



## Coming December: Cruise to Cuba!



After a great deal of searching for the optimum 8-day tour to Cuba, we decided on an American cruise ship with all the amenities, regularly-scheduled airline (not charter flights), and several ports-of-call in Cuba, not just Havana.

Located 90 miles south of Key West, Florida, Cuba is the largest Caribbean island nation. Its geography includes rugged mountains, fertile farmland, quaint colonial villages, beautiful, turquoise water and white sandy beaches, as well as urban metropolitan areas such as Havana.

Despite its native roots, the most profound impacts on Cuban culture are the results

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# Itinerary Overview

## Day 1

December 25, 2016

Fly to Miami and Depart from Port of Miami

## Day 2

December 26, 2016

Cultural Immersion at Sea

## Day 3

December 27, 2016

Dock at Santiago de Cuba - San Juan Hill and Revolution Square, Santiago de Cuba, San Pedro de la Roca Castle, Depart for Cienfuegos

## Day 4

December 28, 2016

Evening departure for Havana - Cantores de Cienfuegos, Depart for Havana

## Day 5

December 29, 2016

Cultural Immersion at Sea

## Day 6

December 30, 2016

Dock at Havana - Old Havana, Cojimar, Revolution Square and Classic Cars

## Day 7

December 31, 2016

Havana - Plaza de Revolucion, Cementerio de Cristobal Colon, Artisans' Market, Depart for Miami

## Day 8

January 1, 2017

Return to USA

# Cruise to Cuba

December 25, 2016 - January 1, 2017

of African, European, and North American influences. The island is filled with colorful art, vibrant music, and quaint colonial villages. Cuba is home to nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a warm and welcoming population of more than 11 million residents.

Cuba, while expensive, is once again accessible to American travelers and is a country asking to be explored. Our choice of cruise tour in December gives us the best of both land and sea, with comfortable accommodations and open access to the island and its people. All shore excursions and activities are included in the tour price, as well as the cost of a Cuban visa.



## DAY 1

Sunday, December 25, 2016

- Fly from **Charlotte to Miami**
- Lunch on own at airport
- Group transfers on private coach from Miami airport to Port of Miami
- Group **boards the Adonia** cruise ship
- 4:30PM: Cruise departs port of Miami
- Dinner on board the ship
- Overnight: Adonia Cruise Ship

## DAY 2

Monday, December 26, 2016

- Breakfast on board
- **Free day** on board with plenty of optional activities
- Lunch on board
- **Sail Away Event**
- Dinner on board
- **Fathom Vision – Keynote on Deck**
- Overnight: Adonia Cruise Ship

## DAY 3

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

- Breakfast on board
- 9:00AM: **Dock at Santiago de Cuba**
- Full day cultural immersion
- **San Juan Hill and Revolution Square**

Start your day onshore with a visit to the location of the **Battle of San Juan Hill**. View the memorials and visit the watchtower to get an up-close view of the cannons and ammunition used during the most decisive battle in the Spanish-American war. Next, visit the **Antonio Maceo Revolution Square** to view the highest statue in the country that was built in honor of one of Cuba's biggest heroes. Also learn about the machetes that sit upright near the statue representing **The Protest of**

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# Cuba - Itinerary (continued from Page 2)

**Baraguá**, issued by Maceo on March 23, 1878. Afterwards witness the **Eternal Flame** which glows in memory of the martyrs.

- Lunch at local restaurant (included)
- **Walking Tour of Santiago de Cuba**

Take a walking tour of the one of the most interesting and historically significant places in Cuba. Founded by Spanish conquistador Diego Velazquez de Cuellar in 1514, **Santiago** was the capital of the Spanish colony of Cuba from 1522 until 1589. Today, Santiago remains the most important urban area outside of Havana, and is home to the birth of most forms of Cuba's long-lasting and globally renowned music. Mix and mingle with the locals in this bustling town as your guide takes you to some of the most popular landmarks.

- Visit a **UNESCO World Heritage site**  
Following your walking tour, prepare yourself for the



breathtaking views of the UNESCO World Heritage site, **San Pedro de la Roca Castle**. Built to protect the port of Santiago this fort holds the most complete and best preserved examples of Spanish-American military architecture as well as artifacts. Learn about the fort's history and then take some time to explore on your own. Afterwards transfer back to the ship and set sail for **Cienfuegos**.

