

# TAUCK

## WORLD DISCOVERY



## Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture

A custom trip planner prepared for Larry Pagano

By Linda Pagano with Travel Advantage



Welcome Larry Pagano to Tauck's Cuba Trip Planner!

Our long experience in the industry has shown us that the power of travel brings people the world over closer together. In the words of our Chairman, Arthur Tauck, Jr. – “It is my strongest conviction that travel is a key to world peace. By exploring new lands and new cultures, we increase our understanding of others and their understanding of us. It is fortunate that man has always had an innate need to explore the world. By facilitating this appetite, we fulfill a fundamental need of humanity and we make the world a better place.”

This reflects the best of what we do – creating culturally enriching connections for our guests. And it is in this spirit that Tauck has obtained a license from the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control to provide People-to-People educational exchange travel to Cuba in 2015. For over half a century, this Caribbean island nation just 90 miles from Florida has been “close to home but far away” to most Americans.

Now you can meet face-to-face with Cubans from all walks of life to share thoughts and insights, learn about their country and their lives, and connect with Cuba’s rich cultural heritage through People-to-People educational exchange across the length of the island on our new-for-2015, 13-day trip, *Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture*, which includes interactions in Havana, San Francisco de Paula, Santa Clara, Camagüey, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and more.

You’ll travel to Cuba as an active participant engaged in educational exchange with Cubans and their culture. Our journey begins and ends in Miami and includes all meals, all accommodations and gratuities, and the great value and service you expect from Tauck.

We hope you’ll join us – and discover just how powerful and transformative travel can be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan".

Daniel W. Mahar, CEO

# YOUR PERSONALIZED QUOTE

## Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture

**A New 13-Day People-to-People Trip in 2015...** For many decades, few U.S. citizens were able to enjoy a Cuba travel experience. Since 2012, under a license granted by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, our 8-day People-to-People educational exchange trips to Cuba have brought Tauck travelers face-to-face with the people of Cuba to share thoughts and insights, learn about their nation and their lives, and connect with their rich cultural heritage. Now, in 2015, our new 13-day trip heads across the length of the island for in-depth People-to-People exchange in Havana, San Francisco de Paula, Santa Clara, Camagüey, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and more. Talk with students, teachers, artists, farmers, fishermen, preservationists, musicians, community leaders... delve into Cuban education, history, music, architecture, Ernest Hemingway's life and work in Cuba, community art, farming, sugar cane production and much more... dine at privately run paladares, meet Cuban families, and interact with Cubans and their culture.



QUOTE: LARRY PAGANO'S TRIP, DEPARTING ON 2/23/2015

### Room 1 - Double

Tour Cost:	\$7,965 USD per person
On Tour Air:	\$525 USD per person
Guest Protection Plan:	\$350 USD per person

### Due Dates

Deposit Due Date:	May 22nd, 2014
Balance Due Date:	December 25th, 2014

### Totals

Deposit Total:	\$1,900 USD
Booking Total:	\$17,680 USD

Note: Above quote was compiled based on the information available to us at the time you ordered this Trip Planner. It is not an offer to sell you the tour at the quoted price. Although not expected, prices in this quote may be subject to change due to unexpected significant external factors not forecasted at the time of quote; availability, tour details and other components may also be subject to change. Your quote does not include airfare to and from the tour start and end locations. Tauck's terms and conditions apply upon booking and depositing.

