

CUBA!

Profundo Journeys Photography

"A Captivating Photography & Cultural Tour"

HOLGUIN - GIBARA - SANTIAGO DE CUBA

SEE WHY EVERYONE WANTS TO GO TO CUBA

Dance the salsa on a rooftop in Havana, rub shoulders with locals walking along the faded elegance of the Malecon seawall, eat in private home restaurants called paladares, visit Ernest Hemmingway's house, watch Cubans of all ages soften when the strains of "Guantanamera" float into the streets, visit the museums, cafes ...

LEARN HOW THE SOCIETY FUNCTIONS

Have you wanted to explore the unique island nation of Cuba? Now is your chance! Profundo Journeys is offering you an unforgettable cultural immersion focusing on the arts, education, health and Cuba's distinctive culture, you'll experience lectures, museums, schools and arts communities, along with Cuba's unique cuisine, music and architecture. A true photographer's paradise!



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DAY BY DAY



DAY 1 MIAMI- HOLGUIN - GIBARA

Check-in Procedures at Miami International Airport - American Airlines operates out of concourses D & E. Passengers are required to check-in either at the kiosks or with an agent to choose which one of the OFAC twelve categories they are traveling under and obtain their boarding pass. Then proceed to one of the “Cuba Ready Booths” operated by CTS located in front of the check-in areas spread around terminal “D”. A CTS agent will check your travel documents and will stamp your boarding pass as “Cuba Ready”. You may then proceed to airport security and on to your departure gate. Suggest you report to the American Airlines check-in counter at least three hours prior to departure time.

WELCOME TO CUBA!!

Upon arrival at Holguin Airport, you will need to make your way through passport control where they will take your photo (be prepared to remove any hats, scarves or glasses) and check your paperwork for entry into Cuba. Make your way to baggage claim and from there exit through customs to where your national guide will be waiting for the delegation.

Continue on a visit of Holguin the 3rd largest city of the country!

Founded in 1752 by Captain Garcia Holguin, this city still holds marks of colonial architecture. You will enjoy going on top of a mountain called La Loma de la Cruz San Andes from which you will enjoy a magnificent view of the city and the Crystal Sierra.

Lunch at Paladar 1910.

After lunch transfer to your hotel. Check in and settle into your rooms.

Your delegation leader will have some time to address the delegation and facilitate group introductions. Relax and take a walk around Gibara and meet the locals.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at Paladar La Perla del Norte.

DAY 2 GIBARA

Please Note: Breakfast will be provided daily during your stay in Cuba.

Matched only by Baracoa for its wild coastal setting, Gibara is one of those special places where geography, meteorology and culture have conspired to create something tempestuous and unique. Though your first impression might not be open-mouthed incredulity (Hurricane Ike almost wiped the town off the map in 2008), suspend your judgment; Gibara casts a more subtle spell.

Situated 33km from Holguín via a scenic road that undulates through friendly, eye-catching villages, Gibara is a small, intimate place that is currently benefiting from much-needed government investment. Unlike nearby Guardalavaca, development here is low-key and focused on renovating the town's beautiful but dilapidated architecture. The saddle-shaped Silla de Gibara that so captivated Columbus creates a wild, scenic backdrop. Nearby is the site of one of Cuba's first wind farms.

Visit a cigar factory.

Lunch at La Cueva Paladar.

Afternoon walking photo opportunity.

Dinner on your own.

DAY 3 GIBARA

This morning visit the Museum of Natural History. Walk to the top of Calle Cabada to El Cuartelón, a crumbling brick Spanish fort with graceful arches that provides stunning town and bay views. You'll see remnants of the old fortresses here and at the Fuerte Fernando VII, on the point beyond Parque de las Madres, a block over from Parque Calixto García.

Visit the “Caverna de Panaderos” (Baker's Cavern) this complex cave system with 19 galleries and a lengthy underground trail is close to town at the top end of Calle Independencia. The walk to the cave is 1km and there is a lake inside for swimming.

Lunch at Paladar Rio Mares.



Afternoon photo walk with your guide. A great opportunity to meet the local people in town.

Dinner on your own.

This evening enjoy a neighborhood street party with all the residents of the block participating. It's a great opportunity to interact with the locals.

Gifts: The delegation should collaborate to bring some beer, rum, chips, crackers, or sodas to contribute to the party. These can be purchased at the hotel or any local store.

DAY 4 GIBARA

Morning visit to a children's art school project. Time to exchange with the children and teachers.

Lunch at Paladar Vista Azul.

Continue on an afternoon photo walk with your guide.

Dinner on your own.

DAY 5 GIBARA - SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Gibara-Santiago de Cuba – 111 miles – 2 ½ hours

After breakfast board your motorcoach for your drive to Santiago de Cuba.

Lunch at Paladar Gourmet.

After lunch transfer to your hotel.

Afternoon take a photo walk of this beautiful city.

Dinner on your own.

