

## School History Trip – Cuba

Minimum group size: 25 students + 3 group leaders

### Sample Programme 2008



#### Day 1 Travel to Holguin/Santiago de Cuba

Check in at London Gatwick South terminal mid morning for Cubana flight to Holguin (direct flight). Meet local guide at airport. Transfer to Santiago de Cuba (2.5 hours) by private coach, check into 3\* hotel and dinner

#### Day 2 Santiago de Cuba

After breakfast, short briefing meeting with bilingual guide and group leaders. Guided tour of the city by coach, including visit to San Juan Hill, site of the last battle in the Spanish War of Independence, the changing of the guard at the Jose Marti Mausoleum at the Santa Ifigenia cemetery and other historic sites. Return to city centre for lunch in local restaurant. Afternoon visit to Moncada Barracks, which Fidel and his men stormed in a failed attempt to overthrow the Batista regime. Afternoon group salsa lesson x 1 hour, then visit El Morro castle at the mouth of Santiago Bay for the sunset cannon ceremony. Return to hotel for dinner and free evening.

#### Day 3 Santiago de Cuba – Santo Domingo

Depart Santiago after breakfast for Santo Domingo (3 hours) via Bayamo for lunch stop in local restaurant. Short tour of Bayamo historic city centre. This is where the Cuban national anthem was written. Arrive Santo Domingo mid afternoon, check into 3\* hotel. Guided walk along river to visit sites associated with the Cuban Revolution. Return to hotel for dinner and free evening.

#### Day 4 La Comandancia/La Platica/Bayamo

Departure after breakfast by truck to the Alto del Naranjo to start hiking with specialist national park guides. Guided visit to La Comandancia, Fidel's secret base. Picnic lunch. Hike to La Platica forestry community, visit local primary school and doctors surgery, then return on foot to trail to pick up truck and return to hotel in Santo Domingo. Coach to Bayamo, check into 3\* hotel and dinner. Evening cultural activity.

#### Day 5 Bayamo – Trinidad (travel day)

After breakfast, full day drive to Trinidad (approx. 8 hours) with lunch stop en route. Arrive Trinidad early evening, check into 3\* hotel and dinner. Free evening.

#### Day 6 Sugar Mill Valley tour

Full day visit of Trinidad city centre, then depart to visit the historic Sugar Mill Valley and Torre Iznaga, the former slave tower. Lunch included. Return to hotel and dinner. Free evening.

#### Day 7 Topes de Collantes National Park

Coach travel to the Topes de Collantes national park and hike to the Caburni waterfall with local guide. Lunch included. Return along nature trail by the river. Return to Trinidad. Dinner in hotel. Evening cultural activity.

#### Day 8 Santa Clara - Havana

Depart for Santa Clara (3 hrs). Visit the Tren Blindado and Che memorial. Lunch. Travel to Havana, check into 3\* hotel and dinner

Day 9 Guided walking tour of Old Havana with local guide including the four main historic squares. Lunch. Guided visit to Museum of the Revolution. Return to hotel and dinner. Final night activity

#### Day 10 Travel from Havana – London Gatwick

Day free for last minute shopping and sightseeing. Lunch included. Late afternoon coach transfer to Havana airport for overnight flight to London. Arrive London Gatwick approx. 1000 next day

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This 10 day package costs approx. £1,600 per student and includes:

- Return international flights from London-Cuba on scheduled Air Cubana flights
- Cuba tourist card (visa)
- All transport in Cuba by air-conditioned coaches
- Bilingual professional guides to accompany group throughout the trip
- Accommodation x 10 nights, shared rooms, half board in 3\* hotels
- Lunch provided each day as per programme
- All entries for visits and excursions
- Full briefing packs with maps provided before departure
- Detailed briefing meeting at school for group, teachers and parents
- Final itinerary to be discussed and agreed with group leaders
- One free place per 8 pupils for accompanying teachers
- Travel Insurance

## Not included:

- Cuban airport departure tax (currently £18)
- tips for guides and drivers
- drinks with meals

