

YOLO

The journey of your life.

High Fidelity at Fidel's

15 Tage Kuba

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Kuba **High Fidelity at Fidel's**

Eigentlich müsste man Fidel dankbar sein, dass er mit eiserner Hand die Zeit angehalten hat. Was wäre sonst mit dem morbiden Charme, der aus allen Ritzen quillt? Den Straßenkreuzer-Dinos in Dottergelb und Babyblau? Wo der ganze Flitter, der mit leicht bekleidetem Lächeln alle Existenzsorgen hinwegfegt? Sei einfach happy. Über Fidel und diese Reise.



Included services:

- Abenteuerreise mit maximal 16 Teilnehmern (Der Altersdurchschnitt ist erfahrungsgemäß höher als bei anderen Reisen!)
- Jede Reise findet statt
- Englisch sprechender, einheimischer Guide in internationaler Reisegruppe
- Unterkunft: 14 x Casa Particulares
- Transport: Privater Reiseminibus, Flugzeug, Öffentliche Verkehrsmittel
- Flughafen-Transfer bei Anreise im Zielland inkludiert
- Mahlzeiten: 9 x Frühstück, 1 x Mittagessen
- Aktivitäten laut Tagesprogramm
- 100 m² Regenwald 4 you (Jedem Gast schenken wir im Regenwald von Ecuador ein Grundstück, das Jahr für Jahr den CO₂-Ausstoß seiner Reise kompensiert. Eingetragen auf seinen Namen und auf ewig seins.)
- Highlights: Per Bike durch Camagüey. Salsa tanzen. Spanisch lernen. Halbtagestour durch Santiago de Cuba.
- Rail&Fly inkludiert bei allen Buchungen mit Flug

Day-to-day-Itinerary:

Day 1

Havana

Bienvenido a Cuba! Welcome to Cuba! Set to the soundtrack and backdrop of the 1950s, tumbledown Havana is a capital unlike any other. A complimentary arrival transfer is included with your trip. There will be a welcome meeting at approximately 6pm this evening. Please expect a letter from your leader in the afternoon of Day 1 to confirm the place of your meeting (if by 5pm you cannot locate this letter then please ask your guesthouse owner if one has been delivered, or ask to call our assistance line listed in the "Problems and emergency contact information" section of this document). We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so ensure you have all these details to provide to your leader. The tour briefing is generally followed by an optional group dinner. As there's a great deal to do in Havana, we recommend staying a few extra days to make the most of this exciting city. If you need help booking extra accommodation, our reservations team will be happy to assist. If you arrive early, please note most activities in Cuba can only be booked through the tourist desk in the lobbies of the larger hotels or direct with the venue. Otherwise, there are plenty of good museums to check out, including the Museo de la Revolucion and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes.

The Welcome Meeting will take place at 6 pm.

A complimentary arrival transfer is included with your trip. Please ensure you provide your flight details to your booking agent at least 14 days prior to travel so the transfer can be organised. If you arrive early. The transfer driver will have the address of your Guesthouse. There will be a welcome meeting at approximately 6pm this evening. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so ensure you have all these details to provide to your leader. The tour briefing is generally followed by an optional group dinner. If you can't arrange a flight that will arrive in time for the meeting, you may wish to



arrive a day early so you're able to attend. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability). If you're going to be late, please inform the base guesthouse so they can contact the leader. If you are already in Havana prior to your trip, or if you do not require a transfer, please call or make your way to our "Base Guesthouse" for directions to your starting guesthouse. This guesthouse provides a 24 hour service with English speaking employees if assistance is required.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

"Base Guesthouse": Casa La Gargola / 1st floor #82 Cuba street, between Cuarteles & Chacon Streets / Old Havana

Multiple guesthouses are used in order to accommodate all passengers in the same group

Optional Activities

- Havana - Revolution museum - CUC5
- Havana - National Museum of Fine Arts - CUC5
- Havana - Tourist bus day pass - CUC10

