



WILD CUBA

Scientific exchange with Dr. Marc Minno to support Cuban researchers
Soroa – Las Terrazas- Vinales -- Guanahacabibes – Pinar del Rio- Escaleras de Jaruco- Havana

14 days/ 13 nights June 14-27, 2023

Limited to 9 participants





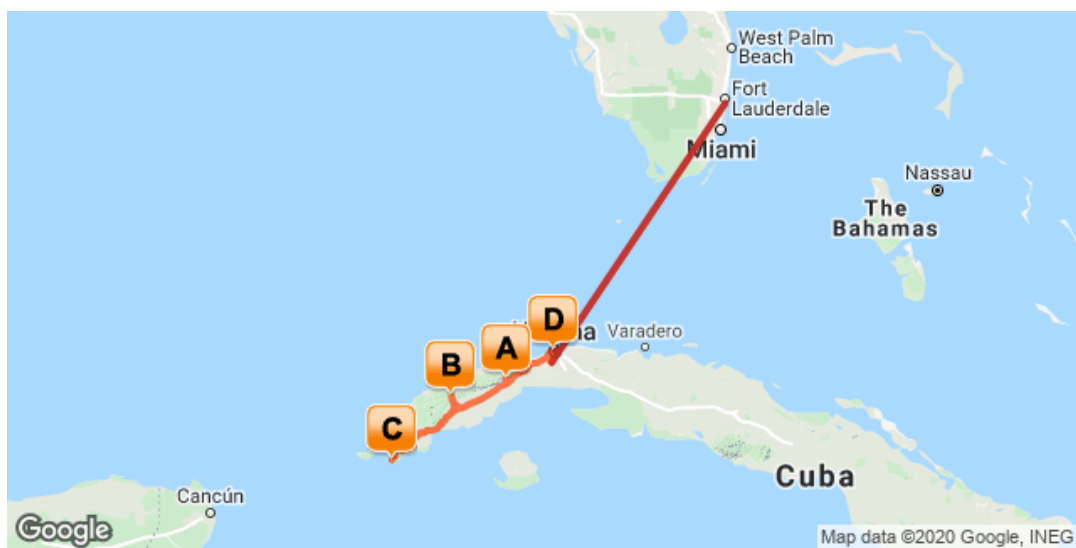
GUANAHACABIBES



PINAR DEL RIO



HAVANA



Introduction

Experience some of the richest ecosystems on earth in the Western Cuba area. From June 14-27 2023, join Dr. Marc Minno and Cuban specialist, Douglas Fernández Hernández, along with other local Cuban research scientists of each region. Visit three National Parks and three UNESCO World Heritage sites. Explore coastal and mountain habitats of western Cuba. This region is notable for its karst topography and tropical forests that have many unusual plants and animals. Your journey will start by flying from Fort Lauderdale or Miami to Havana and then travel by jeep to Soroa, Viñales, and Guanacahabibes Peninsula over a 14-day period. Support the Cuban scientists and the local people of the area while taking in world class biodiversity areas. Locate and document rare and endemic species. Maybe even locate a new species like trip before! This trip will be filled with native and endemic species of birds, animals, butterflies and plants!

Price

- \$2700.00 per person double occupancy- land only
- Add \$400.00 for single supplemental- land only
- \$700.00 deposit with reservation (\$350.00 non- refundable)

NOTE: Airfare will be booked at time of deposit and is estimated to be \$260- \$400.00 per person

Providing we have your passport information at time of booking. The earlier we book, the better the price.

We accept checks, credit cards and PayPal. The entire process can be done on line.

https://form.jotform.com/TREETeam/wild_cuba_2023

Included

- Visa & documents
- Toll-free, pre-trip conference call.
- Medical insurance (while In Cuba),

- Transportation via jeeps
- 13 nights at hotels or casa particulars
- All meals
- Entry fees to parks, gardens and attractions on itinerary
- Surprises!

Excluded

- Airfare (TREE will book you once you provide deposit and passport info and add to final invoice)
- Alcoholic drinks
- Tips for guides, drivers, service people
- Extras at the hotel such as laundry and phone calls.
- Trip cancellation/interruption insurance info for this trip. (We can recommend a company familiar with Cuba/U.S. travel.)

