

DISTINCTIVE
AMERICAS



CLASSIC
CUBA

Itinerary Summary



| NO. | DATE | LOCATION | DETAILS | MEALS | HOTEL | NTS |
|-----|--------|----------|---|-------|------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Day 01 | HAVANA | Arrive into Havana and transfer to your hotel. | - | Armadores de Santander | 3 |
| | Day 02 | | Morning walking tour, afternoon car tour of Havana | B | | |
| | Day 03 | | Day at leisure, evening dinner and show | BD | | |
| 2 | Day 04 | VIÑALES | Transfer to Viñales and your next hotel | B | La Ermita | 2 |
| | Day 05 | | Day at leisure, activities can be booked locally | B | | |
| 3 | Day 06 | TRINIDAD | Transfer to Trinidad | B | Casa Particular | 2 |
| | Day 07 | | Morning Sugar Mills tour and walking tour of Trinidad | B | | |
| 4 | Day 08 | VARADERO | Transfer to Varadero and your next hotel | BLD | Sol Palmeras | 3 |
| | Day 09 | | Day at leisure, activities can be booked locally | BLD | | |
| | Day 10 | | Day at leisure, activities can be booked locally | BLD | | |
| | Day 11 | DEPART | Transfer back to Havana to meet your return flight | B | - | - |
| | Day 12 | UK | Arrive back into London Gatwick | - | - | - |



Please Note:

Direct Virgin flights operate on certain dates so days of travel may need to be adjusted to fit the flight schedule.

Detailed Itinerary



Day 01 LONDON GATWICK - HAVANA

Depart London Gatwick flying with Virgin.



VS63

Economy

Dep: London Gatwick 12:15

Arr: Havana 16:55

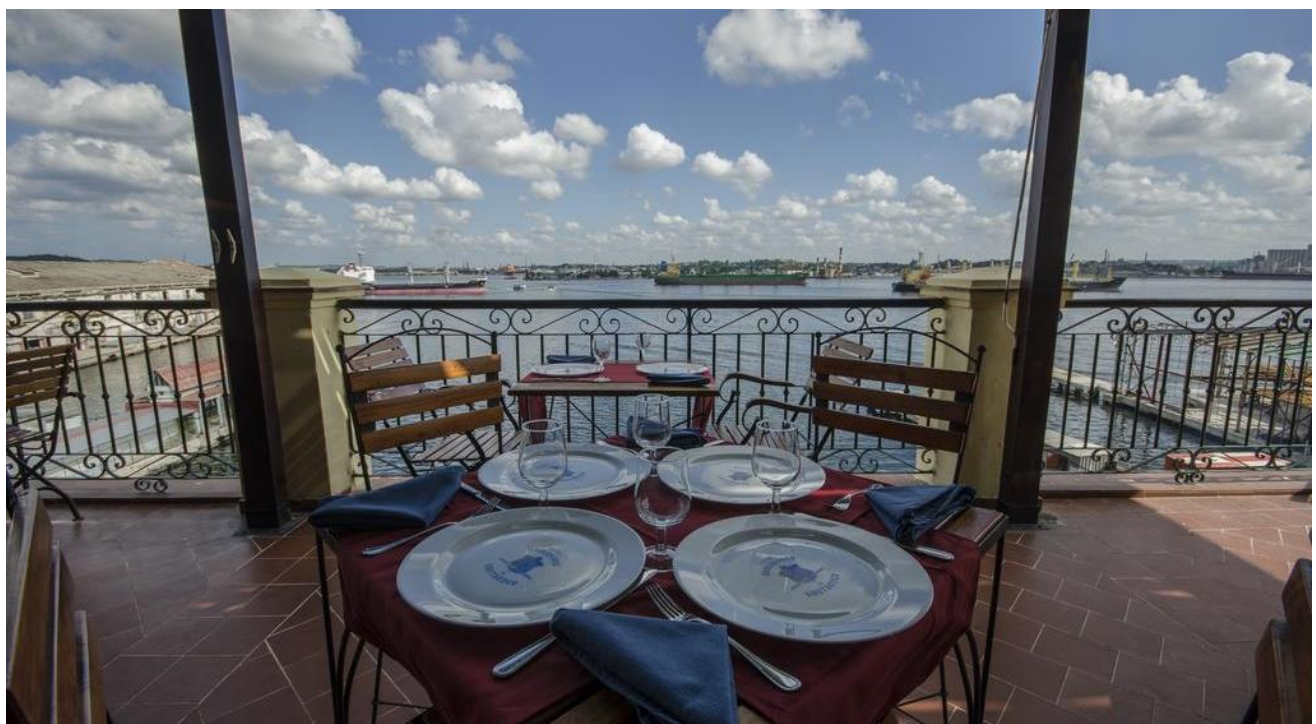
You will be met on arrival by a local representative who will assist you in meeting a private taxi transfer to your hotel.

