CUBA

THE ECOLOGICAL RICHES OF CUBA
Travel with the President and CEO of Tennessee Aquarium, Keith Sanford
February 22-29, 2020

Cuba is home to a truly distinct national identity influenced by Spanish, African, or American cultures. Beyond its cultural legacy, Cuba has a wealth of natural resources, including its distinctive limestone hills known as mogotes, unspoiled coral reefs, miles of beaches, and two UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites. On this 8-day program, travelers will get a chance to experience all of these unique features through adventurous activities and educational tours in order to fully experience Cuba’s one-of-a-kind cultural and ecological riches.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in the history, culture and architecture of Old Havana by visiting important landmarks and monuments.
- Explore the magical, underground limestone caves and other geological wonders in Cueva del Indio.
- Learn about Cuba’s reforestation projects by visiting multiple biosphere and forest reserves.
- Snorkel in various areas to get an up-close look at Cuba’s coral reefs and diverse marine life.

WHAT’S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guides
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Travel insurance
ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

FEBRUARY 22 - OLD HAVANA
Upon arrival at the José Martí International Airport, you will be met by your guide and driver, and transferred to your hotel. You will be able to check in and change money. The remainder of the afternoon can be used to explore your surroundings before your welcome dinner at a paladar. **Overnight at Parque Central. (D)**

FEBRUARY 23 - OLD HAVANA
After breakfast, start a walking tour of “Habana Vieja.” Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes! Thanks in part to history and ideology, Cuba—and especially Havana—is a treasure trove of architectural styles spanning six centuries. With buildings dating from the 16th through the 19th centuries, Havana is perhaps one of the most authentic colonial cities in the Americas. Since 1982, when the city became a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the government has embarked on an ambitious preservation and restoration program concentrated in the Old City. However, a severe lack of funding and materials has hampered efforts. Therefore, the decay and neglect of the past 40 years coupled with the destructive tropical weather continues to claim buildings every year. Stroll through Plaza De Armas, a scenic tree-lined plaza formerly at the center of influence in Cuba. It is surrounded by many of the most historic structures in Havana as well as important monuments. Continue through the Plaza de San Francisco, a cobbled plaza surrounded by buildings dating from the 18th century, dominated by the baroque Iglesia and Convento de San Francisco dating from 1719. Visit the Plaza Vieja, one the oldest plazas in Havana, dating from the 16th century. Learn about the massive historic preservation program, which began in this Plaza under the leadership of City Historian, Eusebio Leal. After lunch at Hemingway’s Old Havana favorite - Sloppy Joe’s - smell the aroma of aged tobacco during a cigar factory tour. This evening, dine at the private restaurant La Guarida, which is the location of the Cuban Oscar-nominated film “Strawberry and Chocolate.” **Overnight at Parque Central. (BLD)**

FEBRUARY 24 - VIÑALES
Travel to Soroa. En route, visit Sierra del Rosario, 2,500 hectares of evergreen forest and home of Las Terrazas, a self-sustained community named after the reforestation project initiated in 1967. In addition, visit the Soroa Waterfall and Orchidarium. Continue to Viñales for dinner and overnight. **Overnight at Hotel Los Jazmines or Casa Particular. (BLD)**

FEBRUARY 25 - VIÑALES
This morning, visit Cueva del Indio, a limestone cave set adjacent to hills covered in lush vegetation. Here, board a boat and enjoy an underground magical world of stalagmites, stalactites, and folklore on a short cruise through this cavernous wonderland. The cave is an ancient indigenous dwelling rediscovered in 1920. This afternoon, hike the mogotes, unusual geologic formations in the area, as well as visit a tobacco farm. Dinner at Finca Agro-ecology, where you will enjoy a delicious farm-to-table organic meal. **Overnight at Hotel Los Jazmines or Casa Particular. (BLD)**

FEBRUARY 26 - GUANAHACABIBES PENINSULA
Depart for María La Gorda in Guanahacabibes Peninsula, a biosphere reserve in the Pinar del Río province. Stop en route to look for the Bee Hummingbird. If time permits, enjoy snorkeling this afternoon from the sandy beaches of your hotel. Dinner at the hotel. **Overnight at Hotel Maria La Gorda. (BLD)**

FEBRUARY 27 - GUANAHACABIBES PENINSULA
This morning, visit La Barca beach to learn about beach characterization with an opportunity to snorkel at this location. Continue on to Cabo de San Antonio National Park, where you will join a snorkeling expedition by boat to various reefs around the tip of the peninsula. This evening, enjoy a lecture from a local expert about Sea Turtles and Coral Reefs. **Overnight at Hotel Maria La Gorda. (BLD)**

FEBRUARY 28 - OLD HAVANA
This morning return to Havana. Lunch at a local Paladar before stopping at Finca Vigia, the former
house of Ernest Hemingway, located on the outskirts of the city. This evening, farewell dinner and salsa dance lessons before the Buena Vista Social Club show. Overnight at Parque Central. (BLD)

FEBRUARY 29 - DEPARTURE
This morning you will be transferred to the Havana airport for your flight home. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

$2,965

Price includes accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full time guide for duration of program, bottled water on the bus, departure tax, Cuban visa, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy. For a single room throughout the trip, add $440 per person. A $200 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a $100 cancellation fee until November 19, 2019, at which time final non-refundable payment is due.

Certified ClimateSafe

This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL
Visit holbrook.travel/tnaqua-cu20
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PHOTOS BY
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