



Cuba Solidarity Campaign
C/o Unite, 33-37 Moreland Street,
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February 2016

Dear Friends

CHE's Red Green Study Tour
Hero of the Revolution
Exploring Cuba's Central & Western Provinces
07-22 November 2016



Thank you for your recent enquiry about Cuba Solidarity Campaign **CHE's RED GREEN STUDY TOUR**. This year's launch of our brand new, thought provoking study tour to examine Che Guevara's pivotal role in the success of the Cuban Revolution, post-Revolution Cuban society and explore Cuba's current cultural and social values. In addition, we experience an exciting encounter with the Cuban environment and will be exploring Cuba's developing green issues with visits to key environmental projects.

We anticipate a very strong interest in this tour and recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment.

The Cuba Solidarity Campaign is running this tour in association with Havanatour (ATOL 4636), the UK's leading Cuba specialist, and I have pleasure in enclosing the booking conditions and Booking Form for your information.

CHE's RED GREEN STUDY TOUR provides an exciting opportunity to visit and explore some of the key sites in Che's struggle against the dictator Batista and US imperialism, meet the Cuban people in their neighbourhoods, workplaces and schools with time to relax and enjoy the local culture and stunning scenery. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the real Cuba away from the usual tourist trails and experience the achievements of the Revolution as well as the problems caused by the US blockade of over fifty four years through an extensive series of unique and inspiring visits.

We will be visiting the provinces of Havana, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus and Pinar del Río.

- Visit Che Guevara's mausoleum and museum and Tren Blindado site, where Che intercepted Batista's troop train on route to Santiago de Cuba and heralded the end of the Batista's brutal dictatorship.
- Che's secret underground HQ at Los Portales during the Missile Crisis and his command HQ in Fortaleza San Carlos overlooking Havana Bay.
- Series of visits to Cuban institutions, work places, community projects and NGOs with the opportunity to meet and discuss current issues with specialist practitioners.
- Educational visits to a primary school, school for children with visual impairment, technical studies school and the inspirational Literacy Campaign Museum.
- Visit an organopónico, an organic urban agricultural coop, and a community food project to discuss methods and practices with local workers and volunteers.

For Cuban coffee, books, music and much more shop at <http://shop.cuba-solidarity.org.uk/>



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- Meetings with 'Institute for Peace Between Peoples' (ICAP) and Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) representatives.
- Interact with Cuban families at an informal neighbourhood Committee for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR) meeting and visit the CDR Museum.
- Visit stunning Topes de Collantes, deep in the Escambray Mountains, and a university agricultural research centre.
- City tour of Trinidad, a UNESCO world heritage site and Cuba's best preserved colonial town. Visit a museum dedicated to the post- revolution struggle against CIA supported bandits in the Escambray.
- Unique landscapes of Viñales and enjoy a day trip to the crystal clear waters of Cayo Jutías beach on the Gulf of Mexico.
- Study meetings at a cooperative farm in Viñales, environmental research station in Las Terrazas and an urban regeneration project in Havana.
- Walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO world heritage site, to explore stunningly renovated colonial heart of Cuba's captivating capital city.
- Ascend José Martí's monument in iconic Plaza de la Revolución, with images of Che and Camilo, for a stunning panoramic view of the city.

Father Geoff Bottoms will be leading the tour. Father Bottoms has successfully led many Cuba Solidarity Campaign study tours to Cuba and has travelled extensively throughout the island. He has a wide and detailed knowledge of Cuban politics, culture and society and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign.

The full cost of this unique 14-night tour is £1,899.00 per person

In addition, if you are currently not a member of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, we are delighted to automatically offer you one year's free membership as part of your participation in one of our study tours. However, please don't hesitate to contact us if you would rather opt out of this free membership offer.

Accommodation & Meal Plans

Hotel Plaza 07-09/11/2016. 2 nights. Bed & breakfast.

Hotel Los Helechos 09-12/11/2016. 3 nights. Half board.

Hotel Ancón 12-13/11/2016. 1 night. All Inclusive.

Los Caneyes 13-14/11/2016. 1 night. Half board.

La Ermita 14-17/11/2016. 3 nights. Bed & breakfast.

Hotel Vueltabajo 17-18/11/2016. 1 night. Bed & breakfast.

Hotel Plaza 18-21/11/2016. 3 nights. Bed & breakfast.

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Flight Times

Virgin Atlantic. Winter timetable.

07 November 2016. Outbound: VS063. London Gatwick (South Terminal) to Havana. Depart: 12:30. Arrive: 17:35 local time.

21 November 2016. Inbound: VS064. Havana to London Gatwick. Depart: 19:30. Arrive: 09:10 on 22 November 2016.

Please note that flight times are subject to final confirmation by the airline. Joining instructions, flight tickets and Cuban tourist cards will be issued approximately 14 days before departure.

