

CULINARY CUBA!

CULTURE, HISTORY & CUISINE

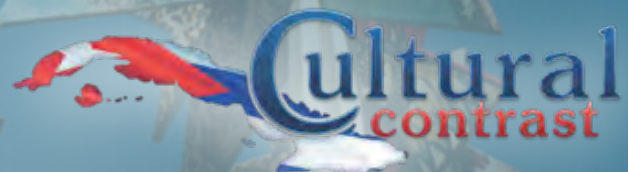


6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS • OCTOBER 18-23, 2017

**INCLUDES: • PREMIER PRIVATE LODGING • MEALS • IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION
• ALL LICENSES • ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDES • AND MANY SURPRISES!**



FEATURING AMBASSADOR CHEF: GUILLERMO PERNOT



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Travel authorized by the Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) which authorizes registered guests of our programs to legally travel to Cuba, to participate and engage in a full time schedule of authorized exchange activities in Cuba, which will involve meaningful interaction between travelers and people in Cuba.

CUBA LIBRE - CULINARY CUBA!



PER-PERSON ALL-INCLUSIVE GROUND PACKAGE PRICING:

\$3400 - Double Occupancy // \$4000 - Single Occupancy

Register with promo code EARLYBIRD by 5/30/2017 for a \$150 discount!

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- **6 days/5 nights** in Havana, Cuba plus day trips to neighboring towns.
- **5 nights - Casa Particular** accommodations in Cuba
- **Gratuities** to wait staff at included meals while in Cuba
- **Included meals:** 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners. You will experience some of the best cuisine in Cuba. *Some special dietary needs can be accommodated. Call for info.*
- **Ground transportation** within Cuba will be provided on a air-conditioned van with a professional driver.
- **Experienced, English speaking professional guide** who is knowledgeable on Cuban history, politics, education, medical system, arts, economics and more.
- **Collaborate with Chef Guillermo Pernot** on a typical Cuban meal using locally sourced ingredients.
- **Entrance fees** to the important cultural and historic sites.
- **US Treasury Department guidance and compliance**
- **Basic gratuities** for your expert Cuban guide and driver are included in the cost of your trip.

NOT INCLUDED:

- **Travel Insurance** - All payments are non-refundable. We recommend that each participant purchase trip insurance. Cancellations prior to departure without insurance will cause participants to forfeit their payment.
- **Round trip airfare** via commercial airline - Miami-Havana-Miami— Details regarding will be provided approximately 60 days prior to departure and each participant will be responsible for purchasing tickets directly from the airline.
- **Cuban visa** fee of \$100 can paid at the airport on the date of departure (if Cuban born, please contact us at least 60 days in advance to assist with visas, additional fees apply)
- **Miami lodging** - Our trip originates and terminates in Miami. If you do not live in Miami and have chosen the Miami departure option, you may need to book a hotel in Miami the night before departure.
- Upon check-in in Miami, **baggage fees** are common and are the responsibility of each passenger.
- It is customary to leave a **gratuity of \$2 daily** for your for your room attendant.



AMBASSADOR CHEF: GUILLERMO PERNOT

When Chef Guillermo opened Cuba Libre in 2006, the menu he designed was an idea of what Cuban cuisine would be today if the Castro regime had never come to power. In 2010, Chef Guillermo had the opportunity to travel to Cuba with his sister-in-law (Maria Rosa, a scholar and professor at Yale who recently passed) for the first time. He met young chefs, and dined at new paladares and made new friendships. He learned that some chefs are creating new and exciting things in the kitchen, even with the few resources they have. This inspired a change in Cuba Libre, which now showcases contemporary Cuban cuisine inspired by the chefs with whom he met while in Havana. Chef Guillermo has led many culinary excursions to Cuba, some of which with his Cuban-born wife (who had not returned since she left as a child). He cannot wait to travel to Cuba with Cultural Contrast again as part of his bi-annual culinary travels, and share the amazing experience with a group of guests and Cuban chefs in October 2017!

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY- OCTOBER 18 - INTRODUCTION TO CUBA (D)

- Group to meet **for group check-in**. (Required Miami-Havana-Miami flights will be announced approximately 60 days prior to departure and can be purchased directly from the airline).
- Upon arrival in Havana, retrieve luggage and meet your professional English speaking Cuban tour guide and driver. Transfer to your Cuban casa particular.
- Check-in to to your casa. Upon arrival, exchange money and settle into your room.
- Afternoon: 'Havana - past, present and future'. An interactive **presentation with Miguel Coyula**, former advisor to the City Planner of Havana. He will discuss and interact with the group regarding the history and architecture of Havana and facilitate an open group discussion about Cuba's future.
- Group dinner at **Otramanera**, a new top reviewed paladar in the Miramar neighborhood.
- Following dinner, the group will return to the casa to enjoy an optional **cigar and rum tasting**.



ENJOYING A HAND-ROLLED CIGAR IN OLD HAVANA

DAY 2 - THURSDAY - OCTOBER 19 - HAVANA - PAST AND PRESENT (B,L,D)

- **Breakfast** included at the casa particular
- After breakfast group will travel to a **Cigar Factory** for a little Cuban Tobacco 101. Learn which leaves are selected and why and learn how Cigars are rolled, Cuban Style. (Not available on weekends, photography may not be permitted inside the factory)
- Your professional guide will lead a **tour of Old Havana** - explore the old city, meet locals and experience and feel as though you have traveled 50 years back in time. Visit the **4 main plazas of Old Havana**, including Plaza de Armas, Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza San Francisco
- **Lunch** included at **La Guarida** – One of the most emblematic restaurants of Havana. Enjoy modern Cuban cuisine with an international flare.
- During the afternoon you will have time to explore the city. Your guides can offer suggestions and assist you based on your particular area of interest. Alternatively, take this time to enjoy a brief respite from the heat of Havana.
- Before returning to the casa, the group will stop at **Artechef**, The **Havana Culinary School**. Tour the facilities and learn about Cuba's culinary education system from some of the most experienced Cuban chefs.
- Group dinner at **Al Carbon**, a **private restaurant** owned by Chef Ivan Justo, one of the most well respected chefs in Cuba.



