

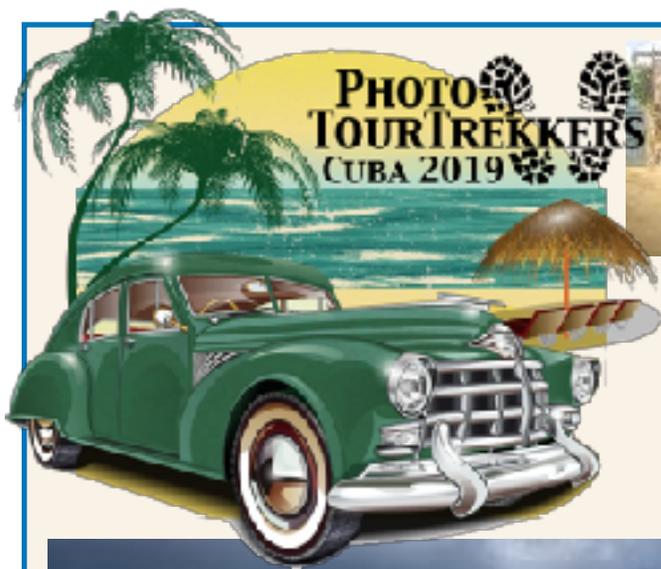


Discover Cuba
 Cuba's Spanish colonial cities with their cobblestone streets, combined with brightly painted buildings, the sound of mambo rhythms and the flavour of past times. Oh the colour, join us and discover Cuba.



Cuba Photo Tour
 February 12th to 19th 2019





"Cuba Photo Tour"

Cuba is located in the Caribbean Sea and is a small island country that consists of numbers archipelagos. The main island is known as Isla de la Juventud. Cuba is home to 11.1 million people, the capital is Havana.

I would like to invite you to join us as we travel to and experience the colour and beauty of Cuba. The urbanscapes and white sandy coastlines are a photographers paradise. During our trip we will enjoy the Cuba experience by touring in classic cars, capture the street life of Havana where elders gather to play games and visit with friends.

We will have many photo opportunities as we experience Cuba. We will visit a boxing gym, a cigar factory, photograph the streetscapes of Havana, Peninsula Punta Gorda, Santa Clara and Trinidad. We will attend a Havana show called the Havana Queens and capture the sunset from the rooftop terrace of la Guarida. I look forward to you joining us as we experience this very unique and colourful island this February.



James Cowie



Trinidad Cuba, Classic Auto & Colourful Street Trinidad, Havana Dance Queens Show, White Sand Beach & Coastline

Cuba Photo Tour - February 12th to 19th, 2019

Day One: Tuesday February 12th, 2019 Mid afternoon coach departure offered from London to Toronto. Toronto and area guests will meet at Pearson International. We are flying from Terminal 1 via Air Canada to Havana International Airport. After clearing customs and immigration, we will be met by local tour representative who will assist with luggage claims and transfer to our hotel. Three nights Hotel NH Capri.

Day Two: Wednesday February 13th, 2019 After breakfast, we will have a photo walk of the "City of Columns". Havana is the biggest colonial old town of Latin America. We will visit a cigar factory where they have been hand-rolling cigars in the same way for the last 50 years. Afterwards tour with our local photographer to capture special spots in Havana. Walking along Havana's busiest street "Calle Obispo" and tour around the four most fascinating squares in Old Havana: "Plaza de la Cathedral", "Plaza Vieja", "Plaza de Armas" and "Plaza San Francisco de Asis". On the way short break to enjoy a cocktail on the rooftop of the "Bodeguita del Medio". Lunch at a private Restaurant.

After lunch visit the Capitol Building with its amazing dome and the Statue of the Republic. The building looks like the one in Washington D.C., but it is bigger and with more details. In the interior, a 24-carat diamond marks kilometre 0 of the motorway. Continue with a private visit of the boxing school Rafael Trejo in the old town. Cuba has had a huge impact on Olympic boxing, thanks in no small part to the La Finca gym in the capital Havana, which has trained all the country's greats, including Teofilo Stevenson and Felix Savon. Mid afternoon return to our hotel to relax and prepare for dinner. Tonight at La Guarida. You might recognize this place from the Cuban movie Strawberry and Chocolate. This is the most famous private restaurants in Havana and one of the best. Prior to dinner we will have opportunity to shoot the sunset from the Rooftop as it offers a spectacular view. We will wrap up our first day by visiting the refreshing and modern show of the dance company "Havana Queens". Swiss Patrick Hofer founded the dance ensemble "Havana Queens" which is today an integral part of the dancing scene in Cuba. Overnight Hotel NH Capri.(B), (L), (D)





El Patio De Pelegrin School of Art,

Valley of Viñales

Day Three: Thursday February 14th, 2019 After breakfast, we will depart our hotel around 8:00 a.m. and travel along the highway into the heart of the green west of Cuba. Our first visit will be to a social arts project "El Patio de Pelegrín" The artist Mario Pelegrín used a plot of land of approximately 2500 m2 behind his house to create a space for arts and a meeting point for the rural inhabitants. Mainly children and teenagers have the possibility to approach to the artistic creation and development of self-creativity. Also as part of the program there are cooking lessons, handcrafting, dance and or music lessons all provided by art professors. He also created a vegetable garden, where, some fruits and all kind of vegetables are grown ecologically for use within the centre. He also built an art gallery to showcase the work.

