



GRASSROOTS
EXPEDITION



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



CUBA: BUILDING BRIDGES



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Meet local young people and lend a hand with inspiring art projects**
- **Explore Havana's eclectic mix of architectural styles**
- **Learn to salsa with a Cuban dance instructor**
- **Roam the colorful alleyways of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- **Stroll along the seaside boulevards of Cienfuegos**

Help Out at a Community Art Project and Explore Colonial Cuba on this Volunteer Vacation

TRIP AT A GLANCE

8 Days / 7 Nights

PHYSICAL DEMAND Easy

GROUP SIZE Average 8, Maximum 12

LODGING Standard

VOLUNTEER TIME 9 Hours (3 Half Days)



GRASSROOTS
EXPEDITION



Havana

DAY 1 - Arrive and meet the staff and children at Muraleando.

DAY 2 - Begin work at the project, creating art and learning printmaking and salsa

DAY 3 - Explore Trinidad and Cienfuegos, home to beautiful colonial architecture

Trinidad & Cienfuegos

DAY 4 - Continue exploring the quaint plazas and alleyways of Trinidad

Havana

DAY 5 - Enjoy the Malecón and continue your time at Muraleando

DAY 6 - Continue your time at Muraleando and visit Hemingway's house

DAY 7 - Explore Old Town and say your goodbyes at Muraleando

DAY 8 - Return home

Optional Post-Trip Extension: Natural Cuba

DAY 8 - Head West to Las Terrazas, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, for a coffee plantation tour

DAY 9 - Discover ecological farming in the gorgeous Viñales Valley

DAY 10 - Return home

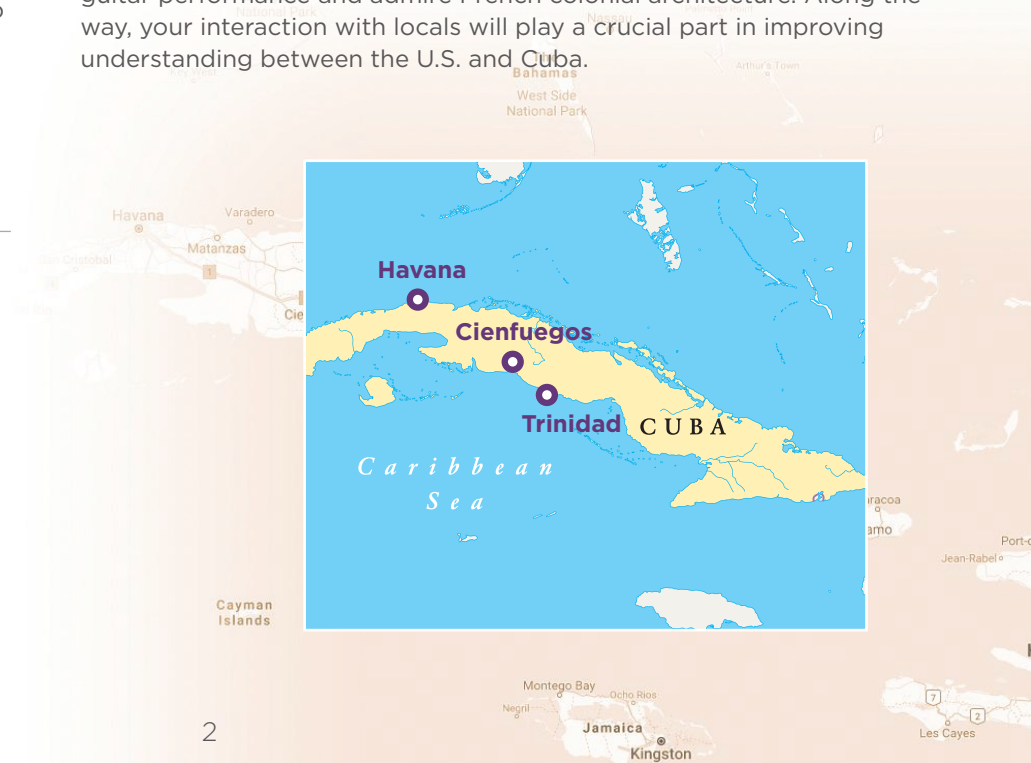
CUBA: BUILDING BRIDGES

OUR PURPOSE

Explore the beautiful and often-misunderstood island of Cuba, volunteer in community projects in a Havana barrio, and engage in citizen diplomacy as U.S.-Cuba relations continue to thaw. Meet local children as you help out at a thriving arts and culture center, which is helping to revitalize the local neighborhood.

