

Cuba Libre & Sailing - CCVL

15 days: Havana to Havana

What's Included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Local Living Moment: Havana Homestay, Havana
- Arrival transfer
- Cigar factory tour (Pinar del Rio)
- Cabo San Antonio excursion including Roncalí Lighthouse
- Beach time (María La Gorda)
- Las Terrazas visit
- Havana orientation walk
- Informal Spanish lesson
- Sailing aboard a catamaran through the islands of Canarreos Archipelago in southern Cuba (6 nts)
- Snorkelling, kayaking, and fishing equipment
- Bath and beach towels aboard the boat
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing November 13th, 2017 and onwards

Itinerary Notes

Right now is an exciting time in Cuba with rapidly changing legislation and local conditions. Cuba has seen a massive increase in tourism lately, which has put a strain on local tourist infrastructure. While we will strive to operate our tours as closely to published itineraries as possible, conditions often change from one day to the next, and minor tour modifications may be necessary with no advance notice.

Itinerary

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1 Havana

Arrive at any time. An arrival transfer is included to the tour's starting point, a "casa particular" (Cuban home used as a bed and breakfast), for an authentic Cuban experience.

It is important to note that Cuba tends to be quite different to other areas of the world you may have travelled in. Buildings and infrastructure are generally old and may not have been maintained to the highest standard. Elevators, internet and A/C often break down, things happen very slowly and water pressure and hot water can be minimal. Cuba is an amazing place to visit but to fully enjoy and relax, western expectations should be left at home and your sense of adventure should be your guide.

Arrival Transfer

José Martí International Airport – Havana 30m

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the start location to start your adventure. Please note, the included arrival transfer is from Havana's José Martí International Airport (HAV). If you are flying into

Varadero (VRA) you will need to pre-pay a supplement to receive a transfer. Please reach out to your G Adventures booking agent for pricing and availability.

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

18:00

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Your Local Living Moment: Havana Homestay

Live amongst the locals in this “casa particular”, Cuba’s equivalent of a bed & breakfast homestay. Learn about the lifestyle, culture and real-life realities of our hosts. More intimate than a hotel, experience a slice of Cuban life as it’s actually lived.

Day 2 Havana/Viñales

Travel to Viñales. Get familiar with surrounds on an orientation walk, then spend time exploring the beautiful valley.

Travel into the Pinar del Rio province to the small town of Viñales, beautifully located in a fertile valley surrounded by the unusual mogotes, or limestone pincushion hills.

Informal Spanish Lesson

Sit down with the CEO for a brief lesson on some important words and phrases in español to prepare for the upcoming adventure.

Private Vehicle

Havana – Viñales 2h30m 189km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation With CEO

Viñales 30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3 Viñales

Enjoy a free day in the area. Opt to go caving, hiking, biking, or just relax and enjoy the beautiful views of the valley.

Free Time

Viñales Full Day

Don't waste a minute—get exploring.

Optional Activities - Day 3

Viñales Hiking

Viñales

The countryside around Viñales is lush, fertile and punctuated with mogotes – limestone “haystack” hills. Hire a guide or head off with some friends to explore the area. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. You may stumble upon a cave with an underwater spring. Dive in and cool off.

Viñales Cave Exploration

Viñales

The limestone terrain of the area in the Pinar del Rio province is perfect for creating massive cave systems. Opt for an excursion to visit one or two and explore these unique underground caverns.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Viñales/María la Gorda

Travel to María la Gorda, a UNESCO beach town, visiting a cigar factory en route. Opt to go on a sunset boat ride, go snorkelling, or relax on the beach.

Maria la Gorda's location on the Northwestern tip of Cuba offers some of the best sunsets, beaches and marine life you will find in Cuba, an ideal place for water sports.

Private Vehicle

Viñales – María la Gorda 5h 170km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Tobacco Farm and Cigar Tour

Viñales

Pinar del Rio is tobacco country. Fans of the ubiquitous Cuban cigar will be hard-pressed not to be impressed by the fields of green plants punctuated by thatch roof drying hut. Then witness a demonstration of how the cured leaves are hand-rolled, cut and packaged. Prepare for the heady smell of tobacco. Opt to buy a box to bring home to friends or enjoy them all by yourself.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5 María la Gorda

Enjoy an excursion to Cabo San Antonio with a stop at the Roncalí lighthouse.

