

Sample Itinerary - Havana

Visas	Cuba Travel Services	Applied on-line April xx		
Trip License/Affadavit	Download the form from Alaska Airlines web site.	People to People - form from Alaska Airlines.		
Casa Particular - Villa Colonial Deluxe, Center of Vedado	Calle C #410 esquina Calle 19. Vedado.	English address: C #410, corner with 19th street. (Suite #2). Vedado. Havana City.	(Suite #2 at right when you enter the ground-floor lobby). Host: Enrique - Home phone: 7832-8192.	July 2-4
Casa Particular - Villa Colonial Deluxe, Center of Vedado	Calle 21, #509A entre D y E, Vedado, Habana, Cuba	The house in the 2nd floor is composed of, living room, balcony with tables and comfortable chairs. And 5 bedrooms	See separate notes for more details	July 3-10
Walking tours	Bosque de la Habana	A large park in the center of the city, this forest has many pathways that run through it. The vegetation is lush, with plants hanging from the trees, especially malangas. It's like stepping from the city into a jungle. It's common to come across people dressed in white performing rituals to honor Yemayá, an Afro-Cuban deity.	Address - 47 #1161 entre 24 y 26. Insider tip The best way to get to the forest is to take an inexpensive shared taxi on Calle 23.	
Walking Tours	Avenida de los Presidentes	The Avenue of the Presidents is a wide and leafy street in the Vedado district that's best walked from Zapata, by the University of Havana's Faculty of Arts and Letters, toward the Malecón and the sea. Make sure to stop and admire the mansions and Republican buildings along the way.	When to go At night, especially during the weekends, Havana's youth converges here to discuss music, play guitar, and share experiences. An ideal plan is to get a beer at Cafe Presidente and sit and listen to them chat.	

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Walking Tours	Colon Cemetery	<p>One of the grandest cemeteries of all of Latin America, this is like an architectural reference work in the center of the city. The marble sculptures express a brilliant religiosity and an eclectic design that perfectly blends colonial, neocolonial, and modern architectural styles. Be sure to see the tomb of La Milagrosa and ask the guides for its story, as well as those of the other tombs.</p>	Address - Calle Zapata y 12
Walking Tours	Quinta Avenida	<p>Start at Calle 0 and walk west along Avenida 5ta to see lush green parks and the luxurious mansions of wealthy Cubans pre 1959. At the mouth of the Malecón Tunnel, you can see the Green House, a sign that you're entering this special area of Havana. These days, the majority of these properties are embassies or businesses. What to look for Take a moment at Calle 10 to check out the the clock. It still works!</p>	Address - Desde calle 0 hasta calle 240

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Walking Tours	La Rampa	<p>The city flows along this section of Calle 23. Walk all the way down “La Rampa” to the Malecón and enjoy the fresh saltwater breeze. You start by Hotel Habana Libre and Cinema Yara, at the heart of the city. The modernist buildings and architecture of the '50s and the streetside almond trees give you the sense that you've traveled back in time. Insider tip The city's most popular wifi connection is here. On both sides of the street you'll find people surfing the web from their phones or laptops. It's a new vision of a technological Havana.</p>	<p>Address - CALLE 23 APARTIR DE CALLE L</p>
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Walking Tours	Cristo de la Habana	<p>This marble statue by sculptor Jilma Madera has watched over the city of Havana since its 1958 inauguration. The monument has one of the most beautiful vistas of Havana due to its placement on one of the city's highest points. Go at sunset—it's romantic then.</p>	<p>The ferries can offer you the opportunity to cross the bay of Havana, and reach the Christ Statue, an amazing mirador for the old town, and the Casablanca fishermen village. Address - Calle Los Almendros y Central</p>
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Walking Tours	Terminal de Ferris	<p>From this terminal, you can catch the ferry across the Bay of Havana to Regla. Once you get across, go up the hill to the church of La Virgen de Regla, then walk along the hilly streets. Before returning to the ferry, stop on the boardwalk above the embarcadero. The view of Havana against the sea is exceptional—it's an incredible spot for a photo. The ferries can offer you the opportunity to cross the bay of Havana, and reach the Christ Statue, an amazing mirador for the old town, and the Casablanca fishermen village. Insider tip La Regla is extremely inexpensive, so it's important to bring lots of change in both currencies.</p>	Address - Avenida del puerto
Day Trips	Las Terrazas	<p>An hour from Havana, Las Terrazas is a lush community where nature and history intersect. People come for the river in summer: The San Juan river baths are natural pools known for their medicinal qualities, and the Buena Vista Coffee Plantation is a fully restored French coffee plantation that dates back to the eighteenth century. At Casa de Botes, you can rent boats and paddle on the lake that's right in the middle of Las Terrazas.</p>	Address - Complejo Las Terrazas, Km 52 ½ Autopista. Website - http://www.lasterrazas.cu/

