

# Discover Cuba actively - individual trip

By e-bike through western and central Cuba

12 Days  
Private trip on the desired date  
min. 2 participants

Explore Cuba's unique charm at a leisurely pace on an e-bike. Immerse yourself in the Caribbean island's distinctive atmosphere and engage with the welcoming locals. The e-bike tours (15-50km, mostly hilly, without extreme gradients) in western and central Cuba lead on roads with little traffic, through traditional villages and nature reserves. In addition to the lively capital Havana, the Las Terrazas nature reserve, the spectacular mogotes (limestone formations) in the Viñales Valley, the beautiful coast of the Bay of Pigs and the colonial pearls of Trinidad and Santa Clara are on the program. If you wish to spend extra time swimming and relaxing in Varadero, an extended stay in Varadero is possible.

While exploring Cuba, you will be accommodated in 'casa particulares' – private Cuban guesthouses – and cozy hotels.



This arrangement provides a truly authentic travel experience, as the hospitable host families are dedicated to lovingly caring for their guests. If you wish, they can also cook dinner for you (not included in the price), alternatively you can have dinner in the nearby restaurants. All accommodations are carefully and regularly checked by our Cuban partner agency.









## Authentic & sustainable

- Overnight stays in privately run accommodations: “Casa Particulares” (= private guest houses), an ecologically oriented hotel and a small city hotel in a historic building.
- Visit to a tobacco farm.
- Visit to a sugar cane plantation.
- Meaningful interactions with the locals.
- Dinner not included: Individual restaurant visits allow you to get to know the local specialties – alternatively, you can order dinner from your hosts (payable on site).
- CO2 compensation for flights and country-based services (2,895 t per passenger) via Atmosfair.



# Travel itinerary

 Breakfast
  Lunch
  Lunchbox / Picnic
  Dinner
  Tasting
  Night

## Day 1

Flight to Havana

At 1:35 p.m. you are taking off with Condor from Frankfurt to Havana (flight time approx. 9.5 hours). After arriving at 7:40 p.m., you will be greeted by a representative of our local partner agency and taken to your accommodation (approx. 20 kilometers / travel time approx. 45 minutes). At Casa Particular, the warm hosts look forward to your arrival and welcome you.

Overnight stay at the Casa Particular La Siguaraya in Havana.

## Day 2

Havanna



A Coco Taxi takes you through Centro Havana to the Old Town. There you walk through the lively streets to the most important sights and squares, of course including the Capitol and Hemingway's "Bodeguita". After lunch (not included), you will drive in style in a vintage American car towards the El Morro fortress and along the world-famous waterfront promenade, the Malecón. Then you take over your e-bike and start exploring modern Havana. At Revolution Square you can admire the iconic silhouette of Che Guevara and the monument of José Martí, past the legendary Colón Cemetery you cycle to the residential district of Miramar with its impressive villas. From there it is not far to the Casa Particular. Cycling distance: approx. 15km, flat.



Overnight stay in the Casa Particular La Siguaraya.

# Travel itinerary

## Day 3

Havana – Viñales, visit to a tobacco farm



On the tobacco route you drive by car/minivan to Pinar del Río (approx. 170 kilometers/approx. 2.5-3 hours driving time), the greenest of all Cuban provinces. It is known for the characteristic rugged limestone cliffs, the mogotes, and for the best tobacco soils in the world. On a tobacco farm you will learn about the manufacturing process from the leaf to the cigar and can admire the skilled hands of the “Torcedores”, the cigar rollers. After the tour, a Cuban lunch will be served and after coffee you can enjoy an exquisite cigar. From the provincial capital of Pinar del Río, you continue by e-bike through the hilly green landscape, which is one of the most beautiful in Cuba. At the end of today's tour, you will be rewarded with a beautiful view of the Viñales Valley. Cycling route: approx. 30 km, hilly (Pinar del Río – Viñales).



Overnight stay at the Casa Particular Villa El Carretero in Viñales.

## Day 4

Day trip to Viñales Valley



Time seems to have stood still in the picturesque Viñales Valley. Flora and fauna are intact, the arable land is traditionally cultivated with oxen and carts. There are spontaneous opportunities for conversation along the way; the farmers are happy to talk about their lives and their daily work. There are many caves in the region where the Cimarrones, the escaped slaves, hid during colonial times. The spectacular caves “Cueva del Indio” and “Cueva Santo Tomas”, which are among the largest in Latin America, are particularly worth a visit. Lunch (lunchbox) is taken in the middle of nature, then you drive back to Viñales by car/minivan (approx. 30 kilometers/approx. one hour drive). Cycling route: approx. 40 km, hilly (Viñales – Moncada).



