



DISCOVER EAST CUBA

Day 1

Cayo Saetia Hotel ***

On arrival, in Holguin, you will meet your local guide and driver. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. After a drive to Cayo Saetia you will check-in at Cayo Saetia Hotel. You will be staying here in a very nice bungalow-style hotel in Saetia Key, approximately 2-hour ride from Holguin on the way to Baracoa. This is a natural reserve where not many people go. Dinner will be enjoyed at the hotel.

Day 2

El Castillo Hotel *** or similar



Baracoa

Breakfast will be before your departure for Baracoa. This is the first settlement established by Diego Velasquez in 1512 and was Cuba's Capital until 1515. Many consider this charming small town as a delightful example of Eastern Cuban architecture. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. In the afternoon there will be sightseeing in Baracoa, as well as a visit to Matachin Museum, former fort built in colonial times. Accommodation and dinner will be at El Castillo Hotel or similar 3-star hotel in Baracoa, depending on availability.

Day 3

El Castillo Hotel *** or similar

After breakfast explore Duaba River. Explore the rain forest of Humboldt Park, the best-preserved biosphere reserve in Cuba. Take a leisurely ride down the river in cayucas, local boats, used to transport goods to trade them in the village. Enjoy a picnic lunch and dinner at the hotel.

Day 4

El Castillo Hotel *** or similar

Today we'll come back to the rain forest to explore the tableland El Yunque after breakfast. This mountain is the symbol of Baracoa, mentioned by Christopher Columbus in his very first trip to Cuba. Crystal clear creeks to refresh, lush vegetation and abundant flora and fauna are the main reasons to come here. This area is one of the most remote in Cuba. Picnic lunch will be served and dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 5

Versalles Hotel ***

Texto 5 Enjoy breakfast in the morning before make your way to Santiago de Cuba, the second largest city in Cuba. The transfer itself is very attractive. You will pass by small towns to climb La Farola road, quite famous because of the beautiful natural sceneries that will delight you. Then you'll be driven along the sea to Guantanamo City and stop at a look out called Los Malones. Here you have a very distant view of the American naval base. After lunch you will be taken to Versalles Hotel in the city where you will have dinner later.

Day 6

Versalles Hotel ***

After breakfast you'll have a guided city sightseeing tour. Santiago is an important port and its charm lies in the fact that it reflects more of a Caribbean flavour than other parts of Cuba. You will visit 26 de Julio Museum. This museum is the old Moncada Barracks, attacked unsuccessfully by Castro in an early attempt to get the revolution started. You will also visit the Museum of Rum, Museum Diego Velazquez (former house of the first Spanish governor of Cuba in 1511). Then we will have lunch at the Morro Restaurant, next to San Pedro de la Roca Fort, also know as Santiago de Cuba's Morro, World Heritage Site. It's one of the oldest forts in the New World, which still broods, in military splendour over the entrance to the bay. Dinner is at the hotel.

Day 7

Versalles Hotel ***



Gran Piedra Park

Breakfast will be eaten before your excursion to Gran Piedra. You will visit Isabelica Museum, an old French coffee plantation dating back to the 18th century, and Gran Piedra lookout point, a massif rock on top of the mountain more than 1200 meters above sea level. Today you'll also walk in the forest along Gran Sofia trail. Lunch is at the restaurant of Gran Piedra Hotel. Over-night stay and dinner will be at Versalles Hotel.

Day 8

Versalles Hotel ***

After breakfast you will be driven to Baconao Park, where you will visit a cactus garden devoted to endemic cacti and populated by numerous Cuban Emerald Humming Birds. You'll also have lunch by a brackish lagoon that is home to an interesting assortment of alligators and birds. On the way back to Santiago you'll visit the Siboney Hacienda. It was here that Castro planned his attack on the Moncada Barracks and it is preserved much as it was in the late fifties. Later you will return to Santiago de Cuba. Over-night stay and dinner will again be at Versalles Hotel.

Day 9

Sierra Mar-Los Galeones Resort ****

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. After your hectic schedule of the last few days you will be taken to Sierra Mar-Los Galeones Hotel (All Inclusive), a delightfully secluded resort hotel with its own private beach. You'll relax here and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. There are also one or two ecological trails in the area along which you can take a leisurely walk if you feel inclined. Lunch and dinner can be enjoyed at the hotel.