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Day Trips	Town of Cojímar	<p>Cojímar, a half hour northeast of the city, is a tough little fishing village that still retains its old-time magic. It was the setting of Ernest Hemingway's novel <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>, and strolling its crooked streets can feel like being inside the novel itself.</p> <p>Insider tip You've got to have at least one meal at Terraza de Cojímar, a famous hangout of Hemingway's. The fish is fresh, the lobsters you choose yourself, but perhaps the most charming thing about this place is looking out at the sea while you eat. Eating here is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.</p>	Address - Calle marti real y rio, cojimar
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Day Trips	Jibacoa Beach	<p>Less than an hour east of Havana, this small beach is in a lush cove bordered by cliffs and hills. It's an ideal adventure for families or groups of friends. There are several seafood restaurants in the nearby villages of Jibacoa, El Fraile, and Abra. And if you like snorkeling, there's a great variety of reefs close to shore. When to go During the month of August, the Rotilla music festival takes place at the beach—three days of electronic, hip-hop, and alternative music at the water's edge.</p>	Address - Santa Cruz Del Nte, Jibacoa
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Day Trips	Bellamar Caves	<p>One of the main cave systems in Cuba is located in Matanzas province. People have been coming here for 150 years. There's a whole network of paths deep within the caves waiting to be explored with expert guides. The geological formations are stunning, and ideal for nature photography. The Saturn Caves are my favorite because they contain a submerged lake where you can swim or scuba dive. But bring towels, as the water is very cold. In July and August there may be a lot of people, while the rest of the year is much quieter.</p>	Address - Finca Alcancia. carretera a las cuavas, Matanzas
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Day Trips	Varadero	<p>Varadero is probably the most famous beach resort town in Cuba, the quintessential destination for sun, sand, and sea. It's said that there's no bad weather here. Playas de Coral and Faro de Maya are the best beaches for diving, and there are several places where you can rent a catamaran or snorkeling equipment. One of the best views of the peninsula is at La Casa Dupont viewpoint. To be there during sunrise or sunset is truly magical.</p>	Address - Carretera Las Americas KM 8 1/2, Autopista Sur, Varadero
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The Arts	Cocos Park	Cuban dance and music are already quite rhythmic, but Compass Havana's sound and dance style have such an extraordinary twist that they will release a rhythm in you that you didn't even know you had. Insider tip They improvise with "artifacts," various tools, instruments, and props, during their performances. Go ready for it to be loud.	Address - Calle 51 No. 12204 entre 124 y 122. Website http://www.habanacompasdanc e.cult.cu/en/
The Arts	La Zorra and El Cuervo Jazz Club on Calla 23 in Vedado.	Jazz club in the Vedado neighborhood. Approximately 10 CUC to get in. Get in line early. They open at 10 P.M. be there by 9:30 to get a table.	La Zorra and El Cuervo Jazz Club on Calla 23 in Vedado.
Reccomendations from Cuban People	La Torre	La Torre (a famous building with a restaurant at the top floor) in downtown (nice walk from the apt. in the evening), and have a drink up there (a real Mojito with the real mint called "hierba buena") - there's a great city view at the rooftop (and a bar) of La Torre. Don't eat dinner there - unless you really want to, but have a nice drink and enjoy the view instead.	

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"La Guarida", a private restaurant, which is very famous (all Hollywood goes there, you always see someone famous - even the king and queen of Spain and the UK). An old friend of mine (also named Enrique, like my dad) and his wife own this restaurant but they actually live in Madrid most of the year. If they happen to be there (when/if you go) please mention my name and give them a hug from me. You will need to make a reservation ahead. It is in Centro Havana, near Old Havana. My dad may provide a ride there for you, and/or pick you up, if you ask him.

La Guarida

firing ceremony at La Cabaña Fortress on the other side of the bay tunnel (quick taxi ride or ask dad), portraying the 9PM curfew during the British occupation of Havana. It is a very nice place to walk around, also a few restaurants there. Great for a city evening, even romantic. Go early before sunset to fully enjoy and beat the crowds.

Firing Ceremony

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You may also go dance Salsa and even take a few classes to catch up - must be fun as a group. It's so much fun... You can ask Dad too. (They offer some at the Riviera Hotel - where "Palacio de la Salsa" is located. If you go there for internet access, you may inquire about this.)

Salsa Lessons

Day trip mentioned above Viñales Valley (in the province of Pinar del Río),
Varadero mentioned above one day in Varadero (in the province of Matanzas - one of the top world beaches).