



Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture

January 25 – January 31, 2018

Passport Required

Must be 18 years or older

7 days, 6 nights

\$6,790.00 per person based on Double

\$8,453.00 per person based on Single

\$6,618.00 per person based on Triple

Plus \$380.00 per person Tauck Guest Protection

Pricing for air to and from Miami will be quoted after tour registration.



Photos Courtesy of Tauck

Until recently, 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 on Tauck's cultural exchange.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 – January 25, 2018 – Arrive Miami, FL – Arrive Miami International Airport and transfer to your hotel. **Begin your Cuba travel in Miami** - Your small group of 20 to 30 travelers gathers this afternoon at the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables 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. Meals: D Lodging: Hyatt Regency Coral Gables

Day 2 – January 26, 2018 - Bienvenidos a La Habana - 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. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Meliá Habana

Day 3 – January 27, 2018 - Historic Havana and 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. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Meliá Habana

Day 4 – January 28, 2018 - Cuban baseball, crafts and 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. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Meliá Habana

Day 5 – January 29, 2018 - 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. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Meliá Habana

Day 6 - January 30, 2018 – 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. Meals: B, L, D Lodging: Meliá Habana

Day 7 - January 31, 2018 - Journey Home - After breakfast, transfer from the Meliá Habana to Havana's José Martí International Airport for your included return flight to Miami. Tauck's Cuba travel program of educational exchange 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. Meals: B

