

*Art of the*  
Itinerary 

# Havana, Cuba

Fishing on the Malecón • Classic Car Tour with Photoshoot  
Tour of the Capital • Day by the Pool • Walking Tour of Old Havana  
Enchanted Forest Bike Ride • Boxing Lesson • Full-day Vinales Tour  
Tobacco Farm Horseback Ride • Indian Cave • Mural De La Prehistoria

November 2019



## HAVANA, CUBA 2019

This itinerary was created in November 2019 and all of the information included was correct at that time to the best of our knowledge. All of the tours and excursions included can be booked through AirBnB in advance with the exception of Boxing at Rafael Trejo Gimnasio, which can be scheduled via email at [cubanboxingcoach@hotmail.com](mailto:cubanboxingcoach@hotmail.com) or you can message them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cubanboxingcoach>. We hope you enjoy your trip to Cuba as much as we did, and we would love to hear feedback on how our itinerary worked for you. Good luck and Safe Travels! — The Hoffman Family

### Day 1

Check into Air BnB

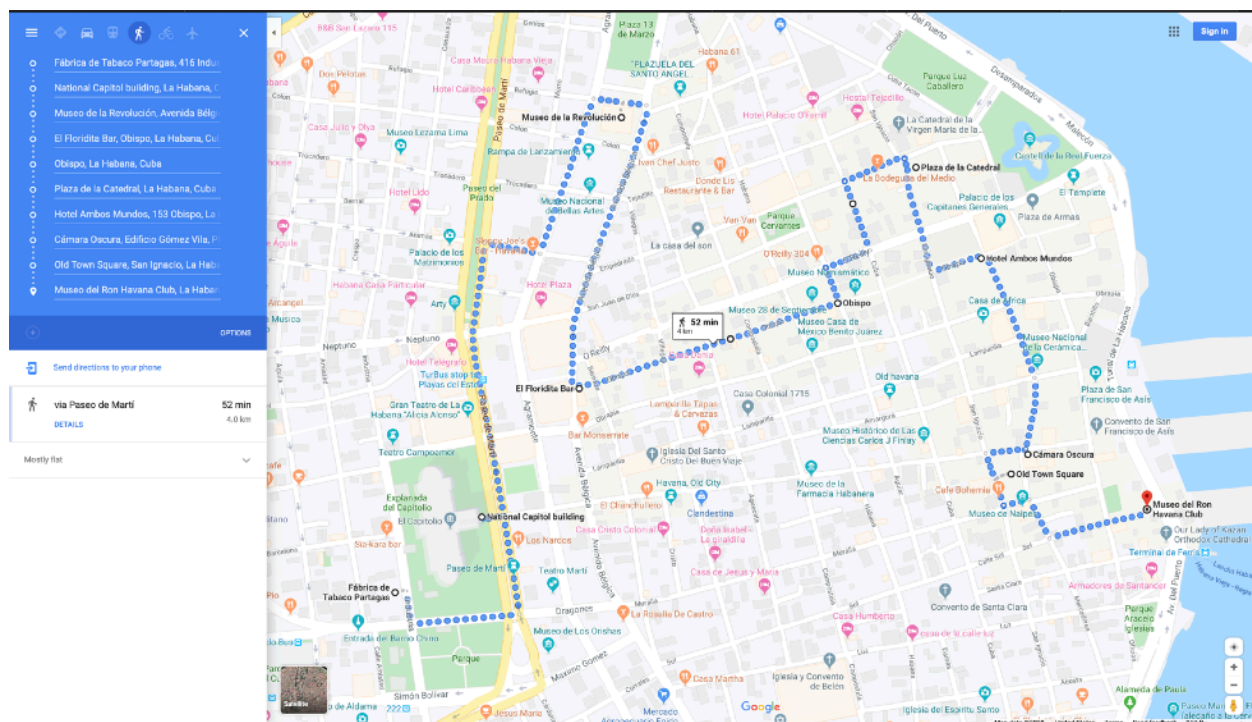
- **Walk along the Malecon** The Malecón stretches five miles along the north side of Havana from Old Town to Vedado. There's no other section of the city that attracts more locals and tourists then this famous waterfront avenue. When the sun sinks down over Havana in the evenings, families and fisherman alike are lured to this vibrant edge of the island. (Bring your fishing pole if you have one)
- **Listen for the 9pm Cannons** If you visit the Malecon later in the evening there is a lesser known Havana attraction held each night at the La Cabaña fortress. Soldiers dressed in 18th century uniforms fire a cannon over Havana bay at precisely 9 p.m. It is a historical reconstruction dating back to the colonial era. Back then, the cannon fire announced the official end of the day and the time to close the city gates for the night.