Day 2

Havana

Havana's history is as colourful as its cars and buildings. Today, you will be taken on a guided tour of the Havana vieja. Havana remains one of the great colonial cities of the Americas. An air of faded glory comes through in the peeling paint of some of its grand old buildings. Narrow streets, spacious plazas and Spanish architecture make it a charm to explore on foot. Visit La Catedral San Cristobal de la Habana, the Palacio de los Marqueses de Aguas Claras and the Plaza de Armas. Also visit the Museo de la Revolucion, to learn about the history of the Cuban Revolution Afterwards, enjoy some free time to further explore on your own. Ask your leader to help you book one of the many optional activities such as a Cigar factory tour, the Ernest Hemingway tour, or a cruise around Outer- Havana in a vintage American car. Alternatively you could simply stroll along the Malecon or join the hundreds of locals lining up to eat a Coppelia ice-cream. Heavily subsidised by the government, a whole bowl will set you back about 10 cents.

Included Activities

- Havana - Leader-led Walking Tour of Old Havana

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Havana - Camera Obscura entrance - CUC2
- Havana - Vintage American car tour - USD55
- Havana - Ernest Hemingway tour - CUC70
- Havana - Cigar factory tour - CUC12



Day 3

Cienfuegos

On the way to Cienfuegos today, pick up some Spanish during an informal Spanish lesson from your leader. First, stop at the peaceful sandy arc of Playa Giron (approximately 2.5 hours), which sits on the eastern side of the Bahía de Cochinos, better known as the Bay of Pigs. It was famously here that the CIA sponsored a failed invasion by exile forces in 1961. It's not just the history that's the attraction here – with crystal clear Caribbean waters, a deep underwater wall, and an outstanding variety of coral and fish, it's a haven for snorkelers. If there's time, strap on a hired mask and some flippers and take a dive into sapphire-coloured water teeming with tropical marine life. Afterwards, travel on to Cienfuegos (approximately 1.5 hours), known affectionately as 'The Pearl of the South'. Part of the city's appeal lies in its colonial centre, which features wide Parisian-style boulevards and elegant colonnades. Drive along the peninsula to see Cienfuegos' architectural pride and joy, the Moroccan-influenced Palacio del Valle.

Included Activities

- Leader-led Informal Spanish Lesson
- Bay of Pigs - Coastal Swim Stop
- Cienfuegos - Leader-led Orientation Walk
- Cienfuegos - Palacio de Valle (Entrance fee)

Travel time: Havana to Playa Giron approx. 2,5 hrs, Playa Giron to Cienfuegos approx. 1,5 hrs

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Day 4

Trinidad

Leave Cienfuegos and head north to the final resting place of Cuba's most famous son. In Santa Clara (approximately 1 hour), you'll visit the Che Guevara mausoleum and memorial. Che's remains were brought here after they were found in a remote corner of Bolivia in 1997, where he was assassinated by the CIA-backed Bolivian army. Check out the impressive bronze statue of Che bearing his rifle and learn about his incredible life. Then it's a short drive south, through the Topes de Collantes National Park to Trinidad, which sits on the scenic Caribbean coast (approximately 1.5 hours). For many visitors to Cuba, Trinidad is a standout destination. No other colonial city in Cuba is as well preserved, and the local residents are extremely friendly and festive. Trinidad is steeped in religion, including the Afro-Cuban religion of Santería, which has connections to Voodoo. On an orientation walk today, see the former wealth generated by the sugar industry in the town's once-grand mansions, colourful public buildings, wrought iron grill-work and cobble-stoned streets. Party the night away at one of the town's live music venues or why not take in a folklore show at one of the town's numerous open-air venues.

