

**Byroads**  
*Inspiring Escorted Journeys*

# RHYTHMS OF CUBA

Discover Cuba's revolutionary history and unique culture

14 DAYS STARTING HAVANA 20 MARCH 2021





# RHYTHMS OF CUBA

## Trip Outline

Change is afoot in Cuba but for now at least it remains a wonderful mix of colourful revolutionary history, faded colonial mansions, vintage cars, glistening Caribbean beaches, incredibly friendly people and everywhere the sounds and rhythms of Afro-Cuban music.

Discovered by Italian explorer Christopher Columbus on his journey to the Americas in 1492, Cuba has at times belonged to both the Spanish and British Crowns and was even briefly ruled by the U.S. military before gaining independence in 1902. Political corruption and a series of despotic rulers culminated in the overthrow of the dictator Batista and so began the Cuban revolution led by Fidel Castro.

Our Byroads tour of Cuba is comprehensive and has been crafted to let you experience the many historical and cultural aspects of this island nation. Along the way we discover the secrets of Cuban rum; roll our own Cuban cigar and enjoy dinners in Paladares – small family run restaurants in the homes of local Cubans. There's time to dance the salsa, enjoy the rhythms of Cuban Son, hike in the hills and lay back on the white sandy beaches of the Caribbean.

Beginning in Havana we explore the colonial streets, discovering the city's colourful culture and learning the compelling history of the country. We then fly to Baracoa, Cuba's oldest and most isolated town at the eastern most end of the island. There's time here to relax and enjoy the natural surrounds before continuing on to Cuba's second city of Santiago de Cuba where we climb to the turrets of San Pedro Fort. A tour highlight is a local ferry ride to the tiny island of Cayo Granma, a tiny fishing village with red-roofed wooden houses.

In Camaguey we explore the narrow streets by bicycle taxi before reaching charming Trinidad town. There is time to reflect on the Cuban revolution at the Che Guevara memorial in Santa Clara and from Cienfuegos we stop to swim at the infamous Bay of Pigs before arriving back in lively Havana.



## Tour Highlights

- Walking Tour Old Havana
- Revolution Square & Capitol Bldg
- Classic Convertible Car Tour
- Havana Malecon
- Rum Museum & Cigar Factory
- Cocktail at Hemingway's Bar
- Baracoa – Cuba's First Capital
- Canoe Ride on the Yumuri River
- The Parra Cross - Baracoa
- Guantanamo
- Santiago de Cuba Walking Tour
- Parque Cespedes
- San Pedro Castle
- Cruise to Cayo Granma
- Fidel Castro Mausoleum
- Camaguey Cyclo Tour
- Trinidad Walking Tour
- Trinidad Home Stay
- Che Guevara Memorial
- Palacio de Valle in Barracoa
- Bay of Pigs Museum
- Bay of Pigs Swim/ Snorkel

## Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads and will be your host on this tour. Steve has more than 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He started work in travel as an expedition leader, taking travellers overland across Africa, Asia and South America. He has also worked with a number of well-known Australian

travel companies designing and operating holidays to some of the world's most fascinating destinations.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing his guests to some of the world's most interesting places. With Byroads you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions, however there is still time to wander and make your own discoveries. Throughout the tour a local guide provides a wealth of information and shares their extensive local knowledge.

## 2021 ITINERARY STARTS IN HAVANA

**SAT 20 MAR: HAVANA** – Upon arrival at Havana Airport you are met and transferred to your hotel. Today is simply an arrival day and we will plan to meet up in the evening for a briefing and dinner. Pre-tour accommodation is available if needed (see back page for details).

**SUN 21 MAR: HAVANA** – We start the day with a walking tour of Havana's 'Old City'. Beautiful colonial architecture, a 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress and countless churches are waiting to be explored. Later visit the famous Malecon sea boulevard, Revolution Square, the Capitol Building, the Opera House and the Museum of the Revolution. And to end the day, we enjoy a ride through the city in a 1960's Classic Car and take a drink at the famous Hotel Nacional with sunset views over the Malecon. (BL)

**MON 22 MAR: HAVANA** – Today we investigate Cuba's famous exports with a visit to the Havana Rum Museum and later the Partagas Cigar Factory. You will also enjoy a Cuban Daiquiri at one of Hemingway's favourite bars. (B)

