

CUBA: CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE & CULTURE

OUR 7-DAY HAVANA-BASED PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TRIP ... brings Tauck travelers to this enigmatic Caribbean island nation for true cultural exchange with Cubans in and around Havana to share insights about their daily lives and their rich cultural heritage. Around key themes of Cuban culture, the arts, history, architecture, agriculture, baseball and more, travelers interact directly with the people of Cuba. Meet Cuban students, teachers, architects, artists, artisans, dancers, musicians, ballplayers and coaches... discover Hemingway's Cuba... visit with agricultural workers... dine at privately operated *paladares* and more.

Map



Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture 2019

7 days - See Departure Dates
Land Price: from **\$5,990.00**

Departure Dates

Start Date	End Date	Offers	Brochure Land Price
Thu, Jan 10, 2019	Wed, Jan 16, 2019	📞 Call Us	\$6,490
Thu, Mar 07, 2019	Wed, Mar 13, 2019	📞 Call Us	\$6,490
Thu, Apr 18, 2019	Wed, Apr 24, 2019	📞 Call Us	\$6,290
Thu, Sep 26, 2019	Wed, Oct 02, 2019	📞 Call Us	\$5,990
Thu, Oct 17, 2019	Wed, Oct 23, 2019	📞 Call Us	\$6,290
Thu, Oct 24, 2019	Wed, Oct 30, 2019	📞 Call Us	\$6,290
Thu, Nov 14, 2019	Wed, Nov 20, 2019	📞 Call Us	\$6,290
Thu, Dec 26, 2019	Wed, Jan 01, 2020	📞 Call Us	\$6,490

Full Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Miami

Trip begins at 4:00 PM at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami. Guests flying to Miami should plan to arrive at Miami International Airport by 2:00 PM, and take a Yellow Taxi from the airport to The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami (for a flat fee of USD \$35 plus tip, for which you will be reimbursed by your Tauck Director). Guests who are arriving by car may park at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami for USD \$38 per vehicle per night for the duration of the tour; guests arriving into Fort Lauderdale Airport or the Miami Train Station will be responsible for their own transfer to the hotel. Your small group of 20 to 30 travelers gathers this afternoon at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami for a welcome reception and Tauck Director briefing about tomorrow morning's included flight to Havana and the start of your educational exchange trip to Cuba; dinner is included this evening. (D)

Day 2 ¡Bienvenido a Cuba!

After an early breakfast, your Cuba travel begins as your group boards an included flight from Miami to Havana's José Martí International Airport, where your local Cuban guide greets you. Drive from the airport to your home for the next five nights, the Meliá Habana in the city's Miramar section, have lunch and check in; en route, stop at the iconic Plaza de la Revolución (Revolution Square), dominated by a memorial tower honoring 19th-century Cuban patriot José Martí. This afternoon, head to the Museum of the Revolution, housed in the neo-Classical building in Habana Vieja that had served as Cuba's Presidential Palace from 1920 through 1959, for your first People-to-People cultural exchange in Cuba. Have dinner at the hotel tonight. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Historic Havana & the Arts

Begin today's People-to-People exchange at Habana Compás, a thriving Havana dance and cultural performance group; talk with company

members about their mission, and watch a demonstration of music, dance or art. After lunch at a paladar, take a guided walking tour through Habana Vieja - the city's nearly 500-year-old heart, now a pedestrian-only UNESCO World Heritage Site - with a local expert to discuss the city's architecture and historic restoration efforts. See Havana's beautiful Catedral de San Cristóbal, begun under the Jesuits in 1748 and completed by the Franciscans in 1777; learn about the cathedral's ongoing preservation and restoration. Back at the hotel, attend a discussion on U.S. - Cuban relations; enjoy dinner at a Havana paladar this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Cuban baseball, crafts & more

Today's People-to-People exchange in Havana begins a close-up look at a cultural passion shared by Cubans and Americans alike - the sport of baseball! After a morning discussion about baseball in Cuba with a highly regarded Cuban ballplayer at your hotel, head out to meet with the players, coaches and parents of a local Little League-level baseball team in Havana. Next, enjoy a cooking class focusing on Cuban cuisine, followed by lunch at a local paladar. This afternoon, you can relax at your hotel, or visit Havana's bustling San Jose crafts market - the city's main enclosed local arts and crafts market and cultural fair, housed in the restored and renovated historic San Jose warehouses, originally built in the 1880s - on the Avenida del Puerto. Enjoy dinner tonight at a Havana paladar, one of Cuba's many private small restaurants converted from private homes, individually owned and operated under a license from the Cuban government. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Cuban agriculture in the Viñales Valley