### Day 2

- **Classic Car Tour/Photoshoot** 8:30 - 11:30am
- **Afternoon by the Pool** at Hotel Libre: Adult passes are 25 CUC, including 20 CUC of food and drinks (even alcohol) and kids passes (under 12 years) are 12.50 CUC, including 10 CUC of food and drinks. It's a great deal if you want to spend a day relaxing, or if the kids just need few hours of playtime after a day touring the city.

### Day 3

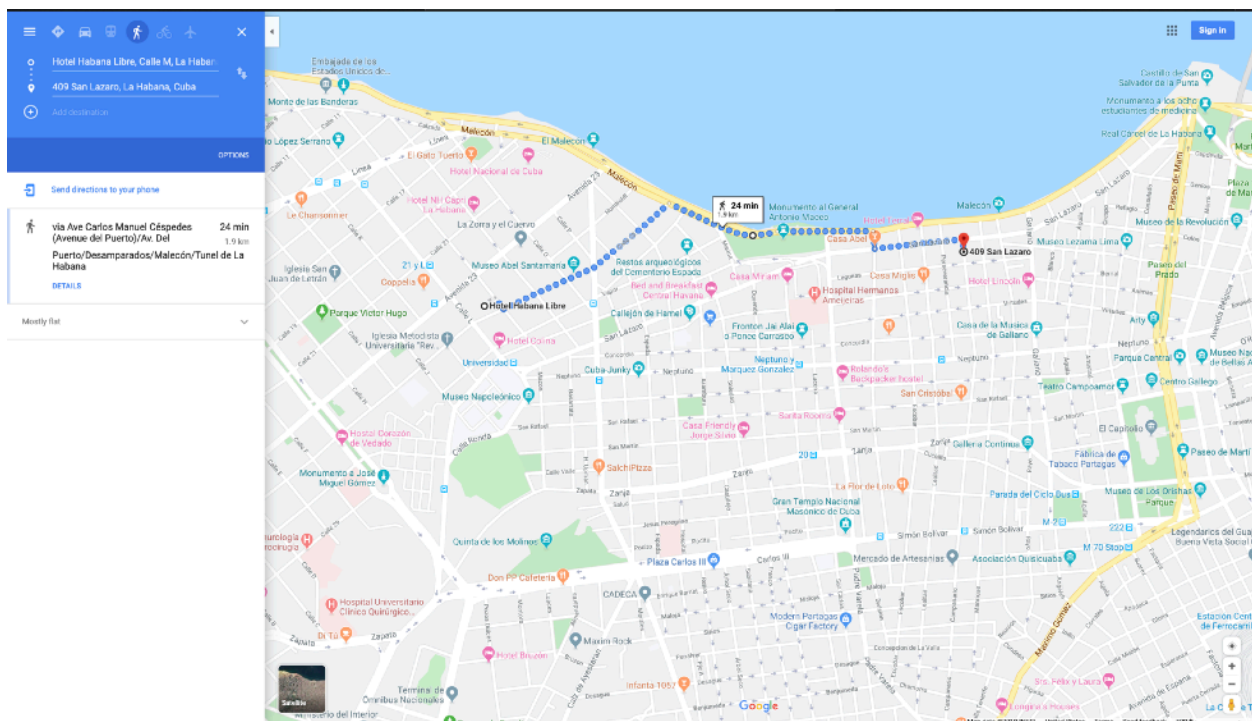
- **Old Havana** Take a taxi to the Capital Building then walk this route...



