

Riverside Cigars Cuba, October 4-8, 2023



An Island steeped in history and tradition, Cuba has captured the imagination of Americans from Ernest Hemingway to today's travelers. It is a land of natural beauty, smiling faces, powerful aromas and tastes.

By following the rules and guidance of our governments, we have the rare opportunity to both experience and share our cultures while providing support to the Cuban people. Come take the journey and see this special place while we are able.



Cuban Itinerary October 4-8

Day 1 (Arrival) 4 October

Arrive on AA837 (or earlier) at 16:50.

From the airport we will travel to the Hotel Nacional to settle in and freshen up. A welcome cigar will be waiting for you. The arrival dinner will be held at Havana's most famous private restaurant, La Guarida. This restaurant demonstrates what amazing things can be accomplished when people have a strong enough desire to create something great despite tremendous odds against them. You will be able to enjoy a cigar at the dinner table during dinner, after dinner, or both. After a long day, we will return to the Hotel Nacional for much deserved rest. The hotel offers many services including a 24 hour bar, a restaurant and a cigar store and lounge called La Casa del Habano.

Day 2 (History, Culture, and Context) 5 October

The day will begin with a traditional Cuban breakfast at the hotel. Following breakfast we will make our way to Old Havana and the Museum of the Revolution to see 'Fidel's Boat' Granma and some remnants of the Bay of Pigs invasion that the United States left in Cuba. From the museum, we will walk to Central Park and the 1950s American cars which will take us on a driving tour to see the farther flung monuments and sites of Havana.

Lunch and conversation about what we have experienced so far will be enjoyed in one of Old Havana's newer paladars, Rum Rum which serves a Spanish influenced version of Cuban Cuisine. After lunch we will walk through the historic plazas with opportunities to take photos and experience some of the sites of what makes Old Havana an UNESCO World Heritage Site. This include but are not limited to the Cathedral Square, Old Plaza, and some of Ernest Hemingway's old haunts. One can enjoy a Daiquiri in El Floridita or a Mojito in the Bogedita del Medio as Papa used to. You are welcome to enjoy cigars during the majority of these activities.

We will return to our hotel to freshen up and then have a simple Cuban dinner at a Paladar in Old Havana.

Day 3 (Havana) 6 October

After a hearty Cuban breakfast we will venture out to one of Havana's operational cigar factories for a guided tour. The gift shop at the end of the tour usually offers unique opportunities to see and purchase unique items.

After the factory tour, we will visit the private lounge and humidor showroom in Havana called G225. We will have a private showing and an opportunity to enjoy cigars with coffee or rum while viewing some of the masterpiece humidors that auction for hundreds of thousands of dollars. Smaller versions will be available for purchase. In the lounge we will enjoy lunch followed by a free afternoon. While at the lounge, ECC guides will be available to help you find addresses and transportation to whatever interests you in Havana. If you are not sure what to do, we will have some recommendations prepared for you including the arts and crafts market, shops selling items of interest to you, museums, and more.

You will be on your own for the afternoon and we will gather again at the hotel to go to dinner at the world renown El Aljibe, a restaurant with a cigar shop and indulgent traditional Cuban cuisine.

Day 4 (Tobacco Farm in Pinar del Rio) 7 October

After a breakfast at the hotel, we will head out to the 'Mecca' of tobacco, Pinar del Rio. We will spend time with a farmer who cultivates the leaves for the cigars rolled for Habanos. We will learn about the life of the tobacco farmer and eat lunch at the farm. There is much to see and experience at the farms. There are photos to take and if you want, cigars to taste. In the afternoon, we will return to Havana.

For our farewell dinner we will enjoy a relaxed meal at the rooftop restaurant of Cafe Laurent. This French inspired Cuban Paladar is within walking distance to the hotel and will be a great place to enjoy dinner with a cigar.

Day 5 (Departure) 8 October

Breakfast at Hotel followed by briefing by ECC staff and private transfer to airport for return flight.

Payments:

Deposit \$1,000 non-refundable goes toward hotel and transfer pre-payment and cannot be refunded once paid due to policies of providers.

Final Payment Either \$1,395 (Single) or \$1,195 (Shared, each) will be due before January 9, 2023.

Included:

Once you arrive in Cuba, most of what you require will be provided for you. All meals described in the itinerary are included, transportation to events and lodgings on the itinerary are included. Lodging and the cost of activities are also included. Required Treasury Department documentation and administration are provided for within your trip fee. This includes the documents you will retain post-trip.

The only elements that people frequently pay for out of pocket include alcohol at meals, evening activities, art and souvenirs. Flights to and from Cuba as well as the required visa are not included.

*Details of the trip lodgings, activities, and restaurants, may change. ECC will always endeavor to make any changes in the itinerary either improve or maintain the level and spirit of the trip.