**TUE 23 & WED 24 MAR: BARACOA** – We have an early morning flight to Cuba's first colonial capital of Baracoa, set amongst a mixture of palm, cacao and banana trees. This old town has remained largely unchanged over the years and is home to several 19th century homes and the Matachin and La Punta fortifications. You have free time here to walk in and explore the bountiful rivers and forests with over 900 species of endemic flora. We will also enjoy a cruise on the nearby Yumuri River. (2B)

**THU 25 & FRI 26 MAR: SANTIAGO DE CUBA** – It's a 5 hour drive today to Santiago de Cuba with a stop at Guantanamo. Santiago, Cuba's second biggest city is home to the Cuban revolution and its music and dance scene is possibly the best in the country. Our guide will show us some of the best music venues in the city as well as give us a city tour including the Parque Cespedes and the imposing San Pedro Castle nestled on the cliff tops overlooking the bay. (2B)

**SAT 27 MAR: CAYO GRANMA & SANTIAGO DE CUBA** – Today we have a special excursion by local ferry boat to the tiny island of Cayo Granma at the entrance to the bay. It takes just 15 minutes to walk around the island that is home to a traditional fishing community. You can hike up to the whitewashed San Rafael church but this really is the best place to just hang out and get the feel of the real Cuba. After lunch we return by local ferry to Santiago for our final night in the city of music and dance. (B)

**SUN 28 MAR: CAMAGUEY** – Leaving early we drive via the historical town of Bayamo into the centre of the island to Camaguey where we have the afternoon to explore the intriguing winding streets by bicycle taxi. If you love history and wonderful old architecture you will absolutely love Camaguey. (B)

**MON 29 MAR: TRINIDAD** – Today we drive to the village of Trinidad – one of Cuba's most loved destinations where upon arrival we take a walking tour of the town. (B)

**TUE 30 MAR: TRINIDAD** – You decide what to do today. Take a swim at Playa Ancon or walk to the ruined sugar mills in the Valle de los Ingenos. Go further afield and hike in the Sierra del Escambray mountains, or perhaps take a pony ride or enjoy the coffee shops and bars in the main plaza. (B)

**WED 31 MAR: SANTA CLARA & CIENFUEGOS** – This morning we drive into the hills to the city of Santa Clara, the site of the last battle in the Cuban Revolution in 1958. Here we visit the Che Guevara Memorial to reflect on the revolution and pay a visit to the trendy La Casa de la Ciudad to see progressive young artists at work. In the afternoon we continue on to Cienfuegos where we take a walking tour of the town centre. This can be followed by a drink at the yacht club or at the ultimate in kitsch; the Palacio de Valle built in 1917. (B)

**THU 1 APR: BAY OF PIGS - HAVANA** – Heading west we travel by road back to Havana. En route we make a stop at the infamous Bay of Pigs, site of the failed American sponsored invasion of Cuba in 1961. Here we enjoy a swim and snorkel and visit the local museum. In the evening we have a special roof-top dinner over-looking Havana as a special farewell treat. (BD)

**FRI 2 APR: HAVANA** – Your Byroads tour of Cuba ends today after breakfast. Taxis can be easily arranged at the hotel to the airport or we can arrange a transfer for you. Extra nights are also available (see back page for details). (B)

**\*\*\* This tour combines perfectly with our 15 Days Mexico & the Yucatan tour.**



## Prices & Inclusions

### 14 Day Rhythms of Cuba

**Provisional Price: US Dollars: USD 4395 (per person twin)**

**Provisional Single Supplement: USD 1050**

**Price includes:** Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local tour leader, local guides, arrival transfer, all transportation, 13 nights accommodation, meals as indicated.

**Not Included:** Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), international flights, additional meals, drinks, departure transfer, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips.

**Transportation:** Road travel by air conditioned bus throughout. Flight Baracoa to Havana.

**Accommodation:** If you are familiar with the Byroads style of touring you will know there is often an emphasis on 'boutique' or character hotels. In Cuba this isn't always easy, but our preference is for small hotels, in good locations. In Havana we stay in a colonial hotel close to historical 'Old Havana' and likewise in Santiago de Cuba. In Trinidad and Camaguey we stay in Cuba's popular 'Casa Particulares' or bed & breakfasts which allows us a more authentic Cuban experience which we think you will love.



Hotel Telegrafo - Havana



Hotel La Reunion - Cienfuegos



Entry to a 'Casa Particulares'



Typical Room of a 'Casa Particulares'



Casa Grande - Santiago de Cuba



El Castillo Hotel - Baracoa

**Food and drink:** Breakfasts are included daily. There is not a lot of variety in Cuban cuisine. Meals are generally simply prepared and wholesome. Seafood is particularly good value. Bottled water, soft drinks and alcohol are all readily available.