Managing Cuba's land, water and other natural resources more effectively through agrarian reform, conservation, entrepreneurship and other initiatives is the focus of our People-to-People Cuba travel activities today. Travel outside Havana and across the countryside to the tobacco fields of the Viñales Valley, where you'll talk to agricultural workers about agrarian life and tobacco production in today's Cuba. After lunch at an organic farm, meet the workers who process tobacco leaves before they reach the cigar factory at El Despalillo. Return to Havana for dinner at your leisure this evening at the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Colón Cemetery, Hemingway & Centro Habana

With Cuba's origins as a Spanish colony rooted in Catholic traditions, religion has played an important role in its society - as you'll see on a walk with a local historian through Havana's Colón Cemetery, one of the largest in the world, and the final resting place of noted Cubanos from all walks of life. Depart the city for Finca Vigia ("Lookout Farm") in San Francisco de Paula, American novelist Ernest Hemingway's winter home from 1939 to 1960, shared with third wife Martha Gellhorn, and later with fourth wife Mary Welsh. See the author's 9,000-volume library, his beloved yacht, Pilar, and his typewriter; talk with a docent about his life here and his strong connections to Cuba and its people (who simply called him "Ernesto"). Return to Havana for lunch at a paladar, then engage in a cultural exchange with students and staff at Havana's La Casa del Niño y la Niña (House of the Boy & Girl), a UNICEF-supported, community-sponsored educational outreach program for elementary-school age children in the Centro Habana neighborhood of Cayo Hueso. Join us this evening for a farewell reception and dinner in Havana. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Journey Home

After breakfast, transfer from the Meliá Habana to Havana's José Martí International Airport for your included return flight to Miami. Trip ends at Miami International Airport. Allow three hours for flight check-in. Please book flights from Miami to your final destination no earlier than 3:00 PM. (B)

Accommodations

- Five days of "People-to-People" educational exchange
- Visits and discussions at Cuban cultural and arts organizations, museums, art projects, tobacco production facilities and more.
- Exclusive Tauck Experiences fostering meaningful cultural connections with Cuban families, artists, musicians, students, educators, agricultural workers, artisans, entrepreneurs, community leaders, baseball coaches and players and others

All This Included

Until recent years, few U.S. citizens have been able to experience Cuba travel. But under a license granted by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, Tauck has been providing People-to-People educational exchange travel to Cuba since 2012. Meet face-to-face with local residents from different professions, share thoughts, gain knowledge, and connect with Cuba's cultural heritage on our 7-day, Havana-based Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture. Around key themes of Cuban culture and the arts, history, architecture, entrepreneurship, agriculture, baseball and more, travelers interact directly with the people of Cuba. Meet Cuban students, teachers, architects, artisans, dancers, musicians, coaches and ballplayers... learn about Ernest Hemingway's Cuba... discuss art and private enterprise at the studios of community artists... visit with agricultural workers to talk about agrarian reform and organic farming... interact with members of community and charitable organizations about their work... learn about Cuban cultural traditions... have meals at paladares (small, privately operated Cuban restaurants)... and connect with Cuba and Cubans on Tauck's cultural exchange.

- All hotel accommodations - 1 night in Miami at The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove, Miami and 5 nights in Havana at the Meliá Habana
- Flights between Miami and Havana
- Tauck's "Leave Your Worries at Home" service, with all day-to-day travel details taken care of for you

- Escorted travel from the moment your People-to-People trip begins in Miami, accompanied by a professional Tauck Director and experienced local Cuban guides, all fluent in both English & Spanish
 - Five days of "People-to-People" educational exchange in Havana, Finca Vigia, Viñales and Pinar del Rio
 - Discussions with representatives from Cuban community and arts organizations, educational institutions and museums, community art projects, architectural preservation organizations, tobacco and cigar production facilities, baseball organizations and more
 - Exclusive Tauck Experiences fostering meaningful cultural connections with Cuban families, artists, musicians, students, educators, agricultural workers, artisans, entrepreneurs, community leaders, baseball coaches and players and others
 - All ground transportation
 - Airport transfers upon arrival and departure as noted
 - All meals - 17 (6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners), including authentic Cuban cuisine at local restaurants and private paladares throughout your trip
 - All gratuities to Tauck Director, local guides and drivers, hotel and restaurant staff; all taxes, admission fees, portorage and departure tax
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Notes

Miami: The Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove

Havana: Meliá Habana

- Due to the nature of People-to-People travel in Cuba, itinerary is subject to change; order and individual components of itinerary may change depending on day of the week, but a full People-to-People itinerary will be preserved.
- Please ask your Wyllys Professional Travel counselor for more information.