Travel for Travellers

BY GLP WORLDWIDE

VARIETY VOYAGER – Excursions Program CIENFUEGOS to HAVANA

DAY 1: Port of Cienfuegos – CIENFUEGOS City Tour Duration: 7 hours Price per person: € 97

Starting at 07:30 am from the MELIA Hotel in HAVANA, Cienfuegos is about 250 km from Havana on the Southern tip of Cuba and the only city founded by French settlers. We will visit a colorful city founded by French settlers and thus with a unique architecture. Cienfuegos is also known as the Pearl of the South and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the graphic arts workshop and the Benny More School of Art. Walk around the city center and admire outstanding examples of French neo classical architecture from the 19th Century. A special treat will be a concert by the singers of the Chorus of Cienfuegos, or string quartet. After lunch at a local restaurant we will stroll around the city, meet the locals, and visit the galleries and the local market. Continue to the pier for embarkation on the M/V Variety Voyager.

DAY 2: Port of Casilda – TRINIDAD Full day Tour Duration: 5 hours Price per person: € 72

Today we visit Trinidad, a meticulously well-preserved Spanish colonial city. With its rich architecture, cobblestone streets, palaces and plazas, it is sometimes referred to as the "Museum City of Cuba." We will walk through the town, and then meet with a representative of the Office of the City, interacting with residents along the way. Stop at the Romantic Museum located in the old palace of the Count Brunet. Visit the studio of Lazaro, a very unique woodcarver. Lunch at a local restaurant. Free time for participants before we drive back to the port.

DAY 3: CAYO LARGO Duration: 5 hours Price per person: € 67

We disembark in mid-morning by tenders to reach Cayo Largo. We will visit the local clinic to discuss the medical system in Cuba and engage with the local doctors and nurses. Visit the Sea Turtle Breeding Center and Endangered Species Protection program. There will be time for some snorkeling and swimming to explore the coral reef in open sea.

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DAY 4: JUVENTUD Island-tour to NUEVA GERONA Duration: 5 hours Price per person: € 72

Isla de Juventud was called the Isle of Pines until 1977. In 1978 Fidel Castro turned the island into one grand Communist university for students from around the world and thus the Island of Youth. We will drive to the capital city of the island – Nueva Gerona. Visit the Universidad de la Isla de la Juventud Jesus Montane Oropesa, enjoy panoramic sightseeing and tour the Presidio Modelo, an abandoned prison where both Fidel and Raul Castro were imprisoned from 1953-1955. We will also visit Nueva Gerona before returning the ship for a late lunch.

DAY 6: Port of Havana – OLD HAVANA Duration: 14 hours Price per person: € 174

Today our excursion starts with a walking exploration of Old Havana. Founded in 1519 by the Spanish, Havana became one of the most important ship building centers in the Caribbean, around which a sprawling metropolis grew. Now numbering a population of 2 million, it is a mixture of beautiful old baroque and neo-classical monuments, arcades and private balconies. Old Havana is considered one of the most impressive historical city centers in the Caribbean and in the Americas. We will stop at Fusterlandia, studio of artist Jose Rodriguez Fuster. His brightly colored mermaids, roofs, walls, benches, doorways and roosters stretch across houses and adorn the entire area. It is said that he was greatly inspired by Gaudi in Barcelona and Brancusi in Rome, but most of all by Picasso and Dubuffet. Lunch will be at one of the restaurants or paladares on shore, followed by a stop at the Merger Art Studio to view some magnificent sculptures before we continue to the San Jose Arts and Crafts Market. Here, in an old 1885 warehouse near the pier, you will find wonderful gifts from carvings, shirts, art, music and more. After a wonderful dinner ashore, time to celebrate at the famous and historical Tropicana nightclub show.

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DAY 7: Port of Havana – ERNEST HEMINGWAY Duration: 8 hours

Price per person: € 123

Our Havana excursion starts with a visit the University of Havana, followed by a visit to Finca Vigia, beloved home of Ernest Hemingway, where he lived for 21 years and wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea.* Stop to enjoy lunch at another paladar before continuing to a very unique nostalgic car garage to view just how the Cubans manage to creatively keep those old cars in such fine working condition. Then it's a short drive back to Havana for an exciting performance from the Havana Compass Dance Troupe. These gifted percussionists use drums, chairs, and anything they can find to beat out magnificent dance rhythms, weaving a colorful and exciting dance performance that you are sure to enjoy and long remember.

<u>Tours Include:</u> Private bus for the Variety Group, English speaking guide/escort and entrances.

Important note:

All CUBAN excursions must be <u>PRE-BOOKED & PRE-PAID</u> 20-days prior to embarkation, with no possibility for last-minute notice/participation

SPECIAL EXCURSIONS PACKAGE RATE € 555—per person for all above tours