

SAMPLE JOURNEY TO

CUBA

GILTEDGE





WELCOME TO CUBA

There are very few countries in the world as richly and immediately evocative as Cuba. Just the mention of its name seems to conjure images of charmingly faded colonial buildings, 1950s-era American motorcars parked on sun-soaked street corners, and salsa dancing to the libidinous beat of Afro-Cuban rhythms.

If you are drawn by the fascinating revolutionary and isolationist history of the country, which has withstood over 60 years of communist rule, staunch US embargoes, and the sudden withdrawal of Soviet Union-sponsored subsidies in 1991, to emerge with its unique national character very much intact; or if you want a tropical Caribbean getaway on Cuba's magnificent white-sand beaches, complete with some of the best diving and snorkelling sites in the world, and maybe a touch of vibrant culture thrown in – then Cuba is the destination for you!

There is much to see and do in Cuba, encompassing historical attractions, wonderfully charming small towns, beautiful natural surrounds, world-class beaches, and - of course - more hedonistic pursuits, such as cigar factory tours, salsa dancing classes, and more bars and nightclubs than even Hemingway could've been thrown out of at closing time.



GETTING THERE

ACCOMMODATION



GRAN HOTEL MANZANA KEMPINSKY HOTEL

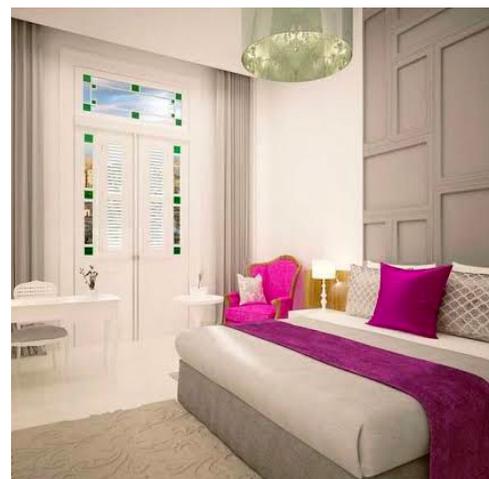
FEATURES

Ideally located in the heart of Old Havana, and surrounded by the main UNESCO World Heritage buildings of this vibrant city, the Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski offers you the opportunity to relish in the first luxury hotel in Cuba.

With a contemporary decoration, Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski comprises 246 luxurious rooms, including 50 suites, where you can lounge after a stroll through the fascinating and historic city of Havana.

Indulge in the extensive gastronomic outlets, such as the Lobby Bar El Arsenal or at the panoramic restaurant San Cristobal. Enjoy your favourite cocktail in the Bar Constante or smoke a cigar paired with a rum in the cozy tobacco lounge, Evocación.

Enjoy the breathtaking view from the rooftop while sipping a delicious cocktail, get pampered at our Spa by Resense or celebrate your Meetings or Events in one of the conference rooms.



EXCURSIONS



DAY 2

Welcome Reception

Welcome Reception at the hotels rooftop bar, with a central stage that makes you feel part of the show while enjoying the fusion of French and Cuban cuisines with Live music performance by a Traditional Cuban Trio.



DAY 3

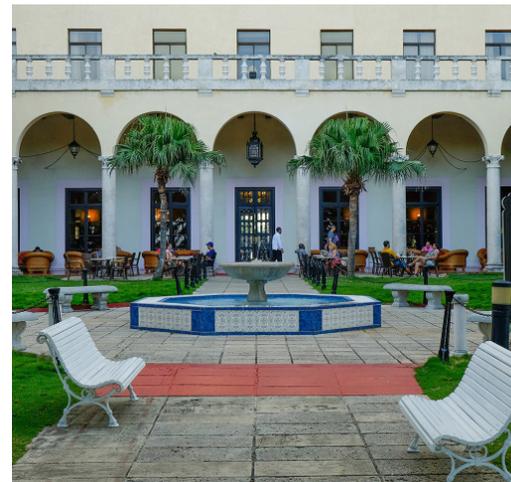
Havana City Tour

Founded about 1519 on Cuba's north-western shore, Old Havana has maintained a remarkable unity of character through its adherence to its original urban layout. Urban plazas surrounded by many buildings of outstanding architectural merit and narrow streets lined with more popular or traditional styles permeate the historic center of the city. Its overall sense of architectural, historical and environmental continuity makes it the most impressive historical city center in the Caribbean and one of the most notable in the American continent as a whole. From freshly cut stalks of sugar cane to a reconstitution of a distillery and ageing cellars, the Havana Club Museum of Rum offers a real-time experience of the rum-making process, as well as a taste of true Cuban culture. You'll learn how to prepare a drink that has navigated the peaks and troughs of fads and trends for decades and introducing countless drinkers to the world of cocktails; the Mojito has earned its legendary status.