Armadores de Santander



1 x Standard Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 3-nights

Set in a restored colonial building and enjoying a convenient location in the old town, Armadores de Santander overlooks the port that is the symbol of the city's rich maritime heritage. The hotel offers 32 guest rooms, a lobby bar and restaurant. The hotel is also close by Havana's biggest craft market, the Almacén de San José. Packed with character, this stunning hotel features colossal wooden doors opening on to the bar, the Chesterfield sofas in the lobby under beautifully ornate ceilings and the marble stairs leading to the guest rooms.





Day 02 HAVANA



Private half day walking tour of Havana

In the morning your tour guide will meet you at your hotel to start your tour. The tour will be a guided walking tour through the atmospheric lanes and squares of colonial Old Havana, taking in the most important sightseeing points en-route including Plaza de Armas, Temple, Palace of the Captain General, Plaza Vieja, Plaza de Armas, Cathedral Square, the Havana Club Rum Museum, and Hemingway's 'Bodeguita'.



Please Note:

Tour duration is approx. 2hrs and will provide you with an insight into the highlights of Havana. It will not give you time to explore the many museums throughout the city; you can do this at your own pace during your time at leisure. Museums in Cuba are generally closed on Mondays and very few will allow you to take bags around the exhibits. You may wish to leave valuable items in a safe place.



Private afternoon panoramic city tour by American classic car

During this tour you will get the chance to see some of Havana's iconic sights, all from the comfort of a classic 1950's car. Passing the Capitol Building, the Gran Teatro and the Bacardi Building you will drive on via the Prado Boulevard to the famous Malecon, passing the legendary Hotel Nacional. The tour continues with a drive down the Avenida de los Presidentes to the Revolution Square where you can see the portrait of Che Guevara and the monument of the national hero José Martí. You will also get the chance to see the 1950s former upper class residential and diplomatic quarters of Miramar with its former American clubs and beautiful mansions along the Quinta Avenida.



Please Note:

Tour duration is approx. 2hrs.

These 1950's classic American cars are well maintained and are in good conditions however they do not have rear seat belts.





Day 03 HAVANA

Day at leisure.



Today you will have time to explore this beautiful and enticing city. Wander through its winding streets where you will find an eclectic mix of street sellers, musicians and crumbling yet stunning colonial facades. The Cubans love music and around every corner you will find someone playing some great tunes, most bars and restaurants have live music. Taking a leisurely stroll through the myriad of streets, stopping for coffee or a gurapo (pure freshly squeezed sugarcane juice), can take a whole day.



Buena Vista Social Club Show including dinner

Make the short walk from your hotel to the Café Taberna restaurant for a performance by the Buena Vista Social Club. Café Taberna boasts nostalgic décor and a prime location in Old Havana and is also home to a legendary music group from a golden age of music. The now world famous Buena Vista Social Club group was originally a popular members club in Havana that held dances, musical activities and for musicians to meet and play during the 1940's. The club closed some 50 years later. The show experienced a revival in the 1990's following a project by well-known Cuban musician Juan de Marcos Gonzales and American guitarist Ry Cooder, who teamed up with some of the veteran artists to record an album.



Please Note:

The show starts at 21:30.

You will need to make sure you are at the venue for dinner which is served between 20:30-21:30.



Day 04 HAVANA – VIÑALES VALLEY

Private taxi transfer to the Viñales Valley and your next hotel.

La Ermita Hotel



1 x Standard Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 2-nights

This charming hotel is perched on a mogote (limestone hill), giving La Ermita dramatic views across the stunning Viñales Valley. Designed in neo-colonial fashion, the hotel is laid out around spacious lawns and a large attractive swimming pool. The Las Terrazas restaurant has a superb setting above the valley and serves local and international dishes. This hotel is an excellent option for nature lovers as you can enjoy trekking on various specialised trails to see the local flora and fauna, especially birds and the cork palm.





Day 05 VIÑALES VALLEY

Day at leisure. Numerous tours can be booked locally.



The Viñales Valley is located about 112 miles west of Havana. The natural beauty and tranquillity of the valley is interspersed with green fields of tobacco, coffee and other crops that grow in the rich red soil, where traditional agricultural techniques have remained unchanged for centuries. Scattered palm trees and pine forests are home to a variety of birds and the area is riddled with limestone caves and caverns. The hilly landscape, quaint villages, oxen-ploughed fields, rustic barns and underground rivers, stalagmites and stalactites provide a striking contrast to the colonial grandeur and white sandy beaches found in the rest of the island. The main valley village, Viñales, is a charming, very laid-back place that makes a good base to explore the beautiful surroundings.

