



Cuba - Highlights of Cuba Bicycle Tour (2025-2026)
Guided Tour
8 days/7 nights



Cycling on quiet roads we explore Cuba's verdant countryside, colonial towns and revolutionary history. From Havana we cycle past the historic Bay of Pigs and inviting tropical beaches to charming Trinidad where we experience Cuban hospitality in Casas Particulares. Along the way we learn about modern day Cuba and excellent live music is never far away. Finally we visit Che Guevara's Mausoleum in Santa Clara. Now is undoubtedly a fantastic time to visit Cuba to see and experience the island. Visiting Cuba is like stepping back in time as little has changed over the past 50 years. To fully enjoy the Cuban experience you should travel with a willingness to expect the unexpected and, above all, an adventurous spirit. In our opinion go now and experience this unique destination before it changes.



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Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Join tour in Havana

Our tour begins in Havana. Built around a deep natural harbour, Havana is one of the most impressive colonial cities surviving in the Americas today. Crumbling tenement buildings and 1950s American Cadillacs rub shoulders with white marble grandeur and the still audible echoes of the Cuban Revolution. The largest city in the Caribbean and Cuba's political and cultural heart, it is the perfect place to start this remarkable journey. In Havana we stay in 'casas particulares' – family run guesthouses. On arrival to the main joining point casa in the old centre of Havana (as detailed in your Joining Instructions) you will be met by your host and shown to your room in one of the local guesthouses in the surrounding area.



Day 2: Cycle the Bay of Pigs. Drive to Yaguanabo via Cienfuegos 28 km

This morning we depart the city and drive (3 hours) to the Zapata Peninsula and the Bay of Pigs - the infamous site of a failed US-backed invasion by Cuban exiles in 1961. We then enjoy a relatively easy warm-up ride along the flat, following the Caribbean coast from Boca de Guama our route ends at the Cueva de los Peces - a flooded tectonic fault (or cenote) with resident tropical fish which provides a great swimming opportunity. There is time for an optional visit the museum dedicated to the failed invasion before we resume our journey by road, travelling on to the colonial city of Cienfuegos. We have a chance to take in some of its impressive 19th century

architecture on a short walking tour of the centre, before continuing by bus (45 minutes) to our hotel at Yaguanabo beach.

Day 3: Coastal ride to Trinidad. Afternoon walking tour and cocktail making 30 km + 150 m

Continuing south east this morning we cycle along the Caribbean coast to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Trinidad, one of the best preserved colonial towns in the country. Founded in 1514, the town was a haven for pirates and slavers before the arrival of the French in the early years of the 19th century and today remains one of Cuba's cultural gems. This afternoon we enjoy a walking tour around the town, taking in the lovely setting of the central square and the cathedral. For the next two nights we will enjoy local hospitality staying in casas particulares - private houses. Later this afternoon, we will enjoy a cocktail making class where we can learn to make some of Cuba's famous drinks such as mojitos and daiquiris.

Day 4: Free day in Trinidad for additional rides or relaxation 30 km self-guided

We have a chance to enjoy Cuba's beautiful Caribbean coastline today. Options include a day relaxing on the beach, or perhaps a trip on a catamaran out into the azure waters that lie off the coast. For those still wanting to stretch their legs we also have the option to cycle out to the Ancon Peninsula (30 kilometres return). Alternatively, you can simply relax on the white sands of nearby Playa Ancon, or perhaps return to wander through Trinidad's charming colonial streets.





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Day 5: Ride through the 'valley of the sugar mills' 60 km + 500 m

Today's cycle ride through the scenic Valle de los Ingenios (valley of the sugar mills), with its ruined mills and infamous slave watchtower, is possibly the most rewarding (and longest!). By the middle years of the 19th century the valley was responsible for a third of all Cuba's sugar production, before the wars of independence saw the mills destroyed. We cycle to the watchtower of Manaca Iznaga, before continuing through the valley. Rejoining our bus we drive a short distance to the colonial town of Sancti Spiritus where we stop to pay a short visit to the old town, before returning to our casas in Trinidad by bus. Today's ride is a moderate grade that encounters some ascents and descents throughout the day. You have the option to hop into the support bus if you prefer.

