February 2020

Dear Friend,

MAY DAY STUDY TOUR TO CUBA
26 April – 8 May 2020

Thank you for your recent enquiry about the Cuba Solidarity Campaign’s May Day Study Tour. We have been running these popular tours since 2002 and are delighted to present details of the 2020 Tour here. Cuba Solidarity Campaign are running this tour in association with Havanatour (ATOL 4636), the UK’s leading Cuba specialist, and we enclose the Havanatour Booking Form and booking conditions for your information.

The May Day Study Tour provides an exciting opportunity to explore some of the country’s key achievements in terms of health and education, meet the Cuban people in their neighbourhoods, workplaces and schools, with time to relax and enjoy the local culture and stunning scenery. The highlight for many is participation in the inspirational May Day rally in Plaza de la Revolución. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the real Cuba – urban and rural - away from the usual tourist trails and experience the gains of the Revolution as well as the problems caused by the 60 year old US blockade.

This fascinating Study Tour provides unique opportunities to:

- Attend, by special invitation, the inspiring May Day Rally joined by hundreds of thousands of Cubans in Havana’s iconic Plaza de la Revolución, marking this special day in the Cuban political calendar.
- Take part in the International Solidarity Conference in Havana with around 1000 delegates from across the world
- Visit Pinar del Río and Viñales, set in a stunning landscape in western Cuba, while examining rural social and economic issues.
- Strengthen solidarity links with sister Trade Unions and Cuban Workers’ Confederation (CTC).
- Attend a series of related professional visits including an agricultural cooperative farm, local health care centre, family doctor, school for visually impaired children, technical school and rural children’s community project to gain a valuable and unique insight into the continuing achievements of the Cuban Revolution and present day Cuban society.
- Examine the challenges facing the revolutionary island as well as the problems caused by the ongoing illegal US economic blockade of Cuba.

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Meet and discuss current issues with Cuban workers in their workplaces and neighbourhoods and representatives of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC).

Experience a meeting with Cuban families at a local Committee for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR) community project.

Visit Che Guevara’s former strategic HQ inside Fortaleza de San Carlos in Havana.

Have a guided walking tour of Old Havana and the Malecón, and visit the museum of the Literacy campaign, the outstanding Bellas Artes art museum and Museum of the Revolution.

Spend a day at the beautiful, sandy Cayo Jutías beach on the Gulf of Mexico.

Experience the captivating capital city of Havana and vibrant Cuban culture at first hand. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the real revolutionary Cuba away from the usual tourist trail, experience Cuba’s rich and diverse cultural heritage and provide visible solidarity and support to the Cuban people.

The full cost of this unique 11-night tour is £2184.00 per person. This price is based on sharing a twin room and at least 16 people on the tour. The Single Room Supplement will be £121.

The minimum group number required for this tour is 11, but if there are 11 to 15 participants an additional £250 supplement will be payable.

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 Vedado, Havana. 3 star. 26 April – 1 May 2020: 6 nights Bed & breakfast
Casas Particulares, (homestays run by local families) Viñales. 2 - 6 May 2020: 5 nights Bed & Breakfast
Additional meals as per itinerary below.

**Flight Times**

Virgin Atlantic.
Depart Sun 26 April 10.00 from London Gatwick, arrive Havana Sun 26 April 14.45.
Depart Havana Thu 7 May 17.40, arrive London Gatwick Fri 8 May 07.55.

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.

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## ITINERARY

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Evening</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Mon 27 Apr</td>
<td>Walking tour of Havana Moderna and the Malecon. Visit to the Literacy Museum.</td>
<td>Lunch at Casa de La Amistad/Friendship House Professional visit. Meeting with ICAP and Federation of Cuban Women. (FMC)</td>
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<td>5. Thu 30 April</td>
<td>Visit to the Bellas Artes Museum</td>
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<td>6. Fri 1 May</td>
<td>Special invitation to attend May Day Rally in Plaza de la Revolucion</td>
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<td>7. Sat 2 May</td>
<td>Attend International Solidarity conference at Palacio de las Convenciones</td>
<td>Late afternoon transfer to Viñales, Pinar del Río Evening meal in local restaurant</td>
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<td>8. Sun 3 May</td>
<td>Cayo Jutias beach day trip</td>
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10. Tue 5 May
   Professional Visit: Federico Engels Technical School/Pinar.
   Professional Visit: Visit to Children’s Community project in Pinar.
   Free time in Pinar

11. Wed 6 May
   Professional Visit: Community Mental Health project.
   Professional Visit: Meeting with Cuban Workers’ Confederation (CTC).
   Free time
   Committee for the Defence of the Revolution neighbourhood meeting (CDR).

12. Thu 7 May
   Free morning.
   Transfer directly to airport. Afternoon departure from Havana Airport.

Fri 8 May
   Arrive London Gatwick

Itinerary may be subject to change.

**What is included:** direct return flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Gatwick to Havana, UK
Departure Tax, 11 night’s accommodation (detailed in itinerary) based on two people sharing twin rooms with en suite facilities, Cuban Tourist Card, 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 listed in the itinerary.

**What is not included:** Travel insurance, transfers to and from the departure airport (Gatwick), Single Room Supplement (£121 per person) if required and any services not listed as included. All drinks are excluded. Any flight supplements (see below).

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 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

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your 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 strong interest in this tour and recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment. Please note that the Virgin flights fill up quickly and can increase in price as departure date approaches, and we would have to pass on any fare increases at the time of booking applied by the airline to you.

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 13 March 2020.** In the unlikely event of minimum numbers not being obtained your deposit will be returned in full.

If you would like to discuss the **May Day Study Tour** in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact the Cuba Solidarity Campaign office on 020 7490 5715 or e-mail at tours@cuba-solidarity.org.uk

With very best wishes

Trish Meehan
Cuba Travel Shop
Cuba Solidarity Campaign