We will continue our journey on the tobacco trail; further into the west of the island. We will have opportunity to experience and photograph the life style of the countryside. The beautiful valley of Viñales with its dramatic limestone rocks. We will tour through the village and visit a "Veguero" at tobacco farmer. We will see how they harvest and how cigars are produced outside a tobacco factory. Lunch at Alberto Vitamina's place. In the late afternoon stop at the historic wall painting (Mural de la Prehistoria) painted by the Mexican artist Leovigildo González Morillo. We will enjoy afternoon drinks at Balcon del Valle. Offering a panoramic view over the valley. Return to Havana for a late night dinner at Riomar, one of the only restaurants with a terrace right on the sea. Overnight NH Capri Havana. (B) (L)

Day Four: Friday February 15th, 2019 Breakfast, check out and depart for the central regions of Cuba. We will travel along the legendary bay of pigs with stops at Fiesta Campesina that offers good cappuccino and a mini-wildlife centre with Cuban animal species. Then lunch at "Caleta Buena". There is the possibility for an afternoon swim and snorkelling. We will visit the city of Cienfuegos with its French colonial architecture. Will we do a photo walk including a visit to Terry Theatre, where Caruso once performed. We will also take a Bici-Taxi for photo opportunities on Peninsula Punta Gorda. Then enjoy afternoon cocktails at the moorish style Palacio del Valle another great photo location. Further on along the panorama ocean road towards Trinidad this region is classified as Cultural World Heritage region by UNESCO. This evening live-music at the stairs of Casa de la Musica, where the old and the young take it to the floor. Check in to our hotel Iberostar Trinidad for the next two nights. (B) (L)

Day Five: Saturday February 16th, 2019 Breakfast then meet for a photo walk along the cobblestoned streets and alleys and visit the Romantic Museum. Step back in time as we visit this 18th century home that belonged to a plantation owner. The museum offers a look into the life of a rich land owner. The location and architecture offers up many photo opportunities. We will also visit the Church of La Santísima. The Christ statue that is on this church located at Plaza Mayor was originally created for the city of Veracruz, Mexico. After a short stop in Trinidad, the boat transporting the statue was held back three times due to storms. That is why people started to think that it was a divine will that the statue stayed in Trinidad. We will also visit the famous Bar La Canchanchara. We will have some leisure time this afternoon. Dinner at a private restaurant, Paladar 1514 housing many antiques and a beautiful patio to enjoy the sunset. Overnight hotel Iberostar Trinidad. (B) (D)



Trinidad - Central Square - Cuba



Trinidad City View and Mountains



Fortress San Carlos de la Cabana we will visit at sunset



Sunrise at the Malecon, Cuba

Day Six: Sunday February 17th, 2019 Breakfast, check out of our hotel and travel to the Sugar Mill Valley, where the ancient mansion of sugar baron Iznaga is located, as well as its legendary tower for overseeing slaves. After we will drive to Santa Clara in Central Cuba. We will have time to tour around Santa Clara with visit to the Revolution Square. Step back in time as we have opportunity to photograph the colourful buildings and street life. We will also visit Park Vidal, surrounded by splendid buildings such as the Jose Marti Library, La Caridad Theatre, as well as Our Lady of Carmen Church. At the park, you may still see the line dividing it in two sections, the one used by white people and the one used by coloured people, a century ago they were not allowed to walk together on the same side. Enjoy the view from the "Loma de Capiro" an overlook of the bay and city.

Mid afternoon we will drive back to Havana. On the way we will visit the ruins of Ingenius Alejandria, a former sugar mill from the end of the 18th century, now a national monument and a great place for photographs. From Guinness, we will continue on the old royal road Camino Real in the direction of Havana up to high terrain, about 15km from Guinness called "La Loma de Candela". Another location for great photos and views of the low lands. Late in the afternoon check into our hotel Hotel NG Capri for the next two nights. (B)

Day Seven: Monday February 18th, 2019 Early departure for sunrise at the Malecon. An early start with Coco-Taxis along the Malecon for sunrise photography and the fishermen at the Malecon. Afterward coffee and breakfast in Cafe Belview. The owner is a professional photographer originally from Germany. You will see many great photos of Cuba that he has on display. Later visit to Finca Vigia in San Francisco de Paula (currently a Museum) where Hemingway used to live. Stop in Cojimar where Hemingway wrote the novel "The Old man and the Sea".

Then this afternoon a panoramic photo tour traveling in classic cars through Havana with the Revolution Square and stop at the Hotel Nacional. Enjoy an afternoon drink, while we stroll along the wonderful hotel gardens overlooking the sea. The Nostalgic Bar de la Fama is also famous for the portraits of Mafia boss Meyer Lansky, Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner and other celebrities, who are part of the legend of the hotel.

