adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

December 9 - 18, 2021

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse your senses in Cuba's thriving art, music, and cultural scene during stays in three distinct cities and towns
- Engage in insightful exchanges with women entrepreneurs and local artists
- Summon your inner salsa diva during a lesson from the pros
- Paddle a kayak through a wild pink flamingo habitat
- Enjoy charming accommodations in local paladares, and traditional meals in private, family-run restaurants
- Live the Havana lifestyle as you bicycle, stroll, cook, and cruise the city neighborhoods by classic car

TRIP ROUTE

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

Day 1	arrive in Havana, welcome dinner
Day 2	explore Santa Clara, experience nightlife in Camagüey
Day 3	explore Camagüey, pottery workshop, take in some live music
Day 4	drive to Trinidad, meet a local artist to learn about her life and work
Day 5	visit a coffee grower, hike in Topes de Collantes, optional evening on the town
Day 6	kayak in Cienfuegos Bay, arrive in Havana
Day 7	explore Old Havana, tour Havana by classic car, dinner with local Cubans
Day 8	morning with an art curator, explore Cuba's largest arts and crafts market, cocktail lesson
Day 9	explore by bike, cooking class, farewell dinner
Day 10	depart Havana

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: $6,290
Optional Single Accommodations: $1,550

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 1
Thursday
12/9/21

Arrive in Havana

With its dazzling art and architecture, Afro-Latin rhythms, and iconic scenes from a vintage postcard, Cuba welcomes you – and your inner adventuress! Embrace the future-forward vision of its entrepreneurial people and catch the spirited energy of this island nation from the moment you step onto this legendary island.

During your adventure, you'll get to know your expert national Cuban guide who will lead you into the very heart of the culture to learn both its history and unique local lore. You are also accompanied by an AdventureWomen Ambassador, committed to helping make your experience a fun and personally rewarding adventure, and cheering you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone to take on new challenges in your own unique way!

Arrival Information	Arrive in Havana, Cuba (HAV) before 3:00pm.
Pick-up and Transfer	You will be picked up at the Havana airport and transferred to your hotel.
Welcome Dinner	Enjoy a lively welcome dinner at a family-owned restaurant, known in Cuba as a paladar. Get to know your fellow travelers this evening. Share stories and learn about why each woman in your trip is excited to explore Cuba!

Accommodations
Melia Habana

Meals Included
dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 2
Friday
12/10/21

Havana to Camagüey

Camagüey, Cuba's third-largest city, was one of the seven original settlements founded in Cuba by the Spanish and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. Camagüey offers a delightful "get lost" adventure through its zigzagging warren of streets.

Drive to Santa Clara	Leave Havana early this morning and drive to Santa Clara, about three hours away.
Che Guevara Mausoleum	Visit the Che Guevara Mausoleum in Santa Clara. This location was chosen in remembrance of Guevara's troops taking the city on December 31, 1958 in the Battle of Santa Clara. This was the last battle of the Cuban Revolution and caused Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista to flee into exile.
Explore Santa Clara	Go on a walking tour of Santa Clara with a local guide, learning the history of the city. Visit one of your guide's favorite paladares for lunch!
Drive to Camagüey	Continue your drive east to Camagüey, arriving in the early evening.
Dinner and Nightlife	Head out for dinner as a group this evening. It's Friday night, so there is likely live entertainment! Your guide will suggest the best spots in the area for music and dancing.

Accommodations
Local Bed and Breakfast
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 3
Saturday
12/11/21

Camagüey

The symbol of the city of Camagüey is the clay pot, or tinajón, used to capture rainwater to be used later, keeping it fresh. Clay pots are everywhere, some as small as a hand, some large enough for two people to stand up in, either as monuments or for real use.

Explore Camagüey	Head out on a walking tour of Camagüey this morning. Most Spanish colonial cities have streets that were laid out on a grid. Camagüey's streets, however, are wonderfully abstract, with tangled alleyways leading to small plazas all over the city. Exploring the back streets outside of the popular squares will reveal endless surprises.
Morning Activities	Visit a local artist's gallery to begin your discovery of the diverse Cuban art scene. After the gallery, learn to move like a local: take a professionally led salsa class. Don't worry, there's no judgment! Just have fun!
Lunch	Enjoy lunch at a nearby paladar after your active morning.
Pottery Workshop	Try your hand at making your own Camagüey clay pot at a pottery workshop this afternoon.
Afternoon at Leisure	There's ample time this afternoon to relax, refresh, and explore the plazas near your accommodations.
Evening Plans	Head out with your group for a late dinner. After dinner, explore the local nightlife! Visit Camagüey's Casa de la Trova for music and dancing (subject to local schedule; entrance fee included, beverages on your own)

Accommodations
Local Bed and Breakfast
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 4
Sunday
12/12/21

Camagüey to Trinidad

Continue to colorful Trinidad, hailed as Cuba's most photogenic town. Trinidad is one of the best-preserved cities in the Caribbean from the time when the sugar trade was the main industry in the region.

