



MEJDI TOURS

DISCOVER CUBA

West Hartford Public Schools 8-Day, 7-Night Tour of Cuba
April 8-15, 2016



ITINERARY¹

Day 1: Havana – Friday, April 8th 2016

- Flight to Havana.
- Check-in to Hotel (Free time before dinner)
- This evening enjoy a group dinner of delicious Cuban food.

Hotel: Havana [D]

Day 2: Havana – Saturday April 9th

- Tour of **El Malecon, El Capitolio, El Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, El Parque Central**,
- Guided tour of **Museum of the Revolution** - to understand modern Cuba is to study its revolution.
- **Plaza de la Revolucion** and **La Plaza de las Armas**
- Visit a **training center for students** eager to enter the **Cuban National Circus** school. Learn about the struggles many of the youth have faced and how the training is helping them express themselves creatively and prepare for a more stable life as a Circus artist.
- For dinner, enjoy one of the many private restaurants (**Paladares**) in Havana.

Hotel: Havana [B, D]

Day 3: Vinales – Sunday April 10th

- Take an early morning drive to **Finca Agro-Ecologica agricultural** cooperative, hike in Viñales with local farmers and visit farmers' homes
- After lunch visit **Cuevas de Santo Tomas**, Cuba's largest cave system and the second largest on the American continent. See the bats, stalagmites and stalactites, underground pools, interesting rock formations and a replica of an ancient native Indian mural.
- Dinner on your own in Havana

Hotel: Havana [B, L]

Day 4: Havana – Monday April 11th

- Enjoy a guided walk to explore the rich **architectural heritage of Old Havana**.
- Take time for lunch on your own in Old Havana.
- Delight in the sights, sounds, artwork and the people in **Almacenes San José Artisans' Market!**
- We have the opportunity to meet with founders, supporters and neighborhood residents of the **Muraleando Community Art** project for an overview **and interactive side-by-side art exchange**.
- Savor a traditional Cuban dinner.

Hotel: Havana [B, D]

¹ Itinerary and flight schedule subject to change.

Day 5: Trinidad and Santa Clara Tuesday April 12th

- Visit **Trinidad de Cuba**. A UNESCO world heritage site. Founded in 1514 by Diego Velazquez. Little has changed since this was a sugar town back in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- See the **former home of an 18th century sugar baron** prior to the collapse of the sugar market later in the century.
- Lunch and afternoon at your leisure with **free time to explore** this colonial city and its large craft market.

Hotel: Trinidad **[B, D]**

Day 6: Santa Clara Wednesday April 13th

- This morning drive to Santa Clara where you will visit the **Che Guevara Museum, El Monumento a la Toma del Tren Blindado** where history was made on December 29, 1958, visit the **Tomb of Che Guevara**. Hike up **Loma del Caprio** for beautiful views of the town and countryside.
- Enjoy a special lunch at **NaturArte**, an amazing community project in Santa Clara!
- Dinner on your own in Santa Clara

Hotel: Cayo Santa Maria **[B, L]**

Day 7: los Cayos del Norte Thursday April 14th

- Spend the day relaxing on **Cayo Santa Maria** located in the UNESCO-recognized Buenavista Biosphere Reserve.

Hotel: Cayo Santa Maria **[B]**

Day 8: Departure Friday April 15th

- **Breakfast**
- **Depart for airport with a stop at:** Check out **Hemingway's home** in Cuba (1940-1962), Finca La Vigia, that remains just as he left it before returning to the USA.
- **Lunch at Paladar Bodega de las Brisas**
- **Check-in to flight**

[B, L]