

MARYSOL TRAVEL CUBA

CATALOGUE & MAGAZINE

WHY CUBA?

Explore the beauty
of the „Pearl of the
Caribbean“

NICE & FAMOUS

Celebrities who love Cuba

TASTE OF CUBA

How to make it special

IN FOCUS

INCENTIVE & GROUP TRAVEL

BEST BEACHES IN CUBA

Immerse yourself in the real
Caribbean Paradise!

BESPOKE AUTHENTIC CUBA ROUNDTrips

TOP **6** DESTINATIONS

How to make a UNESCO World
Heritage Tour



INCOMING TOUR OPERATOR & DMC.

The background of the entire advertisement is a photograph of the Capitolio in Havana, Cuba. The large, classical building with its iconic dome and columns is the central focus. In the foreground, a bright blue vintage convertible taxi with white checkered stripes is parked. Several people are visible around the car and near the entrance of the Capitolio. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with a few wispy clouds.

VIP TRAVEL
GROUP TRAVEL
CONFERENCES
EVENTS, PROGRAMS
M.I.C.E & INCENTIVE

European standards in Cuba. We make the difference!

MARYSOL TRAVEL CUBA

With the new travel portfolio of MARYSOL TRAVEL CUBA we are bringing you a creative and informative publication of both our company presentation and a travel magazine. The goal of this new-style report is to present Cuba from a new point of view and at the same time to offer a new alternative for incoming services in Cuba.

The specialty of our portfolio is to mix the traditional cultural and historical sites with special interest elements, showing a new and exciting face of Cuba. The new approach breaks with the previous travel category clichés, and puts forward such newly demanded concepts, as „Experimental Learning“, „Sustainability“ or „People-to-People Connection“, matching the changing needs and preferences of travelers today, and offering solutions for the Group and Incentive travel markets that are always looking for something new, something extraordinary. With our international travel professionals and our local Cuba experts, The Marysol Sales Team fills up the above mentioned ideas with innovative approaches, out of the box thinking and creative solutions and form them into a unique program, a tailor made itinerary and a complete travel experience for our clients.

Every single one of our programs is unique; there are no two identical itineraries, as there are no two identical clients either. The only thing all of our programs have in common is the authenticity and the professionalism. Furthermore the respect of the environment is very important to us: our colleagues are committed animal lovers and environmentalists both at work and in their private lives. The people-friendliness and love of nature shines through all of our programs, whether it's incentive travel, team building, VIP travel, group, or private travel.

*European standards and Authentic Cuba experience!
Marysol Travel offers it all to you!*



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MARYSOL TRAVEL CUBA is a Cuban based Incoming Tour Operator & DMC. specializes in delivering a full range of first class travel services for Tour Operators and Travel Agencies, with a special focus on Groups & Incentive Travel to Cuba. We are endorsed by the Cuban Ministry of Tourism and the Cuban Chamber of Commerce. You can book our services with confidence for superior service and preferential local prices.

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What to do in Havana?





Sea Turtle Conservation project in Cuba

Cuba Marine Research and Conservation Program (CMRC) is working on a major green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) monitoring project at Guanahacabibes National Park and Biosphere Reserve, located on the western tip of Cuba. Marysol Travel Cuba is the travel partner of CMRC committing itself to support the conservation of the natural habitat of the wildlife in Cuba. Through Marysol Travel even everyday travelers can join the turtle conservation project assisting professional scientists, meeting local marine experts, local fishermen, birdwatch, cave dive, enjoy Havana and return from Cuba with great appreciation for Cuba's incredible ecological riches.

Marysol Travel Around the World!

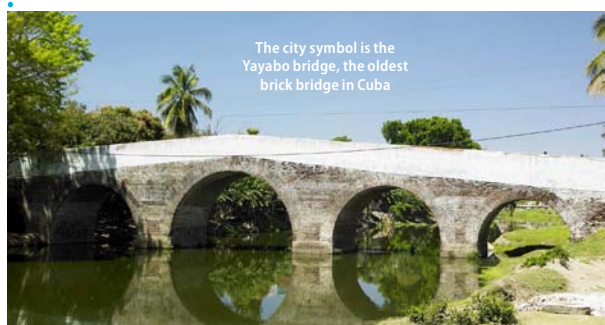
Marysol Travel Cuba participates in the largest tourism fairs on a regular basis. Most recently we attended as exhibitor at the World Travel Market in London, ITB in Berlin, MITT in Moscow, Tour-Natur in Düsseldorf and EIBTM in Barcelona. To know our team personally, we invite you to meet us at any of these exhibitions. See you next year!