Included Activities

- Santa Clara - Che Guevara Mausoleum and Museum
- Trinidad - Leader-led Orientation Walk



Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Travel time: Cienfuegos to Santa Clara approx. 1 hour, Santa Clara to Trinidad approx. 1,5 hrs

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Trinidad - Live Music Venues (Entrance fee) - Subject to change depending on the performer - CUC2
- Trinidad - Santeria Priest Visit - CUC2

Day 5

Trinidad

Today is a good opportunity to visit the Museo Nacional de la Lucha Contra los Bandidos and the Casa de los Mártires de Trinidad; both chronicle the struggles of the revolutionary period in the town's history. At some point while you're here you'll undertake an informal salsa class. Cuba has a hugely rich and varied dance and musical tradition that draws its roots from Africa and France. Many styles that have greatly influenced music worldwide originated in Cuba, such as Mambo, Cha-cha-cha, son and rumba. There's also a chance to get a hands-on lesson with the musical instruments themselves in a percussion workshop. By now, hopefully you've learnt enough of the local rhythms to join in with the locals – maybe at a certain venue hidden within a cave!

Included Activities

- Trinidad - Salsa Dance Lesson (1 hour)

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Trinidad - Musical instrument lesson (guitar, double bass, tres, percussion - per hour) - CUC10
- Trinidad - Disco in a cave - CUC5
- Trinidad - Museo Romantico - CUC2
- Trinidad - Museo Nacional de la Lucha Contra los Bandidos - CUC1



Day 6

Trinidad

Trinidad is a standout destination in its own right, but it's also the gateway to the Valle de los Ingenios, and a bike is a great way to explore the local area. Be warned however: Cuba's bicycles, like its cars, are vintage, which means a little bit of practicality may be sacrificed for the romantic element! There are also some great treks to be made in the nearby Sierra del Escambray mountains; maybe drive along the legendary twists and turns of the road to El Nicho, then hike to its beautiful waterfall. Playa Ancon is also close by – there's plenty of opportunity for relaxing on its long, unspoilt beaches or snorkelling through the clear waters (just watch carefully for sea urchins, which can be a problem here).

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Trinidad - Trek to El Nicho Waterfall (taxi, entrance fee & guide) - CUC65
- Trinidad - Ancon beach shuttle bus - CUC4
- Trinidad - Bicycle rental (full day) - CUC5

Day 7

Camaguey

Travel through the centre of the country to Camaguey (approximately 5-6 hours). Despite its size, Cuba's third largest city has managed to retain much of its colonial heritage. Exploring the city's winding streets is half the fun. The city was planned in a deliberately confusing pattern to disorient any would-be assailants. As you walk through the city you may still see tinajones – large clay pots used for collecting water. On your explorations, stop by the Iglesia de Nuestra Senora de la Soledad to see its baroque frescoes. Camaguey has a rich tradition of cultural and technological leadership within Cuba. It is the birthplace of poet laureate Nicolas Guillen and home of the Ballet de Camaguey. Cuba's first radio and television emissions were broadcast from Camaguey, and the country's first airport and commercial flights were planned and executed here.

Included Activities

- Camaguey - Leader-led Orientation Walk

Travel time: Trinidad to Camaguey takes approx. 5-6 hrs

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Camaguey - Casa de la Trova - CUC3



Day 8

Camaguey

Enjoy a tour of Camaguey by bicycle taxi. Cycling is a popular form of transport in Cuba, and bicycle taxis are very common. In the confusing streets of Camaguey, it's a particularly good way to get around. On the tour, you'll visit a local market, parks, plazas and an art gallery. Each taxi carries two passengers and the tour is led by an Englishspeaking local guide. Your leader may suggest visiting a local farmers' market, where you'll get a fascinating insight into daily Cuban life and the local economy. This is where farmers can sell their produce after meeting the quota they have to sell to the state. Camaguey's is a particularly busy and colourful market. There are separate areas for produce sold by the state and produce sold by farmers directly to the public. There are plenty of interesting tropical fruits, vegetables and herbs available. This is where the locals come to buy their food once their monthly food ration runs out. Later, your leader will take you to a local bar where you'll get compare a white rum to an aged rum. Cuba specifically is known as the origin of some of the smoothest and most sought-after rums on the entire planet. Havana Club is likely to be showcased as this brand was created in Cuba in 1934 and is now one of the best-selling rum brands in the world.