Overnight stay in the Casa Particular Villa El Carretero.



# Travel itinerary

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## Day 5

Viñales – Cueva de los Portales – Las Terrazas



You start by e-bike from Viñales to the “Cueva de los Portales” cave, Che Guevara's hideout and base during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and continue through the beautiful landscape of La Güira National Park. You will have your lunch on the way (lunch box). The car/minivan will take you to the Las Terrazas eco-reserve (approx. 100 kilometers/approx. 2.5 hours drive). Cycling route: approx. 50 km, hilly (Viñales – Cueva de los Portales).



Dinner and overnight at Hotel Moka\*\*(\*) in Las Terrazas.

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## Day 6

Las Terrazas – Australia – Playa Larga



Today's program includes a longer car/minivan trip along the Cuban highway towards central Cuba (approx. 220 kilometers/approx. 3.5 hours driving time). Before you reach the legendary Bay of Pigs, you will visit the former sugar village of Australia and gain interesting insights into Cuban sugar cultivation. From there you go by e-bike along the Ciénaga de Zapata National Park, a bird-rich swamp area, to the Bay of Pigs. Playa Larga is a quiet Cuban coastal town that has so far been spared from the huge influx of tourists and therefore conveys an authentic impression. After check-in there is time for a walk along the beach. Cycling route: approx. 30 km, flat (Australia – Playa Larga).



Overnight stay in the Casa Particular Villa Playa Tropical in Playa Larga.

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## Day 7

Playa Larga – Cienfuegos



You cycle along the Bay of Pigs on a varied route. The road runs parallel to the coast a few meters from the sea, and on the opposite side of the road the dense vegetation of the swamp rises up like a wall. The tour takes you to the largest cenote in Cuba, “La Cueva de los Peces”, from Punta Perdiz you continue by car/minivan (approx. 90 kilometers/travel time approx. two hours). In Playa Girón, the scene of the CIA-backed invasion of Cuba in 1961, visit the local museum, which includes, among other things, an airplane from the period of the fighting. The destination for the day is Cienfuegos, the pearl of the south. The city founded by the French with its colonial buildings still exudes French flair today. Cycling route: approx. 25 km, flat (Playa Larga – Punta Perdiz).



Overnight stay at Casa Particular Maikel in Cienfuegos.

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## Day 8

Cienfuegos – Trinidad



With the e-bike you ride to Guajimico, through hilly greenery and accompanied by the Sierra Escambray mountain ranges to the left. You will have lunch on a farm, where you will also have the opportunity to interact with local farmers. The onward journey (car/minivan, approx. 40 kilometers/journey time approx. one hour) along the Caribbean coast to Trinidad is like a panoramic journey. In the evening you should take a stroll through the lively musical nightlife. There is live music in many bars, particularly well-known are “Casa de la Música” or “Casa de la Trova”. Cycling route: max. 45 km, hilly, later flat (by bike from Cienfuegos to Guajimico).

Overnight stay at the Casa Particular Osmari y Alberto in Trinidad.

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# Travel itinerary

## Day 9

Trinidad



A city tour through Trinidad, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, takes you to another era - with its colonial architecture, the city center looks like a living open-air museum. From the elegant Plaza Mayor, lined with magnificent mansions, you walk through the cobblestone streets where the sugar barons' carriages once traveled. After visiting the local museum, sample a typical local cocktail and in the afternoon take an e-bike excursion to Playa Ancón. The beautiful sandy beach is perfect for a refreshing swim and a relaxing end to the day. Cycling route: approx. 22 km, flat (by bike Playa Ancon there and back).



Overnight stay at Casa Particular Osmari y Alberto.

## Day 10

Sierra Escambray



Today's program includes crossing the Sierra del Escambray, the largest mountain formation in central Cuba. During the break at the information center of the "Topes de Collantes" National Park, you will gain an insight into nature conservation in Cuba over a cup of coffee. In Jibacoa you can enjoy the dream view of Lake Hanabanilla and cycle on e-bikes through the beautiful mountain landscape to Manicaragua. From there the car/minivan will take you to Santa Clara (approx. 40 kilometers/approx. one hour drive). Cycling route: max. 40 km, hilly (Jibacoa - Manicaragua).



Overnight stay at the Hotel E Central Villa Clara\*\*\* in Santa Clara.