with Mr. Manuel Marrero,
the Minister of Tourism of Cuba,
at MITT Moscow

Sancti Spiritus increases its touristic potential

This traditional colonial city, Sancti Spiritus was founded in 1514, by Diego Velázquez. The colonial center is a popular stop of Marysol Travel's round trips. The splendid colonial architecture and the fact that Sancti Spiritus has less tourism than Trinidad, makes this city a secluded gem of Central Cuba. Here you can get an insight into the everyday life of Cubans, meet locals and have people-to-people interaction. The recently opened Hotel Don Florencio located on the boulevard of the city, broadens the accommodation options allowing this destination to be incorporated into the round trip itineraries.



The city symbol is the Yayo bridge, the oldest brick bridge in Cuba

Particular Cuba

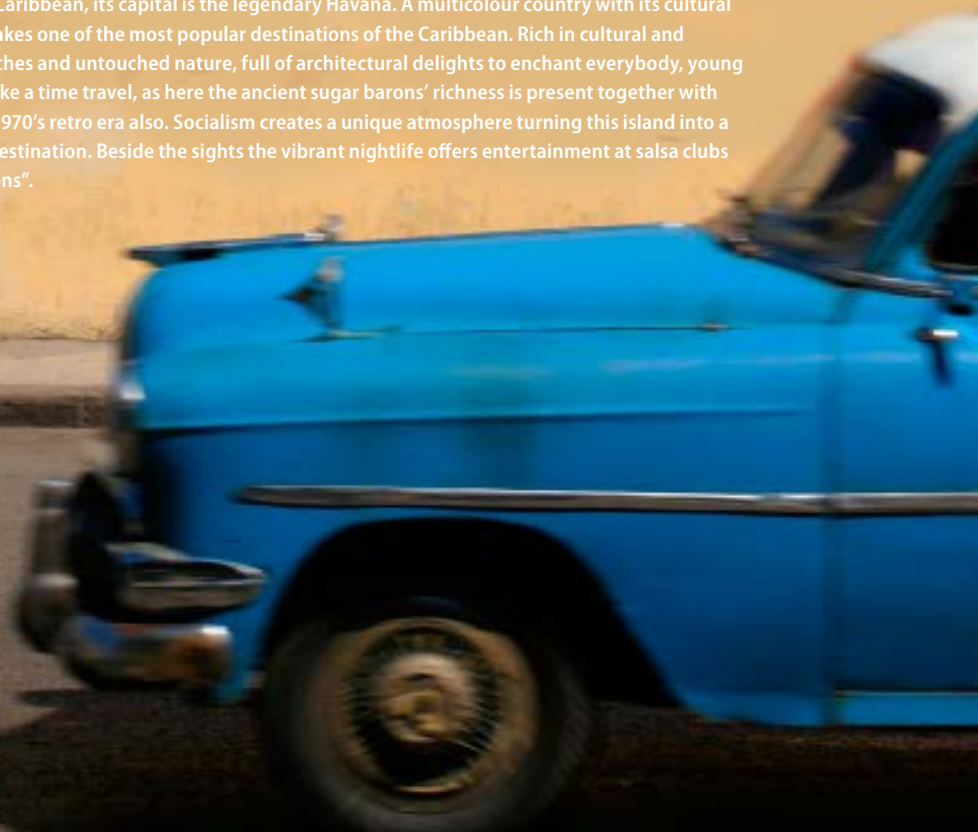
Private entrepreneurs flourish in Cuba. Private restaurants (Paladar), Bed & Breakfast (Casa Particular) and private taxis, just to name a few are amongst the almost 500.000 „cuentapropistas“ who offer services nowadays in Cuba for Cubans and tourists alike. Using these services helps support local economy helping locals to develop their business and support their families. This way tourists can know more about Cuba and have an insider view of this beautiful country.



WHY?