Day 10

Sierra Mar-Los Galeones Resort ****

After breakfast you will explore La Yamagua trail in the mountains of Sierra Maestra. This is a prodigious territory in thermal and mineral waters that emerge throughout faults and ruptures of the deep rocks. Valleys and hills give shelter to exuberant vegetation where birds and reptiles among many species of animals have their natural habitats. Return to your hotel. Lunch and dinner will be served at your all-inclusive hotel.

Day 11

Salton Hotel ***

The AM is at your leisure at the beach. After lunch you'll reluctantly take leave of Sierra Mar-Los Galeones and make your way deep into the northern foothills of the Sierra Maestra. The drive will take you back through Santiago de Cuba and through some interesting farming communities. You'll stretch your legs in Contramaestre, a typical Cuban market town. This will give you a chance to mingle with the locals. El Salton Hotel is a beautiful country lodge carefully blended into the side of a wooded valley and is really a hidden gem. The grounds of the lodge are alive with birds, geckos, and anoles and in the evening, fruit bats take wing. The stream that runs through the grounds also has a very pleasant rock pool and waterfall where you can cool off after a full day's activities. The over-night stay and dinner will be at Salton Hotel.



Sierra Maestra Mountains

Day 12

Salton Hotel ***

Alturas y Montañas trail will give us the chance of getting in touch with real Cubans and their way of living in the country after eating breakfast. You'll also be delighted with the lush vegetation and abundant fauna, especially birds. Return to the hotel to have a typical Cuban lunch right next to the waterfall. The evening is at your leisure and dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 13

Salton Hotel ***

After breakfast you'll follow the Delicias del Salton trail through the forest of Sierra Maestra. Return to the hotel for lunch. Afternoon you have to relax and enjoy the gorgeous waterfall next to the hotel, as well as going bird watching in the lush vegetation surrounding the hotel. Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Day 14

Mirador de Mayabe Hotel ***

After breakfast you'll be driven back to Holguin by way of Bayamo. Bayamo is famous as the cradle of Cuban national aspirations. The main square is dedicated to Carlos Manuel de Cespedes who is considered as the first Cuban Nationalist. It was here that the Cuban National anthem was sung for the first time signaling the first attempt to break away from Spain. You'll visit the Anthem Square and the former house of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes. There are interesting botanical gardens in Bayamo and if we have time we will visit these gardens. We will then go to Cayo Saetia in Holguin and your hotel Cayo Saetia where you will enjoy dinner.

Day 15

Departure

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to your country of origin.

Included:

- Transfer to/from airport to/from hotel
- English-speaking tour guide
- A/C coach during all transportation
- 1-night accommodation at *Cayo Saetia Hotel **** (MAP)
- 3-nights accommodation at *El Castillo Hotel **** (MAP)
- 4-nights accommodation at *Versalles Hotel **** (MAP)
- 2-nights accommodation at *Sierra Mar-Los Galeones Hotel ***** (AI)
- 3-nights accommodation at *Salton Hotel **** (MAP)
- 1-night accommodation at *Mirador de Mayabe Hotel **** (MAP)
- 500ml bottle of water with each meal plus another 500ml bottle of water for day walk
- Lunch as per itinerary
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Visit to *Matachin Museum*
- Ride in *cayucas*, local boat
- Visits to *26 de Julio Museum*, Rum Museum, *Diego Velazquez Museum* and *Santiago de Cuba Morro's*
- Visit to *Isabelica Museum*
- Visit to *La Hacienda Siboney Museum*
- Visit to *Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Museum*

Not Included:

- Air / Taxes
- Cuban Tourist Card (\$20CAD)
- Cuban Departure Exit Tax paid locally (25.00CUC Cash)
- Gratuities / Expenses / Personal Insurance

Pricing:

- E-mail at info@designtravel.ca or by phone at (416) 235-1212.

Note:

- Duration: 15-days / 14-nights

Meal Plan Coding:

- MAP – breakfast & dinner
- AI – 3-meals per day & drinks

Links:

Optional Excursions

www.designtravel.ca/services/servicesworld/excursions/excursions.html

Terms and Conditions

www.designtravel.ca/termsandconditions/termsandconditions.html