

## PEARL OF THE CARIBBEAN TOUR

### DAY 1

Welcome at Havana Airport where we will be transferred to Old Havana for overnight at the historic Sevilla Hotel situated in an excellent location within a very short walk of Old Havana.

### DAY 2

After breakfast we will depart for a detailed guided sightseeing tour of Havana. A unique experience, the tour will visit all the major sights of the city including the historic Plaza de Armas and Cathedral Square. We can absorb the atmosphere of the narrow cobblestone streets of Old Havana, flanked by old colonial buildings dating back as far as the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

We will visit the impressive Museum of the Revolution and experience how Cuba's famous cigars are still handmade by local experts by visiting the Partagas Cigar Factory. Stop at the Havana Club Rum factory where there may be the chance to sample the different rums.

Lunch will be taken at the famous El Patio restaurant situated in a beautiful location overlooking the historic Cathedral Square in the heart of Old Havana, before continuing to the impressive Revolution Square overlooked by the mural of Ernesto "Che" Guevara with the tour ending with a drive along the "Malecon", Havana's seafront promenade.

The remainder of the day will be at leisure to enjoy exploring Old Havana or relax by the hotel pool!

In the evening dinner will be taken at El Aljibe restaurant specialising in traditional Cuban cuisine. After dinner there will be an option to visit the world famous Tropicana Cabaret. Set under the stars, the show depicts the history of Cuban dance and music involving over 100 dancers, making the evening an amazing spectacle.

### **DAY 3**

After breakfast we will drive outside Havana to Finca Vigia, the former Cuban home of Ernest Hemingway, the contents of which remain untouched since he left the home for the last time.

We will continue east through the sugar plantations for the city of Santa Clara the final resting place of "Che " Guevara. On arrival we will visit the mausoleum and the museum dedicated to his extraordinary life, followed by a short orientation tour of the city including the train "Tren Blindado" that was attacked in the decisive moments of the Cuban Revolution.

After lunch in a local hotel we will continue through the Escambray Mountains to Trinidad a UNESCO heritage site and one of the best-preserved colonial cities in the world. Overnight and dinner will be at the Iberostar Grand Hotel located in the town centre.

### **DAY 4**

After a leisurely breakfast, we will explore Trinidad visiting the Romantic Museum, which depicts the lifestyle and architectural design of Trinidad's colonial past. Enjoy traditional Cuban music at the Casa de la Trova, followed by a visit to La Canchanchara, an old house dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, where we can try the unique Trinidad rum and sugar cane juice cocktail. Lunch will be taken at the Grand Hotel Trinidad and there will also be some time to explore the historic city independently.

Dinner this evening will be taken in the hotel restaurant.

### **DAY 5**

After an early breakfast, we will enjoy a tour of Cienfuegos before departing for Pinar Del Rio province, an area known throughout the world as Cuba's main tobacco growing region, where steep sided "Mogote" mountains stand guard over fertile valleys. En route we will stop at Guama where we will take a boat through the mangrove swamps to a replica stilted Taino Indian village on the shores of Treasure Lake. Lunch will be taken in a local countryside restaurant, before continuing to the Moka hotel, situated deep in the Sierra Del Rosario Nature Reserve.

Dinner will be served in a farmer's restaurant specialising in Cuban cuisine and set in a peaceful rural setting where you dine at the farmers' house on his terrace!

### **DAY 6**

Today we will depart for the famous Vinales Valley, with stops for absorbing the beauty of the area. There will be a subterranean boat ride through the El Indio limestone cave system followed by lunch in the Ranchon San Vicente countryside restaurant. In the late afternoon, we will return to the Moka Hotel, and dinner will be taken in Cuban's only restaurant specializing in organic vegetarian cuisine with all ingredients produced within the Las Terrazas community!!!, Many previous visitors have said this is the best restaurant in Cuba, an excellent end to the day.

### **DAY 7**

After breakfast, a visit will be made to the local community of Las Terrazas, and take a complimentary locally produce coffee and cake at Maria's coffee shop on a hill overlooking the village followed by a cooling swim in the San Juan River. After lunch overlooking the lake we will transfer back to Havana for your return flights or onwards to Varadero where the tour ends.

### **Accommodation**

- Two nights' accommodation at the Sevilla hotel on B&B basis
- Two nights' accommodation at the Grand Hotel Iberostar one night Full board and one night Half Board basis.
- Two nights' accommodation at the Moka hotel one night Half Board and one night Full Board basis.

### **Transportation/Guide**

- All transportation as required in the itinerary using fully air-conditioned transportation.
- The services of an English speaking guide throughout the itinerary

### **Restaurant Lunches/Dinner**

- Day 2, Lunch with one drink included (no wine supplied) at El Patio Restaurant, Havana
- Day 2, Dinner at El Aljibe restaurant, Havana with one drink included (no wine supplied)
- Day 3, Lunch at Hotel Los Caneyes restaurant, Santa Clara with one drink included (no wine supplied)
- Day 5, Lunch at La Boca restaurant, Guama with one drink included (no wine supplied)
- Day 6, Lunch at Ranchon San Vicente Restaurant, Viñales with one drink included (no wine supplied)

### **Entrances**

- Day 2, Entrance to the Museum of the Revolution: Havana
- Day 2, Entrance to Havana Club Rum Factory: Havana
- Day 2, Entrance to Partagas Cigar factory: Havana
- Day 2, Entrance to Finca Vigia Hemingways House
- Day 3, Entrance to Che Guevara's Museum and Mausoleum: Santa Clara.
- Day 4, Entrance to the Romantic Museum: Trinidad
- Day 4, Entrance to La Canchanchara: Trinidad
- Day 5, River trip and entrance to Taino Indian Village in Guama
- Day 6, Entrance to the El Indio Limestone Cave system: Vinales Valley.