

Cuba Trek

Trek through central Cuba's incredible landscape



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Cuba Trek

An incredible 5 day trek through central Cuba's stunning landscape

Cuba is the Caribbean's largest island, only 90 miles from Florida and yet politically and economically it couldn't be further from the USA.

This incredible challenge starts in the vibrant city of Havana also a Unesco World Heritage Site and finishes in the colonial old town of Trinidad. You will spend 5 days trekking through Cuba's spectacular countryside and rural villages. This challenge is an incredible journey learning about the history of this stunning island.

At the end of the trek we have time to explore the beautiful town of Trinidad.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Departure for Havana

We depart London for our flight to Havana, arriving late afternoon. We will be met at the airport by our guides and transferred to our hotel in Havana for dinner.

Day 2: Havana to Hanabanilla Lake

Today you will have the opportunity to explore Havana, founded in 1519, is now the Caribbean's largest city. Exploring Havana gives the feeling of being transported back in time by 50 years, or walking onto a huge film set. You will visit the most outstanding places such as Old Havana, Plaza de Armas and Cathedral Square street markets, amongst other locations. Lunch will take place in a typical Cuban restaurant in Habana Vieja. In the afternoon you will be transferred to Hanabanilla Lake, where you will stay overnight and have a briefing about the challenge ahead.



Day 3: Hiking in Hanabanilla Lake, 15kms

After breakfast we set off from the hotel directly for our trek around Hanabanilla Reservoir. The reservoir is set high in the Escambray Mountains and this was formerly a favourite spot for high level Cuban leaders to come to rest, walk and fish. The lake is spectacular and provides a wonderful introduction to Cuban endemic flora and fauna, you may even spot the Cuban National bird, the Toco-ro-ro in the lush tropical vegetation. Overnight at Hanabanilla Lake.

Day 4: Hiking from Lake Hanabanilla, 15kms

After breakfast we will take a boat across the lake and continue trekking to Casa de la Gallega, an old hacienda. A further hour's walk brings you to the Salto de Rocio a 25m high waterfall, perfect for a late afternoon swim. Today's trek is a great place to see Cuban trogons, hummingbirds and woodpeckers. Overnight is at the Casa de la Gallega, sleeping under the eaves of the hacienda on foam mattresses or in 2 man tents.

Day 5: Casa de la Gallega (Guanayara) to Codina, 12kms

Over the next days you will trek across the awe inspiring Escambray Mountains, Cuba's second largest range. The highest peak is Pico San Juan at 1,140m. After the revolution opponents of Fidel Castro used these hills to hide and attack the new government's officials. The slopes are swathed in Caribbean pines and an abundance of ancient tree-ferns, bamboo and eucalyptus. From the Casa de la Gallega you spend the day hiking mostly uphill, reaching a second Hacienda, Codina, in the late afternoon. From here we have a transfer to our accommodation for the night, stopping on route at "La Casa del Café" (The Coffee House) to relax. Overnight hotel.



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Caburní to Vegas Grandes, 13kms

After breakfast you will have a mostly uphill trek along the trail known as Caburní -Vegas Grandes. This trail takes you through dense vegetation deep into the heart of the Escambray Mountains until an astonishing waterfall and natural pond called Vegas Grandes where you will have the opportunity for a swim. From here we trek to “Mi Retiro” Hacienda for a late lunch before returning to our overnight hotel accommodation.

Day 7: Mangos Pelones to Trinidad, 13kms

The final day of our epic Cuban challenge! After breakfast we transfer to our starting point Mangos Pelones. Today we trek through dry scrub with occasional glimpses of the turquoise Caribbean. We will trek to a beautiful waterfall, Javira, where there is a great swimming spot. From here we trek to our finish line where we can celebrate the completion of the challenge with a few Cuban cocktails and lunch at a local restaurant. From here we transfer by road to the centre of Trinidad for a celebration dinner and overnight.

Day 8: Trinidad to Havana

After breakfast we have a walking tour of Trinidad, the town is a living museum, with cobbled streets and colonial housing. It has changed little in the last 150 years, and is a wonderful place to wander around and soak up the atmosphere of Cuba. Mid-morning we leave Trinidad and transfer back to Havana, stopping on the way for lunch. Overnight Havana.

Day 9: Havana to London

We have most of the day to explore Havana before an evening transfer to Havana Airport for our return overnight flight to London.

Day 10: Arriva London, UK



Challenge grade

Tough

Best time of year

November to March

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