Included Activities

- Camaguey - Bicycle taxi city tour
- Camaguey - Rum tasting in a local bar

Included meals: breakfast

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Camaguey - Ballet performance - CUC5

Day 9

Santiago de Cuba

Head west along the Carretera Central to Santiago de Cuba with a stop in Bayamo. Today is the longest travel day of the trip. Depending on how many stops are made, this usually takes six to seven hours. Santiago is the hottest place in Cuba – in terms of both temperature and the vibe of the city! Set between the indomitable Sierra Maestra mountain range and the azure Caribbean, this city's historical centre and colonial architecture retain a timeworn air ideal for photographers.

Included Activities

- Santiago de Cuba - Leader-led Orientation Walk

Included meals: breakfast

Travel time: Today is the longest travel day of the trip. Depending on how many stops are made, this usually takes six to seven hours.



Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- ☛ Santiago - Tropicana Cabaret Show (Closed Tuesdays) - CUC35

Day 10

Santiago de Cuba

Set off on a three-hour city tour of Santiago. You'll visit El Morro Castle, Ifigenia cemetery and the Moncada barracks and learn about the city's rich history. For nearly a century, the city was the island's seat of power and it also played a vital role in the Revolution. The people of Santiago were the first to rise up in arms against government troops in 1956, and it was in Santiago on January 1st 1959, that Fidel Castro declared the triumph of the Revolution. With a strong Afro-Cuban heritage it's no surprise that Santiago has a vibrant music scene, and is seen as Cuba's capital of music. It's the home of son music, which is a mix of Spanish guitar and African percussion. Santiago's half million residents are proud of their cultural traditions, so you'll find many museums and cultural clubs around the city. The city is also famous for its energetic Carnival celebrations and its lively Festival of Caribbean Culture. All this will entice the shyest, most left-footed dancer and the non-musically inclined to learn some salsa moves or take a lesson in local music.

Included Activities

- ☛ Santiago de Cuba - Half-day City Tour Including El Morro Castle, Santa Ifigenia Cemetery & Moncada Barracks (Entrance Fees)

Included meals: breakfast

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- ☛ Santiago - Salsa lesson (1 hour) - CUC15
- ☛ Santiago - Use of a Hotel Pool - CUC5
- ☛ Santiago de Cuba - La Gran Piedra Mountain (Entrance only) - CUC1



Day 11

Baracoa

A spectacular five-hour journey to Baracoa will take you through the dry region surrounding Guantanamo, dotted with cacti and wiry goats, and then along the dramatic Atlantic coastline, before winding through verdant mountains to Baracoa. On the way, if running to time you will get the chance to visit the Mirador de Malones for a pretty good view of the Guantanamo Naval Base and surrounding bay. At present the base is not open to the public. If you are keen to see this, please ask your leader, and they will tell you if visits are currently allowed. Baracoa is set on a beautiful bay, this was the first colonial town, and it's one of the most beautiful in Cuba. You'll have a couple of days here to explore and relax. Take a walk around the town to get your bearings, then maybe head to a lovely black sand beach an easy walk from town. As one of Cuba's major agricultural zones, Baracoa is a great place to try local foods. It's one of the best places for chocolate, and street vendors and small restaurants offer local specialties like prawns in coconut sauce and banana-stuffed tamales. One particularly sought-after Baracoa specialty is the cucurucho, a sweet treat of coconut, sugar, and fruit wrapped in dried cone-shaped palm leaves.

Included Activities

- Guantanamo Bay Viewpoint (Time & weather dependent)
- Baracoa - Leader-led Orientation Walk

Included meal: breakfast

Travel time: From Santiago to Baracoa takes approx. 5 hrs

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Guantanamo Bay Lookout Tower (Entrance fee) - CUC1



Day 12

Baracoa

Today is a free day to explore Baracoa. The town was only accessible by sea until 1960, and even after a road linking Baracoa to Guantanamo was built, the settlement maintained a small-town colonial feel. Uncover its individuality as you wander along its beautiful malecon or ramble over various forts that were built to withstand pirate attacks. The Catedral de Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion boasts a bust of the indigenous leader Hatuey, who was burned at the stake for refusing to accept the Spanish and their Catholicism. You might prefer to chill on a beach or get active with a hike to El Yunke, the famous table-top mountain sighted by Columbus during his first voyage to the island.