From María la Gorda, head out to Cabo San Antonio, a protected area famous for the sea turtles that lay their eggs on the beach. After learning some information about the region, stop by the Roncalí lighthouse. Enjoy some free time on the beach.

Cabo San Antonio and Roncalí Lighthouse Excursion

María la Gorda4h

Cuba's westernmost tip benefits from the region's warm crystal-clear waters, with sea bottoms full of varied treasures — like reefs and shipwrecks. The peninsula was declared a Biosphere Reserved by UNESCO in 1987. Known for the famous Roncali Lighthouse marking Cuba's westernmost point in the region, this area is considered the last refuge of aboriginals during Spanish colonization. Learn more about the region's lore from pirates and old cannons to the treasures that lie on the bottom of the sea around peaceful Corrientes Cove.

Free Time

María la Gorda Afternoon

Get active or get relaxed. You choose.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6 María la Gorda/Las Terrazas

Travel to Las Terrazas and enjoy the stunning scenery in this UNESCO biosphere reserve known for its flora and fauna.

Less than an hour outside of the bustle and hustle of Havana, Las Terrazas is a UNESCO biosphere reserve known for its stunning flora and fauna. Once acres of deforested farmland, today Las Terrazas is a lush oasis after Castro organized thousands of trees be planted. Travel through bamboo groves, past teak and royal palms and keep your eyes peeled for birds and exotic flowers.

Private Vehicle

María la Gorda – Las Terrazas4h240km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Las Terrazas/Havana

Travel back to Havana, and walk through Old Havana with the CEO. Enjoy a final night in the city with the group.

Private Vehicle

Las Terrazas – Havana1h75km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 Havana/Cienfuegos

Enjoy free time in Havana before heading to Cienfuegos in the afternoon to spend the first night aboard the catamaran.

Today, meet new members of the group at a 3pm meeting. Please ensure to attend this meeting as the group will depart for Cienfuegos immediately after.

Have a safety briefing and early dinner on board, then spend the evening getting acquainted with the crew and yacht, sailing out of Cienfuegos.

Free Time

Havana Half Day

Don't waste a minute—get exploring.

Welcome Meeting

Havana 15:00

Meet your group and a G representative in the hotel lobby before departing for Cienfuegos. Once there, meet your CEO and review the details of your sailing trip.

Transport

Havana – Cienfuegos 4h250km

Settle in and scan the scenery as you journey to your next destination.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 9 Cienfuegos/Canarreos Archipelago

Wake to breakfast and new surroundings on the way to the Canarreos Archipelago.

25m (82 ft) Cuba Sailing Catamaran

Cienfuegos – Canarreos Archipelago

Stretch out and stay balanced aboard a cosy double-hulled watercraft.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 10 Canarreos Archipelago

Travel through the islands of the Canarreos Archipelago and spend the next five days soaking in everything these island communities have to offer. Discover paradise among the rustic, sparsely populated islands, go snorkelling, explore secluded beaches or simply relax on deck.

Today we begin to explore some of the the Caribbeans most beautiful islands.

Composed of approximately 350 islets, the islands are known to be more rustic and quiet than many of the other popular Cuban travel destinations.

Relax and enjoy the warm Caribbean air.

25m (82 ft) Cuba Sailing Catamaran

Canarreos Archipelago

Stretch out and stay balanced aboard a cosy double-hulled watercraft.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Days 11-13 Canarreos Archipelago

Explore the remote and beautiful islands of the Canarreos Archipelago. Snorkel the crystal-clear waters in search of colourful fish, relax on the beach, and dine on some of the best seafood you'll ever have.

25m (82 ft) Cuba Sailing Catamaran

Canarreos Archipelago

Stretch out and stay balanced aboard a cosy double-hulled watercraft.

Cayo Largo Visit

Cayo Largo Island

Visit Cayo Largo, the largest island in the Canarreos Archipelago, known for its 25km (15 mi) of pristine white-sand beaches and mangrove forests. Let your worries melt away – you won't have any trouble relaxing here! Sit back and relax with a book while sipping on a refreshing beverage, play a game of beach volleyball or enjoy some snorkelling. Or take a river cruise among the maze of mangroves to spot crocodiles resting in their natural habitat.