# ITINERARY

## Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture

### TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- All hotel accommodations in Miami and in Cuba
- Tauck's "Leave Your Worries at Home" service, with all day-to-day travel details taken care of for you
- Escorted travel from the moment your People-to-People trip begins in Miami, accompanied by a professional Tauck Director and experienced local Cuban guides, all fluent in both English & Spanish
- 12 days of "People-to-People" educational exchange in Havana, San Francisco de Paula, Santa Clara, Cayo Santa Maria, Remedios, Caibarién, Camagüey, Holguín, Birán & Santiago de Cuba
- Exclusive Tauck Experiences fostering meaningful cultural connections with Cuban families, artists, musicians, students, educators, farmers, artisans, entrepreneurs, community leaders & others
- All ground transportation
- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure in Miami as noted
- All meals – 35 (12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 12 dinners), including authentic Cuban cuisine at local restaurants and private *paladares* throughout your trip
- All gratuities to Tauck Director, local guides and drivers, hotel and restaurant staff; all taxes, admission fees, portorage and departure tax

### Day 1 - Begin your Cuba travel in Miami

**Tauck's Cuba travel experience begins at 4:00 PM at the Sofitel Miami.** Your small group of 20 to 30 travelers gathers this afternoon at the Sofitel Miami for a welcome reception and Tauck Director briefing about tomorrow morning's charter flight to Havana and the start of your educational exchange trip to Cuba.

**Meals:** D

**Lodging:** Sofitel Miami

### Day 2 - Bienvenidos a La Habana

After breakfast, your Cuba travel begins as your group boards a charter flight from Miami to Havana's José Martí International Airport, where your local Cuban guide greets you. The drive from the airport to your hotel orients you with Cuba's enigmatic capital city. Stop at Plaza de la Revolución (Revolution Square), dominated by a memorial tower honoring 19th-century Cuban patriot José Martí, as well as the huge metalwork portraits of national heroes Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos adorning the facades of two government buildings on the square. Arrive at your home for the next three nights, the Meliá Habana. Following a welcome drink and lunch, head to the Museum of the Revolution, housed in what had once been Cuba's Presidential Palace in Habana Vieja, for a visit and cultural exchange. Return to your hotel for a discussion on U.S. - Cuban relations, followed by a welcome reception and dinner at a local restaurant.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Meliá Habana

### Day 3 - Historic Preservation in Havana and Hemingway's Cuba

Begin today's People-to-People cultural exchange with a guided walk through pedestrian-only Habana Vieja (Old Havana), and a discussion with local experts on this UNESCO World Heritage Site's historic architecture, its restoration and preservation. Your walk ends at the Hotel Ambos Mundos, where you'll begin an exploration of American novelist Ernest Hemingway's strong connections to Cuba and its people (who simply called him "Ernesto"), and his life and work here, making your way up to Room #511 – Hemingway's "first home" in Cuba, which he rented from 1932 through 1939; he began *For Whom the Bell Tolls* here. The Hemingway memorabilia on display in the room – now a small museum – launches a cultural exchange about the writer's time in Havana. After a walk along Calle Obispo, head out of the city for lunch at an organic farm with an adjacent private paladar, and a discussion with its owners on running a private restaurant in Cuba. Continue on to Finca Vigia ("Lookout Farm") in San Francisco de Paula, Hemingway's winter home from 1939 to 1960, shared with third wife Martha Gellhorn, and later with fourth wife Mary Welsh. See the author's 9,000-volume library, his yacht *Pilar* and the typewriter on which he wrote some of his greatest works; talk with a docent about his life here. Return to Havana and visit the historic Hotel Nacional de Cuba, a 1930s Art Deco classic overlooking the Malecón waterfront, with its beautiful gardens and the Salon of History. Have dinner this evening in a local Havana restaurant.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Meliá Habana

# ITINERARY

## Day 4 - Colón Cemetery, Community Arts and more in Havana

Given the country's origins as a Spanish colony rooted in Catholic traditions, religion has always played an important role in Cuban society – as you'll see on a walk with a local historian through Havana's Colón Cemetery (Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón), one of the largest cemeteries in the world, and the final resting place of noted Cubanos from all walks of life. Head to the Havana barrio that is home to Proyecto Muraleando, a community art development project featuring murals and sculptures celebrating Cuban life, crafted from found items; discuss the project's impact on the neighborhood, and the transformative effects of art on Cuban life, with the project's artists and the people who benefit from the cooperative spirit their projects create. After lunch at a paladar on the Malecon, arrive at Habana Compas, a thriving Havana dance and cultural performance group, where you'll talk with company members about their mission, and watch a demonstration of music, dance or art. Have dinner at a private paladar tonight.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Meliá Habana

