Day 1. Hello Cuba!
* Dinner included

Arrival at "Jose Marti" International Airport in Havana City.

Meet your Authentic Cuba Travel tour guide and bus driver.

Transfer to the Hotel Melia Cohiba located on the Malecon, Havana's evocative 8km-long waterfront boulevard.

On route we'll enjoy a panoramic visit to the Revolution Square (Plaza de la Revolucion). Conceived by French urbanist Jean Claude Forestier in the 1920s, the gigantic square today is the base of the Cuban government and a place where large-scale political rallies are held.

It is here where Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis celebrated an open air Mass during their visits to Cuba in January 1998, March 2012 and September 2015 respectively. The Square was also visited by US President Barack Obama during his historic visit to Cuba in March 2016.

Private check-in and welcome cocktail upon arrival to the Hotel.

Evening: There’s a new wave of private restaurants that has swept the Cuban capital offering exciting cuisine in atmospheric surroundings. This evening we'll enjoy a welcome dinner at 'Cafe Laurent', a family-run restaurant located in the penthouse atop a small 1950s apartment building.

Next you may want to enjoy Salsa music in a spectacular setting, the Turquino Cabaret on the 25th floor of the Hotel Habana Libre. (Optional, not included).
Day 2. Exploring Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

*Breakfast and lunch included*

Morning: Visit to the Provincial Library Rubén Martinez Villena in Old Havana to learn about Cuba’s library system.

Lunch at the family-run restaurant *paladar* ‘Rum Rum’.

Afternoon: Guided walking tour of Old Havana, UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Visit to Square of Arms, ancient military parade ground for Spanish soldiers and surrounded by impressive buildings such as:

Palacio de los Capitanes Generales was the former seat of colonial government. Today the building houses the Museum of the City.

Palacio del Segundo Cabo, the seat of the second authority of the island. Today it houses important publishing concerns.

Castillo de la Real Fuerza. The second oldest fortress built by the Spaniards in the West Indies, a good example of early Cuban architecture. Notice the influence from different architectural styles, with a diverse range of Moorish, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Roman architecture.

Visit to the Cathedral Square, the most beautiful and private 18th century colonial plaza of Cuba, named after the masterpiece of Cuban baroque architecture: the Cathedral of Havana built by the Jesuit order.

Continue walking tour onto San Francisco Square, one of the oldest in the historical quarter.
Next we go on a guided visit to the Museum of Revolution, the former Presidential Palace. Today it exhibits the history of the Cuban Revolution through documents and objects among which we find the famous Yacht Granma that returned Fidel and his 82 guerilla fighters from Mexico to Cuba to launch the struggle for liberation from the Batista dictatorship.

Other historic artifacts include military vehicles and weaponry from the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, a U-2 spy plane shot down during the Cuban missile crisis, and items from Cuba’s nineteenth-century wars of independence.

Evening: Attend one of the most traditional and popular ceremonies in Cuba, The Fire of the Cannon of 9 O’clock at the Fortress of San Carlos de La Cabana.

Next you may want to enjoy Cuban Jazz at ‘La Zorra y El Cuervo’, Havana’s most famous Jazz club. The club features great performances by island bands and soloists! (Optional, not included).

**Day 3. Havana - Cienfuegos**

*Breakfast, lunch and dinner included*

Morning: Departure to Cienfuegos City, in Central Cuba.

On route we visit Matanzas City, also known as the Athens of Cuba for its wealth of poets. The city is also famous for its strong African heritage.

Rest stop in Bacunayagua Bridge for a Piña Colada and enjoy the view over the highest bridge (110 mts) in Cuba, one of the marvels of Cuban post-revolutionary architecture.

Visit to Ediciones Vigia, a unique publishing house that produces handmade paper and first edition copies of books. Only 200 copies of each book are made so each is a collector’s item. Meet with director, publishers and artists.

Lunch at Paladar Mallorca restaurant.

Afternoon: Continue on bus drive to Cienfuegos.
Cienfuegos was settled by French immigrants from Bordeaux and Louisiana, led by Don Louis D’Clouet, on April 22 1819. Its original name was Fernandina de Jagua, in honor of Ferdinand VII of Spain.

Check in at Jagua Hotel. With a magnificent location in the well-known residential area of Punta Gorda, in Southern Cienfuegos, the Jagua Hotel rises over the waters of Cienfuegos Bay.

Dinner at the hotel.

**Day 4. Cienfuegos City**
*Breakfast and lunch included*

Morning: Meeting with representatives from ASCUBI (Cuban Association of Librarians) in the city of Cienfuegos. Visit to Cienfuegos Provincial Library.

Lunch at the family-run restaurant *paladar* ‘Finca del Mar’.

Afternoon: Guided walking tour of UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cienfuegos Historical Center.

We will visit neoclassical buildings around Paseo del Prado and the main Square Jose Marti such as:

The Casa de la Cultura, home of another wealthy sugar baron, stunning mansion in neoclassical style.

The Tomas Terry Theatre, completed in 1895 and named after a local sugar baron.
The Cathedral built with the donation of wealthy families like the Lebrancs, the Albis, the Terrys. Inside you find the reproductions of the 12 Apostles in stained glass imported from Paris. Also the original machinery of the clock tower was built in France. Still in place and working.

We’ll also visit the elegant art gallery Galería de Arte Maroya.