Cayo Rico Visit

Cayo Rico

Be welcomed by bright turquoise waters on this island visit. Enjoy a cocktail at a friendly beach bar, and soak in amazing waterfront views. Feed iguanas indigenous to the island or snorkel right off the boat – try and spot one of the rays that like to hang out here.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 14 Canarreos Archipelago/Cienfuegos

Wake up and admire the view from the lighthouse in Cayo Guano. Enjoy one last snorkel before sailing back from the Canarreos Archipelago to the town of Cienfuegos. Enjoy some final time on deck, and keep an eye out for fish and other marine life along the way.

After arriving back in Cienfuegos, the CEO will be happy to show the group town by foot. Relax at the end of the evening while taking in the local sites of this rustic town.

25m (82 ft) Cuba Sailing Catamaran

Canarreos Archipelago – Cienfuegos 7h-9h

Stretch out and stay balanced aboard a cosy double-hulled watercraft.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 15 Cienfuegos/Havana

Depart Cienfuegos after breakfast and arrive back into Havana around midday when the trip will end. After being dropped off at the hotel your CEO will be able to help with onward travel arrangements.

Transport

Cienfuegos – Havana 3h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery as you journey to your next destination.

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with any onward travel arrangements you require.

Meals included: Breakfast

What's Included

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your Local Living Moment: Havana Homestay, Havana. Arrival transfer. Cigar factory tour (Pinar del Rio). Cabo San Antonio excursion including Roncalí Lighthouse. Beach time (María La Gorda). Las Terrazas visit. Havana orientation walk. Informal Spanish lesson. Sailing aboard a catamaran through the islands of Canarreos Archipelago in southern Cuba (6 nts). Snorkelling, kayaking, and fishing equipment. Bath and beach towels aboard the boat. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

Highlights

Relax on the beautiful Caribbean beaches, experience Cuban hospitality during a homestay, visit a factory that produces world-famous Cuban cigars, sail on a catamaran through the beautiful turquoise waters of the Canarreos Archipelago, stop to snorkel or share a drink with friendly locals, enjoy the slow pace of life in the islands.

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Itinerary Notes

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will strive to operate our tours as closely to published itineraries as possible, conditions often change from one day to the next, and minor tour modifications may be necessary with no advance notice.

Important Notes

1. Please note that space is very, very limited on the boat and especially in your cabin. It is important that you only take on board soft sided luggage such as a mid sized backpack or soft duffel bag, keeping your bag's weight to less than 15kgs. Suitcases are not appropriate for our Sailing Cuba Adventure as they are not pliable enough to fit into the niches available for luggage. If you are on a longer trip, it may be possible to store excess luggage for one week at the yacht marina.

2. Fresh water is very limited on board, and as such we ask for your understanding that showers are limited to one quick shower per person a day. One towel per week is provided for showering purposes, and beach towels are also provided. Drinking water is provided free of charge on board the yacht.

3. It's important to note that the beds in the cabins are not the usual length of a standard bed. The length is approximately 1.8 meters (6 feet)

4. Please let us know of any food allergies & requirements when booking, as there is very limited access to additional food once on the water.

5. MEDICAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

From 01 May 2010 all tourists entering Cuba will require "Medical Travel Insurance" that is on a Government approved list. We urge you to check with your insurance provider to ensure your policy is on the list of approved providers. If it is not, tourists will be forced to purchase a Government approved policy on arrival in Cuba. The cost of buying this insurance in Cuba will be in addition to any insurance already purchased, and it is likely the rates for these policies will be inflated compared to what you may purchase in advance from home.

G Adventures has insurance policies available for travellers from a number of countries at competitive rates, and our insurance provider has been confirmed as recognized by Cuban officials. We can assist with medical travel insurance for residents of the United States, Canada, and Australia.

If you would like peace-of-mind and to purchase insurance from G Adventures, please contact our reservations team on 1800 465 5600 (from North America), or 08444 101030 (from the UK) or 39413 5820 (from Australia) or experience@gadventures.com

DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS

Please note that debit and credit cards that are issued by American banks are not accepted in Cuba and will not work at ATMs. In addition, it is recommended to contact your bank to advise you will be travelling in Cuba regardless of your nationality, as local ATMs are likely to block your card unless a travel notification has been set up.