CUBA

Cuba, the largest island of the Caribbean, its capital is the legendary Havana. A multicolour country with its cultural and historical heritage, that makes one of the most popular destinations of the Caribbean. Rich in cultural and historical sights, beautiful beaches and untouched nature, full of architectural delights to enchant everybody, young or old. Those who visit Cuba take a time travel, as here the ancient sugar barons' richness is present together with the 1950's American mob and 1970's retro era also. Socialism creates a unique atmosphere turning this island into a compact incentive or holiday destination. Beside the sights the vibrant nightlife offers entertainment at salsa clubs and jazz bars, as perfect „add ons“.



LA HABANA

Havana is a real Caribbean metropolis with more than 2.2 million inhabitants. Here everything is original, everything has style. The city's unique atmosphere, spirit and dingy beauty remind us of past ages as well as today's socialist retro. Havana provokes your creative side. It is a real treasure trove for those with an inquisitive mind. You could never get enough of Havana; this city of a thousand faces has enough variety of attractions to enable us to tailor programs and cater for any group's interests over any given time scale from 2-6 days. Old Havana and its Fortification System is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Did you know that Cuba is exceptionally rich in UNESCO World Heritage Sites? Five out of the nine UNESCO sites are located in the Western-Central part of Cuba allowing us to complete a World Heritage Sites Tour. There are three more locations indicated on World Heritage Tentative List: Cienaga de Zapata National Park, National Schools of Art and the Reef Systems in the Cuban Caribbean together with Jardines de La Reina.

VIÑALES VALLEY

Located 170 kms to the West of Havana in the province of "Pinar del Rio" lies the picturesque Valley of Viñales. On the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1999, the Valley and the village are hidden among the green slopes of the "Sierra de los Organos", running Westwards along from the Sierra Rosario. Here you can find wooded limestone humps, called "Mogotes". The landscape was formed by subterranean rivers eroding the ground and forming gigantic caves. The unique climate of Pinar del Rio province holds the secret of the world famous Cuban cigars. The leaves of the "Habanos" are grown here still using traditional techniques on family farms.

SANCTI SPIRITUS

Located 80 kms East from Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus offers beautiful colonial sights. Rivalling both Trinidad and Cienfuegos for its beauty, it is almost like a secret destination. Whereas these other cities are visited en masse by tourists, Sancti Spiritus is much quieter, like Trinidad without the tourist hustle and bustle. Sancti Spiritus has preserved its charm, and maintains its heritage. The city was founded in 1514, as one of Diego Velázquez' seven original villas. Its architecture, cozy Main Square, the first brick bridge in Cuba and friendly locals make Sancti Spiritus a perfect round trip stop. It is a perfect example of a small colonial Cuban town.

TOP 6

DESTINATION IN CUBA

TRINIDAD

The colonial city, founded 500 years ago made its wealth from its sugar plantations. Here another side of Cuba can be discovered. The journey takes you not only in distance but in time too. The specialty of Trinidad is its colonial atmosphere preserved in its original state. Walking on the cobble-stoned streets, you feel like, you have traveled back to the 18th Century. Trinidad and the „Valle de los Ingenios“ is declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

CAMAGÜEY

Camagüey, the country's third largest city again takes you back to colonial times. Its' odd, labyrinth layout is a by-product of two centuries fighting off musket-toting pirates, like Henry Morgan. The city's main attractions, the Cathedral and Plaza de San Juan de Dios preserve faithfully the colonial era. The "City of the Tinajones" was declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008, a not to be missed stop of the Grand Tour of Cuba. With its' vibrant nightlife, the "Casa de la Trova" invites you to spend your evenings in Caribbean Fiestas.

CIENFUEGOS

Located 80 kms from Trinidad, Cienfuegos once was the centre of Cuban aristocracy. The city founded by French settlers has a charm different from other Cuban cities. The city's cultural life is vibrant. Benny Moré, Cuba's most famous musician was born here and a statue in his honour can be found in Prado. Alongside Prado, the city's main attractions are "Thomas Terry Theatre" – famed for its acoustics and "Palacio de Valle" – an architectural beauty of the city. Cienfuegos was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005.