- **The Capital** The El Capitolio Nacional (National Capitol of Cuba) is one of the most emblematic buildings in Havana. This majestic construction, located in the Central Havana, is similar to that in Washington D.C, but a meter higher, a meter wider, and a meter longer, as well as much more rich in detail. It was started to be built by Gerardo Machado in 1926 supported by North America.  
**Admission:** is 10 CUC. Kids under 12 are free. There are tours scheduled in Spanish and English daily (closed on Mondays). Tours are about 35 minutes long. Although they allow you to lag around afterwards to take photos. **You cannot visit El Capitolio without a tour.** Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm
- **Paseo del Prado** The most picturesque boulevard in Havana is popular with locals any time of day. It's perfect for a gentle stroll in the shade of the trees. Along the majestic promenade you'll find Havana's grandest buildings though many are in a state of disrepair.
- **Parque Central** The heart of the city centre and a popular meeting place, it is a delightful place to stroll. Designed in 1877 after the old city walls were demolished. The park is surrounded by 19th and 20th century buildings and adorned with pale trees.
- **Sloppy Joes' Bar** This bar had a great splendor in the 30's and 40's, and was visited frequently by many Hollywood celebrities and international bohemian characters. People who visited Havana during those decades of great splendor had to go to three places when it was about food and enjoyment: El Floridita, Sloppy Joe's Bar, and La Bodeguita del Medio. Sloppy Joe's Bar in its time was a very popular place, not only appreciated for its fine drinks and liquors but also for its connotation of preferential atmosphere of attractive appointments, as well as for having the longest mahogany bar cabinet in Cuba, and perhaps of the world.
- **Museum of the Revolution\*** After moving from building to building following its foundation in December 1959, the museum found its definitive home at the former Presidential Palace in 1974. Although the collection includes historic pieces dating back to the early years of the Spanish colonization in the 15th century, the core of the display is the objects linked to Cuba's struggle to put an end to the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in the 1950s. The rebel movement led by Fidel Castro and other opposition groups were a reaction to the unbearable conditions that the Cuban people had to suffer under the Batista government. Open Daily 9:30AM–4PM; Admission: 8 CUC for adults, and 4 for children (\*We ended up skipping this stop because we got a late start and were short on time)
- **Bacardi Building** In 1930, the Bacardi rum company opened a new headquarters: a gorgeous Art Deco building on the edge of Old Havana. In 1960, Bacardi left Cuba after the newly installed revolutionary government confiscated their Cuban assets, including the aforementioned headquarters that by then was a prominent landmark in the capital city. Although it is still used as an office building (primarily for tour operators) and thus not generally open to the public, visitors can see the lower floors as well as a little-known mezzanine bar that was once the private watering hole of the Bacardi family.
- **El Floridita** This legendary Havana bar, one of many regularly frequented by papa Hemingway, is classy and smart, presided over by waiters in natty red jackets. Proud of its reputation as the "The Cradle of the Daiquiri" there is really only one drink to order here it would be remiss not to. The décor is plush and upscale and the room is dominated by the long central bar
- **Obispo Street** (*Calle Obispo*, "Bishop's Street") is one of the most famous and traveled streets of Havana Vieja. During its history it has received several denominations like: San Juan, Of the Bishop, Weyler, Pi Margall, among others for a total of 47. It's the longest Boulevard in Havana and Street shops have always been abundant alongside it.
- **La Bodeguita del Medio** Hemingway had a special connection to this place, which in turn, owes part of its popularity to his legacy. In the late 1930s when Hemingway lived at the Hotel Ambos Mundos, La Bodeguita and El Floridita bar were two of his favorite local spots. A giant framed autograph attributed to him is proudly displayed today at La Bodeguita, underneath his statement, "My mojito in La Bodeguita. My daiquiri in El Floridita." The popularity of La Bodeguita del Medio has gone nothing

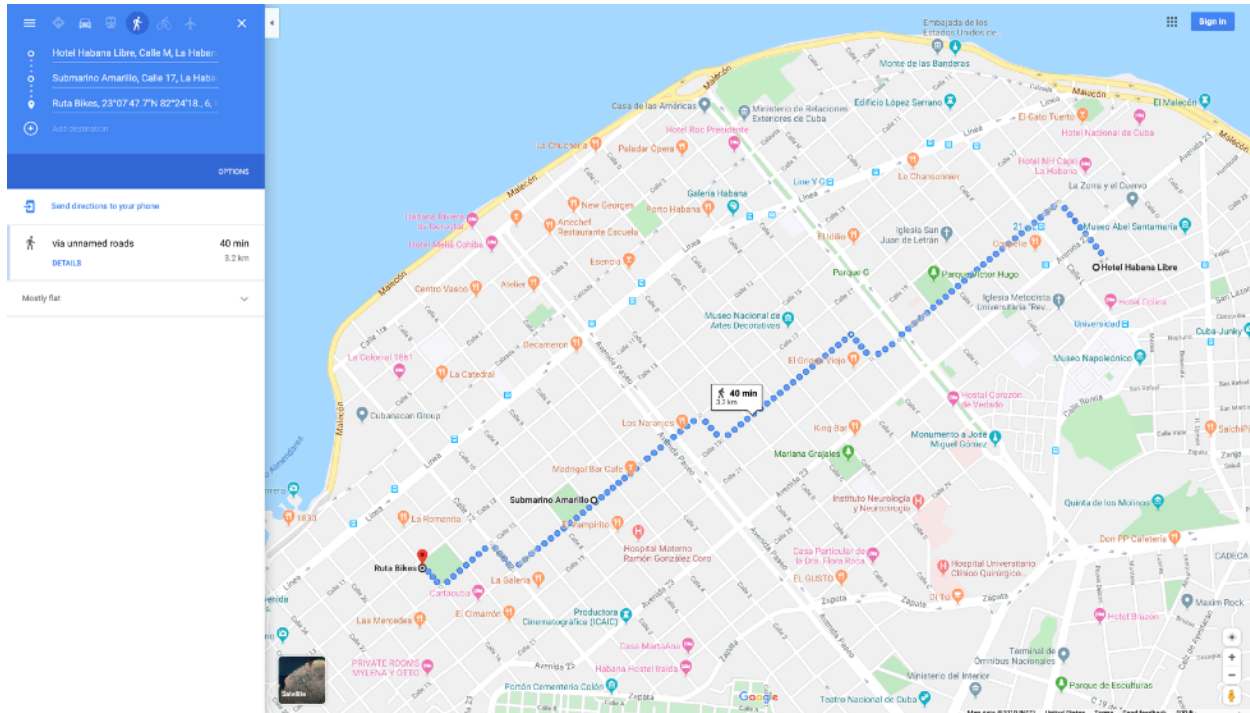
but up since it was established in 1942. In fact, its success goes way beyond its physical limits in Old Havana: four replicas with the same name operate in Spain, and there are more La Bodeguita del Medios scattered across 14 other countries, including the U.S.