- 6:00PM: Depart Santiago de Cuba for Cienfuegos
- Dinner on board
- Overnight: Adonia Cruise Ship



## **DAY 4** **Wednesday, December 28, 2016**

- Breakfast on board
- Free morning on board
- Lunch on board
- 2:00PM: **Dock at Cienfuegos**
- Half day **cultural immersion**
- **Walking Tour of Cienfuegos**  
It's time to explore this bustling little town to get a feel for what life is like in a more rural area

of Cuba. The first stop is at a local ration store where your guide explains in detail the ration system in Cuba. Then learn about the dual currency system also in place. Then visit a local market that deals in both currencies so you can get a better understanding of how it all works. Finish up at the town square where you'll get a chance to chat with some of the locals about life in this quaint town.

- **Cantores de Cienfuegos**  
Next, prepare yourself for a most memorable performance from the **Choir of Cienfuegos**. Enjoy several classical pieces along with some local Cuban and American specialties. Following the performance discuss, among other topics, the life of a musician in Cuba, how each member came to be a part of this choir, the schooling it took to get to this point, and also their roles as music professors at area schools helping to keep the tradition of Cuban music alive.
- **Music and Dance with the Cienfuegos Chamber of Music**  
Afterwards we'll keep the music going as we visit with the **Cienfuegos Chamber of Music**. Listen to several classical pieces along with some local Cuban specialties. Learn some local Cuban rhythms and dances like bachata, merengue, cha-cha and salsa. Then return to the ship and set sail for our final port, **Havana**.
- 8:00PM: Depart Cienfuegos for Havana
- Dinner on board
- Overnight: Adonia Cruise Ship

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# Cuba - Itinerary (continued from Page 3)

## DAY 5

**Thursday, December 29, 2016**

- Breakfast on board
- **Free day** at sea on board with plenty of optional activities
- Lunch on board
- **Story Capture Workshop**
- Dinner on board
- **Fathom Interactive Festival**
- Overnight: Adonia Cruise Ship

## DAY 6

**Friday, December 30, 2016**

- Breakfast on board
- 8:00AM: **Dock at Havana**
- Full day **cultural immersion**
- **Old City Walking Tour**  
Start your day with a walking tour of **Old Havana** where you'll get acquainted with a town that has



excitement around every corner. On today's walk you will get to take a stroll down the **Prado to the Capitol** which is almost an exact replica of the one that stands in Washington D.C. Next it's time to visit Old Havana's four main squares; **Plaza Vieja, San Francisco de Assisi Square, Plaza de Armas** and the **Cathedral Square**.

- Lunch at a local in-home restaurant (**Paladares**)
- **A Walk in Hemingway's Footsteps**  
After lunch head to the town of **Cojimar** where Hemingway used to spend his days. Begin at **Las Terrazas Bar** where you'll have the chance to interact with some of the staff who will show you around and share pictures and stories of Hemingway and how he spent his days hanging out and fishing with the locals. Next walk down to the **Marina**

where Hemingway kept his boat and interact with some local fishermen and musicians of the town. Hear about the little fishing village just across the water and how Hemingway came to be part of that close knit community. Enjoy some traditional **Cuban music** from local musicians while visiting the memorial dedicated to Hemingway.



- **Revolution Square and Classic Cars**  
Visit **Revolution Square** which is both a symbol of Cuba's history and the place where it is still being made. Here, Castro has addressed millions of Cubans on many occasions. This afternoon also provides an opportunity to hop in a **Classic American Car** as you travel between activities. Interact with your local driver and learn how they keep these beauties up and running and looking like new. Round out the afternoon with a visit to the **Colon Cemetery** to view the myriad of magnificently sculpted mausoleums and chapels and learn the story behind



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# Cuba - Itinerary (continued from Page 4)



the most visited tombstone in all of Cuba, that of **Amelia Goyri de la Hoz** – known to Cubans as “**La Milagrosa**” (The Miraculous Woman).

- **Free evening** in Havana  
This evening take some time to explore on your own, or sign up for one of Fathom's *optional* evening excursions (Tropicana Cabaret; Cabaret Parisien; El Canonazo Ceremony – additional cost for each)
- Dinner on board
- Overnight: Adonia Cruise Ship

## DAY 7

**Saturday, December 31, 2016**

- Breakfast on board
- Half day **cultural immersion**
- **A monumental morning**



Stand tall in the **Plaza de la Revolución** under the towering presence of Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, whose likenesses have been memorialized with colossal iron sculptures, discussing Cuba's future with passionate local residents. Steps from the plaza, a local guide will join you to share the highlights, stories and mysteries of Latin America's most important cemetery, the massive baroque-style **Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón**.