Day 6: Scenic downhill ride from Topes de Collantes; bus to Santa Clara 35 km + 450 m

Just a few kilometers behind Trinidad looms the Sierra Escambray, one of the three main mountain chains in Cuba. It has peaks up to 1100 metres, an incredible abundance of tropical and semi-tropical vegetation on its slopes, and some of the best Cuban coffee is also produced here. Climbing up into the Sierra on the road from Trinidad is an experience, with slopes as steep as 20% (don't worry, we do this by bus!). Those wishing to do the toughest cycling challenge to be found in Cuba may want to try by leaving in the early hours of the day and being picked up by the group later. We start cycling on the highest sections of the road with some ascending still to go, near Topes de Collantes, a village and mountain retreat built in the early 1950s. From the village it is one of the most scenic downhills through the jungle to be found anywhere in Cuba. Before leaving the mountains we can stop at a local coffee farmer's home to enjoy a meal (not included) and see the process of coffee tasting and of course we will try it as well! Then heading north, passing through the village of Jibacoa we finally reach the provincial town Manicaragua where we finish our final ride. We will take a short bus transfer to our hotel on the outskirts of Santa Clara. The town of Santa Clara is less visited by tourism and therefore has the authentic feel of a busy Cuban provincial town. It town played an important role in the Cuban revolution, as it was here that Ernesto 'Che' Guevara won a decisive battle in December 1958 which led to the fall of Havana a few days later. Depending on the time we finish our ride and arrive here we will either visit the sites today or tomorrow morning. The 'Tren Blindado' site explains the decisive battle to take Batista's armoured train. The most remarkable site is the Che Guevara monument and mausoleum together with a museum dedicated to the life of this hero of the Cuban revolution. The first 10 km of the ride today is generally ascending and while not steep, there is one section of a couple of kms of ascent. For those clients that prefer, it is possible to ride in the bus for this section. The rest of the ride is generally descending, but with some undulations later.



Day 7: Visit Che Guevara Mausoleum. Afternoon tour of Havana

There is no cycling planned today and depending on our activities yesterday we will either drive straight off after breakfast or visit the remaining places of interest. The Che Guevara Monument is the final resting place of one of the world's most iconic figures and one of the country's most emotive shrines to its revolutionary heritage. Continuing on to Havana (three hours), we then spend this afternoon wandering through the heart of the old capital, exploring the neo-classical architecture of the Vieja district and taking in the baroque grandeur of the 18th century Catedral de San Cristobal de la Habana among other fine buildings from another age.

Day 8: Tour ends in Havana

The tour ends in Havana this morning after breakfast.





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Route



Technical characteristics

Route Profile: Relatively Easy. One of the cycling days is circular and therefore optional. The terrain is mostly flat and on tarmac, although this is in poor condition in places. Cuban roads are relatively quiet and we will encounter most traffic in urban centres. A support vehicle accompanies the rides throughout the tour. We have graded the route as easy to moderate.

Distance: 183 km

Travel Season: Departures **2025** Oct 18; Nov 1; Dec 20 **2026** Feb 7; Mar 28; Oct 31; Nov 14

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Prices (Per Person) Canadian Dollars – all prices subject to confirmation on booking

2025

Base price Double Occupancy \$2380

Optional Single Room Supplement \$310

2026

Base price Double Occupancy \$2520

Optional Single Supplement \$320

Accommodation:

Accommodation can be basic, particularly in some rural areas, occasionally with unreliable water and electricity supply. Service levels in government hotels, shops and restaurants are generally poor as this is not a service-oriented western culture. Of course, this is all part of seeing the 'real Cuba' and while we think you'll be pleasantly surprised by most of the hotels we use, you should be prepared for simply furnished rooms, some out-dated furniture and varying levels of service. Most of the hotels do have air conditioning and en-suite facilities.

Casas particulares - This is a Spanish term meaning private accommodation or homestay in Cuba. Staying in a casa offers the visitor a unique opportunity to experience Cuban hospitality in local accommodation adapted for tourism. The number of rooms, quality, facilities and access to other areas of the house such as the living room varies massively but as a general rule the majority of Casas are clean, basic, centrally located and can host only a handful of guests. Casas are generally run by the owner and members of the family that live there and the standard of English spoken will vary from zero to fluent, which is a good opportunity for you to practice your Spanish. Virtually all of the rooms have private facilities but on rare occasions it may be necessary to share.

Included:

- 5 nights in simple casas particulares and 2 nights in standard hotel
- 7 breakfasts
- Support van with driver
- Tour leader throughout
- Airport transfer
- Bike rental – Stevens Galant SX Hybrid 27 gear or similar with front suspension, including pannier and water bottle holder, use of own pedals and saddle on request

Not included:

- Travel Insurance
- Visas or vaccinations

Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.

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THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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