DAY 3

Montecristo Cigar Lunch

Sobriety and intimacy distinguish the ambience of this hotel located in this unique location that used to be the mansion of Claudio Martínez de Pinillos, Count of Villanueva, a famous personality of the nineteenth century, who had great influence in the social and economic flowering of the Island. Conceived for Habanos' lovers, offers the Vegas de Vuelta Abajo restaurant with the opportunity to taste one Puro Habano with Cuban Aged rum to learn about the art of maridage, which is marrying a cigar to a rum, the history of our products, and why Cuban Puros are considered among the best cigars in the world.



DAY 3

Pre dinner drinks at Hotel Nacional de Cuba

The Hotel Nacional de Cuba is considered a symbol of history, culture and Cuban identity. With its privileged location in the middle of Vedado, the center of Havana, it stands on a hill just a few meters from the sea, and offers a great view of the Havana Harbor; the seawall and the city. The Hotel stands out due to its refined elegance and its ancient splendor, which since 1930 has attracted a large number of personalities from the arts, science and politics, such as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, artists Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Johnny Weismuller, Maria Félix, Jorge Negrete, and scientist Alexander Fleming.



DAY 3

Dinner at La Guardia

Only in Havana! The entrance to the city's most legendary private restaurant greets you like a scene out of a 1940s film noir. A decapitated statue lies at the bottom of a grand but dilapidated staircase that leads past lines of drying clothes to a wooden door, beyond which lie multiple culinary surprises. La Guardia began to acquire its lofty reputation in the 1990s, when it was used as a location for the Oscar-nominated *Fresa y chocolate* movie. Regularly refined in the years since, the food is still up there with Havana's best, with the restaurant's pioneering brand of nueva cocina cubana driving both classic dishes (ropa vieja; shredded beef) and those that are unusual for Cuba (lamb tikka masala).



DAY 3

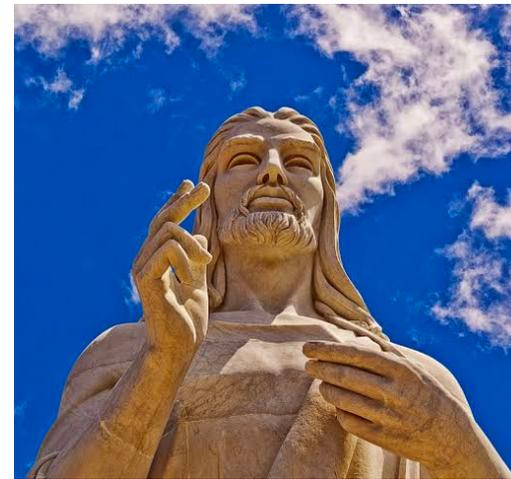
Cabaret Tropicana

An institution since its 1939 opening, the world-famous Tropicana was among the few bastions of Havana's Las Vegas-style nightlife to survive the revolution. Immortalized in Graham Greene's 1958 *Our Man in Havana*, the open-air cabaret show here has changed little since its 1950s heyday, with scantily clad señoritas descending from palm trees to dance Latin salsa amid bright lights. It might be touristy and cheesy – but its definitely not to be missed when visiting Havana!

DAY 3

Late night at Havana's Malecon area

The memorable post Tropicana show moments start with a drink of Cuban aged rum before walking to the nearby Havana's Malecon to experience the Cuban life till midnight, usually packed with Havana locals, drinking, dancing, talking, playing music and having tons of fun. We hang out on the Havana Malecón and provide bottles of Havana Club 7 years old rum, Cola, ice and cups, to mingle with the Cuban crowds.



