

# HAVANA SHORT STAY PACKAGE

Make the Most of a Short Trip to Havana




The **Havana Short Stay** is a convenient, best-of-Havana package designed to help you experience the city's highlights in a short time—without the stress of planning, researching, or guesswork. Your own private **English-speaking local guide** coordinates the schedule and stays with you throughout.

This organised adventure is easiest way to see Havana's essentials—history, music, art, flavours, and nightlife—in less than a week. Choose your included activities and travel dates, and we'll lock in a smooth, guided Havana escape from start to finish.

Looking for more? Explore the 'tourist triangle', Eastern Cuba, or the whole island on our [multi-day tours](#). Wanting less? [Book a Havana local guide](#) for just a few hours or for the whole day.

### What You'll Experience (Inclusions)

- **Round-trip airport transfers** from Havana's Jose Marti Airport
- **3-night stay in a comfortable guesthouse** (casa particular) with daily breakfast
- **Essential Activities**- see below
- **Friendly and Professional Cuban Guide** your local friend who will show you around and help you with logistics
- **Perfect for "Support for the Cuban People" travellers!**

 **Fuel Surcharge:** Due to Cuba's ongoing fuel situation, transportation costs can fluctuate daily. Activities that include vehicle transportation may be subject to a fuel surcharge **at time of service**, payable directly to the driver in **USD** or **EUR**. Your guide will advise you if this applies.

## Not Included

- **International Flights**
- Visa and passport fees- You can purchase your visa from us!
- Insurance- **Travel Medical Insurance is required**, all US airlines automatically include Cuban Travel Medical insurance on direct flights. If you have a medical-only policy, an *additional* comprehensive travel insurance policy **is strongly recommended** to protect your trip.
- Lunches, dinners, and drinks
- Gratuities
- Additional **day tours** or **optional activities**

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## Activity Descriptions

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**Old Havana Walking Tour- approx. 2 hours**

Explore the streets of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage site brimming with history, culture, and charm. Havana is known for being one of the most architecturally unique places in the Caribbean, you'll encounter colonial architecture, lively plazas, and fascinating sculptures. Your guide will highlight key attractions such as Plaza de Armas, Plaza de Catedral, Plaza Vieja, and pedestrian thoroughfare Calle Obispo. If there is a particular site of interest to you, let your guide know so they can include it.

### **Classic Car Tour – approx. 1.5 hours**

Get a panoramic tour of Havana in a nostalgic and stylish classic convertible car. Relive a 1950's fantasy as we pass through the famous Havana suburbs of Miramar, Vedado, and Central Habana. With the wind in your hair, you'll see 'embassy row', the mansion-lined 5th Avenue, Chinatown, and the seafront Malecon. We make a short stop at the spectacular *Plaza de la Revolucion* - the scene of many a speech by Fidel, and finish in the garden of an iconic Havana location. **Return transportation not included.**

### **Cannon Ceremony – approx. 1 hour**

Visitors find the 9 o'clock firing of the canon at the Cabaña fortress to be a charming experience. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Havana was enclosed in walls (ask your guide to show you the remnants!) and the firing of the cannon at 9 p.m. every evening signaled the closing of the gates. If you didn't make it in

time, you slept outside the city! Now every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday there is a ceremonial procession of soldiers dressed in traditional uniforms marching through the fortress with drums, torches, and muskets to light the canon, an interesting and educational experience enhanced by the beautiful views of Old Havana across the bay. **Return transportation included.**

### **Night Out in Havana – approx. 3 hours**

Be they silver-haired or in the bloom of youth, Cubans love to enjoy the nightlife. Experience Havana after dark with your guide, who will accompany you as you experience one of the most delightful aspects of Cuban culture. For a truly authentic experience, you can start the night with a short walk along the famous malecón, the “world’s longest sofa”, where young and old alike come to socialise and pass the night drinking, dancing, singing, and smooching into the wee hours of the morning. Next, go where the fun takes you- perhaps a stylish new bar where young & beautiful go to see and be seen, a factory turn nightlife and arts complex, or a bohemian bar for cocktails and live music.

Prefer a quieter nightlife experience? This tour offers sightseeing of plazas and other interesting sights after dark. You can also upgrade to a cabaret show, contact for pricing.

This experience includes one paid venue and one cocktail. Transportation is not included.

## **Choose one** cultural experience

### **Afro-Cuban Culture in Callejon de Hamel - 2 hours**

Learn about Santeria, and the main Afro-Cuban religions in Cuba with a specialist local guide, who will show you around Callejon de Hamel – the alley in Central Havana which is a vibrant artistic masterpiece of the late artist Salvador Gonzales Escalona, a man with a vision of celebrating the cultural contributions and importance of African ancestry to his Central Habana community. Includes drink at the artist's home. Transportation not included.