In the evening dinner at San Cristobal restaurant. A beautiful dining experience in central Havana. Decorated with fascinating ornaments and with a touch of Santeria, the Afro-Cuban religion. Enjoy the magnificent old furniture. The tasty Cuban and international food already impressed Beyonce, Jay Z and the Obama Family. After dinner a short trip to the fortress "Fortaleza San Carlos de la Cabaña", to experience the traditional Cannon Shot Ceremony "El Cañonazo", where guards march in historic costumes under the drum roll and firing two very loud firecrackers, which can be heard as well in the entire old town. This was formerly used as a sign that the gates of the city and bay of Havana are closed, as a protection against privateers and pirates. The ceremony still takes place every evening at 9 pm. A possibility for a breathtaking view at sunset from "El Morro". Overnight Hotel NH Capri (B) (D)

Day Eight: Tuesday February 19th, 2019 Breakfast, check out from our hotel and travel to the Havana airport for our return flight to Toronto. We will arrive in Toronto mid-morning, saying goodbye to guests that joined us from the metro region and travel by our return coach to London arriving by 1:00 p.m.



Coco-Taxis, Havana Cuba



Classic Car Tour, Havana Cuba



Rooftop view from our Hotel NH Capri, Havana, Cuba

Making your Adventure Easier ...

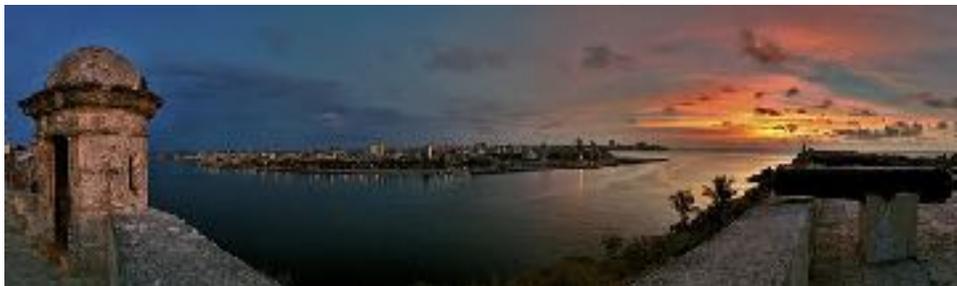


Cuba has a temperature range of 24C (75F) to 27C (81F). December to May is great weather for Cuba, thus making February a great time to visit the island. Dress is casual and comfortable footwear is recommended as we explore the island. Hiking shoes are optional but not required for this tour.

Workshop Opportunities: During the tour we will be offering up many other opportunities to explore different ideas with your photography. Daily conversations which are suited to the shooting environment. The tour is designed to learn as you go, there is no better place to improve your photography than out working in the field with your camera and equipment. There will also be one on one time available to work with James during the tour.

Pre-tour Information Night: As with all our photo tours, we will hold a photo information night a few weeks prior to departure. We will present the final itinerary, travel suggestions, what gear to pack, and hand out all related travel documents. The pre-tour presentation is designed to give our photographers all the information needed for our trek. This also allows a chance for you to meet your fellow travellers, and host. We will be emailing out an invitation to guests traveling with as our departure date grows closer.

On-line Booking: We are pleased to offer on-line booking for all our photo adventures. This is a quick and easy way to book your tour and provide all the travel information we need to make your trip worry free. Please visit www.PhotoTourTrekkers.com select the tour you wish to join us on from the main page, this will take you to the tour page and there you will find the link to the on-line booking form located on the top left side of the Cuba tour webpage.





The cost of our Cuba Tour Departing from Toronto is \$3795.00 per person CAD based on double occupancy including airfare departing from Pearson International Toronto, plus air taxes of \$297.18 CAD plus HST \$11.47. Single supplement is available of an additional \$685.00 CAD.

Includes:

- Round trip coach via Coach for departures from London & Woodstock to Pearson Airport, Toronto
- Round Trip Airfare via Air Canada - Departing from Toronto
- Departures from London, Woodstock, and Toronto,
- 7 nights accommodations, NH Capri Hotel Havana and Hotel Iberostar Trinidad
- All airport and hotel transfers,
- Breakfast included each day,
- 3 Days lunch and 3 days dinner
- Entrance fees where applicable according to the itinerary
- Classic Car Tour
- Havana Queens Dance Review
- Tips for hotel porters
- Photo Workshops,
- Tour hosted and escorted by photographer James Cowie

Excludes:

- Items of a personal nature, laundry, phone calls, etc.
- Local guide and driver tips and gratuities, tips for waiters and live during meals,
- Alcoholic beverages,

** Schedule may vary according to weather or traffic

Booking space for this tour may be done online by visiting www.PhotoTourTrekking.com select Cuba Tour. The cost of the tour is due upon booking. We recommend travel insurance as this tour takes you out of the country. For additional information or questions please contact James or Padma, their contact information is below.

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