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3



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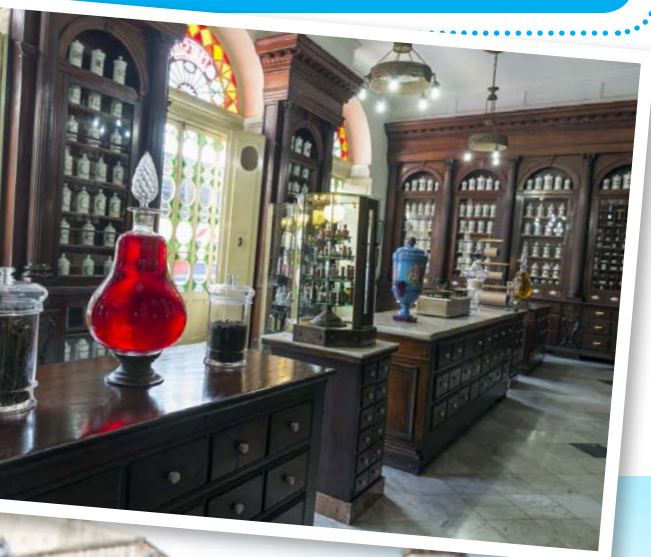


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WHAT TO DO IN HAVANA

„Anything is possible in Havana“, wrote British novelist Graham Greene of Cuba's vibrant and multicolour capital, that captivates everybody.



Havana, the capital of the country with its 2.2 Million inhabitants is a real Caribbean metropolis. Bustling city, full of sights, daytime and night attractions. If you can afford only two-three days in Havana, then you should start exploring the city with the not-to-be-missed essentials: City tour of Old and Modern Havana, visit the Havana Club Rum Museum, then onto one of the Cigar Factories. Take a stroll among hundreds of tobacco rollers and learn about all the different phases of cigar making. Follow in Hemingway's footsteps you can visit his favorite haunts, the "La Floridita" and the "La Bodeguita del Medio" bars; his hotel room in the Hotel Ambos Mundos. In the evening you can take in the famous Tropicana Show or the Concert of the Buena Vista Social Club. If you are a Jazz enthusiast, then you should visit "Jazz Café" or "La Zorra y El Cuervo" jazz bars for sparkling Afro-Cuban Latin Jazz.

Havana offers more sights than can be completed within 2-3 days however! The city offers attractions and programs even for a week's stay. If you have more time, we can enrich your program with peculiarities, such as the world famous Colon Cemetery, one of the richest cemeteries in the world hiding plenty of interesting stories that the local guides of the cemetery can explain. Or we can visit Havana's "Chinatown", once the largest "Chinatowns" of Latin America. Today we find mainly restaurants and shops here, but it offers a cultural versatility mixing Chinese heritage with Cuban culture. If you would like a rest from the bustling swirl, take a trip to the Botanical Garden of Havana, where you will find a tropical oasis, housing everything from arid cacti to tropical celebrations. There are more than 600 hectares showing almost 150.000 specimens of about 4000 identified species.

If you like classic arts, the world famous Cuban Ballet directed by its founder, Alicia Alonso is not to be missed. The National Ballet of Cuba performs at the spectacular Gran Teatro de la Habana. Although Havana is the world's largest moving car museum, we can visit the "Museo de Automovil" located in La Habana Vieja (Old Havana) where we can walk among vintage Thunderbirds, Pontiacs, Rolls Royce and Ford Model T. If interested in sport, then it is undoubtedly a must to visit a baseball game at the "Estadio Latinoamericano", home of "Industriales". The MLB's most famous



Cuban players came from here, the likes of Luis Tiant, Tony Perez and Yaisel Puig. Few people know, but there is a Leonardo Da Vinci creation, the "Camara Oscura" in Havana. The clever construction is using mirrors to forward light

to project the images on a canvas. It is interesting to see the city with a bird's eye view and watching the everyday life on the top of the city. Another interesting attraction is the Scale Model of the City of Havana, the second largest in the world after the one in New York. It shows 144 km2 of the city at a scale of 1:1000. Havana has no beaches but you do not have to renounce swimming in the sea, as just 20 kilometers from Havana are the "Playas del Este". This is an 8 km stretch of white sandy beach, one of the few, where you can enjoy the ocean together with the locals.

In case you don't want to leave town for a swim or just want to relax, then Club Habana is waiting for you. The former mansion built in 1928, once the famous Havana Biltmore Yacht & Country Club offers private beach, swimming pool, tennis courts, bar, boutique and restaurant. It is a perfect location for events or gala dinners.



Shake it up!

Working with Marysol Travel, means FREE YOUR MIND! We will surprise you including creative and unusual ideas to your group itinerary. Why should you stick to bus transfer only? Shake it up! Transform your transfer into a real program! Let us give you some ideas!