Terms and Conditions

- Final payment and completed registration will be due by May 1, 2023
- Non-refundable as of May 1, 2023
- Passports must not expire before Dec 15, 2023. Now is the time to renew. We can help with expediting.
- For substitutions or registration changes after May 1, 2023, there is a \$100.00 expediting fee.

Itinerary Overview

DAY #	DAY	DATE	LOCATION
1	W	6/14/2023	Fly from Fort Lauderdale or Miami to Havana, then drive to Las Terrazas Natl. Park
2	Th	6/15/2023	Las Terrazas Natl. Park to Soroa
3	Fr	6/16/2023	Soroa
4	Sat	6/17/2023	Soroa to La Guira Natl. Park
5	Sun	6/18/2023	La Guira Natl. Park to Viñales
6	M	6/19/2023	Viñales/Viñales Natl.Park
7	Tu	6/20/2023	Viñales to Guanahacabibes Natl. Park
8	W	6/21/2023	Guanahacabibes Natl. Park
9	Th	6/22/2023	Guanahacabibes NP to Pinar del Río
10	Fr	6/23/2023	Pinar del Río
11	Sat	6/24/2023	Pinar del Río to Havana
12	Sun	6/25/2023	Havana - Escaleras de Jaruco
13	M	6/26/2023	Havana- Hemmingway House, Botanical Garden, etc., old Havana
14	Tu	6/27/2023	Fly from Havana to USA

Overview of areas

Soroa

Situated in Cuba's Artemisa Region southwest of Havana, Soroa is a mountain resort town known for its incredible natural beauty featuring lush landscapes, majestic mountains, and meandering rivers. Dubbed the 'Rainbow of Cuba', it is listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and is home to the El Salto del Arco Iris, a magnificent waterfall and the Soroa Orchidarium, a world-famous orchid garden boasting the largest collection of orchids in the world. Meet with specialists from the Soroa Orchidarium which has the largest collection of orchids in Cuba with 130 species of native orchids plus almost 700 exotic orchid species as well as palms, cycads, and many other kinds of plants. After a presentation by the group from the University of Pinar del Río, walk the hills around Soroa. Sights here include a waterfall and the mirador (lookout) at the top of a mountain. In the depths of the Sierra del Rosario there emerges a jewel of Artemisa geography: the Botanical Garden of Soroa Orchid Garden, which guards untold treasures of biological and landscape wealth of the region. The Garden was declared "National Heritage" in 1961. It is a scientific production center of the University of Pinar del Río for the preservation and enjoyment of nature and the conservation of Cuban orchids. Its construction dates back to the 1950s when the renowned lawyer Thomas Felipe Camacho from the Canary Islands decided to build a retreat house, christened with the name of "Pinilla" in honor of Pilar, his deceased daughter. Camacho moved his extensive collection of orchids there and it gradually became a site of considerable interest to naturalists and lovers of endemic and exotic flora. Within the area's 35,000 square meters is the largest variety of orchids in the country, with more than 20,000 specimens of 700 species, distributed on live plants and in nine reproductive greenhouses. In the Orchigram, the tenth pavilion of the park, flowering orchids delight visitors with their delicacy and elegance. Among the main attractions of the landscape highlights are the Vanda teres or purple orchid, the Prosthechea cochleata or black orchid and Encyclia phenicia or chocolate orchid. Added to this are the stream of crotons, begonias, anthuriums and other species of Cuban horticulture, all of great scientific and ornamental value. The Orchid Garden is part of the national and Caribbean networks of Botanic Gardens, and has one of the main libraries specializing in orchids in the world.



Las Terrazas

Located in the provinces of Pinar del Río and Artemisa, Cuba, Sierra del Rosario is a mountain range that was declared a Reserve of the Biosphere, giving recognition to its ecological diversity and richness. Travel to **Las Terrazas National Park** to meet the local conservationists of this area for a presentation. Observe the local butterflies and birds of the area. Stop for lunch. There will be a presentation and night observation walk to experience the night butterflies. Las Terrazas is also a small community that was originally founded as an eco-village in 1968. Today, it has evolved into a burgeoning and vibrant community with many artists, workshops and open studios, as well as a well-visited activity center. Las Terrazas is now a protected UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, located on the site of Cuba's earliest coffee plantation. Nestled

in 5,000 hectares of forest nature reserve in the Sierra del Rosario Mountains, the area is rich in plant and animal life. Numerous footpaths and trails crisscrossing the lush area make the profusion of lakes and waterfalls accessible.



