

CUBA TREKKING – 2011/12



Proposed Itinerary

Day 1 SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Arrive Santiago de Cuba. Homestay accommodation, twin room, half board x 2 nights. Light supper on arrival

Day 2 SANTIAGO DE CUBA

After breakfast, walking / coach tour of the city with bilingual guide. Free afternoon. After dinner, accompanied evening out for live traditional music with welcome cocktail.

Day 3 SANTIAGO DE CUBA – SANTO DOMINGO

Depart for Santa Domingo with guide and driver, lunch stop in Bayamo, arrive late afternoon. Check into 3* hotel at gateway to Pico Turquino national park, dinner and preparations for trek.

Day 4 LA COMANDANCIA – LA PLATICA

After early breakfast, depart by truck or jeep for Alto de Naranjo for guided visit to La Comandancia, Fidel's revolutionary base in the Sierra Maestra mountains. Picnic lunch and afternoon visit to La Platica ecological community. Overnight stay at refuge in La Platica with dinner.

Day 5 TREKKING PICO TURQUINO

Early morning departure after breakfast, 4-5 hours walk to the Aguada de Joaquin refuge, via luscious virgin forest to our overnight stop. Lunch en route.

Day 6 PICO TURQUINO – MAREA DEL PORTILLO

Climb Pico Turquino and descend to las Cuevas (5-6 hours walking). Private transfer to 3* Marea del Portillo hotel. All inclusive basis, double room x 4 nights

Day 7 MAREA DEL PORTILLO

Free day at the hotel

Day 8 LAS YAGUAS WATERFALL TREK

Depart by jeep to visit Las Yaguas waterfalls in the mountains by the coast. Walk through gentle hills and palm groves to reach Las Yaguas (7km) for a swim. After lunch, return via local community to visit a rural school or family doctor, sample local coffee and sugar cane juice. Walk 3km to rejoin jeep for return to hotel.

Day 9 CAYO BLANCO

Full day trip by boat to Cayo Blanco for swimming, snorkelling and relaxing. All meals included

Day 10 MAREA DEL PORTILLO – SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Private transfer to Santiago de Cuba (3 hours), check into homestay accommodation, half board, twin room x 3 nights. Guided visit of the city and visit El Morro fortress at sunset. Return for dinner and free evening

Day 11 GRAN PIEDRA TREKKING

Private transfer to the base of the Gran Piedra and ascend via mule tracks up the south access route. After lunch on arrival, visit the Isabelica former coffee plantation and tropical botanical garden, then climb up Gran Piedra. Return to Santiago late afternoon. Free evening.

Day 12 SANTIAGO DE CUBA – HAVANA

Morning private transfer to Santiago airport and flight to Havana (90 mins). Transfer to 3* hotel, twin room, B&B x 1 night. Rest of day free.

DAY 13 HAVANA - UK

Free time to visit Havana crafts market. Private transfer to airport for overnight flight back to UK.

Day 14 ARRIVAL UK

END OF TRIP

COST PER PERSON (minimum 2 people in twin room) approx. £1345

The trip includes:

4 nights in homestay, Santiago de Cuba. Twin/double room, half board
1 night 3* hotel at start of trek, twin/double room, half board
2 nights in mountain refuges, shared dormitory accommodation, all meals
4 nights in 3* Hotel Marea del Portillo, twin/double room, all inclusive
1 night in 3*-4* hotel in Havana, twin/double room with breakfast
Airport transfers in Santiago de Cuba and Havana as per itinerary
Air-conditioned transport for trips/visits/treks included in the itinerary
Entries to Pico Turquino national park
Bilingual guide(s) for trekking/visits/excursions
Domestic flight Santiago – Havana, one way

Not included:

International flights to Cuba
Cuban tourist card (required visa, cost £20 pp)
Tips and any meals not indicated in the proposed itinerary
Departure tax of 25CUC\$ (approx. £18) per person