Transport

Air conditioned transportation with driver and English speaking specialist local guide as per itinerary.

Itinerary

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
07			Arrive Havana.
08	Meeting with ICAP and FMC. Plaza de la Revolución. Ascent of José Martí monument.	Lunch at Casa de La Amistad. <u>Professional Visit:</u> Community Food Project, Marianao. Literacy Museum.	Evening meal at local restaurant. Canon ceremony at Morro-Cabañas.
09	Transfer to Topes de Collantes.		
10	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Mountain Agronomy Faculty, Las Villas University, Escambray.		Rural CDR meeting, Topes de Collantes
11	Coffee House Moderate trek in Escambray.		
12	Transfer to Trinidad Trinidad city tour Museo Lucha Contra Bandidos & Casa de los Mártires	Free afternoon at Ancón beach	
13	Transfer to Santa Clara.	Lunch at Los Caneyes Che mausoleum, museum & Tren Blindado.	
14	Transfer to Viñales	Free afternoon	

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15	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Republica de Chile Cooperative Farm/ Viñales.	Los Portales Che's secret underground HQ.	
16	Cayo Jutías Beach Milicianas Monument/Museum		
17	Transfer to Pinar del Río Cigar factory tour	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Federico Engels Technical School	
18	Transfer to Havana. <u>Professional Visit:</u> Visit Las Terrazas. Environmental Research Station.	Lunch at Cafetal Buenavista	
19	Walking tour of Old Havana CDR Museum	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Río Almendares regeneration project	
20	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Policlinico, local health care centre. <u>Professional Visit:</u> Organiponico urban farm.	Fortaleza San Carlos Comandancia del Che	Celebratory meal at Meson de la Flota
21	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Julio Mella primary school. Abel Santamaría School for visually impaired children.	Afternoon departure from Havana Airport.	
22	Arrive London.		

We recommend you bring a pair of strong, hard soled, fully enclosed waterproof trainers with good tread patterns and a lightweight waterproof jacket for the moderate hike on 08 November and to take advantage of various walking trails around Hotel Los Helechos 09-12 November. The trails may be muddy and slippery with exposed tree roots and loose rocks. You are travelling at the start of the dry season but there may be sudden downpours/wet weather in the mountains whilst staying at Los Helechos.

What is included: Cuban Tourist Card (visa), direct return flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Gatwick to Havana, UK Departure Tax, 14 night's accommodation (detailed in itinerary) based on two people sharing twin rooms with en suite facilities, all meals listed in the itinerary and meal plan, services of an English speaking specialist local guide and the Cuba Solidarity Campaign's Tour



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Leader, air conditioned transport as per itinerary in Cuba and entrance to all visits and excursions, other than those marked as optional, listed in the itinerary.

What is not included: Travel insurance, transfers to and from the departure airport (Gatwick), single room supplement (£185.00 per person) if required and any services not listed as included. All drinks are excluded.

To confirm your participation please complete and send the enclosed Booking Form with your deposit of £100 per person, made payable to 'Havanatour UK Ltd' to Victoria Clark/Gemma Thurgood, Groups Coordinators, Havanatour, 3 Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2JD. The deposit is used to secure your flight booking. The deposit is non-returnable once flight seats have been secured.

Please add your passport number (valid at the time of travel) to the Special Request section in the Booking Form. This information is required by Virgin Atlantic for flight booking. Passports must be valid for at least 6-months from the date of departure from Cuba.

Please note that new regulations from the Cuban Ministry of Tourism require all visitors to Cuba to have a valid travel insurance policy, including comprehensive medical cover. You must check with the insurance provider that the policy is recognised and valid in Cuba. An insurance cover note must be carried to Cuba and presented to immigration authorities if requested.

We anticipate a very strong interest in this tour and recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment. Virgin flights are extremely popular; the flights get full very quickly and Virgin often increase their prices as departure date approaches and we would have to pass on any fare increases applied by the airline to our clients.

Please note that all flights are subject to availability at the time of booking. Should further increases arise in UK airport taxes, and to ensure that we are able to maintain our tour costs as low as possible, we would pass these costs on to tour participants. Please ensure that you have fully read and understood the Havanatour booking conditions. Full payment will be required by 26 September 2016. Minimum group numbers of 15 are required for this tour to run. In the unlikely event of minimum numbers not being obtained your deposit will be returned in full.

If you would like to discuss **CHE'S RED GREEN STUDY TOUR** in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact the Cuba Solidarity Campaign offices on 020 7490 5715 or e-mail at tours@cuba-solidarity.org.uk

With very best wishes

Simon Bull
Tours Manager
Cuba Travel Shop

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