## Day 11

Santa Clara - Varadero - Havana



The city of Santa Clara is closely linked to Ernesto "Che" Guevara. You will visit the site where the train loaded with weapons derailed in 1958 - a crucial action for the success of the Cuban Revolution - and the Che Guevara mausoleum. You drive back to Havana via Varadero and arrive in the capital in the evening (approx. 400 kilometers/approx. 5.5 hours).



Overnight stay at the Casa Particular La Siguaraya in Havana

## Day 12

Free time in Havana, return flight



Check out in the morning. Discover Havana on your own. In the afternoon transfer to the airport (approx. 20 kilometers/time approx. 45 minutes). At 8.40 p.m. return flight with Condor.

## Day 13

Arrival in Frankfurt

Arrival in Frankfurt at 12.10 p.m.

Program and flight times subject to change. The travel times on each day are the actual travel time (excluding breaks and photo stops).



## Included services:

- Flight with Condor Frankfurt – Havana – Frankfurt (Economy, fare class E, subject to availability)
- Airport fees and kerosene €175 (as of 02/2024)
- CO2 compensation via Atmosfair
- Tourist card (as of 02/2024)
- 9 nights in a typical Casa Particulares in a double/twin room including breakfast
- 1 night at the Hotel Moka\*\*(\*) in Las Terrazas in a double/twin room including breakfast and dinner
- 1 night at the Hotel E Central Villa Clara\*\*\* in Santa Clara in a double room including breakfast
- Transfers Havana Airport – Casa Particular in Havana on the day of arrival / Casa Particular in Havana – Havana Airport on the day of departure (Spanish-speaking driver)
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (taxi/microbus/bus) of standard quality with a professional driver\*
- Transfers, excursions and sightseeing according to the program
- 3x lunch in local restaurants, 3x lunch box
- Drinking water (18l)
- Trekking e-bike (days 2-10)
- Local English-speaking tour guide during the tour (days 2 – 11)

*\*For 1-2 people in a standard taxi (Please note that the vehicle has space for a maximum of one piece of luggage per person, as the driver and tour guide are in the same vehicle and carry luggage according to the duration of the trip. For 3-7 people in a minivan /Microbus (6-10 seats). For 8-10 people in the minibus (15-16 seats) and for 11-12 people in the bus (24-seater).*



**Not included are:** seat reservations, tips, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, drinks, additional activities and excursions, insurance, personal expenses.



## Prices (per person)

Double-/ twin room

**from 4.195,00 € / or from 3.350 €\***

Single room

**from 4.490,00 € / or from 3.645 €\***

*Minimum number of participants: 2 travellers / \*Minimum number of participants: 4 travellers*

## **Important Information**

### **The e-bikes**

Our Cuban partner provides high-quality e-bikes. All bicycles were imported from Germany, and his bicycle workshop ensures that the e-bikes are in perfect condition. For this tour we use a German trekking e-bike with a Bosch motor, which is easy to ride and handles Cuba's potholes and rough asphalt well. The 28-inch wheels, four assistance levels and eight gears make it the ideal vehicle for the hills and roads of the island. The front suspension absorbs the bumps from the rough Cuban asphalt, ensuring a comfortable ride. With these e-bikes you are perfectly equipped for this unique adventure trip. The bicycles are equipped with normal **pedals** (flat pedals). If you prefer click pedals, you can bring your own click pedals, which will then be installed when you pick up the e-bike. It is also possible to bring your own **bicycle saddle**. Wearing a suitable bicycle helmet during bike tours is mandatory. We recommend bringing your own **bicycle helmet**, as our partner Caribbean Tours can only provide helmets to a limited extent. Please also note that the use of the e-bike is only permitted in the presence of the guide. Participants on the trip should be at least 14 years old and at least 140cm tall.

### **The "Caribbean Factor"**

The Caribbean, especially Cuba, is an emerging region for tourism, but cannot be compared to Europe in terms of **standards**. The "Caribbean flair" that is so valued by all travellers can lead to disagreements, as many travellers have false ideas about the quality and availability of tourist services. Our Cuban partner therefore expressly points out that the standard of hotels, restaurants, transport, public facilities, etc. does not reach European standards. Despite their own information about their categories (stars) and/or their affiliation with international hotel chains, the hotels cannot be compared with Central European standards.

**The road conditions** in Cuba do not meet European standards. Some of the roads are in less good condition (bumpy, with potholes and not asphalted in places). It is therefore often necessary to drive slowly. Animals and carriages are also not uncommon on the road. For these reasons, travel times may be longer.