Lawton, a neighborhood just outside Old Havana, was typical among Havana barrios in having suffered from the economic hardships of the '90s. A lack of resources led to many children dropping out of school, and urban decay had begun to set in. However, the founding of Muraleando, a pioneering community art center, is helping to change all that. Local kids engage in art projects, dance classes and sports programs, and you'll lend a hand and help inspire this new generation.

In your free time, you'll explore the vibrant historic and cultural delights that Cuba has to offer. Learn a few steps at a salsa class, visit the former home of literary legend Ernest Hemingway, and explore the UNESCO-listed streets of Trinidad. In Cienfuegos, enjoy a traditional guitar performance and admire French colonial architecture. Along the way, your interaction with locals will play a crucial part in improving understanding between the U.S. and Cuba.



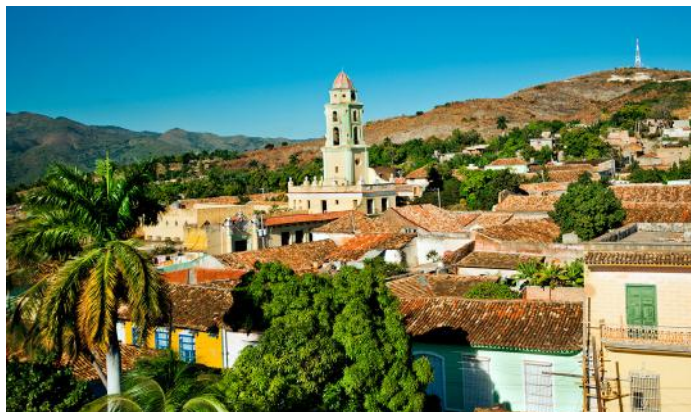


HIGHLIGHTS



MURALEANDO

The bulk of your time in Cuba will be spent at Muraleando, an inspiring community art project in the Havana barrio of Lawton. In the 1990s, Lawton was a down-at-heel area which had suffered from years of economic degradation. This forward-thinking art project, initially based out of an old water tank, got local kids creating art, dance, and music. The outcome is a newly inspired generation, and some beautiful artwork decorating the area.



CIENFUEGOS & TRINIDAD

The central Cuban town of Trinidad has earned UNESCO World Heritage status for its beautifully preserved Spanish colonial architecture. Its narrow streets are a maze of pastel-colored 19th-century buildings, which serve as a perfect freeze-frame of the town's sugarcane prosperity. Highlights include the Museo Histórico Municipal, a grand mansion housing exhibits which tell the story of Trinidad's history, and Plaza Mayor, the town's main square and a peaceful and photogenic spot.



OLD HAVANA

Venture to Old Havana and explore the cobblestone streets and iconic plazas of the Cuban capital's historic district on a walking tour. Stroll along the Malecón, the city's seaside promenade and enjoy views of the imposing Castillo del Morro, a castle named for the biblical Magi. Here you will experience the music that fills the air and truly defines Cuba for so many visitors.