- **Plaza de la Cathedral** With strong roots in Spanish architecture influenced by baroque design elements, the Plaza de la Cathedral is anchored by the Havana Cathedral. The Cathedral's construction lasted almost 30 years, starting in 1748 and ending in 1777. The unique features of the Cathedral include asymmetric bell towers and preserved marine fossil imprints in the coral facade. It is rumored that the church once housed the remains of Christopher Columbus and is sometimes called the Cathedral of Saint Christopher.
- **Hotel Ambos Mundos** This pastel-pink Havana institution was Hemingway's hotel of choice before he bought a house in Havana in 1939 (he's said to have penned his seminal guerrilla classic *For Whom the Bell Tolls* in room 511). Small, sometimes windowless rooms suggest overpricing, but the lobby bar is classic enough (follow the romantic piano melody) and the creaky metal lift adds character. It's an obligatory stop for anyone on a tour of 'Hemingway once fell over in here' bars.
- **Cámara Oscura** Located on the top floor of the eclectic-style early 20th-century Edificio Gómez Vila—the plaza's tallest building (115 feet) on the northeast corner, the Cámara Oscura provides a 360-degree panoramic view of much of Old Havana in real time, projected at 30X magnification through a peephole camera onto screen. It was a gift from the Council of Cadiz, Spain, to the City Historian's Office. The Cámara Oscura was invented by Leonardo da Vinci. Havana's is the only one of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean, and is one of 74 worldwide today. It is best seen on clear, cloudless days. Open Daily 8.30am to 5.30pm.
- **Plaza Vieja** (Old Town Square) Laid out in 1559, Plaza Vieja is Havana's most architecturally eclectic square, where Cuban baroque nestles seamlessly next to Gaudí-inspired art nouveau. Originally called Plaza Nueva (New Square), it was initially used for military exercises and later served as an open-air marketplace. Plaza Vieja today has its own microbrewery, a beautiful fountain and some of Havana's finest stained-glass windows.
- **Fishing, Malecon and Sunset 4:30 - 6:30pm**



