



Cuba Solidarity Campaign
C/o Unite, 33-37 Moreland Street,
London EC1V 8BB
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E: office@cuba-solidarity.org.uk
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9 February 2024

Dear Friend,

MAY DAY STUDY TOUR TO CUBA
26 April – 7 May 2024

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 be back with the 2024 Tour here.

Cuba Solidarity Campaign is running this tour in association with a specialist tour operator, Captivating Cuba Ltd <https://captivatingcuba.com/>

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

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



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- 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 National Fine Art museum and Museum of the Revolution.
- Visit the the Ecological Research Station in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve to explore Cuba's incredible biodiversity and how Cuba is combating climate change and protecting the environment.
- 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 £2484.00 per person.

This price is based on sharing a twin room and at least 11 people on the tour. The Single Room Supplement will be £195 per person. In the unlikely event that the group size is 8-10 people there will be a 'small group' supplement of £200 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 Axel Telegrafo, Havana. 4 star. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 April, 1 May 2024: 6 nights Bed & breakfast

Hotel Vueltabajo, Pinar del Rio. 3 star. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 May 2024: 5 nights Bed & Breakfast
Additional meals as per itinerary below.

Flights

Air Europa via Madrid. Stops in Madrid are short and no overnight stay required.

Depart London Gatwick on Fri 26 Apr at 10.00, via Madrid, arrive Havana 19.50.

Depart Havana on Tue 7 May at 21.55 arrive Gatwick 16.25 on Wed 8 May.

26/04/2024 LGW-MAD UX1014 1000-1330

26/04/2024 MAD-HAV UX0051 1605-1950

07/05/2024 HAV-MAD UX0052 2155-1250

08/05/2024 MAD-LGW UX1015 1500-1625

Please note that flight times are subject to final confirmation by the airline.

Transport

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

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ITINERARY

| Day | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| DAY 1. Fri 26/04 Havana | Depart London | Arrive Havana. Transfer to hotel. | |
| DAY 2. Sat 27/04 Havana | Walking tour of Havana Moderna and the Malecón. Visit the Literacy Museum. | Lunch at Friendship House (Casa del Amistad). Visit to El Morro fort and the Commandancia del Che Guevara | |
| DAY 3. Sun 28/04 Havana | Walking tour of Old Havana. Visit to Bellas Artes museum | Lunch at La Calesa Real restaurant. Visit to the Museum of the Revolution | |
| DAY 4. Mon 29/04 Havana | <u>Professional visit.</u> Abel Santamaría School for children with visual impairment. <u>Professional Visit:</u> Meeting with Federation of Cuban Women (FMC). | <u>Professional Visit:</u> Community Mental Health project | |
| DAY 5. Tue 30/04 Havana | <u>Professional visit:</u> Policlinico – local health centre. Visit to the Fidel Castro Centre, Vedado | Visit to the CDR Museum Free afternoon | |
| DAY 6. Wed 01/05 Havana | Special invitation to attend May Day Rally in Plaza de la Revolución. | Free afternoon | |
| DAY 7. Thu 02/05 Havana | Attend International Solidarity Conference at Palacio de los Convenciones. Lunch at the conference. | Late afternoon transfer to Pinar del Rio. | Dinner at hotel restaurant in Pinar |
| DAY 8. Fri 03/05 Pinar | <u>Professional visit:</u> Meeting with Cuban Workers' Confederation (CTC) | Free afternoon in Pinar del Rio | CDR meeting/ Pinar |

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|-------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | <u>Professional Visit:</u> Meeting with ICAP (Pinar) | | |
| DAY 9. Sat 04/05 Pinar | <u>Professional Visit:</u> Republica de Chile State Farm in Viñales. | Lunch at Mural de la Prehistoria restaurant, Viñales Free afternoon – sightseeing in Viñales | |
| DAY 10. Sun 05/05 Pinar | <u>Professional Visit:</u> Visit to Sierra del Rosario Ecological Station. Ecovida-Centre for Environmental Research and Services in Las Terrazas. Lunch at a local community restaurant | Explore local San Juan river, waterfalls, natural bathing areas | |
| DAY 11. Mon 06/05 Pinar | <u>Professional Visit:</u> Federico Engels Technical School/Pinar. <u>Professional Visit:</u> Family Doctor | <u>Professional Visit:</u> Children’s Community project in Pinar. | Dinner in local restaurant |
| DAY 12. Tue 07/05 Pinar | free morning | Transfer to JM airport to check in for flight. | |
| DAY 13. Wed 08/05 | | Arrive London | |

Itinerary may be subject to change.

What is included: direct return flights with Air Europa 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 (£195 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 contact Cuba Solidarity Campaign to pay your deposit of £200 per person. Payments can be made by cheque, by card over the phone 020 7490 5715 or by bank transfer (please contact admin@cuba-solidarity.org.uk for details).

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The deposit will be transferred to Captivating Cuba and is required to secure your place. You will then pay the balance to Captivating Cuba. Their standard booking conditions are here <https://captivatingcuba.com/booking-conditions/>

Please contact Gemma at gemma@captivatingcuba.com or +44 (0)1438 419 111 with questions about your booking or to pay the balance. You can pay by card or bank transfer to Captivating Cuba. **The balance will be due by 8 March 2024.**

In the unlikely event of the minimum number not being reached all funds received will be returned in full.

Joining instructions, flight tickets and Cuban tourist cards will be issued approximately 14 days before departure.

Please note that all flights are subject to availability at the time of booking. Should flight prices or airport taxes rise, 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, after the first 12 people at this price.

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 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.

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

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