

¡VIVA CUBA!

Havana – Viñales – Las Terrazas – Cienfuegos – Trinidad – Varadero

February 4-14, 2019 (11 days)



Tobacco curing hut and fields, Viñales Valley
© Adam Jones



Varadero



Street view, Old Havana © Pedro Szekely

Highlights:

- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Old Havana, where old-time American automobiles and an eclectic tapestry of architectures evoke a colourful past, as well as the colonial towns of Cienfuegos and Trinidad.
- Discover the rich heritage of Cuban literature following the footsteps of Nobel Prize winner Ernest Hemingway and the diversity of Cuban culture, from the almost romanticized legends surrounding Che Guevara to the music of Ibrahim Ferrer and the Buena Vista Social Club, and from coffee to richly-scented cigars.
- Enjoy the tropical landscapes of the island dotted with citrus trees, sugar cane, tobacco and coffee plantations, and swim in its crystal-clear waters full of colourful coral and fish.



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada

Tel: 604 291 1332 or 1800 665 0998 Fax: 604 291 1378

Email: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Mon, Feb 4 / DEPART CANADA – ARRIVE HAVANA

Depart for Cuba. After arrival at the airport, transfer to your hotel in **Havana**.

Day 2 / Tue, Feb 5 / HAVANA

Today discover Cuba's capital, starting with a walking tour of the UNESCO-listed historic centre of **Old Havana**, which retains an interesting mix of Baroque and neoclassical monuments, and a homogeneous ensemble of private houses with arcades, balconies, wrought-iron gates and internal courtyards. See the Plaza de San Francisco de Asis, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de la Catedral and Plaza de Armas. Take a coco taxi to the old lumberyard for a tour and beer tasting. This afternoon, enjoy a panoramic tour through **modern Havana**. Stop at Central Park and the Capitol, former seat of the Cuban Congress until the end of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. Visit the Callejon de Hamel, Havana's high temple of Afro-Cuban culture – a narrow alley filled with colourful murals and sculptures made from bathtubs, hand pumps and pinwheels.

Tonight transfer by vintage car to the **Buena Vista Social Club**, the birthplace of great Cuban musicians. Enjoy dinner and traditional rhythms such as the Cuban son, the unique guaguanco, salsa, bolero, rumba and other typical Caribbean sounds. Enjoy the night view of the Malecón on your way back. (B,L,D)

Day 3 / Wed, Feb 6 / HAVANA

Travel along the route of famous American writer and Nobel Prize winner **Ernest Hemingway**. Visit the Hemingway Museum in Finca Vigía, a Cuban residence where he lived and wrote *The Old Man and the Sea* in 1951. Afterwards head to Cojímar and have lunch at La Terraza restaurant, which Hemingway often frequented between fishing trips. Continue to El Floridita and La Bodeguita del Medio – two of his favourite drinking haunts.



Callejon de Hamel, Havana © Kirua

Tonight, you may wish to book the optional Tropicana Show – the crown jewel of Havana's nightlife (USD 75 per person, to be booked locally). This famous cabaret and club was launched in 1939 and is an extravagant spectacle with a revue of glamour and nostalgia. Sculptural dancers in feather costumes defying gravity and the rhythm of bongos and trumpets will take you on a journey through all Cuban genres. (B,L,D)

Day 4 / Thu, Feb 7 / HAVANA – VIÑALES

Depart Havana and travel to **Pinar del Río**, the westernmost province of Cuba, which produces about 70% of the country's tobacco crop. This lush, green oasis is dotted with tobacco farms blessed with some of the world's most fertile soil. Stop at Las Barrigonas, the Information Centre for the **Tobacco Route**. Continue to the Finca Quemado del Rubí for a tour of the farm and plantation. The site is run by Héctor Luis Prieto Díaz, known for his 'Habano of the Year' award in 2008.

After a creole lunch, learn how a typical Cuban cigar is rolled. Late afternoon arrival in the slow and relaxed agricultural town of **Viñales**. (B,L,D)

Day 5 / Fri, Feb 8 / VIÑALES – LAS TERRAZAS

Depart Viñales and stop at the **Mural de la Prehistoria**, designed in 1961 by Leovigildo González Morillo, a follower of Mexican artist Diego Rivera. Visit the **Indian Cave** to see impressive rock formations as you take a short boat trip on the cave's underground river. Continue to the rural village of **Las Terrazas**, located in a mountain range built around a creek.