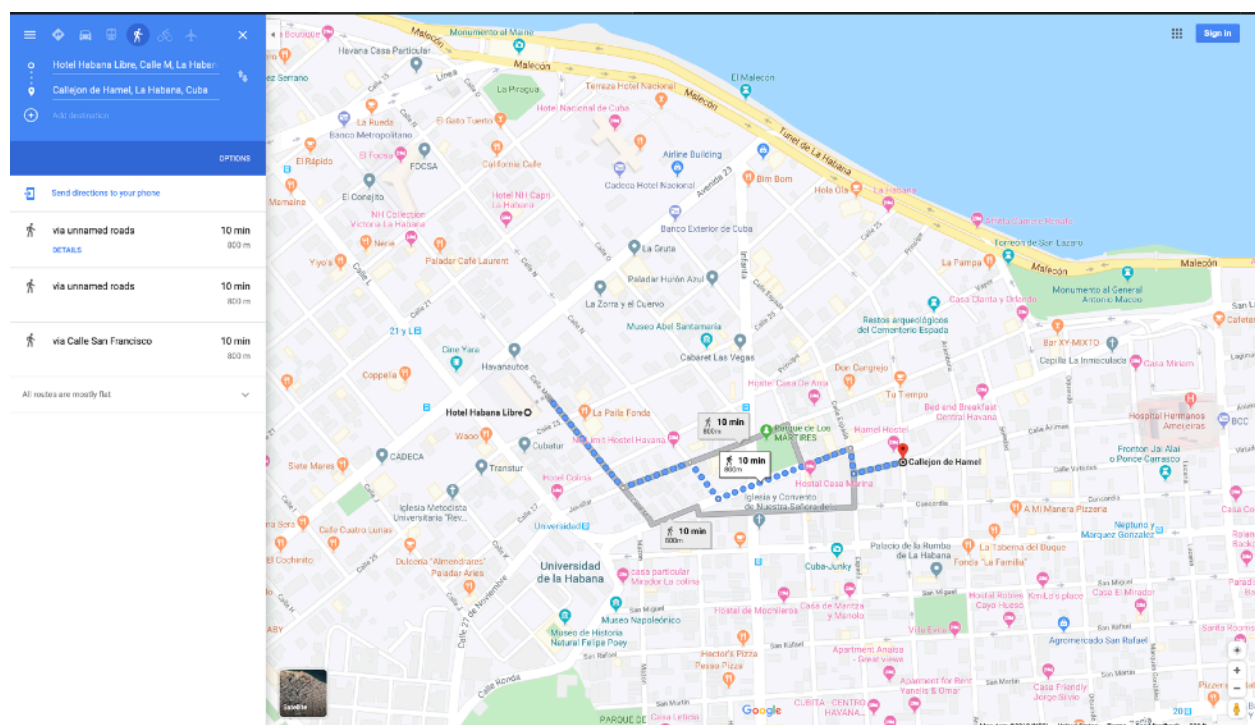
## Day 4

- **Enchanted Forest Biking 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**
- **Park John Lennon** is a public park, located in the Vedado district in Havana, Cuba. n one of the benches of the park, nearer the corner of streets 17th and 6th, there is a sculpture of the former Beatles member John Lennon, sculpted by Cuban artist José Villa Soberón.
- **Submarino Amarillo** A very eccentric Beatles themed bar that has great music at night. The bar isn't a family-friendly destination necessarily but the exterior an interior of the building are worth a look, and maybe a cold beer.



## Day 5

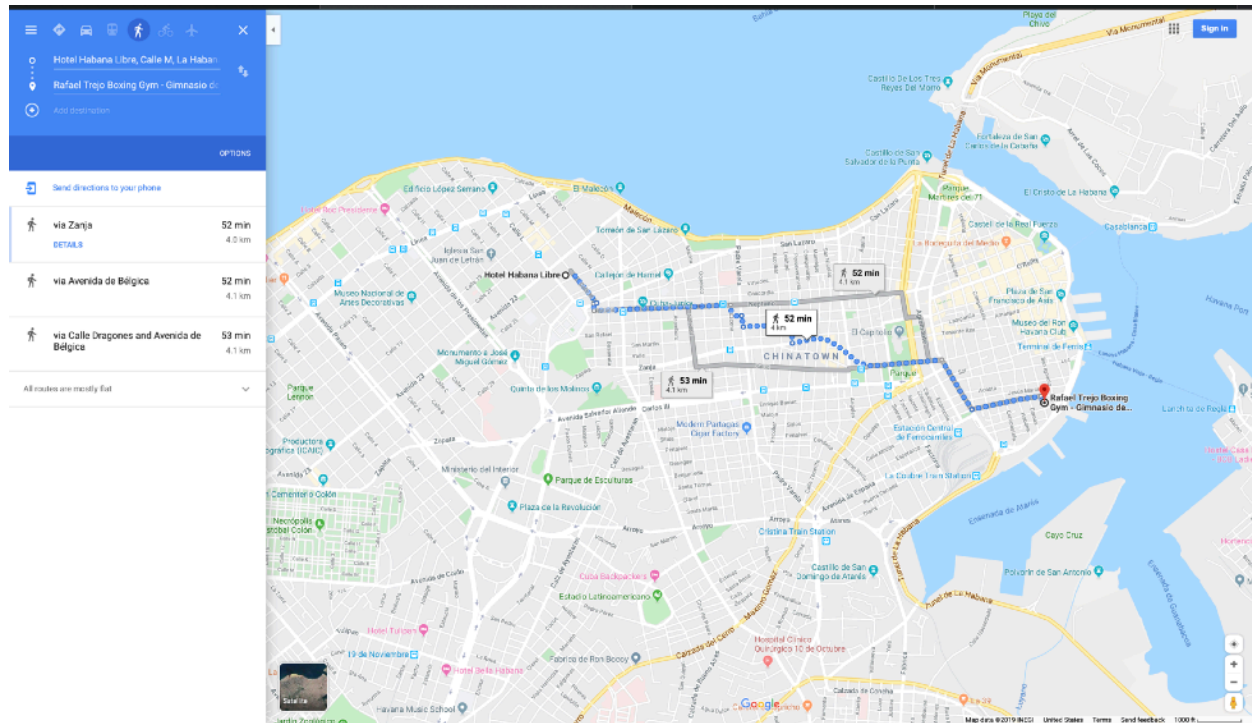
- **Is it Hard to Live as a Cuban Tour 10:30 am – 2:30 pm**



- **Boxing Lessons 4:00 pm - 5:30pm @ Gimnasio De Boxeo Rafael Trejo**

**Address:** Calle Cuba, Habana Vieja, Havana, Cuba. The cost per person is 15 CUC; lasts 1 hour.

Rasel and his team are experienced in coaching juniors and preparing them for competition.



