



Havana. Photo credit: Andrzej Wrotek



Varadero beach. Photo credit: Phil Bartle

On this one-of-a kind tour, build connections across cultures among people of faith as you gain a fresh perspective on the history, church, and people of Cuba. Worship with a local congregation, enjoy rare opportunities to engage with Cuban citizens, and reflect on the role of churches and NGO's in this society as you visit non-profit organizations. Make sense of your experiences during daily spiritual reflections and group discussions. This visit to the Cuban people will be an act of peace as you relate with an open heart and mind. Travellers can also bring supplies that Cuban organizations tell us they desperately need as their economy slows down. Canadian tour leaders Jack and Irene Suderman have been building connections with the church in Cuba for more than 30 years. Their relationships will open doors that you could not enter on your own. TourMagination has the details arranged for Americans to travel safely and legally on this tour under the category of "religious travel".

Itinerary

Thursday, January 16 Havana

Fly into Varadero and transfer to your hotel in the heart of Havana. Get acquainted with your tour leaders and fellow travel companions during a tour overview and welcome dinner.

Friday, January 17 Havana

Visit the Museum of the Revolution, largely dedicated to Cuban history in the period of the revolutionary war of the 1950s. See some of the iconic sights of Havana by bus, like the Plaza of the Revolution, Habana Libre, and craft market. Jack and Irene will also give you an introduction to the social, political, and historic realities of Cuba.

Saturday, January 18 Havana

Take an excursion to the town of Soroa, referred to as the "rainbow of Cuba," for its frequent rainfall followed by sun that produces rainbows and a lush landscape. Visit with an Afro-Cuban woman who is teaching her people (descendants of former slaves) to recover their culture through growing traditional medicinal plants, cooking using historic recipes and

methods, and recounting stories. Support her micro-business as you tour her farm. After lunch in town, participate in agricultural activities. Cubans are famous for their cigars; observe an authentic cigar rolling demonstration at a cigar factory. Return to Havana to spend the evening in the city.

Sunday, January 19 Havana

Enjoy the rare privilege of worshipping and sharing a meal with a local Cuban congregation, and converse with the church leaders following the service. This afternoon, drive to La Terraza in Cojimar, where Ernest Hemingway lived for several years and was inspired to write *The Old Man and the Sea*. Dine in one of Hemingway's favourite restaurants. Return to Havana for the evening.

Monday, January 20 Havana

Expand your mind and heart at the Martin Luther King Jr. Centre, an organization that promotes Christian social responsibility and progressive change throughout Latin America. Learn about their community housing, medicine distribution, and

ecumenical interchange, as well as other projects as you talk with leaders of the peace-building church that started the centre. At another stop, learn about the Cuban Council of Churches as you interact with their representatives. Top off an engaging day with a fun-filled ride back to the hotel in one of Cuba's signature classic cars.

Tuesday, January 21 Cienfuegos

On a visit to the Taíno Indian Village, glimpse into the traditional lifestyle of the Taíno people, once Cuba's principal inhabitants. Reflect on the way Cubans interact with their indigenous people as compared to what happens in your own country. At the Bay of Pigs, learn about the historical US invasion that took place in 1961. Look through a lens of peace, as you hear about the conflict from the Cuban perspective. Stay in Cienfuegos tonight.

Wednesday, January 22 Cienfuegos

Start your day by exploring Cienfuegos at your leisure, a city known for its French history. Stroll along the city streets, browse the shops, or simply relax. Tour the Brethren in Christ (BIC) training centre—a project that is the result of a vibrant partnership between the BIC churches of Cuba and of Canada. The centre provides leadership training, pastor support and compassionate ministry.

Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$4,989; Single Supplement \$768

USD: Double Occupancy \$3,838; Single Supplement \$591

Fare includes

- All land transportation within the tour
- Transfers from/to the Varadero airport
- Hotel accommodations
- Entrance fees & donations for activities included in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, 7 lunches, 8 dinners
- Expert tour leaders & local guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

Fare excludes

- International airfare
- Tourist visas
- 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- Drinks with meals, other than water
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Thursday, January 23 Varadero

En route to Varadero, visit Che Guevara's tomb and memorial in Santa Clara, where a statue of the soldier stands. An Argentinean, Guevara was instrumental in Cuba's revolution and became Castro's second-in-command before leaving Cuba to help other countries with their political struggles. Consider the results of armed struggle and reflect on how things could have been different in Cuba with a commitment to peaceful nonresistance. Relax for the rest of the day in Varadero.

Friday, January 24 Varadero

Depart for Cárdenas to visit the Christian Centre for Reconciliation and Dialogue. The centre includes a sustainable agriculture farm that produces more than 100 tons of food each year—much of which is distributed in schools, hospitals and to the sick and elderly. Enjoy lunch under a thatched roof open-air cabana at the farm, then return to Varadero.

Saturday, January 25 Varadero

Relax on the beach or explore the city on your own. This evening, reflect on an eventful tour with your travel companions around the dinner table.

Sunday, January 26

Depart for home from the Varadero airport.

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 04/19. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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