## Day 5 - Che's Legacy and Cuba's Senior Community in Santa Clara

After departing Havana this morning, your People-to-People interactions continue en route to the province of Villa Clara, as you stop to meet with local artisans and craftsmen, see demonstrations of their various projects, and talk about local enterprise. Arrive at the Che Guevara Mausoleum in Santa Clara, a memorial sculptural complex and museum honoring Ernesto "Che" Guevara de la Serna, the Argentine-born physician, Marxist revolutionary and military leader who played a key role as Fidel Castro's second-in-command in the Cuban Revolution and the subsequent establishment of Cuba's revolutionary government; the complex commemorates the victory of Che's troops in the pivotal Battle of Santa Clara in 1958. Discuss Che's life and legacy with docents as you view the monuments and some of his personal effects in the museum, and visit the cave-like memorial crypt, built in 1997, containing the remains of Guevara and fellow revolutionaries killed with him while fighting in Bolivia in 1967, marked by an eternal flame. Following lunch in Santa Clara, attend a dance demonstration and lessons by a senior community group at the Casa del la Cultura; meet the members and talk about their activities. Continue on to your hotel on the small island of Cayo Santa Maria, where you'll have dinner à la carte at your leisure this evening.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Meliá Buena Vista

## Day 6 - Sugar cane history, crafts & music in Remedios and Caibarién

An excursion into the countryside today leads to a look at the process of extracting sugar from sugar cane, a mainstay of Cuba's economy for hundreds of years. Although there were once more than 50 sugar mills in this region, most were closed during the 1990s, leaving only a handful still in operation today. Travel between Remedios and Caibarién to the Museo de Agroindustria Azucarero Marcelo Salado – a.k.a. the Sugar Mill Museum – which interprets the history and process of sugar production in Cuba, including the use of slave labor centuries ago. Check out exhibits featuring original machinery and a well-maintained collection of steam locomotives used to transport the sugar cane to the mills – including the largest steam engine in Latin America – and talk to museum staff about sugar production and its role in Cuban history. After enjoying a traditional Cuban lunch in a local restaurant, drive to the fishing village of Caibarién and the Por la Costa community arts project, spearheaded by artist Madelin Perez Noa. Meet Madelin and her family, all of whom are involved in the arts, to talk about art, paper making, the workshops they conduct for local children, and the effect of their arts project on the community. Then enjoy a very special afternoon in Caibarién with the Banda Municipal Concerto Infanti, a municipal children's band led by octogenarian Marco Antonio Urabay, founder of Cuba's national Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA). You'll have a chance to hear these young musicians play, as well as chat with them and their conductor about their music and mission. Return to your hotel in Cayo Santa Maria for a barbecue dinner tonight.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Meliá Buena Vista

# ITINERARY

## Day 7 - The guayabera and a paladar in Sancti Spiritus

Your People-to-People Cuba travel takes you from across the center of the country today as you depart Caya Santa Maria on the northern coast and head for the city of Camagüey. En route, stop in the pretty little town of Sancti Spiritus, whose Old Town is currently undergoing restoration. There, you'll learn all about the history and manufacture of the traditional white, four-pocketed Cuban shirt, the *guayabera*, at the Guayabera Museum, housed in a historic riverside country villa dating back to 1858. Meet the museum's curator and staff for a discussion about the origins and production of this iconic Cuban garment (known in other parts of Latin America as the *habanera*), which some stories claim was created right here in Sancti Spiritus during the early 18th century; typically worn only in the countryside for centuries, the *guayabera* first appeared in Havana in the 1940s, and its popularity spread throughout the country, then the rest of Latin America.