- Lunch at a local in-home restaurant (**Paladares**)
- **Artisans' Market**  
Visit **Almacenes San José Artisans' Market**, Havana's largest craft market, and explore the eclectic collection of artisanal items produced by local craftsmen. Chat with local vendors and learn how they became masters of their crafts.
- 4:00PM: **Depart Havana** for Miami
- Dinner on board
- **New Year's Eve celebration** on board
- Overnight: Adonia Cruise Ship

## DAY 8

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**

- Breakfast on board
- 7:30AM: **Cruise arrives back at port of Miami**
- Group transfers on private coach from port of Miami to Miami airport
- **Fly from Miami to Charlotte**

# What is Included in the Tour Package



- Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which are subject to change until time of ticketing)
- Airport transfers for participants on the round-trip flights

## Cruise Services

- 7 nights Adonia cruise accommodations in shared cabin rooms
- Daily breakfast/lunch/dinner, taxes, service charges, and applicable gratuities all included.

## Itinerary Inclusions

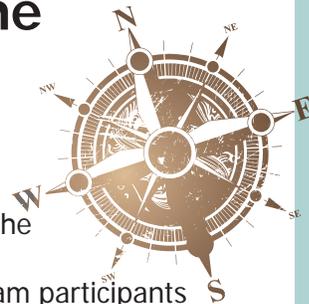
- All standard services included on board the Adonia ship
- Sightseeing at each port city, meals, and drinks as listed in your itinerary

## Visa Services

- Visas are required for U.S. citizens entering Cuba. Visa processing is included in your program price.
- Regardless of whether visas are required or included in package pricing, a customized visa assessment and toolkit (including application(s) and instructions) is emailed to every participant with U.S. residency status following their registration.
- WorldStrides' Visa Coordinator is dedicated to assisting faculty, staff, and participants with visa procedures and requests. This includes communicating specific visa requirements and provides guidance to non-U.S. residents following their registration.

## What is NOT included in the Tour Package

- Lunch in Miami on December 25
- Valid passport (Visas are required for US citizens)
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- Travel insurance - All Worldstrides Capstone Program participants are covered by a medical, dental, medical evacuation, repatriation, and accidental death policy. We offer and always recommend our additional Trip Mate travel insurance policy to all participants. This comprehensive policy includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of \$199.
- WiFi on Adonia Ship
- Cost of Gaston College registration.



## All-Inclusive Tour Price

**\$3,646 per person**, double-occupancy inside cabin, based on 15 paying participants.

**\$742** air and airport transfers

**Total = inclusive tour price \$4,388.**

\*See page 8 for additional items priced separately.

Reservation Form  
**Cruise to Cuba**

December 25, 2016 - January 1, 2017

Full name (as it appears on your passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Valid passport number (for airlines): \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Many foreign countries now require that your passport be valid at least 6 months after you end your visit. Make sure yours will meet this requirement.

I wish to room with: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I require a private room at additional cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary/health needs (for hotels/airlines): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I am covered by my own health/hospitalization insurance policy while overseas. You must provide proof of coverage.
- I plan to purchase additional health/hospitalization insurance from Trip Mate at an additional cost.

The \$199 payment for additional insurance must be included with your initial deposit check.

## Reservations

**Cruise to Cuba  
December 25, 2016 -  
January 1, 2017**

**Reservation Form:**

Please complete all information on this form, detach it and send it along with a check in the amount of \$800 per person (plus insurance premium if you purchase our company's policy), made payable to GASTON COLLEGE STUDY TOURS, and send to:

Bob Blanton,  
Study Tours Director  
Box 76  
Gaston College  
Dallas, NC 28034-1499

No space can be reserved without receipt of your deposit. Tour deposits are nonrefundable except in cases where we can resell your space on the tour. All prices, based upon a minimum of 15 paying participants, are valid at the time of this printing, but are subject to change. Tours are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Balance payments will be due approximately 90 days prior to departure.

## Information

Contact Bob Blanton,  
Study Tours Director  
Box 76, Gaston College  
201 Highway 321 South  
Dallas, NC 28034-1499  
blanton.bob@gaston.edu



**Gaston College**  
Opportunities For Life

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# PHOTOS FROM OUR MOST RECENT STUDY TOUR TO MOROCCO



Group photo at the Hassan II Mosque (Casablanca) >>>



<<<Marrakesh water sellers



GC Students Chanel Jenkins, Kiesha Dudley and Sam Livingston at Fez >>>



<<<Atlantic Ocean at Rabat



Driver Abdul and Guide Zahir with our GC bus >>>

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS PRICED SEPARATELY:

- \$1,225** - Single supplement for interior room
- \$580** - Upgrade to Ocean View per person, twin occupancy
- \$2,095** - Single supplement upgrade to Ocean View room

- \$1,160** - Upgrade to twin Balcony Room (per person)
- \$2,960** - Single supplement upgrade to Balcony Room
- \$199** - Optional travel cancellation insurance (per person)