### **Cigar Tour**

Cuban tobacco is known as some of the world's finest and Cuban cigars are legendary. Visit a cigar factory where you'll tour through the various areas of cigar production, from sorting to rolling to packaging. Then visit a cigar bar or tasting room to enjoy the perfect "marriage" of a Cuban cigar, a Cuban coffee and a Cuban rum in a very traditional ceremony called Maridaje. Your specialist guide will show you the traditional way to light up a cigar with a cedar stick and lead you through the ritual of how to properly enjoy a cigar. Includes cigar and rum tasting, and entry to factory. Transportation not included.

## **Choose one** out-of-town experience

### **Hemingway Tour – approx. 3-4 hours**

Journey with our local guide to visit the old stomping grounds of this famous author and legendary adventurer. Visit the quaint fishing village of Cojímar, which famously harboured his beloved fishing boat, and his infamous ranch on the outskirts of Havana where he lived for 20 years, and where an impressive collection of his personal belongings remain. If the Hotel Ambos Mundos is open, you may get to see relics of his past in the hotel room where he wrote part of "For Whom the Bell Tolls". Transportation included.

### **Fusterlandia – approx. 2.5 hours**

Take an inspiring journey to a neighbourhood transformed by art. Fusterlandia, in the fishing village of Jaimanitas, was the vision of artist Jose Fuster, "the Picasso of Cuba". A successful international artist, he returned to his home with the vision of turning his house into a mosaic homage to Spanish architect Gaudi. His whimsical murals and generosity to his community inspired others to expand his work throughout the neighbourhood, where you can now see brightly coloured mosaics adorning houses and public spaces. Transportation included.



**HEMINGWAY HOUSE**



**FUSTERLANDIA**

## Choose one lesson

- Salsa dance
- Percussion
- Spanish
- Cooking (+\$20 materials fee)

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## SUGGESTED OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

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These can be decided and paid for locally. Prices are estimated; your guide can confirm pricing locally

- Tropicana or Parisien Cabaret \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$
- Snorkeling or Scuba diving \$\$\$\$ (advance notice required)
- Tourist bus to local beaches \$\$
- Museums \$
- Capitolio building tour \$\$\$
- Ballet or theater performances \$\$-\$\$\$\$\$
- Baseball game \$

\$	< US\$10
\$\$	US\$10-20
\$\$\$	US\$20-50
\$\$\$\$	> US\$50

- Visit to indoor artisan market *free*
- Chef tasting dinner \$\$\$\$
- Farm-to-fork experience outside of Havana \$\$\$
- Day trip to Viñales or Varadero *contact for pricing*

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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What is the detailed itinerary?**

Your personalized itinerary will depend on a number of factors including your arrival days and which activities you choose, and the other interests you'd like to explore in Havana. Here is an example itinerary:

*Day 1: Arrive in the afternoon, take classic car ride to get a feel for the city.*

*Day 2: Start the morning with the Afro-Cuban culture tour, then the Old Havana walking tour. After lunch take dance lessons. Practice your new skills with a night out.*

*Day 3: Visit Hemingway's house, return to Old Havana to explore museums. Attend the canon ceremony.*

*Day 4: Souvenir shopping and depart Cuba (or book extra nights)*

### **What can I expect from the guide?**

The guide will be available to you generally from 9am to 6pm daily, but you will have their contact information in case you need support outside of hours. For the nightlife tour they will generally be with you until 11pm but this depends on you and the guide. You don't need to pay for their meals or drinks however, if you go to a particularly expensive restaurant and want them to accompany you, it's customary to pay for their meal. The guide will offer walking tours and if you want, accompany you on other activities to provide historical and cultural insight. They are an excellent resource for helping you understand how to do things in Cuba. The guides are all licensed professionals and knowledgeable about a number of topics. If you are particularly interested in a subject, please let us know in advance.

### **Can I visit schools or hospitals?**

Visiting state-run facilities in Cuba can be challenging due to government restrictions on interactions with tourists. We prioritise experiences with everyday Cubans, community projects, and private businesses for more authentic connections and direct support to local communities. However, sometimes we are able to arrange meetings with medical or academic professionals, request in advance.

In keeping with our Responsible Travel Policy, we are very careful about arranging activities that involve direct interaction with children.

### **How much should I tip?**

If you are happy with your service, a customary tip for your main guide would be US\$5-15/day per person. For museum or activity guides, US\$2-5 per person is appropriate.

### **Where will I be staying?**

Casas particulares (private guesthouses) offer a superior experience compared to most Cuban hotels. Our guests consistently rate their accommodations 'very good' or 'excellent' whether the casas are standard or premium.



Our **standard casas** are clean, comfortable, no-frills guesthouses. Each room will have air-conditioning, hot water, and an ensuite bathroom. Likely to be owned and operated by a family, where family members provide the services to guests; therefore, the amenities and décor will vary significantly – which is part of the fun! Examples: Malecon Sunset, Casa D’Osbe, La Quimera

**Premium casas** are for those who prefer more stylish accommodations. They feature quality linens, larger rooms with ample space, modern appliances, quality toiletries, and some offer room service or on-site restaurants. Some of these places are truly inspiring in their decor and artistic charm. Examples: Casa Vieja Habana, El Claxon, La Residencia