HEMINGWAY'S HOUSE

The specter of Ernest Hemingway looms large over Havana, at least in the minds of American visitors. The author made his home at Finca Vigía, a hilltop house in San Francisco de Paula, between 1939 and 1960. Today, the house is a fascinating museum, having been left more or less exactly as it was when the Hemingways vacated it – allowing for a unique insight into the life of a literary heavyweight.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive, Explore Havana and Get to Know Muraleando

Arriving in Havana, we'll hit the ground running with an exploration of the city's colonial plazas and famous seaside boardwalk, the Malecón. Afterwards, head over to the nearby neighborhood of Lawton to meet with the folks at Muraleando, the community art program. We'll meet some of the children and artists involved, and enjoy dinner with the local community tonight. (L,D)

DAY 2: Create Artworks and Take a Salsa Class

Today we jump right into the project, which aims to improve the aesthetics of Lawton through inspiring artwork and murals, but also improve community cohesion and provide a creative outlet for youth and adults alike. Our activities will include anything from assisting around the center in painting and creating ceramics to printmaking and salsa dancing classes. We'll have dinner together in the evening with the staff at Muraleando. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Explore the Colonial Architecture of Cienfuegos

Hit the road to Cienfuegos, visiting the historic site of the Bay of Pigs invasion along the way. This French colonial town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its beauty and architecture. Enjoy lunch in the city followed by a guided tour along the wide boulevards and seafront promenade, before a private performance from a traditional Cienfuegos guitar ensemble. Enjoy free time in the city followed by a dinner in town. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Explore the Colorful Alleyways of Trinidad

An expert local guide will reveal the secrets of Trinidad, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the colorful alleyways, lined with Spanish architecture, where the clip-clop of horses' hooves is still a familiar sound. After lunch on the leafy outdoor patio of a local paladar, return to Cienfuegos for a relaxing evening in town. (B,L,D)



"We developed genuine connections with people we would have never had a chance to interact with otherwise. The casa particular was an incredible opportunity to hone our Spanish and, for my 8-year old daughter, to be immersed in the language for a week."
- Ann L.



DAY 5: Visit Ernest Hemingway's Home

Make the return drive back to Havana in the morning. After lunch, we'll head over to the home of one of Cuba's most famous residents – Ernest Hemingway. Enjoy a tour of Hemingway's expansive property in the town of Cojimar and see firsthand the area that inspired some of his most famous novels. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Return to Muraleando

Enjoy breakfast at your *casa particular* before spending the morning continuing our project with the community. The goal of these projects is to not only lend a hand in the community, but to also better understand Cuban society and culture. After lunch in the city, enjoy free time to explore the markets of Havana. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Say Goodbye to Muraleando, and Explore the Squares of Old Havana

On our final full day in Havana we'll continue our projects alongside the children of Lawton, using everything at our disposal to create art, including old tires and other recycled materials. Saying goodbye to the kids, we'll then head into Old Havana and take a tour of the cobblestone streets and plazas of the city. Enjoy free time to explore cafés and shops before relaxing at one of Havana's classic paladares. We'll then savor a farewell dinner together, reflecting on the memories of the past week. (B,L,D)



DAY 8: Return Home

Today sadly sees the end of your Cuban adventure. After enjoying breakfast together, we'll say our goodbyes and transfer you back to the airport, for your flight home. (B)



Standard Lodging

Since 1997, the Cuban Government has permitted Cubans to rent rooms in their homes to tourists, revolutionizing the lives of many. Today, *casas particulares* are essentially family-run bed & breakfasts, welcoming you with trademark Cuban hospitality. Each *casa particular* features double or single occupancy rooms, air conditioning, private or "Jack-and-Jill" style bathrooms, and hot and cold water.



OPTIONAL EXTENSION: NATURAL CUBA



DAY 8: Depart for Las Terrazas for a Coffee Plantation Tour

Hit the road and head West to Las Terrazas, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the heart of the Cuban countryside. Enjoy freshly prepared coffee and vegetarian food sourced directly from the valley for lunch before visiting one of Cuba's first coffee plantations for a tour from local farmers. In the afternoon, meet with artisans from the small eco-village that continues to thrive here. Visit the famous San Juan River to soak in the waterfalls and natural swimming pools before heading back to your *casa particular* for dinner (L,D).