DAY 4

Havana by Boat

Enjoy a panoramic boat trip with a stop at Cristo de la Habana and Jose Castelar for a cigar rolling demonstration. Cigar rolling demonstration with José Castelar (Cueto), a six-time winner of the Guinness Record. He's 71 and still has confidence in his skills and shows loves for his work. Cueto, who learnt to make cigars when he was 5, is proud to belong to the family of Cuban cigar rollers. In Cuba, cigar rollers have always enjoyed prestige and recognition by the population, as many of them engaged in the wars for national liberation.



DAY 4

Lunch at Paladar San Cristobal

San Cristóbal is named after its owner, chef and driving inspiration, Carlos Cristóbal Márquez Valdés. The place belies its location in Central Havana and exudes authenticity and charm. Cluttered, eclectic, this is a still lived-in space occupying the downstairs floor of an early 20th-century mansion. Piles of old books are stacked atop beautiful old furniture; unique black and white photos jostle for space with antique record covers and bull fighting posters, while a selection of clocks, religious artefacts and even a full-size zebra pelt add to the mix. China elephants share the front room with a model Red Indian and a shrine to the black Virgin Mary (famously depicted in Our Lady of Regla image in the church of the same name). The food is purely Cuban-Creole: taro, cassava, roast pork, lobster, fresh fish, shrimp and other traditional fare.



DAY 4

Bike Tour

Electric bike tour from Centro Habana to Miramar. You'll cross the University area, 23 street and the embassy district and encounter the magnificent buildings of a time when money played the biggest role in Cuba. We finish visiting Fusterlandia. Along the coastal road through fishing villages you will get the feeling of being in the deepest interior of Cuba.



DAY 4

Dinner at Al Carbon

After a surprise dance performance when the group arrives – the group will go upstairs for dinner. This is a cozy private restaurant. After the success of its Project Ivan Chef Justo, now proposes a wide menu specializing in grilled food, all in this place tailor-made for his creativity and culinary excellence. Ivan works with very fresh products. That's the reason why his menu varies with the availabilities of the markets. You can enjoy the very special ambience and also the processes taking place in the kitchen.



DAY 4

Late Night Clubbing

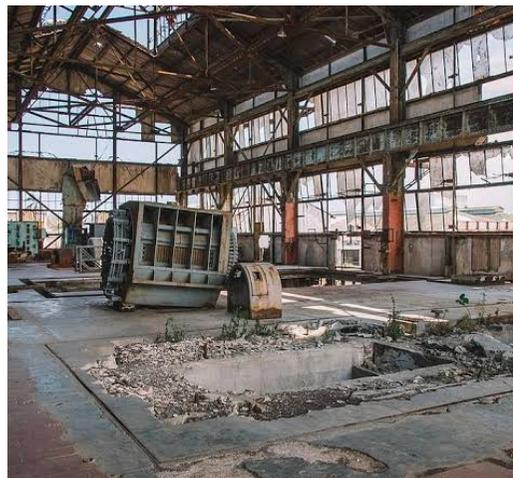
Visit to Habana Café, a part of Meliá Cohiba's marble palace but located next door. It is striking for its original ambience, mixing a furious contemporary style with the recreation of an atmosphere that takes us back to the 50s. Among the many vintage objects, photos of famous artists or relevant historical events, the presence of two superb automobiles: a convertible Chevrolet and a 1957 Buick, which every night with its lights and the sound of its horns are part of the Habana Café show. No less attractive are the YAK - 18 tandem plane and the Harley Davidson motorcycle of the 47 that complete the decoration of the place. The show that covers the best of Cuban music of all times, performed by live orchestras that perform a repertoire that gives an overview of the Cuban musical wealth. The show combines the best of Cuban rhythms with dance, leaving a taste of Cuban flavor on the palate.



DAY 5

Hershey Adventure

The Hershey Train in Cuba is the epitome of how travel should be : lazy, unpredictable, social and slow! The Hershey Train line was built in 1917 by the chocolate company Hershey to transport sugar between the Hershey manufacturing plant and the port of Havana. Today, it is the only remaining electric railway in Cuba. On the privately chartered train journey, we will have an open bar serving Cuban cocktails and beers, Cuban live music and dancers. In Hershey, the group will explore this unique piece of Cuban history first hand with a visit to the current sugar factory followed by a walking tour of the little ghost town of Hershey. We will stop at a local house to enjoy a rich guarapo (cane juice from sugar) in a trapiche as a souvenir from the golden age of the sugar industry in Cuba. After a casual lunch at in one of the historic houses, we will return back to Havana by train.