DAY 6 SANTIAGO DE CUBA

This morning the delegation will have a welcome orientation to Cuba on behalf of the staff at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with People. This meeting focuses on Cuban/U.S. relations, and is a required component of all US visits to Cuba. (Duration 45 minutes)

Continue on a tour of Santiago de Cuba, second city of the country. During the first half of the sixteenth century was the capital of Cuba and official residence of the Spanish governors. Famous for its history, hospitality, happy people, traditional rhythms and dances, is a city where people live the full Caribbean flavor. Visit the Antique Car Museum; visit the Prehistoric Valley and Park Baconao, the Siboney Farm and Museum of July 26. Visit the Necropolis of St. Iphigenia where the remains of Jose Marti, Cuba's national hero are interred. Walk through the historic city center, Parque Céspedes, the Cathedral, Casa Diego Velasquez, Calle Padre Pico Street and Plaza Dolores Heredia. Visit to the fortress Castillo San Pedro de la Roca.

Lunch at Paladar Los Marineros.

After lunch visit La Confronta Art Gallerie.

It is a modest tribute to José Joaquín Tejada taking the name of one of his works to describe this art institution.

José Joaquín Tejada (1867–1934) was a Cuban painter. A native of Santiago de Cuba, his initial studies were funded by a government scholarship, which allowed him to visit Spain, Italy, France, and the Netherlands. After his return to Cuba he visited New York City, where he exhibited in 1894; at the same time he struck up an acquaintance with José Martí.

Later in his career he taught at the Academy of Fine Arts in Santiago de Cuba, and also served as its director. His students included noted Dominican artist Celeste Woss y Gil. His paintings are exhibited at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana in Havana and the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Dinner on your own.

Evening entertainment at Casa de la Trova.

DAY 7 SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Morning depart for el Cobre Shrine. The Virgin of Charity (La Virgen de la Caridad) is a miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary in the mining town of El Cobre, outside Santiago in southwest Cuba. Her shrine is the most important religious site on the entire island. A focus of intense popular devotion—not just for Catholics but also for followers of Santería and even those who aren't otherwise religious—the beloved Virgin of Charity was declared the patron saint of Cuba by the Pope in 1916. Return to Santiago.

Lunch at Paladar Seto.

Afternoon attend La Tumba Francesa, is a traditional cultural dance, song, and drumming style that emerged in Oriente, Cuba by Haitian slaves who were resettled in the island's eastern regions following the unrest in Haiti during the 1790s. It combines music from West Africa and traditional French music. "Tumba" derives from "tambours", which is French for drums. It is one of several Haitian drumming styles that produce a very vibrant sound, often accompanied by trumpets, usually played by Cuban bands. The clothes of the dancers are colorful and flamboyant. It embodies one of the oldest and most tangible links to the Afro-Haitian heritage of Cuba's Oriente province and developed from an eighteenth-century fusion of music from Dahomey in West Africa and traditional French dances. After Cuba's abolition of slavery in 1886 and the resulting migration of former slaves to urban areas in search of work, tumba francesa societies emerged in several cities. The drums are played in both Santiago de Cuba and Haiti today.

Dinner on your own.





DAY 8 SANTIAGO DE CUBA

This morning we have made special arrangements for a photo walk with Valentin Sanz also known as “El Cura Valentin”, an actual catholic priest photographer. His has a larger collection of historical photos as well as of many Cuban landscapes.

Lunch at Paladar El Palenquito. Valentin Sanz will join us for lunch.

After lunch continue on a more in-depth photo walk.

Dinner on your own.

DAY 9 SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Morning departure to Cayo Granma.

A small, populated key near the jaws of the bay, Cayo Granma is a little fantasy island of red-roofed wooden houses – many of them on stilts above the water – that guard a traditional fishing community. You can hike up to the small whitewashed Iglesia de San Rafael at the key's highest point, or walk around the whole island in 15 minutes.

The best thing about this place, however, is just hanging out and soaking up a bit of the real Cuba. The only official eating establishment is the seafood-biased Restaurante el Cayo, although the just-refurbished blue-and-white clapboard Palmares restaurant, jutting out over the water on the Cayo's far side, should expand options.

To get to the key, take the regular ferry from Punta Gorda just below El Morro fort. The boat stops en route at La Socapa (actually still the mainland; the western jaw of the Bahia de Santiago) where there are nice swimming beaches.

Lunch will be provided at El Cayo Restaurant.

Return to Santiago de Cuba.

Share your memories of Cuba at a farewell dinner at Paladar Compay Gallo.

DAY 10 SANTIAGO DE CUBA - HOLGUIN - MIAMI

Santiago de Cuba-Holguín Airport – 91 miles – 2 ½ hours

DEPARTURE DAY

Prepare your luggage for check out. Please settle all incidental expenses incurred during your stay.

Very early departure back to Holguin for your return flight to Miami Today bid farewell to “The Pear of the Antilles” as your guide transfers you to the airport for departure back home.

Notice:

Scheduled meetings and other planned interactions are subject to the availability of the professionals we seek to collaborate with, as well as allowances made by the Cuban government to grant visits to visitors. Where permission from the Cuban government is required, adjustments may need to be made. Interplanner is committed to featuring replacement program activities that will retain the content and quality of this cultural experience.