At Rancho Curujey, enjoy a welcome cocktail overlooking Lago Palmar. Visit the community terraces and enjoy a coffee tasting. Then head to **Río San Juan** and the partially restored Buenavista Coffee Plantation, built in 1801 by French refugees from Haiti. Late afternoon arrival at your hotel. (B,L,D)



Las Terrazas © Royal Tropical Tour

Day 6 / Sat, Feb 9 / LAS TERRAZAS – CIENFUEGOS

Depart Las Terrazas for the **Bay of Pigs Museum** in Playa Girón, site of the botched invasion launched by 1,400 Cuban exiles in 1961 aimed at overthrowing the new government of Fidel Castro. Continue to **Ciénaga de Zapata National Park**, one of best birdwatching areas in the world, and visit the crocodile farm.

After lunch, depart to **Cienfuegos** – also known as the 'Pearl of the South'. Founded in 1819 by French émigrés, the historic centre blends European elegance with a flourish of Caribbean spirit. Enjoy a tour of this beautiful city and visit the Paseo Martí and the Tomás Terry Theatre, built between 1887 and 1889 to honour the Venezuelan industrialist. (B,L,D)

Day 7 / Sun, Feb 10 / CIENFUEGOS – TRINIDAD

Travel to **Trinidad**. Nestled between the ocean and the mountains, Trinidad is Cuba's best example of a Spanish colonial town, and it has been wonderfully restored with funding due to its UNESCO status. Discover the town on a tour of the historic centre including Plaza Mayor and the Plaza Real del Jigue. Stop at Bar Canchánchara to taste its famous eponymous house cocktail made from rum, honey, lemon and water.

Join a dance class at Casa ARTEX cultural centre, before enjoying live music and traditional Cuban rhythms at Casa de la Trova. (B,L,D)

Day 8 / Mon, Feb 11 / TRINIDAD

Head to **Península Ancón** for the day. Enjoy a cruise on the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea and stop at a coral reef for snorkelling. Visit the small white-sand island of **Cayo Macho de Afuera**, famous for its variety of corals, sea fans sponges and gorgonians, as well as colourful fish. After lunch, enjoy some free time at the beach, before returning to Península Ancón and Trinidad. (B,L,D)



Day 9 / Tue, Feb 12 / TRINIDAD – VARADERO

Depart Trinidad for **Santa Clara** – site of the last conflict of the Cuban Revolution. Fulgencio Batista's last attempt to retain power was disrupted by forces commanded by Che Guevara, who derailed an armoured train carrying ammunition, heavy weapons and 300 soldiers. Ultimately overrunning the city's demoralized defensive forces, the revolutionaries achieved ultimate victory with Batista's flight from Cuba a mere 12 hours after the Battle of Santa Clara.

Visit the **Che Guevara Mausoleum**.

Continue your journey to **Varadero**. Late afternoon arrival at your all-inclusive resort. (B,L,D)

Day 10 / Wed, Feb 13 / VARADERO

Full day at leisure to relax at the beach under billowing palm trees, dip into clear aquamarine waters and enjoy the facilities of your resort. (B,L,D)

Day 11 / Thu, Feb 14 / VARADERO – DEPART HAVANA

Transfer to Airport International José Martí in Havana for your flight back to Canada, arriving on the same day, or extend your stay in Varadero. (B)



TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, twin-share \$2,790

Single supplement \$520

AIR OPTIONS in CAD

No specific group flights have been blocked as travellers will be joining the tour from various gateways. At the time of booking we will quote you the best possible rate. You may also purchase your own flights (booking on points etc) and meet the group at the hotel.

INCLUDED

- Private coach transportation throughout and other transportation as per itinerary (coco taxi, vintage car, boat)
- Accommodation in comfortable 3- and 4-star hotels
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- English-speaking guide throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides, admission fees and shows as per itinerary
- Gratuities for drivers and guides

NOT INCLUDED

- Return international airfare Canada – Havana
- Travel insurance
- Hotel portorage
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks with meals (except at the resort in Varadero)
- Items of a personal nature



Lady smoking her cigar in the Vieja district, Havana © David Steele



Trinidad © Royal Tropical Tour



Viñales Valley © Baldo Simone

RESERVATION FORM

¡VIVA CUBA!