**Group size:** Maximum 16

**Additional Expenses:** Meals are surprisingly expensive in Cuba. You should allow US\$ 10-15 for a light lunch and around US\$20-\$25 for dinner. You should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do and for additional drinks. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour leader, driver, local guides and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

**Bookings:** Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required, to secure your place, with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

**Travel on Q** (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: [travel@travelonq.com.au](mailto:travel@travelonq.com.au)

**Currency:** Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in US Dollars (USD) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

**Flights & Transfers:** Most flights from Australia to Cuba travel via the USA and Mexico City. Qantas, United, American & Delta Airlines fly to Cuba or connect with regional carriers. There are also direct flights from Cancun. There are other alternatives via South America with LATAM. An arrival transfer is included; however the departure transfer is not and can be arranged on request. Travel on Q will be able to assist with your flights and advise you on your best options.

**Extra nights in Havana:** These can be booked but please advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

**Visas & Documentation:** Most visitors including Australians require a tourist card which can be obtained from a Cuban consulate or, depending on your flights, you may be able to purchase this at the airport. Travel on Q will be able to advise you on this. Upon receipt of your final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be sent to you and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation documentation well prior to departure.

**What next?** Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at [www.byroads.com.au](http://www.byroads.com.au).

**Byroads**

[www.byroads.com.au](http://www.byroads.com.au)



Byroads Pty Ltd, Trading as Byroads Travel (ABN 88615738746)



# BOOKING FORM

Byroads Travel is the operator of your tour. Byroads Travel (henceforth referred to as Byroads) is a registered trading name of Byroads Pty Ltd (ABN 88 615 738 746).

Travel on Q (Bonard Pty Ltd, ABN 40 059 566 184) acts as the sole booking agent for Byroads.

## RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A deposit is payable on all tours. The amount payable is stated in the Byroads brochure. This deposit must be paid to Travel on Q and accompanied by a signed booking form. When paying a deposit for your tour and signing the Booking Form you accept these conditions.

Your Byroads tour will only be confirmed once the deposit and signed booking form have been received. This Booking Form forms the basis of your contract between you and Byroads.

Travel on Q is an agent of Byroads.

## PAYMENT

Payments may be made to Travel on Q by direct deposit or by credit card. If paying by credit card the following surcharges will be applied to the cost of your tour arrangements: 1.65% for Visa and MasterCard, 2.26% for American Express, and 3.85 % for Diners Club.

## FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

## CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- \*Cancellation up to 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- \*from 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- \* from 44 to 15 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- \*within 14 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilised.

## AMENDMENTS

Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation will incur a fee of \$50 per change per file, in addition to any change fees levied by Travel on Q, airlines, or any other service provider. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements will incur a fee, of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched,

any amendment will incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

## TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

## TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice. If for any reason Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, all monies paid in respect of the tour will be refunded in full less any credit card fees collected.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather conditions such as floods or earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the content of your tour after it has commenced. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads and Travel on Q shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operates soft adventure tours. All participants are required to be fit and healthy. Some of the hotels used by Byroads may not have lifts or porters so you must be prepared at times to carry your own suitcase. Before travelling with Byroads, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any health requirements applicable to areas through which you will be travelling.

## ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Australian passport holders must have at least 6 months validity on their passport after the date of return to Australia. Visas are

required for a number of our tours and it is your responsibility to obtain them. Travel on Q can assist with this process. Non Australian passport holders are asked to check passport and visa requirements at the time of booking.

## ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour includes hotel accommodation, transportation, transfers as specified, sightseeing and meals as indicated in the tour brochure. It does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls etc. or any other incidental expenses.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance including full cover for repatriation. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance at the time you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances. If on the first day of your tour you cannot provide evidence that you have purchased comprehensive travel insurance you will be required to purchase a policy before proceeding with your tour.

## LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our trips as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

- (i) any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a trip, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;
- (ii) Travel on Q acts only as agent for Byroads and accepts no responsibility for the acts and omissions of Byroads or any of its associated service providers for any inaccuracies in information provided, negligence, loss, damage, omission, accident, detention, diversion or theft in regard to luggage or any personal belongings whatsoever.
- (iii) you release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of or in connection with your participation in a trip; and
- (iv) any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty), is excluded

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar trip to an equivalent value; or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss, however it arises, or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

## APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a trip or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts Victoria, Australia.