Included meals: breakfast

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Baracoa - Bar or nightclub entrance (various) - CUC1
- Baracoa - Half-day El Yunque Waterfall Hike with river crossing & swimming hole (Entrance fee, Guide & Transport) - Minimum of 6 people to operate - CUC16
- Baracoa - Full-day El Yunque Mountain Hike with river crossing (Entrance fee, Guide & Transport) - Minimum of 6 people to operate - CUC16

Day 13

Baracoa

Today you have another free day in Baracoa. Why not set out on a hike through the rainforest to explore nearby caves and waterfalls. Perhaps pay a visit to Humboldt Nation Park, looking out for colourful parrots, lizards and hummingbirds. Take a boat tour down a nearby river, spotting wildlife along the way, or maybe stop in at a working farm to learn about life on the land. After the sun goes down, enjoy a cocktail near the beach or check out the town's nightlife.

Included meals: breakfast

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Optional Activities

- Baracoa - Full-day Humboldt Park Hike (3, 5 or 9 km) including Maguana beach and village tour (Entrance fee, Transport & Guide) - CUC23
- Baracoa - Return Taxi to Maguana Beach - CUC25
- Baracoa - Full-day Duaba Cocoa Farm Tour and Toa River Boat Ride (Guide, Transport & Entrance Fee) - CUC18



Day 14

Havana

Today take a one-and-a-half hour flight from Baracoa to Havana arriving approximately 4pm. Please note that it is not uncommon for these flights to be delayed. After arriving back into the capital, head to Plaza de la Revolución for your final taste of Cuban revolutionary history, watched over by the memorials of Ernesto “Che” Guevara, José Martí and Camilo Cienfuegos. In the evening Perhaps take a stroll along the malecon (ocean walkway) or soak up the atmospheric vibes of the Old Town. At the end of a long day, it's time for a mojito or cuba libre and final night of salsa in Habana Vieja's bars. Hit the streets and celebrate the end of a fantastic adventure.

Included Activities

- Havana - Visit to Plaza de la Revolucion

Included meals: breakfast

Travel time: Flight from Baracoa to Havana takes 1 1/2 hrs arriving approximately 4pm.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Multiple guesthouses are used in order to accommodate all passengers in the same group

Optional Activities

- Havana - José Martí Memorial Tower - CUC2
- Havana - Buena Vista Social Club - CUC30

Day 15

Havana

Your trip comes to an end this morning. Check-out time from the guesthouse is by 10am.

Important notes

- Cash is difficult to access in Cuba. Credit cards (not debit cards) are essential – ideally multiple credit cards from several different banks.
- The internet in Cuba is hard to find, unreliable and expensive. Treat this trip as a holiday away from social media.
- Luxuries such as air conditioning, and even kitchen sinks, are often scarce. Part of the experience here is learning to appreciate everyday Cuban resourcefulness.
- As this trip covers a lot of land, you'll be spending quite a bit of time looking out of a bus window. Don't forget your headphones!
- You can get some delicious, fresh seafood in Cuba, but remember that due to import restrictions, the



accompaniments are not always as expansive as in other countries. Cuba is different and that's what makes it such a fascinating destination. You will find that things don't always go according to plan or work the way they do back home. Regulations concerning foreigners and currency may appear strange to you, buses and planes often run late and sometimes the water in your bathroom can run cold and the electricity fail. In order to get the most out of your holiday, a degree of patience, good humour and understanding is a definite advantage. Cuba may not be wealthy in a monetary sense, however if you approach your holiday with an open and enquiring mind, the warm welcome you receive from Cubans will ensure you a rich and rewarding holiday experience.