Group Leader Description

This sailing adventure is staffed by a qualified skipper, a local cook/first mate and a G Adventures CEO. Your onboard team know the island groups extremely well and are passionate about sharing their hidden secrets with their "crew". They know the best secluded beaches, snorkeling spot, coolest beach bars and where you can check your internet.

Group Size Notes

Max 16, avg 12.

Meals Included

13 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners

Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Traveling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world.

Food is a major part of this sailing adventure. You will enjoy many home cooked meals lovingly prepared by our on board cook. Portions are generous and will include sea food, typical Cuban dishes and even the occasional breakfast fry up.

Drinking water is provided and beer, wine and soft drink is available to purchase at cost price aboard.

Non included meals are taken ashore at local restaurants. There's nothing left to do but kick back and relax!

Resorts, hotels, and government-run restaurants are notorious for mediocre buffets and subpar food quality, but at casas and locally run restaurants you get the chance to taste real Cuban cuisine. Options may not be as diverse as back home, but you can expect to have simple, good, quality food.

Based on Cuba's economic situation, there may be fluctuations in food supply and there are occasionally shortages of certain ingredients – which provides a great opportunity to try something new! Cubans rarely use spices for cooking, so it's recommended to bring some of your favourite spices or hot sauce for a bit of added punch.

Transport

Private van, 24m (82 ft) sailing catamaran.

About our Transportation

Please note that this is a sailing catamaran, and the skipper will be using wind power when the winds are agreeable. Although this is not a learn to sail program, you may have a chance to learn a few tricks of the trade and assist the skipper with navigation while sailing. There are times when motoring the catamaran will be required, due to unfavorable wind conditions.

Solo Travellers

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Hotels/casas particulares (homestays) (7 nts), twin/double bed cabins with shared bathrooms (7 nts).

About Accommodation

Accommodation on this trip is mostly, if not entirely, in 'casas particulares', the Cuban equivalent of a bed & breakfast. These local accommodation options allow you to participate in a typical Cuban living experience by staying with a family in their home. The family rents a bedroom or two (twin or single) with private bathroom shared amongst guests. Groups are usually spread across multiple casas with a central meeting point for evening socializing in the towns.

Hotel service standards can be fairly low in Cuba and in complete contrast to the price paid for these accommodations. Casas are usually very centrally located and a great base for exploring Cuban towns and cities. Utilizing the local accommodation puts you closer to the Cuban people and lifestyle and often provides a higher standard of service and comfort than in a hotel.

The catamaran is equipped with 8 passenger cabins, some with 2 beds (upper and lower) and some with double beds. All cabins have attached bathrooms with showers (shared between two cabins) and the vessel has an onboard kitchenette, interior and exterior common areas, and plenty of outside deck space.

Power onboard is 220V on European 2 pin sockets. Please note that this is not suitable for sleeping aid machines, as the power source may not always be operating. Bringing a battery pack is recommended.

If you are traveling alone, you will be paired up in a cabin with another traveler of the same gender. Please expect the cabin to be very small. The bunk length is 1.8 meters (6ft) with limited head height and limited storage for luggage.

Most of our sailors tend to spend very, very little time in their cabins, just using them to sleep and store clothes.

Joining Hotel

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

Joining Instructions

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through G Adventures in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous. Please note, the included arrival transfer is from Havana's José Martí International Airport (HAV).

Airport transfers are only included from Havana's José Martí International Airport (HAV). If you are flying into Varadero (VRA), you can purchase a transfer to the starting hotel. Speak to your GCO or sales agent for more information.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a G Adventures sign with your name on it, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. There most likely will be many signs, so please check carefully for your name.

If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line or you can go to the office of Cubanacan, the government agency, and ask for the Representative of Cuba Incentives (our local provider). If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Operator (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office San Jose, Costa Rica During Office hours (Weekdays 9am-5pm Local Time): +506 4001 8474

After hours emergency number: +506 8322 9140.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER in CUBA (24/7):
+53 5216-0592

ALTERNATIVE NUMBERS in CUBA:

Airport Representative: +53 5294-2410

Alternative emergency phone Cuba: +53 5287-0805

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100 Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000 Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000 Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618 Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307 Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

Finishing Point Instructions

Please do not arrange any onward travel until after 3pm. We typically arrive back into Havana around noon - 1pm, but in the event there are any delays, it's best to plan ahead.