Coco Taxi Rock & Roll!

A real Cuban specialty is the Coco Taxi. Racing on a small moto among the cars one cannot decide why to scream: because of the frenetic experience or the oncoming traffic? It is like a rollercoaster: at the end when we get off, already queue again. More! More!



Horse Carriage Belle Époque!

Horse carriages cannot be missed from our time travel. Discover the city in a comfortable way having enough time for all the sights and some photos also!

Vintage American cars Let the party begin!

Use these beautiful vintage cars for airport transfer.

Start your holiday with authentic Cuban feeling! Havana city tour in classic American cars, pleasure drive on along the Malecon in convertibles or transfer to the Tropicana Cabaret. The larger the group, the longer the convoy is!



Bicitaxi Simply Fun!

Where cars cannot enter, come the Bicitaxi! A real authentic experience in the narrow alleys of La Habana Vieja. They play music, a buzz, if you don't feel going home yet...

Jeep Safari Convert the transfer into a program!

A transfer between Havana and Varadero does not offer too much thrill except if Marysol Travel organizes your program! We convert the transfer to a real program: we take you from Havana hotel to Varadero hotel by jeeps. Off-road experience on the way among sugarcane and plantain plantations, snorkel in a cave, jet ski on the Canimar river, lunch at a Cuban ranch, just to name a few from the rich program offer. Interhotel transfer? Not at all! A real "Cuban Day"!



BEST BEACHES IN CUBA

Cuba is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the North and the Caribbean Sea to the South. Its coastline runs for 5746 kilometers that is divided into 289 natural beaches. The best beaches are on the North side, while in the South, the "Cayos" are the most popular. What is common to them all however is the crystalline azure sea and white sandy beaches.

Unlike other countries where the noise & sights of motor boats and jet-skis pollute the ambience, Cuba offers something more. Mother Nature. Even at the busiest town resorts, due to the lack of watersport business, the only companions at the beach are the pelicans. You can relax and enjoy strolling on the beach or in the water unpolluted by engine noise or disturbed by jet-skis.

Let's see the best of the best!



CAYO LARGO

Cayo Largo del Sur is an uninhabited island paradise. Located on the Southern part of Cuba in the Caribbean Sea, the pearl of the "Canarreos island" is famous for its untouched beaches. 24 km of white sand – perfect for a relaxing stroll or a leisurely swim in the stunning turquoise waters. With only a few hotels on the island (the highest category is 4*), there is an air of perfect tranquility, as if on your own private beach a million miles away from the busy everyday life. With its perfect location in the south, the climate does not vary with the seasons. All year long beautiful weather awaits you here! A daily 45-minute flight is available from Havana or Varadero to Cayo Largo.

CAYO COCO

Cayo Coco is located in the North coast of the country. It forms part of the "Jardines del Rey" (King's Gardens) group of islands. The Island is accessible by a 27 km causeway across the sea. The island is host to a famous bird sanctuary, which includes pelicans and pink flamingoes that nest there in huge numbers. Cayo Guillermo beach is linked with Cayo Coco by road. The best beaches in the country like "Playa Pilar", one of the most stunning beaches in Cuba, are located here. Both Keys are excellent for fishing. Cayo Coco is located 535 km from Havana; ground and air transportation is available.

HOLGUIN

Holguin is the fourth largest province of Cuba. Situated at the Eastern tip of the country, this is where Columbus landed in 1492. He quoted: "most beautiful land man has ever seen". Its geographical location means it is protected from winter cold fronts. This leads to perfect climate, all year round. Its cultural and natural attractions and the development of the tourist industry over the last 15 years, makes Holguin an ideal destination. It is an ideal base to explore the Eastern part of Cuba. From here, the delights of Santiago de Cuba are readily accessible: 34 rivers, 6 waterfalls, 5 marine parks, 19 historical and cultural attractions, 22 bays and over 60 km of white sand beaches.

VARADERO

The longest and most famous beach is Varadero on the North coast. With its white sand, blue sea and good hotels, there are masses of things to do and even more people to talk to. The majority of the 50 hotels are "beachfront" hotels stretching along the 20 km long white sandy beach. All hotels have their own premium beach, even the lower category hotels. Due to its prime location – only 140 kilometers from Havana and 260 kilometers from Trinidad, Varadero is an excellent destination offering many varied excursion options.