Followed by visit to Palacio de Valle. The building showing an eclectic architecture was erected at a cost of a million and half pesos. French, Arabic, Italian and Cuban artisans worked with marble, alabaster, brass, glass and ceramic imported from Spain, Italy and United States. The entrance is primitive Gothic style and leads to a dining room of Mudejar architecture influence, which imitates the famous Patio of the Lions, of Alhambra, in Granada.

Evening: Enjoy traditional Cuban music at Cafe Cantante Benny More. (Optional – Not included)

**Day 5. Trinidad de Cuba**

*Breakfast and lunch included*

Morning: Day trip to UNESCO World Heritage Site, Trinidad’s Historical Center.

Trinidad is an outstanding example of a colonial city. It has maintained its historic core, featuring the highest percentage of surviving antique buildings and public squares and bringing together architectural, historic and cultural elements of great value.

Upon arrival we’ll go on a guided walking tour around this historic city known for its cobble-stoned streets, pastel colored homes and small-town feel.
Next we’ll visit the Museo Municipal de Historia located in the beautiful Neo Classical Cantero Palace. In addition to antiques and 19th-century furnishings, there are bits and pieces of slave history, and exhibits of revolutionary Cuba. For many visitors, though, the highlight is to climb up the narrow wooden stairs to the tower, which offers terrific bird’s-eye views of Trinidad and the surrounding area.

We will stop at a mirador (lookout) over the Sugar Mill Valley, where the sugar barons used to have their countryside mansions and mills. This site is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Lunch at Trinidad’s family-run restaurant ‘La Ceiba’.

Afternoon: Visit to Trinidad’s Municipal Library Gustavo Izquierdo.

Return to your hotel in Cienfuegos.

Free evening.

**Day 6. Cienfuegos – Havana**

*Breakfast and lunch included*

Morning: Transfer to Havana City.

Upon arrival we visit Fusterlandia, the studio, residence and wild kingdom of José Rodriguez Fuster, one of the most important Cuban ceramists and painters today.

Fuster has turned an entire neighborhood in western Havana into a giant art installation that involves locals and their actual homes as part of the exhibit. He’s engaged and trained many neighborhood residents as artisans, especially youth. This is art for and by the people on an epic scale!

Lunch hosted by Jose Fuster.
Afternoon: Visit to José Martí National Library. Meet with the director and librarians.

Check-in at the Hotel Melia Cohiba.

Evening: Attend a baseball game at the ‘Latinoamericano’ Stadium, popularly known in Cuba as "The Colossus of Cerro". The stadium is home of the Ciudad Habana 'Industriales’ baseball team. The stadium holds 55,000 people. (To Be Confirmed – National Series Schedule governs itinerary!)

**Day 7. Havana**

*Breakfast, lunch and dinner included*

Morning: Visit to the Partagas Cigar Factory, founded in 1845 by Spaniard Don Jaime Partagas.

Followed by visit to Finca Vigia, a hilltop villa 20 kilometers east of Havana, where famed author Ernest Hemingway lived from 1939 to 1960. It is here where the writer completed some of his greatest works, including *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Across the River and into the Trees*, and *Islands in the Stream*.

The villa has been maintained as a museum for the past 50 years. It contains original book and short story manuscripts, letters, over 3000 photographs, Hemingway’s fishing tackle and gun collections, furniture, priceless art collection, and a 9000 volume library that contains rare first editions of his books and those of other famous writers.

Finca Vigía has made both the World Monuments Fund List of 100 Most Endangered sites, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 11 Most Endangered Places.

Lunch at ‘Las Terrazas’ restaurant in Cojimar fishing village.

Afternoon: Guided tour of the Museum of Fine Arts Cuban Collection where we see the evolution of Cuba’s visual arts over the last 300 years.

The collection accounts for the richness of the island’s Spanish, French, Chinese, African cultural roots.

Evening: Farewell dinner at one of Havana’s very best paladares: Elite.
Day 8. Departure

*Breakfast included

Transfer to Havana International Airport for departure.

**GROUND COSTS:**

Ground tour cost per person in a group of 25 to 30 paying travelers: **$2,899 USD**

Prices are per person based on double room occupancy. All taxes included.

Single Room Supplement (optional): **$900 USD**

**Services Included:**

- 4 nights at Hotel Melia Cohiba with breakfast included.
- 3 nights at Jagua Hotel with breakfast and dinner included.
- 16 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 3 dinners included.
- Luxury air-conditioned coach transportation and professional driver.
- All activities, speakers, meetings and meals as described in itinerary except those noted as "optional" or "not included in cost."
- An expert Cuban English speaking guide and translator throughout the program, together with ongoing support from Authentic Cuba Travel' staff in Cuba and Canada.

**Services Not Included:**

- Activities listed as "optional" or "not included in cost" in itinerary.
- International airfare to and from Cuba.
- Gratuities for Cuban tour guide, bus driver, chambermaids, restaurant staff, porters, etc.
- Optional travel interruption and cancellation insurance.
- Cuban airport departure tax of 25.00 Cuban convertible pesos.  
  Note: All US airlines include this tax in the cost of your flight ticket.
- Cuban Tourist Card (Visa).  
  Note: JetBlue and Delta provide your Cuban Tourist Card at an extra fee of $50. Other airlines charge $85 for the Visa.