What to Take

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage.

PLEASE NOTE: No hard suitcases are permitted due to limited space.

Packing List

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Hand sanitizer (required)
- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
- Quick Covid Test/Antigen Test

Marine:

- Drybag (Will help keep cameras and essentials dry)
- External battery pack
- Motion sickness tablets
- Sarong
- Snorkel gear (optional) (Only if own equipment is preferred.)

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

Note: Please bring a beach towel, a towel for your use when showering is provided on board.

Note: Snorkel gear is highly recommended. Masks and snorkels are sometimes available aboard the boats (flippers are unavailable), however we cannot guarantee their availability or quality.

Laundry

Laundry facilities are not available on the boat. You may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

Visas and Entry Requirements

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

U.S. citizens and residents:

Because of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations enforced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), G Adventures does not accept bookings for U.S. citizens and residents at this time. Please check current travel restrictions before booking travel to Cuba. G Adventures reserves the right to cancel any reservations made by U.S. citizens, residents or other persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL PASSPORT HOLDERS:

We recommend that you avoid flying to Cuba via the US airports. If you are connecting through the US, regardless of your nationality, you will be required to submit a signed form certifying that you are traveling under one of the 12 travel categories authorized by Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The traveller is responsible for qualifying under one of these travel categories. Tourism is not one of these 12 categories. More information can be found in the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Cuba FAQs.

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

The currency in Cuba is the Cuban Peso (CUP).

Cuba is primarily a cash operated country. Bringing cash is the easiest way to travel in Cuba, though please take extra security precautions to avoid theft. Please note that until further notice AUD and NZD are not accepted in Cuba. Because of these difficulties we recommend that you arrive in Cuba with CAD, EUR, GBP, or Mexican pesos which can be easily converted into Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC) at the 8% conversion fee.

As of November 8, 2004 the US Dollar is no longer being used as official currency. The Cuban Convertible Peso is at a similar value to the US Dollar, and can be acquired at any change house or bank. Please note that any transaction involving the US Dollar in Cuba automatically incurs a 18% fee.

People traveling in Cuba with Visa credit cards can still use them for cash advances, however all transactions will be subject to an 18% fee. Bank cards from US banks do not work in Cuba, and cards using the Cirrus or Maestro systems are nearly impossible to use. The best credit cards to bring are Visa Plus. Please note that ATMs are not widespread and generally speaking debit cards do not work in Cuba from any foreign banks.

If you plan to use a bank card, it would be advisable to check with your bank directly prior to your departure as to whether the card should work in Cuba.

We do not recommend you bring travellers cheques, as it is very difficult to exchange them in Cuba.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE TIP: Please be advised that slightly torn notes, notes that have been heavily marked or are faded may be difficult to exchange. It is best to bring notes in fairly good condition, in denominations lower than 100USD (or equivalent). Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC) are extremely difficult to convert outside of Cuba, be sure to convert any remaining CUC before departing Cuba.

You are advised NOT to change money on the street outside the airport or your hotel. Reliable money exchange may only be done at Cadecas (change houses), Banks, or Hotel Reception.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Tipping

It is customary in Cuba to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$1.5-\$3.5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO, Skipper and Cook did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$10-15 USD per person, per day can be used.

Optional Activities

Viñales

- Viñales Hiking

- Viñales Cave Exploration

Health

Please note: We do not have a constant power source onboard, and cannot facilitate the use of Sleep Apnea/CPAP machines. Bringing a suitable battery pack is required.

Inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

There are no specific health requirements for this trip. However, you should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to

wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Trip Specific Safety

Cuba is a relatively safe country if you take the same precaution you would back home in any major and/or touristy cities, use common sense and do not hesitate to ask your skipper about specific areas to avoid. Also it is recommended to carry with you only the money and documentation you need for the day. Always keep an eye on your belongings.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra Foundation - the non-profit partner of G Adventures

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](http://PlaneterraFoundation.org).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Minimum Age

Minimum age of 16 years for this trip.

International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.