CAYO SANTA MARIA

Santa Maria Key, with its exuberant vegetation and pristine white-sand beaches is ideal for tourists who wish to enjoy the natural luxury of this exotic Key to the fullest. Some of the best hotels in Cuba are located here. The Key is joined to mainland Cuba by a 48 km causeway reaching out into the sea. Situated in the UNESCO Buenavista Biosphere Reserve at just 360 km from Havana, the Key's main appeal is its almost virginal natural environment.

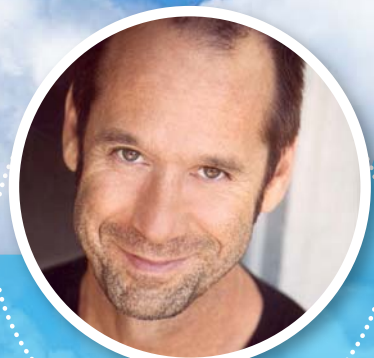




Alexandre Kalil
President of Clube Atletico
Mineiro football club



Ilie Nastase
World No.1. tennis star, holder of 7
Grand Slam and more than 100 ATP
professional titles



Gordon Michaels
movie actor

NICE & FAMOUS



Jimmy Sommers
Jazz Saxophonist and owner of
Wildfox

Cuba welcomed a great variety of distinguished visitors over the years and always has been a magnet for celebrities from all over the world. From the Duke of Windsor, to Ernest Hemingway, Frank Sinatra, Walt Disney, Leonardo di Caprio, Robert de Niro, Beyonce and Jimmy Sommers. Marysol Travel has hosted several celebrities and famous persons in the past years organizing their carefully planned travel to Cuba. Whether it is a holiday, incentive tour or a people-to-people travel, these important people trust in our expertise and professionalism.



Marius Vizer
President of International
Judo Federation



Valter Pomar
Executive Secretary of
Sao Paulo Forum



Richard Kimball Jr.
Partner, Goldman & Sachs

AROUND CUBA

THE BEST ROUNDTrip PROGRAMS

The perfect Cuba program of incentive or group travel involves a mixture of city culture and country surroundings, exciting activities or a luxury experience after which you will feel refreshed and rejuvenated. With a multi-day program you can go further into the Cuban interior for a day of activities and then spend the night in a colonial boutique hotel or in a beach resort while travelling through the country. Cuba's geographic capabilities make this country a perfect round trip destination and an outstanding incentive target, as the programs can be tailored to the content or the interest of the groups offering a memorable experience.

Let us introduce the three most popular ones from our collection of roundtrips!



Autentica Cuba Roundtrip

- » 3 nights Havana
- » 1 night Sancti Spiritus
- » 1 night Cienfuegos
- » 3 nights Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria

The Autentica Cuba Round trip introduces the “Real Cuba” that many people look for. Traveling the country from West to East, from Pinar del Rio province up to Sancti Spiritus you see the main attractions, the most significant sites and most beautiful natural treasures. The emphasis of this trip is on “authenticity”, a step away from the usual touristy routes to get a taste of everyday life in the country. Our journey takes us through the natural beauty of the Cuban countryside and includes visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites which make this tour something really special. The tour is topped off by a relaxing stay on the white sandy beaches of Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria.