DAY 5

Beach Party

The sandy sea bottom is colonized by corals and fertile marine life that turn the area into a great spot for snorkeling. Those who wish to continue practicing Cuban dances will have the opportunity to participate in the salsa dance class in the sand. There will be an open grill located near the beach and with a chef ready to prepare fresh meats or fish according to your taste, served with vegetables, roasted potatoes and sauces to accompany. At night, visit to the Fortress of San Carlos de la Cabaña, the largest built by the Spanish in America, and whose design applies the most advanced concepts of military engineering of the eighteenth century. Enjoy the traditional Nine O'clock Cannon Shot Ceremony.

DAY 5

Late Night Clubbing at Mio & Tuyo

The Bar Restaurant Mio y Tuyo is a beautiful space with modern decor style and is luxuriously decorated in red and gold. Offering varied cocktails, Mio y Tuyo Nightclub is considered one of the best Havana Cuba nightclubs for its excellent service, fun atmosphere and delicious cocktails.



DAY 6

Afternoon guided visit to the Handcraft Fair and Old San Jose

This former harbourside warehouse was built in 1885 and is considered the oldest depository in Old Havana. It is the largest handcraft market on the island - with artisans exhibiting and selling leather items, costume jewelry, ornamental items made of papier-mâché, clothing; humidors and Afro-Cuban percussion instruments, ceramic items, sculptures made of Cuban hardwoods, baskets, handbags, hats and more. A popular shoppers paradise and an essential visit on your Havana adventure.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

DAY**MORNING****AFTERNOON****EVENING****DAY 1**

20h05: Guests to check-in at the KLM check-in counters at Cape Town International.

Pass through immigration & passport control.

Pre departure drinks & snacks at a semi private lounge.

23h05: Departure of flight from Cape Town. This is a full service flight. Flying time: 11 hours 25 minutes.

Overnight: On board.

DAY 2

10h45: Arrival of flight into Amsterdam, remain in transit for onward connecting flight.

VIP lounge access at Amsterdam International Airport.

13h55: Departure of flight from Amsterdam. This is a full service flight. Flying time: 1 hour 25 minutes.

15h20: Arrival of flight into Paris, remain in transit for onward connecting flight.

16h40: Departure of flight from Paris. This is a full service flight. Flying time: 10 hours 20 minutes.

20h35: Arrival of flight into Havana. Pass through immigration, passport control & luggage collection.

Transfer to the hotel with welcome reception upon arrival.

Late night clubbing at Salon Rosado de la Tropical.

Overnight: Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski.

DAY 3

Breakfast at the hotel.

Havana City Tour with visit to the Havana Club Museum.

Monte Christo lunch at Conde de Villanueva Habanos Hostal.

Dinner at La Guarida with Soviet Chaika Limousine transfers.

Cabaret Tropicana.

Overnight: Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski.

DAY 4 Breakfast at the hotel. Lunch at Paladar San Christobal. Dinner at Al Carbon followed by late night clubbing at Fabrica de Arte Cubano.
Havana by boat including a cigar rolling demonstration. Bike tour from Centro Habana to Miramar with a visit to Fusterlandia. Overnight: Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski.

DAY 5 Breakfast at the hotel. Beach party with BBQ dinner.
Hershey Adventure. Late night clubbing at Mio & Tuyo.
Overnight: Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski.

DAY 6 Breakfast at the hotel. Afternoon guided visit to the Handcraft Fair & Old San Jose. Transfer to the airport.
Morning at leisure. Late lunch at Café Taberna Restaurant. 19h55: Check-in at the Air France counters. Pass through immigration & passport control.
Return to the hotel to freshen up. 22h55: Departure of flight from Havana. This is a full service flight. Flying time: 8 hours 45 minutes.
Overnight: On board.

DAY 7 14h05: Arrival of flight into Paris, remain in transit for onward connecting flight. 18h20: Departure of flight from Paris. This is a full service flight. Flying time: 10 hours 15 minutes.
VIP lounge access at Paris International Airport.

DAY 8 05h00: Arrival of flight into Cape Town International Airport.
Pass through immigration, passport control and luggage collection.
End of event.

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