



CUBA 2017 HISTORIC TRIP FROM ST. AUGUSTINE TO CUBA
Historic travel route for the Spanish and Ex-Slaves in The 1700s
HAVANA - PINAR DEL RIO - MATANZAS
4 nights /5 days

DATES: From June 26th, 2017 to June 30th, 2017.

DAY 1: Monday, June 26th

Arrival at José Martí International Airport in Havana where guests will be welcomed by the Agency's guide. Transfer from the airport to the NH Capri Hotel in Havana.

In the evening, dinner at Moneda Cubana and after dinner it's the perfect time to visit *La Cabaña*; one of the three fortresses near the Castillo de la Real Fuerza y la Punta. There is a nightly ritual regarding the closure of the city wall surrounding Havana since the 17th century. The cannons go off at 9 p.m. At the end of the ceremony, tour the historic site, peruse the artisans and purchase souvenirs. Return to the hotel.

Meals Included: Dinner

DAY 2: Tuesday, June 27th

After breakfast, you will be picked up at the hotel and taken to the historic area of Havana, designated as a World Heritage site since November, 1979. The tour will begin at the *Templete*, a magnificent symbolic neoclassical building. First, the Plaza de Armas; later, the Plaza of St. Francis of Assisi, then the Plaza Vieja where the Escorial Café is located, and where we will have a tasting. During the tour, the guide will describe the history of restored buildings and streets that have existed for 495 years. Next, visit the Cathedral Square and a screen printing workshop with a panoramic view of the *Callejón del Chorro*. This place has been a center of experimentation for several generations of artists in the country. Opened in 1962, it has an exhibition space to promote and sell the works of local masters. You will be able to interact with the workers and artists. When finished, we will have lunch at a local restaurant.

Following lunch, tour through the main streets of Miramar, to the West of the city.

Urbanization had spread according to the interests of the richest of the rich. They exerted their influence, displacing those poorer structures which were snuggled up next to mansions and luxury buildings. The development of old Havana was moving outwards toward more remote areas near the sea shore, to neighborhoods like Siboney and Atabey. This city was ..."gentle,

somewhat Spanish, indolently lying on the shores of the blue sea just like those in all of the legends, it was converted in a fairly short time period into a city that was surprisingly active, advanced, with an incipient cosmopolitan character" (*Alejo Carpentier, "La Habana Moderna", Libro de Cuba, La Habana, 1925, p. 471*).

Return to the hotel.

After dinner at San Cristobal Paladar where former president Obama had lunch during his visit to Cuba. After dinner, transfer to Habana Café located at Melia Cohiba Hotel, a suitable place to listen and enjoy Cuban Music. Transfer to the hotel.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3: Wednesday, June 28th

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Cafetal Angerona. The ruins of the coffee plantations are located in the province of Artemisa. Its owner was a German immigrant, Cornelio Souchay, who acquired the land in 1813. Cornelio Souchay had come to Cuba in the early nineteenth century. While in Havana he met Ursula Lambert, a freeborn Haitian who had also reached the largest Caribbean Island with her parents and settler Lambert, running away from the war produced by the revolution in Haiti. In 1815 Ursula began working with Cornelio, and in 1822 reached Angerona. Both shared economic, financial and organizational interests of the coffee plantation. The rumors are, despite the social and racial prejudices of the time, they lived an intense love, but this part of the story is only a legend.

With her hard work, Ursula contributes to the development of the coffee plantation. Since Cornelio trusted her, she dealt with the economy of the hacienda and taught the slaves needlework and domestic work. Because of her initiatives, the nursing and *criollitos* house was built, where children were given special attention to grow healthy and strong. She also installed inside the coffee plantation shops, where she sold guano, clay and fabrics items.

Lunch at El Campesino and return to the hotel.

At night, transfer to the Paladar Rio Mar for dinner. After dinner transfer to Sloppy Joe's bar in Havana to try their signature cocktail (drinks are not included).

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4: Thursday, June 29th

Pick up at the hotel after breakfast. Transfer to Matanzas City to visit the Slave's Route Museum and the San Severino Castle. This museum is part of a project that has the goal to show to the world the phenomenon of the slave trade. The Castle itself (where the museum is located) is one of the greatest constructions in the city and a well preserved witness of the local history. Built as part of a military defense system, the construction works started in 1693 and culminated around 1740. During its history, the castle was used in the slave trade activities in the 18th century and as a prison until 1970. This fortress is considered a jewel of military architecture in Matanzas and due to its historical and architectural values is considered a National Monument.

Lunch at the Paladar Amelia del Mar.

Visit the first Pharmaceutical Museum in Latin America which was reopened on May 1, 1964. Although eclecticism dominated its construction, it still retains all the original furnishings and elements and is the only French pharmacy from the end of the 19th century that remains today that is protected under the law. It was declared a National Monument in 2007.

Return to the Hotel in Havana. After the tour, return to Havana to the Hotel. In the evening dinner at "Atelier Paladar" where the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama and her daughters had lunch during their visit to Cuba.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5: Friday, June 30th

After breakfast, transfer to Jose Marti Airport in Havana to take the flight back to Miami.

Meals Included: Breakfast