Lunch today will be at a private *paladar* in town, where you'll discuss the process and challenges of turning a private home into a restaurant with the owner. Continue your journey to Camagüey; arrive at your hotel early this evening.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Hotel Santa María

## Day 8 - Cuban arts education in Camagüey

A day filled with People-to-People cultural exchanges awaits you in the city of Camagüey, settled early in the 16th century and affectionately dubbed "the Maze" or "the City of Squares" for its labyrinthine historic center of twisting lanes and squares that confounded pirates and invaders in bygone days. Meet the talented students of the Vincentina de la Torre Art School, along with their teachers and administrators, to discuss their work, arts education and daily routines. You'll visit the Endedans Modern Dance Company and school for an enchanting private performance by its highly talented students, including contemporary, ballet, hip-hop and other dance styles; interact with the young dancers to learn about their backgrounds, dreams and goals. After traveling via bicitaxi (pedicab) for lunch at a Camagüey *paladar*, visit the studio of artist Martha Jimenez – whose award-winning images of strong, mysterious women have been shown in galleries around the world – for an exchange with the artist or a member of her family or staff. Enjoy a bicitaxi city tour and a chat with the driver, then attend a special evening at the Larios Studio, where you'll see a renowned painter and sculptor at work, and interact with some of the artists with workshops in the studio. Later, head to a local restaurant for dinner.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Hotel Santa María

## Day 9 - Camagüey's artisans and their work

You'll see them everywhere in Camagüey – large, red clay pots perched in front of or on the porches of homes throughout the city. They're called *tinajones*, the traditional symbol of Camagüey, and you'll learn all about them on your first People-to-People exchange of the day at the Casanova Pottery Studio, operated by the warm and welcoming Casanova family – whose members will show you the traditional local methods of creating these iconic vessels, discuss their history and use, and enable you to try your hand at making a *tinajón* yourself... under their careful instruction, of course! Return to downtown Camagüey for lunch, then walk to the studio of leather sculptor José "Pepe" Guterrez, just off Plaza San Juan Dios, for a demonstration and discussion of his work – creating unique masks, busts and animal sculptures crafted from goat hide. As he works, Pepe explains the process of soaking, shaping and sculpting the leather into pieces largely inspired by Afro-Cuban culture and symbolism drawn from African mythology. Back at your hotel, explore some aspects of contemporary Cuban culture before dinner at a local *paladar*.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Hotel Santa María

## Day 10 - From organic farming to printing in Las Tunas and Holguín

En route to Holguín, take a look at how Cuban farmers are attempting to manage land, water and other natural resources more effectively through organic farming on your People-to-People Cuba travel activities this morning. Depart Camagüey and travel to La Finca la y de Calzadilla, a working organic farm in rural Las Tunas; explore the farm and talk to farm workers about their agricultural processes, the crops they grow, the nature of agrarian life in today's Cuba, and their plans for the future. Have lunch by the lake right on the farm – if you wish, you can even fish for your lunch – and engage in a discussion with a local weaver who demonstrates how she crafts lovely hats and bags. Arrive mid-afternoon in Holguín and meet members of the Gongora family at Casa Editora Cuadernos Papiro (Papyrus Papers Publishing House), their family-operated print shop and printing museum (the first of its kind in Cuba), where they use historic printing presses to produce a wide range of art books. Interact with the family as they discuss their printing processes and demonstrate their machines, which include early linotype and other presses of the 19th and early 20th centuries, dating back as far as 1816; you'll also have a chance to do a little printing yourself. Continue on to your hotel on the Playa Esmeralda coast in Holguín, where you'll have dinner at your leisure this evening.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Paradisus Río de Oro Resort & Spa