Today you can relax by the pool or book a tour or excursion. The staff at La Ermita will be happy to assist you in shaping your day at leisure to suit your requirements. Explore on foot, bike or horseback, visit botanical gardens, cave systems, try Salsa dancing, or take a tour bus around the town.





Day 06 VIÑALES VALLEY - TRINIDAD

Private taxi transfer to Trinidad and your next accommodation.

Osmary y Alberto or similar



1 x Standard Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 2-nights

Located in the Miguel Calzada area of Trinidad, this Casa Particular is a short walk from the highlights of this historic city. Its six air-conditioned rooms are all spacious and enjoy en-suite facilities. The chef prepares delicious national and international dishes, which are served in the peaceful gardens where you will also find a small pool.



Please Note:

A Casa Particular or Private House is a family run business, offering accommodation to tourists. This property is categorised as being a Group I property meaning it benefits from a fantastic location close to historic Trinidad. It also boasts warm and welcoming hosts and a small number of rooms. We are finding this choice of accommodation is increasingly popular with our clients and we now have a large portfolio of reliable and favourable options. We tend to give the name of the property on confirmation as availability at these properties (with the limited number of rooms they offer) varies daily. The property & images used may not be of the Casa Particular you stay in, we have used them simply to illustrate the standard of the accommodation available.





Day 07 TRINIDAD



Private visit to the Sugar Mills Valley & walking tour of Trinidad

This morning you will travel along the famous Sugar Mills Valley to a former Sugar Hacienda. The Sugar Mills Valley is a series of three interconnected valleys covering about 12kms. The San Luis, Santa Rosa and Meyer valleys were the centre for sugar production from the late 18th Century, nowadays they offer stunning views and a nice change from the hustle of the city.

Later you will be taken for a panoramic tour on Trinidad, where you'll walk the cobbled streets of the oldest town in Cuba and visit sites such as La Canchanchara Bar, a former sugar Baron's house and the local church. Trinidad owes its prosperity to the sugar trade, nowadays it is one of the best preserved cities in the Caribbean. Many stone buildings from the sugar trade era survive, including impressive public buildings and single-storey domestic houses with verandas and multi-coloured walls.



Please Note:

Total tour duration is approx. 4hrs.







Day 08 TRINIDAD - VARADERO

Private taxi transfer to Varadero and your next hotel.

