





### Cuba: Family Island Exploration



### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- Explore the famous colonial squares of Havana and get lost in its quaint cafes and shops
- Zipline over the lush Viñales Valley and experience traditional life in rural Cuba
- Snorkel through the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea
- Learn how to make colorful Cuban ceramics and art with a famous local artist
- Visit Havana's funky art installation of Fusterland

Explore the bustling city of Havana before ziplining over the Cuban countryside and snorkeling over the clear Caribbean waters

### **TRIP AT A GLANCE** 6 Days / 5 Nights

#### PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 5, Maximum 8

LODGING

Standard & Premier

### Havana

**DAY 1** - Arrive and take a classic convertible ride around the city streets of Havana

**DAY 2** - Explore Old Havana and visit a community center for special needs students

### **Viñales Valley**

**DAY 3** - Zip-line over the gorgeous Cuban countryside, meet with a local fruit farmer, and hike through the large *mogotes*, or rocky mountains surrounding you

### Varadero

**DAY 4** - Meet with a local Cuban artist on the way to the stunning Varadero coastline

**DAY 5** - Snorkel over the Caribbean crystal blue waters

### Havana

**DAY 6** - Travel back to Havana for your ride home



# **CUBA:** FAMILY ISLAND EXPLORATION

### OUR PURPOSE

With its rich history, vibrant music and arts scene, and rolling hills, Cuba is one of the most unique family travel destinations in the world today. Sheltered from technology and American influences, this is an island where people live a slower pace of life and stop for friendly conversations in the street. Classic cars continue to roll along the cobblestone streets while colorful art covers the walls and music fills the streets. Venture outside of Havana and you'll find an island stuck in time where lush valleys meet a tropical Caribbean coastline.

Over the course of six days, visit all of the must-see sights along the north coast of the island. From Havana's unique colonial squares to the turquoise waters that calmly lap Cuba's sandy beaches, your family will experience the stunning natural beauty of the island. Along the way, go behind-the-scenes and meet with artists, farmers, musicians and the folks working to make Cuba a better place for its children, including a a small Cuban center for special-needs children. This family-focused vacation opens your eyes to one of the most fascinating islands on the planet, connecting you with the local communities that make Cuba so captivating.



### HIGHLIGHTS



### MEET WITH LOLO, A LOCAL CUBAN ARTIST

Dive deep into Cuba's culture with Lolo, a local Cuban artist who runs a community arts project. If your kids enjoy art projects and hands-on activities, they will get the chance to not only meet the children in the art program, but also let their creative juices flow as they make their own colorful Cuban ceramics. Enjoy lunch with Lolo and his students to learn more about the importance of art in Cuban culture and how this community uses art as a form of self expression.



### ZIP-LINE THROUGH THE VINALES VALLEY

The Viñales Valley offers a taste of rural Cuba, full of rolling green fields and gorgeous magotes, or rocky mountains, at every turn. While your kids may be most excited for the thrill of a zip-line, this is also one of the best ways to see the beauty of Cuba from the valley's tropical terrain to organic farms to lush greenery. A truly stunning scene, so fantastic you won't realize just how high you are!



# SNORKEL LESSON IN THE CARIBBEAN

Snorkel over the famous Caribbean waters in search of colorful coral and fish around every corner. Unlike other snorkeling trips, this lesson with put a focus on conservation; teaching your family about the sea creatures you can expect to see in the waters and what the Cuban government is doing to protect this fragile ecosystem.



### RIDE THROUGH THE STREETS OF HAVANA

When you have only a short time in Havana, there is no better way to see this bustling city than in the back of a classic convertible car. Your kids will love all the action zipping by as you relax under the Cuban sun. Navigate the narrow streets, stop at local restaurants along the way, and marvel at the beautiful architecture and colonial squares that makes up this vibrant town.

## ITINERARY

# **DAY 1:** Arrive & Take a Classic Car Ride through Havana's Colorful Streets

Arrive in Havana with a quick stop at your casa particular. Hit the ground running with a panoramic tour of Havana's modern city center and seaside malecon promenade. Hop into a classic convertible car and roll through the narrow streets to dinner at a locally owned restaurant, called a paladar. Later in the evening, visit a colonial fortress overlooking the nightly canon blast ceremony. (L,D)

# **DAY 2:** Explore Colonial Old Havana & Enjoy an Exchange with a Group of Special Needs Students

After breakfast at our casas particulares, venture into the ancient heart of the Caribbean's largest city, Havana. Follow our guide through the narrow alleyways and plazas to learn about the colonial past. Afterwards, experience a heartwarming exchange with a group of children from a local special needs program, and get to know this small Cuban center and the impact it is having on the community. Enjoy lunch before venturing out to the funky art installation of Fusterland. Tonight, savour dinner together in the city and, if you are up for it, head out to a local jazz club. (*B*,*L*,*D*)

### **DAY 3:** Venture to the Stunning Viñales Valley to Zip-line and Experience Rural Life in Cuba

Today we'll head out of town to the lush Cuban countryside where ageold traditions can still be seen in everyday life. Upon arrival to the Vinales Valley, take a zip-line over the valley's tropical terrain and enjoy lunch at a local organic farm. Afterwards, learn about rural life in Cuba with a local fruit farmer and take a short hike through Vinales' stunning fields with large mogotes, or rocky mountains surrounding you. End the day with a short boat ride through the Indian Caves before returning to Havana for a relaxing dinner together. (*B*,*L*,*D*)

"Traveling to Cuba as a family was something I have been dreaming about for years. When I came across this trip, it was exactly what I was looking for - **a meaningful familyfriendly experience in Cuba that is more than just resorts and beaches.** We had so much fun meeting with the artist in Matanzas and our hosts at the casas particulares will always be remembered as family. My kids still talk about this trip regularly!" - Isabelle R.