# ITINERARY

## Day 11 - Birán to Santiago de Cuba and the Castros

Begin the final segment of your People-to-People Cuba travel experience today as you depart Holguín and head out to your final destination on the eastern end of the island, historic Santiago de Cuba, whose strong African influences, thriving musical scene and passionate people give the city a vibe all its own. Your first stop along the way is the village of Birán, birthplace of Fidel and Raul Castro. Discuss the family's history as you explore Finca Mañacas, the family estate, with a local historian, who will offer insights on features including the estate's main house, the school Fidel attended, the post office and the family graves. Continue on to the outskirts of Santiago de Cuba, where you'll board a catamaran to Cayo Granma, a tiny island whose community was almost completely destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. Meet with local fishermen to discuss Dreams and Fantasies, the community project they launched with local children who create art out of found objects left in the hurricane's wake. After lunch, sail around the bay, return to the mainland and head to downtown Santiago de Cuba for a cultural exchange at the Moncada Barracks, one of modern Cuba's key historic sites. Now a school and museum, this was the Cuban army barracks attacked by some 100 rebels led by Fidel Castro on July 26th, 1953, one of the earliest actions in the Cuban Revolution; talk with docents about the attack and its aftermath as you view exhibits on the event and its role in the revolution. Check into your hotel, where you'll enjoy Royal Service Rooms; have dinner at your leisure tonight.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Meliá Santiago de Cuba

## Day 12 - Marti's legacy and rural family life in Santiago de Cuba

On your final full day of People-to-People Cuba travel, visit one of the country's most revered places – the tomb of and memorial to Cuba's 19th-century freedom fighter and national hero, José Martí – in Santiago de Cuba's Santa Ifigenia Cemetery. Witness the changing of the guard and discuss Martí's life and legacy with a local historian before setting off to explore various sites in Santiago de Cuba, including Revolution Square and the Spanish-Colonial Diego Velázquez House (one of the oldest in Cuba), for a cultural exchange with the museum's staff and curator. Next, travel to the Jardín de los Helchos, a "secret garden" featuring hundreds of types of ferns and about 90 varieties of orchids, developed privately and later donated to the Cuban Academy of Science by Manuel Caluff; talk with Manuel and his staff about this extraordinary garden and the effort that goes into its upkeep. Following lunch at a paladar, travel to the village of La Maya and visit the multi-generational Vincente family, who welcome you to their private home to discuss aspects of rural life in this region of Cuba, from cooking and employment to their hopes and dreams for the future; while there, enjoy coffee and some homemade desserts. Tonight, bid your People-to-People Cuba travel a fond goodbye at a farewell reception and dinner at your hotel in Santiago de Cuba.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Lodging:** Meliá Santiago de Cuba

## Day 13 - Journey Home

After breakfast, transfer from the Meliá Santiago de Cuba to Antonio Maceo International Airport in Santiago de Cuba for the return charter flight to Miami. **Tauck's Cuba travel**

**program of educational exchange ends at Miami**

**International Airport.** Allow three hours for flight check-in. Please book flights from Miami to your final destination no earlier than 4:00 PM.

**Meals:** B

# ACCOMMODATIONS

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## Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture

### Sofitel Miami

Night 1 - Miami, Florida



Conveniently located near Miami International Airport, South Beach and world-class shopping, Sofitel Miami offers contemporary French ambiance and service designed to surpass all expectations for guests seeking a true luxury experience. Discover a tropical paradise overlooking a peaceful blue lagoon, tastefully decorated in Art Deco style, where classic and colorful motifs are reinterpreted with contemporary accents and distinctive Parisian touches. Luxurious guest rooms feature Sofitel's sumptuous feathertop and duvet sleep system, SoBed; state-of-the-art technology including high-definition satellite/cable TV; dual-line phones; individually controlled air conditioning; complimentary bottled water

on arrival; and in-room work desk, safe deposit box, coffee/tea making facilities and iron/ironing board. Enjoy an epicurean dining experience blending Miami style, Latin flavors and French flair at the hotel's brasserie, La Riviera – serving Mediterranean specialties and contemporary French cuisine with a Latin touch reflecting the rich culinary heritage of the Miami area. Le Bar is a drink-lover's oasis, offering tempting libations that introduce the uninitiated to authentic Miami cocktail classics.