## Day 6

- **Vinales Tour 7:30am - 7:30pm**

## Day 7

- **Afternoon by the Pool at Hotel Libre**

## Day 8

## Fly home

## Private Convertible Tour + Photo Session

Ever dreamt to be part of those famous postcards of Havana? Ever dreamt with riding its streets in a classic convertible car? Then you should join us and discover our marvelous city. This experience is carefully designed for you to get to know Havana and its rich culture; combining history, classic cars and photography. We will start our trip in Old Havana and then we will ride a classic convertible car from the '50s through the main landmarks of the city for 3 hours. We will stop briefly in some of the most iconic places for you to get immerse in our rich culture. You will be able to appreciate Havana and its culture through the EYES OF A LOCAL. You will get to know our REAL CUBA, the one we love and we feel proud to share with friend from all around the world. All this will go together with a photo session that will allow you to treasure an unforgettable memory of your stay in Havana. If you would like to do a longer ride & photo session take a look to our experience "Photo shoot in a convertible"

### FAQs:

How many photos will I receive? You will receive a minimum of 15 photos per person within 10 days after the experience. Can the experience be customized? YESS!! We would love to take in count your suggestions, just take in count that in a 2 hours experience time is limited. Does this experience require an extra payment? NO, it will be no extra pay in cash.

### Where we'll be

We will visit 5 municipalities in Havana, beginning in Vedado, where we will give you an introduction to the city. Afterwards we will move toward Miramar, key point to understand the modern Havana. Next we will go through the iconic Havana Malecón to be heading to Centro Habana municipality. Our next spot will be the Old Havana, magnificent in its history and architecture. Last stop will be in Habana del Este, to enjoy the best views of the city.

### Notes

Itinerary 100% customizable, you can also choose starting and ending points. In case weather doesn't allow us to do the tour, we can reschedule it. Minimum of 2 people is required. If you are a solo traveler you can participate if you pay for a second spot. Fell free to ask.

### Packing list

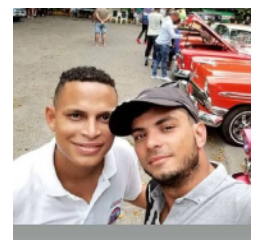
Sun glasses, Sun cream, Hat

### What's provided

Transportation, Ride in convertible car, Equipment, Photos (JPEG format), Min 30 professional photos/2 people; 45 photos/3 people; 60 photos/4 people and so on. The photos will be sent via Internet in maximum 10 days after the experience.

### Address

Avenida de los Presidentes entre 5ta y Calzada, La Habana, La Habana



## Fishing, Malecon and Sunset

We will meet at Chicho's house. Chicho is a local fisherman with more than 30 year of experience. We will see the instruments and different ways of fishing in Havana, while enjoying a cup of Cuban coffee, which is a very important beverage for fisherman in order to stay awake all night. Then we will take our fishing equipment and walk about 500 meters to Malecón. Before start fishing we need to learn how to get the rod ready, put the bait and cast into the sea. If you had paid attention before, you will catch your first fish! Fishing is also sharing time, so we will be talking about the city and the neighborhood and drinking some local and none conventional cocktails. We will be doing mostly catch-and-release, in order to be environment friendly. Of course, we will enjoy the view on the Malecón and you will be able to witness the magic of that emblematic place. At the end, the awesome view of sunset will make you a Cuban fisherman.

For this fishing I just want to remark that we will be meeting each other at Campanario Street #59 between San Lazaro and Lagunas. This is in Centro Habana municipality, two blocks from the Malecon.

I will advise you to bring comfortable clothes and something to cover you up in case we have some rain. This experience is very related with the weather conditions, the experiences will be canceled if the required weather conditions are not met.

Please, feel free to ask me any doubt you may have about this experience and Cuba in general. My phone in Cuba is +5352811604 in case you need to call me. Follow me on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/fishing.malecon.sunset/>

### Where we'll be

We will meet at Chicho's house and know the differences ways of fishing in Havana. Then we will walk around 500 meters to go to the Malecon. The meeting places for assorted lovers, philosophers, poets, traveling minstrels and fishermen. Definitely, ones of the best views in the city. Ones there, we will be ready to fish as locals and have a great time.

### Notes

This experience is very related with the weather conditions, the experiences will be canceled if the required weather conditions are not met. If you bring your fishing equipment, needs to be 15 LB.

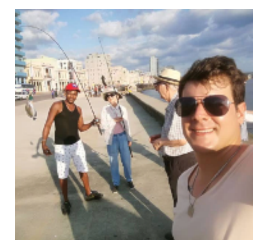
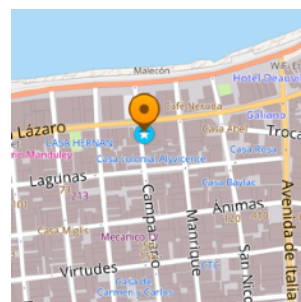
### Packing list

sunscreen, comfortable clothes, sunglasses, protection against rain, in case it rains

### What's provided

Food, Equipment (Complete fishing equipment for each person.)