DAY 9: Discover Ecological Farming in the Gorgeous Viñales Valley

Today we discover what is possibly the most enchanting region of Cuba – the Viñales Valley. Huge rocky cliffs line the lush valley, dotted with small farms and traditional villages. Spend the morning at one of the largest orchid gardens in Cuba followed by a visit to an agro-ecological farm where you will see Cuba's organic farming heritage in practice. Our visit will culminate with a delicious lunch overlooking the valley alongside the staff of the farm, before a guided tour of the town. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Return Home

Today sees the end of your Cuban adventure. We'll say our goodbyes before heading back to Havana to catch our flights home. (B)



Understanding Legal Travel to Cuba

Everything You Need To Know

Discover Corps has always remained a legal way to travel to Cuba because we operate under the *support for the Cuban people* license. On June 4, 2019 the Treasury Department released their updated policy ([read it here](#)), which caused many companies to panic.

In short, the new regulations stopped the use of the *People to People* license as a way to legally travel to Cuba, which was one of the top two most popular licenses utilized in the travel industry. This meant:

- Many cruise lines and companies who were operating under the people to people license will no longer be able to visit Cuba
- Cruise ships can no longer dock in Cuba
- Commercial flights will continue as always to the island, you just need to make sure you are traveling with a company who operate under a legal license.

The *people to people* license allowed these companies to hire government agencies to help plan activities, hire guides, and stay in government-run hotels. Because of Discover Corps unique focus, this was never the way we approached travel to Cuba.



Support for the Cuban People - How Does it Work?

This license truly ensures that you are traveling with the intention and itinerary planned that will help support Cuban micro-entrepreneurs. Discover Corps has always operated under the belief that travel should be an exchange, where we leave the destination a little bit better than we left it. For this reason, our five Cuba itineraries have always been operated responsibly with the intention to make the world a better place – in Cuba, for us that means supporting individual Cuban individuals and businesses, and help grow the private sector in the country.

- **Stay at *casas particulares***, or privately owned bed and breakfasts.
- **Eat at local *paladars***, or privately owned restaurants
- **Spend 8 hours per day engaging in activities that support the people of Cuba.** For Discover Corps, this includes hands-on learning at a local music and arts center, visiting local artist studios, volunteering at a center for special needs children, connecting with local farmers in Viñales Valley, supporting local dance troupes, and more
- **Hire guides and drivers who do not work for a government agency.**

You still need to travel with a tour company in order to travel to Cuba legally, and it is important that you have your paperwork organized. Discover Corps will be able to keep the proper paperwork (receipts and your itinerary) on file for you and help you obtain the correct Cuban visa so you can travel to Cuba stress-free.

If you ever have any questions, don't hesitate to let us know! Also check out our [Cuba FAQs webpage](#) for more information.



CUBA: BUILDING BRIDGES

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
July 28-August 4, 2024	\$3,695	\$3,495
October 6-13, 2024	\$3,695	\$3,495
Nov 24-Dec 1, 2024	\$3,695	\$3,495
Dec 26, 2024-Jan 2, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
February 16-23, 2025 STS	\$3,695	\$3,495
March 23-30, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
June 15-22, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
July 13-20, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
July 27-August 3, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
October 5-12, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
November 23-30, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
December 26-Jan 2, 2025	\$3,695	\$3,495
OPTIONAL EXTENSION	\$1295	\$1195

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$500 per person and \$295 per person for the extensions. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. See full details on the website page for the trip. You are required to pay the SRS for the extension.

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger at the time of travel sharing a room with an adult.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights lodging in casas particulares
- All meals throughout the trip (21 total), including drinks
- Pure bottled water while touring
- Bilingual Cuban guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Reliable in-country transportation with experienced drivers
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sites and other scheduled events throughout the trip
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Cuban Visa
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry services, room-service, or phone calls

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 12 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: info@discovercorps.com

THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.



Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAPAN
AUSTRALIA	KENYA
BELIZE	MEXICO
BHUTAN	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	THAILAND
EGYPT	UGANDA
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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