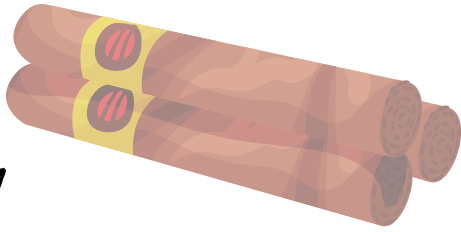


Havana

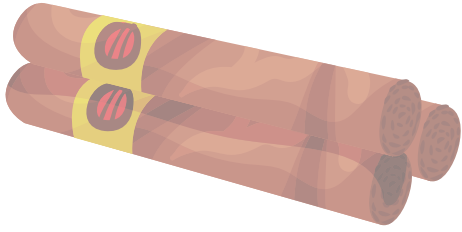


Day 1

- Free Walking Tour or Self-Guided One
 - Havana has awesome **free walking tours** with a couple of companies serving very similar routes for the history walks. I highly recommend one as you'll be able to see the city with a local and get more history than you would on your own.
 - If you cannot catch the tour, follow the tourist route to see the highlights of the city. Start your day by **El Capitolio**, walking towards the park on **Paseo del Prado**. Take a turn to **El Floridita** and stop there for a daiquiri. Continue to **Obispo Street**, stopping at little shops along the way. You'll make your way toward **Bodeguita del Medio** for a mojito, continuing to **Havana Cathedral**. Then you'll see the **Castle and Fort**. Next, stop at **Plaza del Armas** and **San Francisco Square**. Finally, end your self-guided tour at **Plaza Vieja**.
- Lunch
 - If you followed my morning guide, it should be time for a late lunch. You will have a good Cuban meal at Plaza Vieja at one of the restaurants offering balcony views of the square. Don't forget to grab dessert from a street vendor. Who doesn't love a good churro for an afternoon snack?
- Afternoon shopping and exploring
 - By this time you should have seen the main tourist attractions. It's time to grab a couple of nice souvenirs in this unique city. Walk from Plaza Vieja to San Jose Market to shop a little and support the local artists.
 - If you saw most of what you wanted to cover from the main attractions, I recommend heading to the west part of the city, behind the Capitolio. That's the more "real" part of Havana that reflects how people live there.
- Dinner
 - Grab a delicious dinner at one of the known paladares. Some suggestions include **Lamparilla 361**, **Tatagua**, **El Cocinero**, **Otramanera** or **Santy on the water**.
- Fabrica de Arte Cubana
 - This bar/art exposition/concert hall/gallery/nightclub is a must-see on your visit to Cuba. It's located a little further out from the city center so plan accordingly with transport.

Day 2

- Beach time
 - Pack your beach bag, it's time for some sun! Catch a ride to **Playa Santa Maria** next to **Playas del Este**. It's about a 30 min ride. I hired a driver that took me there in a pink vintage car and then picked up me at an arranged hour. It cost about \$40 for the day but it was one of the highlights of my trip. If you don't want to splurge, there are a couple of bus options from the city that can take you from the city for about \$5-\$10 depending on the company.
- Lunch at the beach
 - Playas del Este has a couple of beautiful laid-back beachfront restaurants. Stop there for a good meal and of course, a refreshing mojito.
- Hotel Nacional de Cuba
 - If you spend the whole day at the beach, I recommend taking it easy for the evening. Make your way over to **Hotel Nacional** to enjoy a drink in the beautiful garden in the front. You can walk around the lobby and enter the famous cigar shop which you can also enjoy outside.
- Sunset
 - Make your way to **Malecon** for a nice sunset stroll. While enjoying the vintage cars driving along the road feel free to even catch one for a sunset tour of the city.
- Dinner
 - If you want a little more fancy tourist version of a Cuban dinner, head over to **La Guarida**, **Atelier**, **La Imprenta** or even a Russian restaurant called **Nazdrovie**.
 - A more authentic evening would be a small paladar for a home-cooked meal. China town has some pretty good meals too, my favorite restaurant in that area was **La Flor de Loto**.



THREE PERFECT DAYS IN

Havana

Day 3

Morning & Afternoon

- Breakfast
 - If your host makes a good breakfast, enjoy it at home. If you'd like to venture out, check out **Cafe Arcangel**, **El Cafe**, **Cafe Suzia** or **El Cuarto del Tula**. If you're taking a day trip, make sure it's an early day for you.
- Viñales Day Trip
 - A couple of options to get there, which is about 3 hours away
 - A **private day tour**: most expensive but your itinerary, transport and everything else will be arranged by the company and you won't have to worry about a thing. The best part about this option is getting to spend some time with the local tour guides.
 - A **private taxi**: this will include transport only and cost you around \$80. This can be arranged by your host.
 - A **taxi-colectivo**: a shared car that runs around \$15-20 a person
 - **Viazul bus**: around \$12 to get you there

Viñales

Most popular activities there:

- Farm tour: tobacco field, cigar rolling, lunch outside and horseback riding
- Horseback riding in the valley
- Cave exploration and little boat rides
- Cigar "factory" tour
- Botanical garden in the little town

You can pre-book all those things but it's not recommended because it will cost you an insane amount. The town is small and the tours can be purchased on arrival. Most people aren't trying to screw you over. You can also ask your host if they know anyone in that area to help you book any of those activities.

Evening

- Back in Havana
 - Spend your last night dancing or observing how amazing the locals dance at **Jardines de 1830**, **Cafe Cantante Mi Habana**, **La Gruta** or **Casa de Musica Miramar**,
 - Or a show at **Café Cantante Mi Habana**, **Don Cangrejo** or the very famous **Tropicana Club**.