Address: #59 Campanario between San Lazaro St. and Lagunas St., Centro Habana, Havana



## Is it hard to live as a Cuban ???

We will meet in one iconic place of Havana and proceed to get inside of the Cuban life, get ready to walk a lot and to meet all kind of people.

- Meeting and Presentation
- Walk through the neighborhoods and learn about our history, religion and economy.
- Meet the locals, the markets they go, the food they eat, their houses, the things they do in their daily life and take pictures of the experience.
- Experience a bicitaxi ride to the boat terminal.
- Go in a local boat to see how Cubans live in the other part of the Havana Bay and the most iconic church you have ever seen.
- Back to Old Havana to go to a surprise place. This place will not be always the same.
- And for the big finale we will enjoy a delicious Cuban cocktail with sea view where we will choose the most relatable picture of the day that will be post it on my Instagram for other travelers to see.

## Where we'll be

We will go through the streets of 3 municipalities of Havana; Centro Habana, Habana Vieja and Regla, getting to know the locals and the places they use the most in their daily life. Cuban Houses, Markets, Churches, Parks and more.

## Notes

This is an Experience for those who do not like to do what the internet guides says and just visit the touristic places, we want to show the real Habana and the amazing places no internet guide has.

## Packing list

Comfy Shoes, Sunscreen, Camera or Phone.

## What's provided

Drinks, Transportation

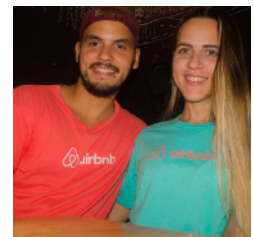
## Address

Callejon de Hamel, La Habana, La Habana 10200

## Where we'll meet

It's a very famous place of Havana so any taxi driver will know where to take you, and if you're staying near the area it is also very easy to find by asking to the locals or your Airbnb host, you can use this reference points to find the place:

Universidad de la Habana, Malecón Habanero and Antonio Maceo Park. We will meet in the front entrance of the Callejon de Hamel that is located in Aramburo Street between San Lazaro Street and Concordia Street and I will always wear a long-sleeve shirt and a cap backwards on my head :)



## Enchanted Forest Bike Ride

Let's go by bike to explore a forest enchanted by tropical jungle landscapes, which has fallen into oblivion. In the heart of Havana, lies the Almendares river. This river was once Havana's economic backbone, intertwined with the cities' growth since Havana's 1519 foundation. Its industries ended with 20th century urbanization as Havana spread west. Today, its industrial remains lie abandoned along a Great Metropolitan Park.

Havana has secrets from everyone, Cubans and foreigners alike. A Cuban love story is going to open the doors to the past teaching us about the extravagant lifestyle of Vedado and Miramar neighborhoods, which gave to the city a beautiful forest. As if we were in a distant tropical jungle we will uncover a Moorish castle, beer gardens, surreal Gaudi-style landscapes, natural amphitheaters and huge walking trees like in Güell Park, Barcelona. Biking through the urban jungle, we may see devotee people whom practice Santeria rituals in this natural sanctuary. Moreover, we will have time for tropical juices and see food tapas along of the river.

### What's included

Food, Snacks, We'll share seafood tapas, Just before finishing we will share some tapas together in a beautiful place on the banks of the Almen. Drinks - Water and tropical juice. We will provide you with water at the beginning and get a fabulous juice before end.