Drive to Trinidad	Leave Camagüey's charming streets and drive to Trinidad. The drive will take about four hours.
Lunch	When you arrive, enjoy lunch at a paladar that offers both continental and local cuisine.
Tour Trinidad	Take time this afternoon to stretch your legs on a walking tour of this captivating town. Trinidad served as the center of the world's sugar production during the Spanish conquest of the Caribbean and Central America.
Meet a Local Artist	Have a coffee with a local female artist at her studio. Spend some time getting to know her and what life is like as an artist in Cuba.
Afternoon and Evening	Settle in and relax at your bed and breakfast. Take some time to explore Trinidad on your own this afternoon. Dinner reservations will be made at a paladar in the town center; dinner is on your own this evening.

Accommodations
Hostal Lola

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 5
Monday
12/13/21

Trinidad

Trinidad is a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its beautifully preserved colonial cobblestoned streets and pastel-lined alleyways.

Visit a Local Coffee Grower	Coffee from Topes is not well-known but fetches more than $25 a pound internationally. Visit a local coffee grower and learn about his life in Cuba. Sample his delicious coffee before you leave!
Hike in Topes de Collantes	Topes is known for the numerous bird species, scenic hikes, and stunning waterfalls that canvas the national park. Head out for a morning hike through the tropical forest to one of the region's waterfalls. The hike will be moderately difficult, down to the waterfall with an uphill hike on the return. Bring along a swimsuit if you'd like to take a dip in the pool below the falls.
Lunch	Enjoy a traditional Cuban lunch at a rustic paladar in the National Park.
Afternoon to Explore	Take the afternoon to explore Trinidad on your own, or just kick your feet up and relax after your morning hike.
Dinner	Head out for a sunset cocktail on a rooftop, and then enjoy dinner with your group in a paladar.
Optional Evening on the Town	For those who are interested, your guide will escort you to Trinidad's outdoor entertainment venue, Casa de La Musica. Entrance fees and drinks are on your own.

Accommodations
Hostal Lola

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 6
Tuesday
12/14/21

Trinidad to Havana

Havana, the leading cultural center of Cuba, boasts museums, palaces, public squares, avenues, churches, fortresses, art, and music.

Kayak in Cienfuegos Bay	Start your morning with a rare glimpse of Cuba's stunning coastline. You'll encounter flamingos and other bird species during a kayaking trip along Cienfuegos Bay - seeing them in their natural environment is an absolute treat. Double and single kayaks are available.
Lunch	Have lunch in Cienfuegos today at a paladar offering stunning views of the bay and the Escambray Mountains in the distance.
Explore Cienfuegos	Cienfuegos is the only city in Cuba that was founded by the French, which becomes immediately apparent with the French-colonial architecture. Explore the city center on foot with your guide.
World's Smallest Bird	On your way to Havana, take a small detour to search for the world's smallest bird, the bee hummingbird, known locally as zunzuncito.
Check-in and Dinner	Check in at your B&B in Havana after a long day of travel. Dinner at your B&B is included tonight; feel free to eat at your leisure as dinner is served until 9:00pm.

Accommodations
La Reserva Bed & Breakfast
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 7
Wednesday
12/15/21

Havana

Havana turned 500 years old in 2019. It is one of this hemisphere's greatest treasures from the colonial expansion of Spain. Old Havana is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, dating back to 1519. It features a mix of Baroque and neoclassical architecture, balconies with wrought-iron gates, and Spanish courtyards in a beautiful tropical setting.

Explore Old Havana	Walk the streets of La Habana Vieja with your guide as they come to life. Explore the four main plazas and learn about the history, culture, architecture, and romance that have endeared the old town to so many cultures over the centuries. Stop to visit a few female cuentapropistas (private business owners) who specialize in fashion design.
Time on Your Own	Take some time to do some shopping in Old Havana after lunch or simply explore the beautiful streets.
Lunch	Enjoy tapas and lighter fare at a paladar owned by a female cuentapropista who studied to be a physicist before deciding to become a restauranteur.
Classic Car Business	Visit a business founded by one of Cuba's most-influential female cuentapropistas. Nidialis, and her husband Jorge, have created a business focused on impeccably restoring classic cars. Their list of VIP visitors they've hosted includes the likes of John Kerry, Beyoncé, and Jon Bon Jovi. Learn how old American cars are restored to their full glory in their "magic" garage.
Tour Havana by Classic Car	Explore Cuba's capital by classic car, cruising through the diverse neighborhoods of the city and seeing the landmarks that are not to be missed when exploring Havana. Your stylish ride ends at the iconic 1930 Hotel Nacional, made famous during the time of gangsters and crooners. Tour the grand lobby and Hall of History and sip a refreshing cocktail in their gardens overlooking Havana's seaside avenue, the Malecon, at sunset.
Dinner	Dinner this evening is a special treat. A number of local Cubans will join you at an intimate setting to share more about life on the island and learn more about you!

