



Cuba Solidarity Campaign
C/o Unite, 33-37 Moreland Street,
London EC1V 8BB

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30 March 2017

Dear Friend

**Following Fidel Study Tour
Exploring Cuba's Eastern Provinces
The Cradle of the Revolution
09 - 24 November 2017**



Thank you for your recent enquiry about the Cuba Solidarity Campaign's **Following Fidel Study Tour**. We are pleased to announce the return of our popular thought provoking study tour to examine Fidel Castro's pivotal role in the success of the Cuban Revolution and explore Cuba's current cultural and social values in the central and eastern provinces. The study tour also includes a special visit to pay homage to Fidel at his final resting place in Santa Ifigenia cemetery.

We anticipate a very strong interest in this tour and recommend 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.

Following Fidel Study Tour provides an exciting opportunity to visit and explore some of the key sites in Fidel'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 55 years through an extensive series of unique and inspiring visits.

- Meetings with 'Institute for Friendship Between Peoples' (ICAP) and Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) representatives.
- Fidel's birthplace at Birán and La Demajagua, where Carlos Manuel de Céspedes set in motion the independence struggle against Spain.
- Fidel's final resting place in Santa Ifigenia cemetery, where his ashes are interred and national heroes José Martí and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes are buried.
- Playa Las Colorades, where Fidel and 81 rebel fighters disembarked from the yacht Granma, signalling the beginning of the armed insurgency against Batista.
- Trek to Comandancia La Plata, Fidel's secret HQ during the revolution, deep in the Sierra Maestra.
- Granjita Siboney, from where Fidel launched the assault on Moncada Barracks on 26 July 1953, and the Moncada Barracks Museum.
- Visit other historic sites including Iglesia de Cobre, Cuba's most sacred pilgrimage site and San Juan Hill battle site, where Cuban, US and Spanish troops faced off in 1898, heralding the surrender of the Spanish garrison.
- Soak up Santiago de Cuba's, Cuba's City of Heroes, historic delights.

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- Meet Cuban families at a neighbourhood Committee for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR) meeting and the CDR Museum.
- Visit Che Guevara's inspiring museum and mausoleum 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.
- Unique visits to Cuban schools and work places, including a primary school, community project, childrens' foster home and the inspiring Literacy Campaign Museum.
- Walking tour of Old Havana, stunningly renovated section of Cuba's captivating capital city, and ascend José Martí's monument in Plaza de la Revolución.
- Artistic visits to the outstanding Bellas Artes Museum and Camagüey Ballet School.

The full cost of this unique 14-night tour, based on 21 participants, is £2,579.00 per person

Minimum group numbers of 16 are required for this tour. However, for group numbers of 16-20 we must add a supplement of £75 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

Our carefully chosen accommodation reflects a range of Cuban hotel experiences from city budget, charming rural cabin style to colonial splendour.

Hotel Vedado, Havana. 2/3 star. 09-11/11/17. 2 nights. Bed & breakfast.

Hotel Los Caneyes, Santa Clara. 3 star. 11-13/11/17. 2 nights. Half Board.

Hotel Plaza Camagüey, Camagüey. 3 star. 13-14/11/17. 1 night. Bed & breakfast.

Hotel Pernik, Holguín. 2/3 star. 14-15/11/17. 1 night. Bed & breakfast.

Villa Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo. 2/3 star. 15-17/11/17. 2 nights. Half Board.

Hotel Guacanayabo, Manzanilla, 2/3 star. 17-18/11/17. 1 night. Half Board.

Hotel Casa Grande, Santiago de Cuba. 3/4 star. 18-21/11/17. 3 nights. Bed & breakfast.

Hotel Vedado, Havana. 2/3 star. 21-23/11/17. 2 nights. Bed & breakfast.

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Flight Times

Virgin Atlantic. Winter timetable.

09 November 2017. Outbound: VS063. London Gatwick (South Terminal) to Havana. Depart: 12:30. Arrive: 17:35 local time.

23 November 2017. Inbound: VS064. Havana to London Gatwick. Depart: 20:10. Arrive: 09:50 on 24 November 2017.

21 November 2017. Cubana domestic flight, Santiago de Cuba to Havana.

Flight times to be confirmed.

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
09 Nov			Arrive Havana.
10 Nov	Meeting with ICAP. Visit Plaza de la Revolución and ascent of José Martí monument.	Lunch at Casa de La Amistad. Visit Bellas Artes Museum. Walking tour of Old Havana.	
11 Nov	<i>Visit CDR Museum and Literacy Museum.</i>	Transfer to Santa Clara	
12 Nov	Che mausoleum and museum and Tren Blindado.		
13 Nov	Visit Mejunje Project Transfer to Camagüey	City walking tour. Visit Camagüey Ballet School.	Committee for the Defence of the Revolution neighbourhood meeting (CDR).
14 Nov	Transfer to Holguín. Meeting with local ICAP representative.	Walking tour to Loma de la Cruz.	
15 Nov	Transfer to Santo Domingo. Visit to Fidel's birth place in Birán on route.	Stop off in Bayamo for city centre walking tour.	
16 Nov	Day hike to Comandancia la Plata. **	Pack Lunch during trek.	
17 Nov	Transfer to Manzanilla via La Demajagua. Museo La Demajagua and Celia Sánchez Monument.		
18 Nov	Museo Las Coloradas. Visit Granma landing site. Transfer to Santiago de Cuba.	Visit Iglesia de Cobre on route.	Optional night at Casa de la Trova.

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19 Nov	City tour visiting Santa Ifigenia cemetery, where Fidel's ashes are interred.	Moncada Barracks/Museum and San Juan Hill.	
20 Nov	Visit El Morro castle.	Lunch at El Morro. Free afternoon.	
21 Nov	Visit La Granjita Siboney. Meeting with local representatives of ICAP and Federation of Cuban Women.	Museo de la Lucha Clandestina. Domestic flight to Havana.	
22 Nov	Day trip to Playa del Este beaches.		Evening meal at Mesón de la Flota.
23 Nov	Visit Julio Mella primary school.	Afternoon departure from Havana Airport.	
24 Nov	Arrive London.		

**We strongly recommend that for the 3km trek on 16 November to Commandancia La Plata, Fidel's secret HQ during the revolution, you bring a pair of lightweight walking shoes or strong, hard soled with good tread patterns, fully enclosed, waterproof trainers. You are travelling in the dry season but there may be sudden downpours/wet weather in the mountains so a lightweight waterproof jacket is also recommended. It is a moderate to challenging 1-1½ hour hike along a clearly defined trail with guide through forested terrain and definitely well worth the effort. It is a fascinating and historically important visit.

What is included: 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, Cuban Tourist Card, Havana airport departure tax, all meals listed in the itinerary and meal plan, services of an English speaking specialist local guide, 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 (£250 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 Vicky Clark, Groups Coordinator, Havanatour, 3 Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2JD. The deposit is used to secure your flight booking. The deposit is non-refundable once flight seats have been secured.

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.

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We anticipate a very strong interest in this tour and recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment. Please note that the Virgin flights are extremely popular; the flights get full very quickly and they often increase their prices as departure date approaches. We have not made a Group flight booking and we would have to pass on any fare increases applied by the airline to our clients. We also need to secure the domestic flight from Santiago to Havana, and this too gets full very quickly.

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 25 September 2017. In the unlikely event of minimum numbers not being obtained your deposit will be returned in full.

If you would like to discuss the **Following Fidel 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