**"Caribbean punctuality"** does not correspond to European punctuality. This was taken into account when planning the trip, as well as in the travel advertisement and the travel information.

When purchasing services in Cuba, our partner is dependent on state tourism organizations and cannot conclude contracts directly with the individual service providers. This results in certain restrictions in the selection of service providers and the possibility of intervening directly with the service provider.

### **Luggage restrictions during the trip**

Please note that transport in Cuba is limited to **one piece of luggage per person** (maximum 20 kilograms) **plus hand luggage** (handbag or daypack).



## Important Information

To enter Cuba, EU citizens need a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the period of stay, international health insurance and a tourist card (you will receive this with your travel documents). The passport must be in good condition and have at least two blank pages.

No compulsory vaccinations are required when entering directly from Luxembourg/Germany (as of February 2024). All Covid-19-related restrictions have currently been lifted. We would like to point out that this can change depending on the pandemic situation (as of February 2024).

For air travel, our sales prices are generally based on special and tour operator tariffs of the airline(s) selected for the relevant trip. Therefore, space is limited, and additional charges are possible.

All accommodations usually offer WiFi, although network coverage is not always perfect. Please note that some properties only offer non-smoking rooms. If some of the accommodations we have booked are unforeseen to be unavailable, we will book a (preferably) equivalent alternative.

The voltage in Cuba is 110-120V/60Hz. With the travel documents you will receive further information about the trip and the destination country.

**No insurance is included** in the travel price. We strongly recommend taking out travel cancellation insurance that includes Covid-19 as well as appropriate travel health insurance that includes treatment (including quarantine) for Covid-19.

**This trip is not suitable for guests with mobility issues.** If necessary, please tell us the type of mobility restriction you have before booking and clarify with us whether we can meet your individual needs.

We carry out this trip together with other tour operators. Of course, this has no influence on the quality.

**Planet B is a sustainable travel brand of Bollig Tours s. à r.l.** Bollig Tours is therefore named as the organizer in our general travel conditions.



# The accommodations

Casa Particular la Siguaraya is located in Centro Habana, one of the most authentic districts of Havana. Two blocks from the legendary Malecón and a 15-minute walk from Central Park, there are many bars and paladares (private restaurants), including the world-famous La Guarida. Casa Particular's five rooms, all with access to the central courtyard, have private bathrooms with modern showers, air conditioning, mini-fridges, and safes. Delicious Cuban cocktails (not included) can be ordered at any time via the 24-hour bar service.



In Viñales you will stay in the Casa Particular Villa El Carretero, about a ten-minute walk from the town center. Here too you will be pampered by the warm hosts, the accommodation is popular with both tourists and locals and is therefore a good place to come into contact with the Cubans. The three air-conditioned rooms are equipped with a safe, refrigerator and private bathroom. Weather permitting, breakfast is served on the terrace.



The ecologically oriented Hotel Moka\*\*(\*) in the Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve is surrounded by forested hills and wild nature. Perfectly adapted to the landscape in design and architecture, it is an idyllic place to relax and take quiet walks in the forest. There you have the opportunity to gain insights into the local projects of the village community. The rooms have two double beds, floor-to-ceiling windows and a balcony/terrace; they have their own bathroom, radio, satellite TV, safe, air conditioning, telephone and minibar (charges apply locally).

# The accommodations

The Casa Villa Playa Tropical, which was built just a few years ago and has only seven rooms, is located in the center of Playa Larga/Matanzas. Each of the spacious rooms has two queen size beds, a private bathroom with hot and cold water, a television and air conditioning. There are several restaurants and bars nearby, and it is also not far to the beach of Playa Larga.



The very personally run Casa Particular Maikel is located on the Punta Gorda peninsula, near the old town. The seven rooms are modernly furnished, the Cuban cocktail bar and the pool table invite you to a cozy evening. All rooms are decorated in light colors and have a private bathroom.

The Casa Particular by Osmar y Alberto in Trinidad is like an oasis. The lush green inner courtyard invites you to linger and relax. Breakfast and, if desired (payable locally), a tasty dinner can be enjoyed here. The house has a bar and a small wine cellar. All six colourful and individually designed rooms have a private, modern bathroom with a shower.



The Hotel E Central Villa Santa Clara\*\*\* is a beautiful example of 20th century architecture. Before its renovation, the building housed a financial bank, a cafeteria and an apartment building. Today, the hotel, with its colonial charm and location within walking distance of the center, is one of the best accommodation options in the city. It has 26 cozy rooms decorated in warm colours (with private bathrooms and air conditioning) and a lounge bar.