STREET SCENE - OLD HAVANA

CUBA LIBRE - CULINARY CUBA!



DAY 3 - FRIDAY - OCTOBER 20 - VIÑALES VALLEY -

ENJOY THE VIEW (B,L,D)

- Following an early **breakfast** at the casa particular, you will depart for a 2.5 hour ride to the western province of Pinar Del Rio, home of Cuba's most lush landscapes and agriculture
- Visit the quaint village of Viñales, including a visit to a farmer's home and **tobacco plantation**. Learn the art and science of tobacco growing – and you can even try to roll a cigar!
- The group will travel to a nearby a **sustainable organic farm for a tour**, where the owners will explain how they harvest and filter their own rainwater for irrigation, use companion planting techniques and terraced raised beds and to grow dozens of varieties of organic produce on the hillside.
- Farm to table meal included at Finca Agroecologica El Paraiso
- Return to Havana and rest before dinner
- Enjoy dinner at the restaurant of **Ivan Chef Justo** housed in a colonial home in Havana Vieja.
- **Optional evening activities** include live music, cigar and rum bars, Cuban live music dance halls, and so much more. Your guide will provide you with a local's insight and help you to make perfect plans.



FINCA AGROECOLOGICA VIÑALES

DAY 4 - SATURDAY - OCTOBER 21 - HEMINGWAY'S LEGACY IN CUBA (B,L,D)

- **Breakfast** included in the casa particular
- You will travel to **Finca Vigia**, the estate-home of Ernest Hemingway in the San Francisco neighborhood overlooking Havana. This UNESCO site is part of the Hemingway Foundation, and has been preserved in the exact condition it was in when he died.
- Lunch included at **San Cristobal** – in the Centro Havana neighborhood. This new private restaurant offers very unique dishes and a beautiful atmosphere.
- You will then drive to the small fishing village of **Jaimanitas** on the western outskirts of Havana and visit the Gaudi-inspired mosaic tile neighborhood project of world-renowned artist '**Jose Fuster**.' He has been featured on A&E and Discovery, and you will visit his private home and studio. This is an excellent opportunity to view and even buy art directly from the artist at his studio/home.
- An exquisite dinner tonight is included at the uniquely decorated **Cocina de Lilliam** in the exclusive Playa neighborhood. This is one of the oldest and most historic restaurants in all of Havana and is know for it's superior service and high quality ingredients sourced from all corners of the island.



FINCA VIGIA - HOME OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY

DAY 5 - SUNDAY - OCTOBER 22 - CUBAN AGRICULTURE & ART (B,L,D)

- **Breakfast** included in the casa particular
- The group will visit **Morro Castle**. This Historic Spanish fortress built in 1589, has an excellent view of the Havana skyline and was used by the Spanish to guard the bay of Havana for Centuries. Your tour guide will lead a discussion about the colonial history of Cuba and there will be ample time to explore the castle and the curve or “smile” of the malecón, the seawall walking path that stretches 5 miles along the coast of Havana.
- Experience Havana’s urban agricultural revolution. Visit the Havana **farmers market**. The market’s bustle is a result of economic reforms begun in 2010 by President Raul Castro, which includes relaxing rules on private farming and authorizing small farmers to also sell directly to hotels and tourist centers. At the market, source fresh local ingredients to be used for today’s lunch with a menu create by chef Guillermo Pernot.
- **Group lunch** at the casa particular using locally sourced ingredients from the farmer’s market.
- Visit the **San Jose Artisans Market**
- Relax at the casa or explore Havana on your own
- The group will enjoy an amazing farewell dinner at the **Starbien Paladar**. This elegant private restaurant is owned by a personal friend of Chef Guillermo and features some of the most delicious dishes in Havana.



CLASSIC AMERICAN CARS IN OLD HAVANA

DAY 6 - MONDAY - OCTOBER 23 - ¡ADIOS CUBA! (B)

- **Breakfast included at casa particular, check-out**
- Visit the famous **Plaza de la Revolución**. This location has hosted some of Cuba’s most famous milestones and speeches, including those given by Fidel Castro and Mass was held here by the pope. This plaza is also home to many important governmental building as well as the monument to Jose Martí, the tallest structure in Cuba.
- Drive through **Miramar** and the 5th Avenue areas and see the former homes Havana’s wealthiest families before the revolution. The private beach clubs and mansions are simply breathtaking.
- The group will proceed to **Jose Marti International Airport**, where we will check in as a group and we’ll board our flight to Miami.
- **Depart Havana**, (Required Miami-Havana-Miami flights will be announced approximately 60 days prior to departure and can be purchased directly from the airline).; Upon arrival in the US you will go through immigration and customs. Once cleared, you will travel home! Please allow up to 2-3 hours in Miami before scheduling any connecting flights. We are not responsible for airline delays or for missed connections



JOSÉ FUSTER'S MOSAIC PROJECT