



Cuba Solidarity Campaign
C/o Unite, 33-37 Moreland Street,
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Tel 020 7490 5715 E: office@cuba-solidarity.org.uk
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30 July 2015

Dear Friend

MAY DAY STUDY TOUR
Celebrating 57 Years of Revolution
28 April - 10 May 2016

Thank you for your recent enquiry about the Cuba Solidarity Campaign's May Day Study Tour. Following our successful specialist May Day Study Tours to Cuba since 2002 we are delighted to enclose details of our bespoke Study Tour in 2016. The Cuba Solidarity Campaign are running this tour in association with Havanatour (ATOL 4636), the UK's leading Cuba specialist, and I have pleasure in detailing the tour itinerary and enclosing Booking Form and booking conditions for your information.



This fascinating Study Tour provides the unique opportunity to:

- Attend, by special invitation, the inspiring May Day Rally addressed by Raúl Castro and joined by over 1 million Cubans in Havana's Plaza de la Revolución, marking this special day in the Cuban political calendar.
- Take part in the International Solidarity Conference and participate in an exclusive meeting with the families of the Cuban 5.
- 2-centre study tour including Pinar del Río and Viñales, set in a stunning landscape in western Cuba, examining rural social and economic issues.
- Strengthen solidarity links with sister Trade Unions and Cuban Worker's Confederation (CTC).
- Visit Che Guevara's strategic HQ inside Fortaleza de San Carlos in Havana.
- Attend a series of related professional visits including agricultural cooperative farm, local health care centre, maternity hospital, school for visually impaired children, community mental health project and 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 on going 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).
- A unique, party atmosphere meeting with Cuban families at a local Committee for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR) community project.
- Guided walking tour of Old Havana and Malecón and visit to outstanding Bellas Artes art museum and Museum of the Revolution.
- Day trip to Havana's beautiful sandy Playa del Este beaches.
- Celebratory meal at the iconic Bodeguita del Medio restaurant in Old Havana.
- 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 fully inclusive cost of the Study Tour is £1,499.00 per person.

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



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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.

Flights

Outbound: Thursday 28 April. Virgin Airlines VS063 departs London Gatwick South Terminal at 11:30. Check in at 08:30. Arrives Havana 16:10 local time.

Inbound: Monday 09 May. Virgin Airlines VS064 departs Havana at 19:25. Arrives London Gatwick 09:15 on Tuesday 10 May 2016.

Flight times are subject to final confirmation by the airline and all flights are subject to availability at the time of booking. Detailed joining instructions, flight tickets and Cuban tourist cards will be issued 28 days before departure date.

Accommodation & Meal Plan

Hotel Plaza, Old Havana. 3 star. 5-nights from 28/04 – 03/05/2016.

Hotel Vueltabajo, Pinar del Río. 2 star. 3-nights from 03-06/05/2016.

Hotel Plaza, Old Havana. 3 star. 3-nights from 06-09/05/2016.

Meal Plan: Bed & Breakfast, plus meals as detailed in the itinerary below.

Transport

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

Itinerary

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Thurs 28/04			Arrive Havana. Transfer to hotel.
Fri 29/04	CDR Museum. Walking tour of Old Havana.	Lunch at Friendship House, Casa del Amistad.	
Sat 30/04	Walking tour of Havana Moderna & Malecón.	Museum of the Revolution.	
Sun 01/05	Special invitation to attend May Day Rally in Plaza de la Revolución.		Bodeguita del Medio celebratory meal.
Mon 02/05	Attend International Solidarity Conference at Palacio de los Convenciones.	Meeting with Families of Cuban 5 at Solidarity Conference.	
Tues 03/05	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Policlínico, local health care centre.	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Community Mental Health project.	Transfer to Pinar del Río.
Wed 04/05	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Federico Engels Technical School/Pinar.	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Maternity Hospital.	CDR meeting/ Pinar del Río.

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Thurs 05/05	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Republica de Chile Cooperative Farm/ Viñales.	Lunch at Rancho San Vicente. Family Doctor/Viñales.	
Fri 06/05	Transfer to Havana. <u>Professional visit.</u> Abel Santamaría School for children with visual impairment. Literacy Museum.	Lunch at Meson de la Flota. <u>Professional Visit:</u> Meeting with ICAP and Federation of Cuban Women (FMC).	
Sat 07/05	El Morro and Comandancia del Che	Bellas Artes Museum.	
Sun 08/05	Playa del Este beach visit.	Lunch at local restaurant.	
Mon 09/05	<u>Professional Visit:</u> Meeting with Cuban Worker's Confederation (CTC). <u>Professional Visit:</u> Children's Community project.	Transfer to JM airport.	
Tues 10/05	Arrive London Gatwick		

What is included: Cuban Tourist Card, return economy flights with Virgin Airlines from London Gatwick to Havana, UK and Havana Airport Departure Taxes, 11-night's accommodation (as detailed in itinerary) based on two people sharing twin rooms with en suite facilities, all meals listed in the meal plan arrangements, services of a specialist local English speaking guide and air conditioned transport as per itinerary in Cuba and entrance to all visits and excursions listed in the itinerary.

What is not included: Transfers to and from UK departure airport, single room supplement (£150.00 per person) if required and any services not listed as included. All drinks are excluded.

We anticipate a very strong interest in this tour and recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment. In addition, Virgin flights to Havana are extremely popular and the flights get full very quickly, often by 6 months before departure dates.

- We can guarantee the fully inclusive tour price of £1,499.00 for the first 12 bookings (who do not extend their stay in Cuba). After the first 12 bookings there may be an additional flight supplement applied by Virgin. Havanatour will book flights with Virgin as and when Booking Forms are received. Flight prices will be fixed when Havanatour receive your completed Booking Form and deposit. If flight prices have increased at the time of receipt of Booking Forms then Havanatour will inform you and request a supplement to cover the increased cost. If you choose not to continue at this point then Havanatour will arrange a full refund of your deposit.
- Those clients requesting extensions to their stay would not qualify as part of the first 12 bookings at the guaranteed price, since Virgin would not include these bookings in our group

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booking arrangement, and flight supplements may apply. Havanatour will inform you and if you choose not to continue at this point then Havanatour will arrange a full refund of your deposit.

- To ensure that we are able to keep our prices as low as possible, we would like to inform you that if there are increases in UK Departure Taxes we would have to pass this additional cost on to our clients.

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.

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 Gemma Thurgood, Groups Coordinator, Havanatour, 3 Wyllotts Place, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2JD. The deposit is used to secure your flight booking and is non-refundable.

Please add your passport number, nationality and date of birth to the Booking Form. This information is required for participation in the May Day Rally and the International Solidarity Conference and by Virgin Atlantic for flight bookings.

Your passport must be valid for 6 months **after** departure from Cuba.

Please ensure that you have fully read and understood the Havanatour booking conditions. Full payment will be required by 17 March 2016. Minimum group numbers of 16 are required for this tour. 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 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
Cuba Solidarity Campaign

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