

CUBA & THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS - CUBA MOTORCYCLE CLUB



TRIP CODE

CUTSCMC9

DEPARTURE

13/10/2019, 04/12/2019,
22/01/2020, 20/02/2020

DURATION

10 Days

LOCATIONS

Cuba



INTRODUCTION

Explore Cuba on this guided Harley-Davidson motorcycle tour that takes you off the beaten track, allowing you to immerse yourself in Cuban life whilst enjoying comfortable accommodation every night. The circuit combines varied landscapes and picturesque colonial towns with a fascinating history that revolves around the Cuban Revolution. Discover the underlying beauty of Cuba that is shrouded by a rustic exterior and revealed as you travel around this intriguing country on this special and memorable 9 day trip.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrive Havana


On arrival in Havana, you will be met and taken to the VIP Lounge. While all immigration formalities are getting completed for you, you will be able to enjoy the amenities of the lounge. Beverages are included. You will then be transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner with the rest of your group. Cuba's capital Havana is a vibrant city teeming with beautiful if sometimes shabby colonial buildings, once the most heavily fortified city in the Americas. The city was founded by the Spanish in the 16th century and it is now a diverse and fascinating mix of castles, fortresses and Spanish colonial buildings intermingled with modern high rises. The Old City (Habana Vieja), with its narrow streets and overhanging balconies is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the centre of the original city.



DAY 2: Havana City Tour

After breakfast at the hotel, we familiarize you with your Harley-Davidson bike for the following city tour, as you ride around the various highlights of Havana. The city tour includes both Old Havana (a UNESCO World Heritage Listed Site) and New Havana. Highlights include the Malecon Habanero, which is some 10 km long, Plaza de la Revolución (Revolution Square), Che Guevara's Command Headquarters and the Cabaña Fortress. After lunch, return to the hotel where diner will be served and the evening is free at leisure. Soak up the atmosphere as you sip on a Mojito, a refreshing blend of rum, lime, sugar, mint leaves, soda water and ice or maybe sample a Cuba Libre, made with rum, coke and lime. Distance travelled: Approx. 80 km (50 miles)



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DAY 3: Pinar del Rio Province

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for the Pinar del Rio Province, the most western of the 15 provinces of Cuba, which can be considered the Land of Cuban Tobacco. On our way we visit a tobacco farm, which is especially interesting because in Cuba traditional techniques are still in use for agricultural production. For lunch we will get to know some typical creole dishes that are mainly influenced by Spanish, African and Caribbean cuisine. Next we take a drive through the spectacular Viñales Valley, which is surrounded by mountains and dotted with rocky outcrops (mogotes) that rise as high as 300m. Tonight we stay in a typical hotel of the area and enjoy a night out with the team for dinner. Distance travelled: Approx. 340 km (210 miles)



DAY 4: Community of Las Terrazas

Following breakfast at the hotel we head to the Community of Las Terrazas, a Natural Park in Sierra del Rosario. Las Terrazas Biosphere Reserve is a sustainable community and nature reserve in the municipality of Candelaria. The Park is located in the Sierra del Rosario mountains, which was designated a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1984. This beautiful natural area shows the unpolluted beauty that can be found outside of Havana. Deforested trees were planted in a terrace configuration and an eco-community was born. Enjoy a panoramic tour through the area on curvy streets through the mountains, a dream for every biker, and have lunch in a local restaurant. Dinner is included this evening at your hotel. Distance travelled: Approx. 220km (140 miles)



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DAY 5: Cienfuegos

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for Cienfuegos, where we take a panoramic tour of Cienfuegos, and have lunch in the area. Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 around a spectacular natural bay - the only city in Cuba to be founded by French settlers. It is known as the "Pearl of the South" or the "Paris of Cuba". We then depart to Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the best examples of colonial architecture in the Americas. Trinidad is a beautifully preserved Spanish colonial settlement built on the back of the sugar and slave trade. At the peak of the sugar industry there were 56 sugar mills in the region. The city is lined with cobble-stoned streets, mansions adorned with Italian frescoes, and troubadours strum their guitars in the square at night. After a tour of Trinidad, we head to our accommodation for tonight, either a colonial hostel or private houses, with dinner included. Distance travelled: Approx. 380km (240 miles)



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DAY 6: Trinidad

Breakfast is taken at the hotel, before we head out for a walking city tour of the colonial town. Afterwards we start our day trip on bikes to visit the magnificent nature that surrounds Trinidad and the Sierra del Escambray. The area northwest of Trinidad consists of the steep, pine-coated slopes of the Guamuhaya mountains, characterised for its exuberant vegetation which counts with deep valleys, great cave systems, the beautiful landscape, the rivers and the crystalline water waterfalls. A creole lunch will be provided in the area before we return to our accommodation in Trinidad. Tonight we go out for diner. Distance travelled: Approx. 100km (60 miles)



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DAY 7: Santa Clara

After breakfast at the hotel we depart to Santa Clara, where we visit the Che Guevara Mausoleum. The Mausoleum is a memorial and houses the remains of Ernest "Che" Guevara as well as a huge bronze statue of him, erected in 1987 to mark the 20th anniversary of Guevara's murder in Bolivia. The adjacent museum houses a collection of photographs of Che as well as guns, medical equipment and letters. We continue towards Cayo Santa Maria, a small island off Cuba's northern coast. We take a drive through the breathtaking causeway of almost 60 km long, connecting Cuba's mainland with Cayo Santa María. The island of Cayo Santa Maria lies in the western part of the "Jardines del Rey" (King's Garden) archipelago, linked by a 48km causeway to the mainland. This archipelago is part of the UNESCO - recognized Buenavista Biosphere Reserve and Cayo Santa Maria is known for its pristine white sandy beaches. Lunch will be at our hotel. The afternoon and evening are free at leisure. Distance travelled: Approx. 200 km (120 miles)



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DAY 8: Varadero

Breakfast is taken at the hotel before we depart to Varadero. Located on the Hicacos Peninsula, Varadero is the largest resort in the Caribbean with miles of white sandy beaches. The afternoon is free at leisure. Lunch and dinner will be at your all-inclusive hotel. Distance travelled: Approx. 220km (140 miles)



DAY 9: Havana

After breakfast the rest of the morning is free to relax and enjoy the beach. After lunch at the hotel we depart for Havana with a panoramic tour of Matanzas on the way and a stop at Bacunayagua, the country's highest bridge. Matanzas is the capital of the Cuban province of Matanzas and known for its poets, culture, and Afro-Cuban folklore. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the city developed a gigantic literary and musical heritage, and was regularly touted as the 'Athens of Cuba.' In Havana we drop our bikes off and enjoy the night out with the group and enjoy a farewell dinner. Distance travelled: Approx. 160km (100 miles)



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DAY 10: Depart Havana

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air-conditioned minivan, with driver and tour guide from Gaviota Tour S.A. • Accommodation • All meals, lunch and activities as described • Motorist Tour Leader • Mechanic/tools/spares • Comprehensive Motorbike Insurance • First tank of gas free of charge <p>Exclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel, except from the first tank (i.e., motorbikes are delivered with a full tank at no cost) Extra fuel cost: Approximately CUC 120. • Airfare • Entry visa • Life insurance (mandatory to enter Cuba) • Airport departure tax of CUC 25
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

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- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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