### Equipment

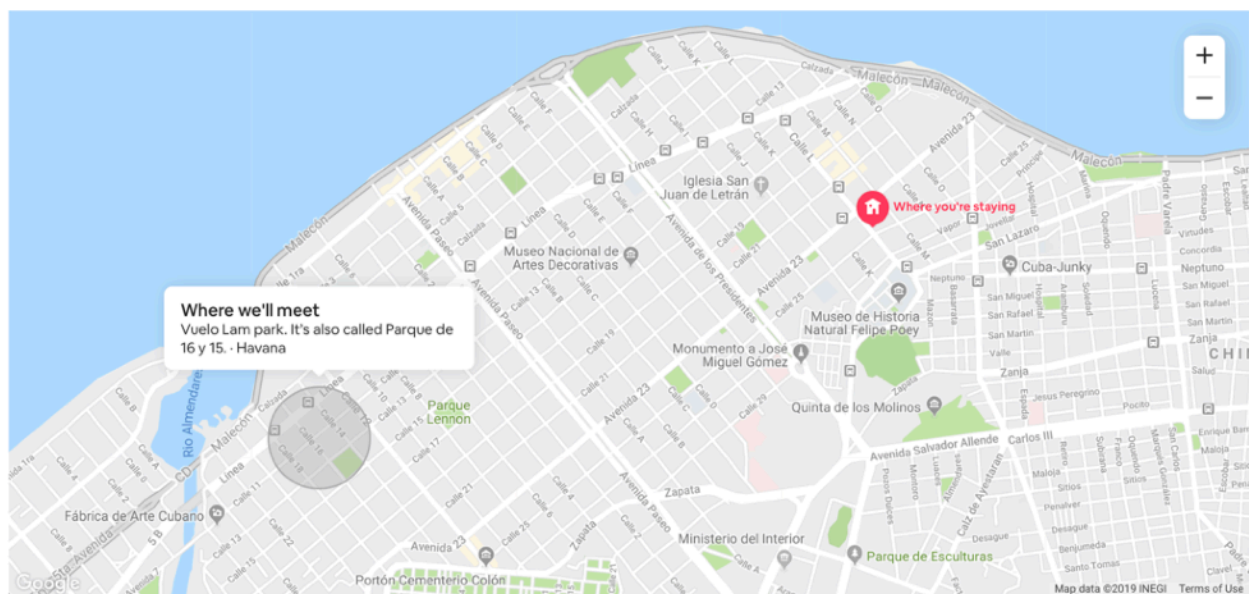
Comfortable bike, an optional helmet and rain-poncho will be provided.

### Notes

There are no bike lanes in Cuba. The ride distance is about 6.2 miles. There are a couple of hills. Bring extra water.

### Where you'll be

Arrive 15 minted early at 152 16th street (**Rutabikes**), Vedado. Entre (between) 13th St. & 15th St. Havana. We'll start biking in Vedado, the hip "barrio." Later, we'll ride 15min to the Metropolitan Park, a hidden path will take us to La Tropical's Gardens, a Cuban architectural wonder. We'll cross El Bosque, nother often-forgotten green space, but proudly designed by Forestier (Eiffel Tower). Our excursion continues to visit the Almendares Park under a bridge, we'll stop for some tapas with a great view of the river in Miramar neighborhood.



## **Viñales Premium-Horses, Farm, Cave & More**

Experience the beautiful countryside of Cuba in the Valles de Viñales! You'll love these rich, colorful, historic tours while you're here! Our well trained and educated guides provide an easy trip that is all inclusive - including all activities, round-trip transportation in a CLASSIC CAR with AC, and lunch! No SURPRISE prices, haggling for food or services or pulling out your wallet to pay for each activity.

We'll pick you up at your hotel/casa particular in Havana in the morning! It is about a 2.5 hour ride to Viñales. Once in Vinales, we will visit: "The Cueva del Indio" Indian Cave - Explore an ancient Indian Cave first on foot, then by boat. Pet a new friend and engage in ancient Indian dance!

Arado Farm - Yes, you can be a Cuban Cowboy or Cowgirl: TROT through the beautiful countryside & tobacco farm of Viñales. After your 40 minutes ride, relax back at the farm, grab a cáncanchara & learn the history of the Cuban cigar, see how it's made, and discover what makes our cigars the best in the world. Mural De La Prehistoria, learn the fascinating story behind this Cuban art history painted on a mountain. This mural shows the evolution of life in a natural sense of Cuba. Eat Lunch at Kirenia's Paladar, a farm-to-table restaurant with vegetarian & vegan options! When available, live music is offered. We offer door-to-door round trip transportation

### **Where we'll be**

We will be visiting several historic and natural caves and farms in the Valley de Viñales. Take in the views of this beautiful town while learning Cuban history, enjoying local cuisine, and having a drink and cigar with the locals! Bring comfortable shoes and a curious mind! This experience counts towards your 'support for Cuban people' visa and can be applied to your itinerary!

### **Notes**

Bring money to buy bottles of local Rum, cigars, coffee, cuban honey , alcoholic beverages (<5 CUCs per drink), breakfast at rest stop (5 CUCs).

### **Packing list**

- Comfortable shoes for walking, horseback riding.
- Extra money for souvenirs, cigars, rum.
- A bottle of water can be handy!
- An umbrella or a raincoat! They come very useful during the summer which is raining season in Cuba.

### **What's provided**

Food - Lunch is on us! Enjoy a farm to table paladar with fresh, organic Cuban food. There are vegetarian and vegan options! Alcoholic beverages are extra.

Drinks - Have a drink on us! One piña colada made with local Cuban rum or a virgin piña colada at El Mural De La Prehistoria. - Local Rum and Cigar tasting at the Farm !!

Tickets, Horsebacking riding, Tobacco Farm, Mountain Mural and the Caves are all included!

Round trip transportation! We pick you up and drop you off at your hotel/casa particular in Havana!

Address: Calle 42, Habana, La Ciudad de Habana 11300