Vinales

The naturally beautiful valley of Vinales is a popular UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Pinar del Río Province of Cuba known for its distinctive limestone hills, endless tobacco farms and traditional Cuban culture. The majority of the area's inhabitants live in the tiny eponymous agricultural village which, despite its small size, features a number of well-established tourist facilities including shops, restaurants, and hotels. The village is centred around a main plaza which is home to a lovely little art gallery, a charming church, a Saturday morning farmer's market and daily cultural events. The Vinales Valley offers a truly authentic experience of rural Cuba as well as an ideal natural environment for a range of outdoor activities including: birdwatching, rock climbing, cycling, hiking, horse riding, and swimming in natural pools.



Guanahacabibes

The UNESCO Biosphere of Guanahacabibes National Park on the peninsula is one of the country's largest natural reserves and is separated from the rest of the island by white-sand plains where one of Cuba's largest lakeside areas lies. A relatively small area holds some 100 lakes, as well as the largest and purest fields of silica sand, which is 99.8% pure. Nature tourism is a major attraction in the 153.77 square mile National Park. The area is inhabited by 172 species of birds belonging to 42 families, 11 of which are endemic and 84 are migratory. Experts also believe that 4 of the 7 species of marine turtles living on the planet have survived in the Guanahacabibes Peninsula. The peninsula was one of the last

refuges of aboriginals fleeing from the Spanish conquistadors and also holds some 140 archeological sites linked to the life of aborigines, who were known as Guanahatabeyes. Accommodations at local casa particulares. (B, L, D)



Pinar del Río

Pinar del Río, city, western Cuba. It is situated on the Guamá River, near the base of the Sierra de los Órganos. The city is also situated in a vast province also known as Pinar del Río. There are numerous ecosystems within the province including several keys to the north.



Escaleras de Jaruco

The *Parque Escaleras de Jaruco* (Escaleras de Jaruco Park) is a gorgeous protected natural area in the province of Mayabeque, in Cuba. The Parque Escaleras is made up of lush forests, limestone hills and deep caves, and it preserves endemic and native species. Its landscape is dominated by Palma Real de Cuba, a typical tree of the island. You can also eye species, like the magnificent white butterfly, the National Flower of Cuba. The Parque Escaleras de Jaruco is home to

remarkable birds, such as the colorful woodpeckers and the amazing red-tailed hawk.



Havana

Old Havana

Old Havana is the central area of the original city of Havana which is the capital. This UNESCO Heritage City was founded in 1519 by the Spanish, Havana features superb architectural structures, with many treasures from the city's long and colorful history. The old center of the sprawling metropolis retains a fascinating mix of historic buildings, museums, galleries, churches, and lively plazas. Explore the National Botanical Garden, home to flora from all continents including special collections from Cuba. Meet with specialists there. Visit the famous Hemingway House and Finca estate which is another beautiful birding haven outside of Havana proper.



National Botanical Gardens

This spacious area contains everything from a Japanese garden to greenhouses bursting with cacti and tropical vegetation. A gorgeous botanical garden, covering a 600 hectare surface, is situated only 25 km away from town and deserves a special visit from all eco-fans. You will find yourself in the middle of 150,000 specimens and over 4,000 different kinds of Cuban and international plants. The most natural ambient is created by elevation and an artificial creation of little hills. The whole place is organized into geographical areas. We recommend you to keep an eye on the cactus pavilion, tropical rain forest, the palm-tree collection and the Japanese garden, tastefully designed with little water falls and fountains.



Finca Vigía

Finca Vigía was the home of Ernest Hemingway. Built in 1886, the house was acquired by Hemingway in 1939 where he lived until 1960. A tower was built next to the main house in 1950, overlooking the expansive landscape, where the author would retire to write. It is now the Ernest Hemingway Museum that houses the author's personal effects, books, clothes, desk, American furniture, typewriter and hunting trophies. The finca is approx. 15 acres.