● Cuban Guesthouses (known locally as Casa Particulares) are more similar in style to B&Bs than they are our homestays. Guests are served their meals separate to the family, and, while some guesthouse owners speak English, interaction mostly consists of gestures, smiles and Spanglish. Because families must have the space and resources to accommodate guests. Guesthouses, if possibly more rustic than the accommodation you might be used to back home, are much nicer than your average Cuban dwelling. Moreover, because renovations in the country's government-run hotels tending to be few and far between, Premium and Deluxe guesthouses very often rival, if not surpass, Cuban hotels when it comes to décor, amenities and (certainly) customer service. Just like the residences in your own neighbourhood, each Guesthouse is unique; expect there to be differences between the rooms you and your travelling companions stay in (generally we arrange things so that there are 1-4 group members in each home). The rooms, although basic, are always clean and comfortable. While most Standard rooms will have air-conditioning, some may just have a fan. Each has a private bathroom with towels provided, though make sure to bring any toiletries you might require as not all guesthouses provide soap and shampoo. Also note that electric shower heads with visible wires are a normality in Cuba! As with many developing countries, power cuts do occur on occasion, meaning that hot water can't always be guaranteed regardless of the standard. We have classified guesthouses into three standards for the comfort level of our trips: Standard, Premium and Deluxe, although please note not all standards exist in each city or province. The rooms in our Premium and Deluxe guesthouses are larger than in the Standard and also usually feature a desk or armchair. The mattresses and pillows are imported rather than locally made, the linen is cotton rather than synthetic, and there will always be soap, split system air-conditioning, and an in-room safe. Most other differences can be a little harder to tell at first, and you'll probably only be able to notice the difference once you've stayed in both standards. Be assured though that the comforts to which foreign travellers are accustomed have been taken into account in classifying premium and deluxe guesthouses a higher standard of accommodation.

Cuba is becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination and unfortunately the number of rooms available is not increasing at the same rate. Hotels and Guesthouses occasionally cancel bookings at the last minute and do not always offer an alternative option that meets our standards. While these types of cancellations are outside of our control, our local team is presented with the difficult task of sourcing the next best from whatever else is available; choosing the option that will have the least impact on your experience. This overbooking is affecting all tour operators in the country and you need to be aware that it may affect your trip.

- A visa or tourist card, organised prior to arrival, is required for all nationalities visiting Cuba.
- Visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. Entry requirements can change at any time, so it's important that you check for the latest information. Please visit the relevant consular website of the country or countries you're visiting for detailed and up-to-date visa information specific to your nationality.



Visas can take several weeks to process, so familiarise yourself with any requirements as soon as you have booked your trip to allow for processing time and costs.

- We recommend 350 € for meals not included during the trip.
- This is a shared tour. That means that tour operators from all over the world book their guests onto this tour. So you will be travelling in an international group.

Preishinweise:

- Buchung eines Einzelzimmers: 379 €
- Langstreckenflug Frankfurt - Havanna und zurück: z.B. mit Iberia, KLM, oder Lufthansa ab 699 €
- Rail & Fly innerhalb Deutschlands (2. Klasse): inkludiert bei Flugbuchung über YOLO
- Flughafentransfers im Zielland: Transfer vom Flughafen Havanna zum Starthotel inkludiert (Buchung dennoch erforderlich), Rücktransfer vom letzten Rundreisehotel zum Flughafen Havanna 60 € pro Auto (bis zu 2 Personen)
- Vor- bzw. Anschlussübernachtung im Tourhotel Preise pro Nacht und Person (exkl. Frühstück):
Vorübernachtung 41 € p.P. im DZ, 75 € im EZ; Anschlussübernachtung 41 € im DZ, 71 € im EZ
- Bitte beachten: Bei Vor- und Anschlussübernachtung ist ein halbes Doppelzimmer nicht buchbar



Wohin geht die Reise? Immer ins Herz.

YOLO

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Änderungen und Irrtümer vorbehalten

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