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### Meliá Habana

Night 2, 3, 4 - Havana, Cuba



An impressive lobby decorated with tropical flora welcomes you to the Meliá Habana in the heart of Miramar, Havana's bustling new business center. Guest rooms welcome with a private balcony, satellite TV with 40 channels, hair dryer and air conditioning. After a busy day, cool off in the outdoor swimming pool – Havana's largest – with its swim-up bar, or work out the kinks in the gym. Dining choices range from oriental fusion cuisine at La Bella Cubana to La Scala's Italian menu, The Sports Bar, or the Miramar buffet, where dining is enlivened by traditional Cuban music – or, stop in at Bosque de La Habana for a wide variety of sandwiches, something from the Salad Bar and fresh juices. Watch the cigar

roller at the Robaina Cigar Bar and perhaps enjoy one accompanied by Cuban coffee or rum... or choose Quinta Avenida in the lobby for an aperitif or a nightcap accompanied by live piano music.

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### Meliá Buena Vista

Night 5, 6 - Cayo Santa Maria, Cuba



An oasis of calm, privacy, and exclusivity, the Meliá Buenavista allows for sheer relaxation amid the pristine beaches and coves of the island of Cayo Santa Maria on the Bay of Buena Vista. Located in a UNESCO Biosphere Refuge in the Jardines del Rey archipelago, the hotel is known for its beautiful views, butler service, and bungalows built on stilts. Rooms come with a terrace, bathrobes and slippers, a pillow menu, a satellite LCD television, and a whirlpool bath. Pampering and relaxation continues in the spa, the fitness center, and the salon. Enjoy your choice of three restaurants with live music, including Los Caribes International Restaurant, overlooking the swimming pool, water

mirrors, and Punta Matamoros Cove; and Los Marineros Beach Grill Restaurant, where you can linger over rustic Caribbean food and drinks at the bar.

# ACCOMMODATIONS

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## Cuba: Connecting with People and Culture

### Hotel Santa María

Night 7, 8, 9 - Camagüey, Cuba

OPENING IN  
2014

A new hotel in the historic city of Camagüey, the Hotel Santa María will open later in 2014; details are forthcoming.

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### Paradisus Río de Oro Resort & Spa

Night 10 - Holguín, Cuba



Situated in Bahia Naranjo Natural Park, on Playa Esmeralda, Paradisus Río de Oro Resort & Spa, a five-star eco-resort, is designed to provide guests with maximum comfort and a luxurious experience of a world apart. Enjoy the spacious lobby in the style of an indigenous village, the waterfront location overlooking a stunning coral reef, the spa, the botanical garden, and the natural orchidarium. Rooms are air-conditioned and include satellite TV, a terrace or balcony, a radio-CD player, a pillow menu, and bathrobes. The resort offers seven dining options, including El Bohío, a typical Cuban restaurant with live local music; a spot for Mediterranean haute cuisine; a cozy Japanese restaurant; and

beachside and poolside options. After a delicious meal, stop in at the cigar bar, Salon Habana, for the best cigars in the world accompanied by fine wines and premium spirits.

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### Meliá Santiago de Cuba

Night 11, 12 - Santiago de Cuba, Cuba



Welcome to Meliá Santiago de Cuba, a modern city-center hotel graced with spectacular views of the urban landscape with Sierra Maestra, Cuba's highest mountain range, as a backdrop. Well-appointed, air-conditioned guest rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV featuring international channels, a work desk, minibar, hair dryer and more. Be sure to take in the views from the bar on the 15th story of the hotel. Conveniently located near the historic section of Santiago, the hotel is distinguished by a high level of service and the picturesque Santiago Café nightclub, which encapsulates the lively spirit of the city. The one and only five-star hotel in Santiago, Meliá Santiago de Cuba also offers a choice of four

restaurants, a gym, an art gallery, and a boutique.