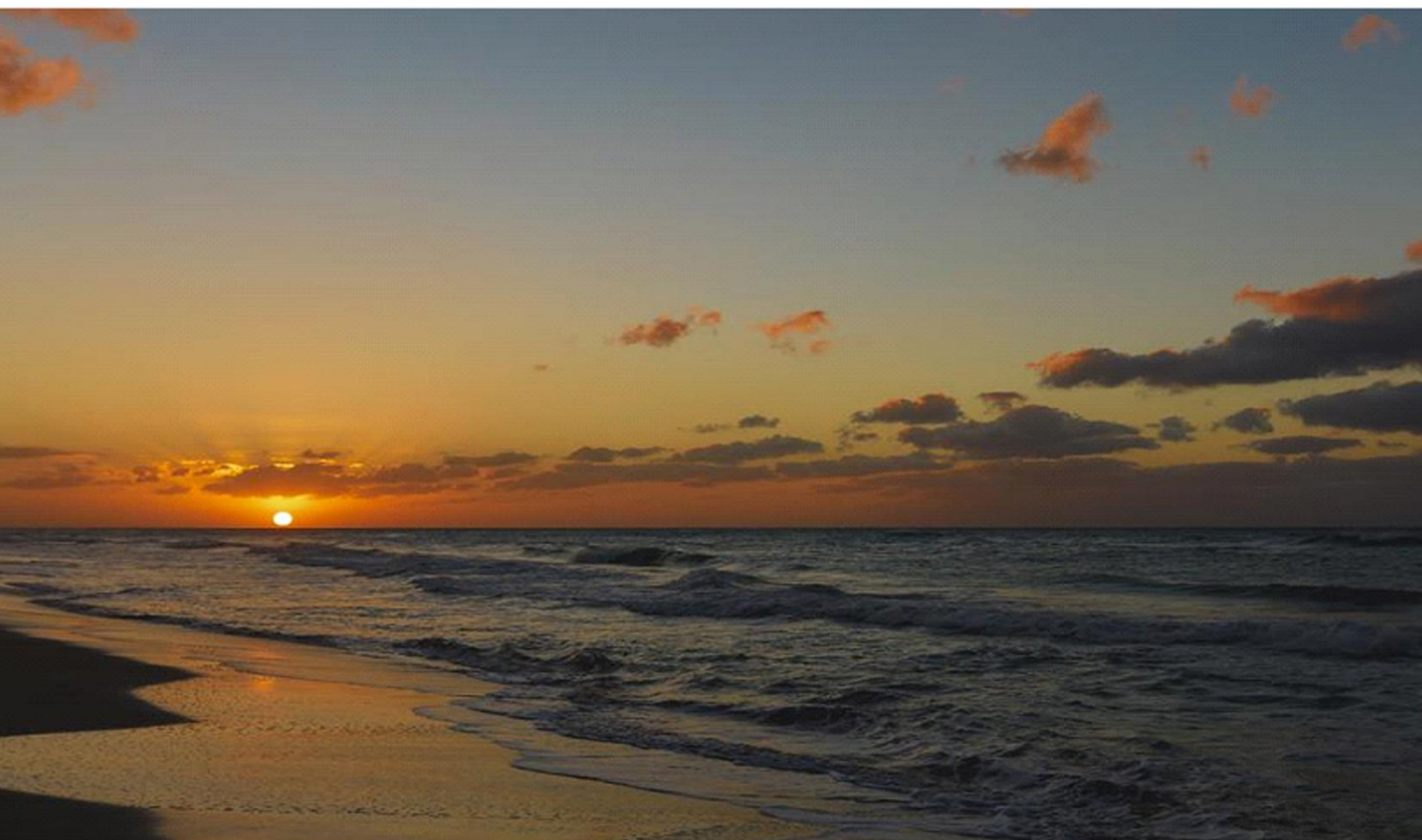
Sol Palmeras



1 x Standard Room on an All-Inclusive basis for 3-nights

This classic all-inclusive resort in Varadero is ideal for families with fun activities for all tastes and ages. The resort offers a variety of rooms and bungalows and is linked to a golf course. The 518 rooms and suites are modern and comfortable and have views of the sea, the beach, the gardens or the pool area. The resort forms part of Las Americas Resorts which includes Meliá Varadero and Meliá Las Americas as well as many parks and walkways. Located right on the beach, the main four-storey building is in the shape of horseshoe. There is also a village-like area of one or two-storey bungalows. Facilities include numerous bars and restaurants, bike hire, gym, swimming pools, golf and a tour desk.







Days 09 - 10 VARADERO

Days at leisure.



Situated on the Hicacos Peninsula, Varadero is Cuba's premier beach destination. Glistening white sands, cool tropical breezes and tranquil Atlantic waters provide the perfect backdrop for a relaxing beach holiday. The beach, however is not the thing that attracts people to Varadero, it is also a perfect destination for those who are looking for adventure. Varadero is well equipped to handle almost any water sport you can think of, from scuba diving to sailing or swimming with the dolphins. For those who like a round of golf, there is a breathtaking championship course in Varadero. If pampering is what you have in mind, Varadero boasts an abundance of spas to help you unwind.

Just beyond the spectacular beaches, you'll find plenty of opportunities for local excursions. Explore the nearby Zapata Peninsula, the largest wetland reserve in the Caribbean and home to many rare and endangered species, including the Cuban Crocodile and the Bee Hummingbird. Excursions are also available to the Varahicacos ecological reserve with its rich array of exotic birds. For those who prefer a more historic excursion visit the city of Matanzas, nicknamed the 'Athens of Cuba' due to the number of European poets and writers living there during the 19th Century.



Day 11 VARADERO - HAVANA - OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Private taxi transfer to Havana airport to meet your return flight with Virgin.



VS64 Economy Dep: Havana 19:35

Arr: London Gatwick 07:35 (Day 12)



Day 12 LONDON GATWICK

Arrive back into the UK.

HOLIDAY COST

£2,295.00 per person

Suggested Itinerary

- This is an estimated price based on low season rates & air fares.
- The price may vary depending on exact dates.
- This is a suggested itinerary which we can amend to fit your exact requirements.

Includes

- International flights as listed.
- All pre-payable airport departure taxes.
- Hotel accommodation as listed.
- Transfers as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).
- Meals as listed.
- Excursions as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).

Excludes

- Local departure taxes where applicable.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Any future currency surcharges.
- Any future airline fare, tax or fuel surcharges.*

**In the event of airfare /tax increases you will have the option to pay for your airfare in advance to avoid these increases.*

Please Note

- The cost of this itinerary is based on 2 passengers sharing one room.
- All flights, accommodation and services are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Air fares, taxes, schedules and routings are subject to change until ticket issue.

Booking Conditions

- Usually a deposit of 10% is required to secure a booking.
- The final balance would be due 10 weeks prior to departure.
- You can review our full booking conditions at: www.distinctiveamericas.com

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- When you book with Distinctive World Travel you are safe in the knowledge that we are fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority and hold an Air Tour Operators Licence (ATOL 9027).

www.caa.co.uk/ATOL 9027

- We are a member of AITO (Association of Independent Tour Operators) which represents the UK's 140 top specialist tour operators and prides itself on providing the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on: Choice, Quality and Service.

www.aito.co.uk

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