# **DAY 4:** Meet with a Local Artist on the Way to Cuba's Tropical Caribbean Coast

After breakfast, we'll pack our bags and head out to the tropical coastal town of Varadero. Along the way, stop to meet a local artist named Lolo who runs a community arts project. Learn to make colorful Cuban ceramics and see firsthand the importance of art in Cuban culture. After lunch, continue on to our ocean front hotel located along the Varadero region's pristine stretch of Caribbean coast. Enjoy an optional visit to one of Cuba's oldest book publishers before a free night to enjoy dinner in town. *(B,L,D)* 

# **DAY 5:** Explore Varadero & Snorkel in the Caribbean Sea

After breakfast, join our guide on a tour of Varadero and the surrounding peninsula. Visit one of the area's largest parks along with a nearby art studio to learn what life is like along the coast. After lunch at a relaxing restaurant, head to the beach for a snorkeling lesson over iconic Caribbean crystal blue waters. Learn about some of the sea creatures that inhabit these waters and the efforts of the Cuban government to preserve the coastline. Tonight, enjoy a final farewell dinner together to reflect on our experience. (*B,L,D*)

# **DAY 6:** Return to Havana for our Flights Home

We'll leave our hotel early for the two hour drive back to Havana for our flights home. Along the way, stop by Lolo's art studio to bid them goodbye and pick up your dried ceramic artwork. *(B)* 



### **Standard Lodging**

During your time in Havana, experience the trademark Cuban hospitality in *casas particulares*, or family-run bed & breakfasts. Each casa particular features double or single occupancy rooms, air conditioning, private or "Jack-and-Jill" style bathrooms, and hot and cold water.

In Varadero, stay in a gorgeous oceanfront resort just steps from Cuba's Caribbean beaches. Enjoy fine dining, luxurious amenities, and everything you need to relax on an island vacation.

## **Understanding Legal Travel to Cuba** Everything You Need To Know

Discover Corps has always remained a legal way to travel to Cuba because we operate under the *support for the Cuban people* license. On June 4, 2019 the Treasury Department released their updated policy (<u>read it here</u>), which caused many companies to panic.

In short, the new regulations stopped the use of the *People to People* license as a way to legally travel to Cuba, which was one of the top two most popular licenses utilized in the travel industry. This meant:

- Many cruise lines and companies who were operating under the people to people license will no longer be able to visit Cuba
- Cruise ships can no longer dock in Cuba
- Commercial flights will continue as always to the island, you just need to make sure you are traveling with a company who operate under a legal license.

The *people to people* license allowed these companies to hire government agencies to help plan activities, hire guides, and stay in government-run hotels. Because of Discover Corps unique focus, this was never the way we approached travel to Cuba.



### Support for the Cuban People - How Does it Work?

This license truly ensures that you are traveling with the intention and itinerary planned that will help support Cuban micro-entrepreneurs. Discover Corps has always operated under the belief that travel should be an exchange, where we leave the destination a little bit better than we left it. For this reason, our five Cuba itineraries have always been operated responsibly with the intention to make the world a better place – in Cuba, for us that means supporting individual Cuban individuals and businesses, and help grow the private sector in the country.

- Stay at casas particulares, or privately owned bed and breakfasts.
- Eat at local paladars, or privately owned restaurants
- Spend 8 hours per day engaging in activities that support the people of Cuba. For Discover Corps, this includes hands-on learning at a local music and arts center, visiting local artist studios, volunteering at a center for special needs children, connecting with local farmers in Viñales Valley, supporting local dance troupes, and more

#### • Hire guides and drivers who do not work for a government agency.

You still need to travel with a tour company in order to travel to Cuba legally, and it is important that you have your paperwork organized. Discover Corps will be able to keep the proper paperwork (receipts and your itinerary) on file for you and help you obtain the correct Cuban visa so you can travel to Cuba stress-free.

If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to let us know! Also check out our <u>Cuba FAQs webpage</u> for more information.

### **CUBA:** FAMILY ISLAND EXPLORATION

### 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
November 23-28, 2023	\$3,995	\$3,895
December 26-31, 2023	\$3,995	\$3,895
February 17-22, 2024	\$3,995	\$3,895
March 23-28, 2024	\$3,995	\$3,895
June 22-27, 2024	\$3,995	\$3,895
July 27-August 1, 2024	\$3,995	\$3,895
November 23-28, 2024	\$3,995	\$3,895
December 26-31, 2024	\$3,995	\$3,895

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$500 per person.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3 nights lodging in casas particulares and 2 nights in a 5star hotel in Varadero
- All meals throughout the trip, including alcoholic drinks
- Pure bottled water while touring
- Bilingual Cuban guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Reliable in-country transportation with experienced drivers
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sitesand other scheduled events throughout the trip
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Cuban Visa
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry services, room-service, or phone calls

### **RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY**

Trips are limited to 12 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

#### **RETURNING ALUMNI?**

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

### **CUSTOM GROUPS?**

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

### MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: info@discovercorps.com

### THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

### Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.



The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

### **OUR DESTINATIONS**

Our Mizzion

ALASKA	JAPAN
AUSTRALIA	KENYA
BELIZE	MEXICO
BHUTAN	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



Visit **discovercorps.com/register** to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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