerary are subject to change and that times and activities listed below are approximate. Please remain flexible as there are often circumstances beyond our control and changes may be necessary. The tour leader reserves the right to make changes to the published itinerary whenever, in his sole discretion, conditions warrant, or if he deems it necessary for the comfort or safety of the program. Be assured that all efforts will be made to provide a comparable alternative should an item on the itinerary need to be changed or cancelled. Cultural Cuba is made possible by a general license issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury. 31CFR 515.574- Support for the Cuban People.

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PAYMENTS: A \$500.00pp deposit is required to hold your space. Final payment is due 90 days prior. We will send you a final invoice. ALL FINAL PAYMENTS ARE NON REFUNDABLE unless your space can be re-sold.

CANCELLATIONS: Once payments are sent to the air and land suppliers, they become non-refundable. Cancellation insurance is strongly recommended and will be offered on a group policy basis for this tour at \$174.00 pp. (minimum 10 required)

RESPONSIBILITIES: Carlson Maritime Travel and USF its employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns, neither own nor operate any person or entity which is to, or does, provide goods or services for these trips or tours. Because Carlson Maritime Travel does not maintain any control over the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers, CMT assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage, or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful, or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the tour suppliers, or other employees of agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, instrument owned, operated or otherwise by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful, or negligent act or omissions on any part of any other party not under the supervision or control of the Operator (4) sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, OFAC changes in regulations, regulations changed by either government, the closing of either the U.S. or Cuban Embassy resulting in the inability to obtain visas, acts of nature, local laws or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. CMT and USF is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the trips arranged by CMT. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy.

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