Accommodations
La Reserva Bed & Breakfast
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 8
Thursday
12/16/21

Havana

"Some of the World's Best Art is Made in Cuba" is the title of an article from Huffington Post. Cuban art is an exceptionally diverse cultural blend of African, South American, European and North American elements, reflecting the diversity of the island.

Morning of Art

Meet an art curator this morning who will host your exploration into Cuban art today. Bellas Artes, Havana's fine arts museum, is a uniquely curated collection of Cuban art. It is broken down by timeline, pre- and post-revolutionary. Your art curator will bring the story of Cuba's history to life through the museum's fascinating exhibits.

Fast forward to Havana's current art scene as you visit a contemporary studio. Meet the artist and learn more about the new challenges facing Cuban artists under Cuba's current government.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at a local paladar.

Afternoon Activities

There's a bit of time this afternoon to visit Cuba's largest arts and crafts market, Almacenes de San Jose. Next, a local dance company will host you for a tour of their studio and a short performance.

Cocktail Lesson

Before dinner tonight, you will learn to make Cuba's signature cocktails during a visit to a local bar for a cocktail lesson with a professional Cuban mixologist. Non-alcoholic cocktails will be available as well.

Dinner on Your Own

Dinner reservations have been made for you this evening at small tables in a paladar located inside of the famed Fabrica de Arte Cubano. The menu features dishes from all over the Latin world. Dinner is on your own.

Havana Nightlife

Following dinner, it's time to explore the amazing amalgamation of art, music, dancing, at the local meeting place known as Fabrica de Arte Cubano. Your guide and drivers are available until midnight this evening for your convenience.

Accommodations
La Reserva Bed & Breakfast
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 9
Friday
12/17/21

Havana

Cuban cuisine is a blend of Spanish, African, and other Caribbean cuisines. A typical meal consists of rice and beans. When they are cooked together it is called "congri" or "Moros", and when they are cooked separately it is called "arroz con frijoles." Taste amazing meals at local paladares.

Biking in Centro Habana

This morning begins with a bicycling adventure through the lesser-visited Centro Habana neighborhood. Stop along the way to learn how the average Cuban lives and works in this often-misunderstood country.

Cooking Class

Explore a local outdoor market to see how Cubans buy their food and to understand the limited choices that are available under the broad-reaching US embargo. Take a cooking class from a local chef. Learn how local ingredients are turned into some of Cuba's most-famous dishes. Pay attention - you're making your lunch!

Afternoon on Your Own

There's time this afternoon to relax or head out to find some last-minute souvenirs.

Farewell Dinner

Head out for a farewell dinner at what many would argue is Cuba's finest paladar. Dinner is at 7:00pm to ensure there's ample time to take in a show or enjoy Havana's entertainment before your departure tomorrow. Guide and drivers are available until midnight for your convenience. Entrance fees and drinks are on your own.

One option this evening is the Tropicana Cabaret, including transfers (additional fee; must be booked 90 days in advance).

Accommodations
La Reserva Bed & Breakfast

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

DAY 10
Saturday
12/18/21

Depart

Say goodbye to your guide and farewell to Cuba after an incredible adventure.

Morning on Your Own	Have the morning at leisure after your late night. Your driver and guide will be available for any last-minute sightseeing or shopping.
Transfer to the Airport	Say goodbye to your new AdventureWomen friends as you transfer to the airport for your flights home.
Departure Information	Depart from Havana, Cuba (HAV) any time today.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

your adventure in depth

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

Accommodation Details

Melia Habana

Melia Habana is in Miramar, the business district of Havana, right across from the Miramar Trade Center and along the Havana coastline. This hotel has the largest swimming pool in Cuba and lush tropical gardens. The rooms have great views of the city and the sea.

Amenities: Hair dryer; electricity; limited Wifi

Local Bed and Breakfast

Details pending.

Hostal Lola

Hostal Lola offers 15 rooms with private bathrooms and access to the terrace. This Hostal is an elegant colonial house built in the 19th century. The décor features artwork by local artist Yami Martínez.

Amenities: Electricity

La Reserva Bed & Breakfast

La Reserva is a freshly renovated Colonial Mansion with a mixture of vintage, colonial, and mid-century designs. The in-house art gallery contains works by contemporary Cuban artists. A stay here feels like being at your best friend's home, if your best friend had an impeccable sense of style.

Amenities: Hair dryer; electricity; limited Wifi

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

your adventure in depth

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

Included:

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- Airport transfers on the scheduled arrival and departure days
- Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- English-speaking guide throughout the trip
- Two non-alcoholic drinks (water or soda) per person with included meals at paladares
- Bottled water in the vehicles
- Gratuities for local guides and waitstaff

Not Included:

- International airfare to and from Cuba
- Enrollment in the Cuba medical emergency insurance (mandatory by the Cuban government for all travelers to the island – US airlines provide this in
- Mandatory Cuban Tourist Card (arranged through the airline)
- Optional activities
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities for head guide and drivers

adventurewomen
THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CUBA

Explore the World's Best-Kept Secret

your adventure in depth

Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1 -60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends. Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self- sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!