February 4-14, 2019

Please fill out this form in full and mail it with your deposit of \$600.00 and travel insurance payment for each traveller. Travel insurance is optional but recommended. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill').

TRAVELLER #1		TRAVELLER #2	
Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name	Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name
	Middle name(s)		Middle name(s)
	Last name		Last name
Date of birth:	dd/mmm/yyyy	Date of birth:	dd/mmm/yyyy
City + country of birth:		City + country of birth:	
Passport #:		Passport #:	
Passport expiry date:	dd/mmm/yyyy	Passport expiry date:	dd/mmm/yyyy
Passport issuing country:		Passport issuing country:	
Preferred first name (for name tag):		Preferred first name (for name tag):	

ADDRESS

Street:	
City:	Province/State:
Postal code:	Country:
Cell #:	Home #:
Email:	
Accommodation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing with:
Seating preference on aircraft:	<input type="checkbox"/> Aisle <input type="checkbox"/> Window
Special dietary meal request:	(where available)
Next of kin (in case of emergency):	Phone #:

TRAVEL INSURANCE (to be purchased at time of deposit)

<input type="checkbox"/> All Inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Trip Cancellation <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
Amount of premium (see next page): \$

PAYMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> Please make cheques payable to: SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL 4603 Main Street Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6 Canada Tel: 604 291 1332 or 1800 665 0998
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa/MasterCard (a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card)
Card #:
Expiry date:
Name on card:
Amount to be charged: \$

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.

SIGNATURE: _____

Date: _____

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$600 pp deposit due at time of booking
 Balance due by December 4, 2018
 Travel documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). The deposit of \$600 is non-refundable. The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until Dec 3, 2018	\$600
Dec 4, 2018 – Jan 3, 2019	75%
From Jan 4, 2019	100%

NB: different payment/cancellation policy applies to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travel.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents and visas are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.

TRAVEL INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Following are the main areas of coverage with Allianz Global Assistance and the two packages we offer for this trip. Please carefully read the brochure you will receive after booking for full details. For insurance purposes the key point is that you are in good health. PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS are not covered. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like further information.

Please note that travellers need to have current Provincial Health Plan coverage in order to qualify for the ALL-INCLUSIVE insurance package.

The **ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE** consists of:

- Cancellation & Interruption
- Flight Accident
- Emergency Medical (\$5 Million limit)
- Travel Accident
- Baggage & Personal Effects

If you wish you may also choose the **CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION** insurance alone. This plan is suitable if you have sufficient medical coverage already and rates apply to any trip length.

NB: These premiums are guidelines. The exact premium will depend on your total tour cost (including final airfare with taxes, additional expenses such as single supplement, extra nights at the hotels etc.). At time of booking we will provide the applicable premium for your situation. Insurance rates are valid at time of printing and are subject to change. Premiums are quoted per person, in CAD, and subject to Provincial Sales Tax (8% Ontario, 9% Quebec, 7% Manitoba).

OPTION 1: THE ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE					
TOUR COST	AGES				
	0-60	61-65	66-70	71-76	77+
\$2,500	\$170.00	\$212.00	\$260.00	\$308.00	\$621.00
\$3,000	\$190.00	\$238.00	\$292.00	\$343.00	\$691.00
\$3,500	\$210.00	\$264.00	\$323.00	\$378.00	\$761.00

OPTION 2: CANCELLATION + INTERRUPTION INSURANCE						
TOUR COST	AGES					
	0-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+
\$2,500	\$160.00	\$177.00	\$191.00	\$215.00	\$315.00	\$390.00
\$3,000	\$178.00	\$199.50	\$218.00	\$246.50	\$351.00	\$430.50
\$3,500	\$196.00	\$222.00	\$245.00	\$278.00	\$387.00	\$471.00



SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada
 Tel: 604 291 1332 or 1800 665 0998 Fax: 604 291 1378
 Email: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com