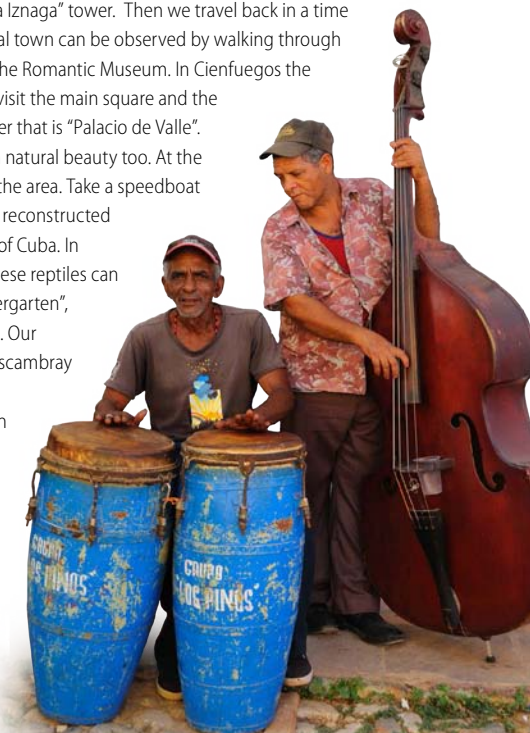


The first two days of our rich program are spent in Havana. From here we discover the Western part of the country “authentic Cuban style” (at a leisurely pace)! The first day is spent discovering the legend that is Havana. We visit the places of interests of Modern Havana, The Revolution Square with the José Martí Memorial and then we go for a walking tour in the Old city – a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1982. After passing the Capitolio, Plaza de Armas and Cathedral Square, we step into the famous footsteps of Ernest Hemmingway, visiting the Hotel Ambos Mundos to get a taste of his favorite cocktails, the Mojito and the Daiquiri. Then we learn about the making of rum in the Havana Club Rum Museum. In the evening we can visit the world famous Tropicana Show or take in the Concert of the Buena Vista Social Club. On the 2nd day we visit the country’s green corner, the province of Pinar del Rio. Here we can learn how tobacco is produced. We visit a local tobacco farm and peek into a tobacco barn where we will find out the secret of the exquisite Cuban tobacco. Then we move on to “Los Jazmines Mirador” an awesome place to view the splendor of the amazing Viñales Valley and the famous “Mogotes”, a World Heritage Site since 1999. Then we leave our base in Havana behind



and travel to the Central and Southern parts of the country starting from the West up to the Escambray Mountains. During our trip we visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 4 colonial cities and 2 Biosphere Reserves. We enter to Santa Clara to see the Che Guevara Mausoleum, the famous armored train and we can admire the oldest brick built bridge of Cuba in Sancti Spiritus. At night, excellent entertainment will be provided at the Casa de la Trova. Arriving to the Southern coast we will discover the Caribbean Sea. First we take in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Sugar Mills Valley, where we can climb up the seven stories high “Manaca Iznaga” tower. Then we travel back in a time warp to Trinidad. The main sights of this authentic, old colonial town can be observed by walking through the UNESCO World Heritage Site city centre and by entering the Romantic Museum. In Cienfuegos the birth town of “Benny More”, we take a stroll along the Prado, visit the main square and the magnificent villas on the Malecon and the architecture wonder that is “Palacio de Valle”. Our tour is rich not only in cultural and historical sights, but in natural beauty too. At the Cienaga de Zapata National Park we meet the rich wildlife of the area. Take a speedboat tour on the Laguna de Tesoro (a natural lagoon) and visit the reconstructed “Taino village” where we learn about the original inhabitants of Cuba. In Guama we visit a crocodile park where several hundreds of these reptiles can be observed in their natural habitat. We visit the “Croco-kindergarten”, where we can hold the harmless newborns in our bare hands. Our

Nature tour will be crowned by a jungle tour in the Escambray Mountains where visiting an authentic Cuban ranch we can observe the everyday life in the countryside. Finally we will relax on the white sandy beaches of Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria, where all inclusive hotels await us with their comfort and tranquility.



The program is diverse and is well constructed, offering a colorful and meaningful option even for those who can only afford one week for travel. Being our most popular product of our portfolio the round trip departs as a weekly guaranteed departure program from October till May. The Autentica Cuba round trip is a perfect combination of sights and beach vacation.

CUBA BY NATURE ROUND TRIP



- » 2 nights Havana
- » 2 nights Viñales
- » 1 night Bay of Pigs
- » 2 nights Trinidad
- » 1 night Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria

The multicoloured culture of Cuba, its rich historical past with its architectural beauty and exceptional natural assets attract many tourists. It is an enchanting country with lots of unique attributes, each waiting to be discovered by you. Untouched natural resources are abundant. Cuba is also host to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Its natural beauty - mountains, valleys, rivers and beaches enchanted Christopher Columbus when he discovered the island in 1492. He wrote in his diary: "It is the most beautiful land I have ever seen". The Cuba By Nature Tour offers a unique program, that includes special places, such as the Santo Tomas Cave, whose access is limited by the local authorities for only a few lucky tourists. It is an active tour, where we discover the country by its natural beauty, and also learning of its culture and history at the same time.



We start the adventure off in Havana. During a full day city tour we visit all cultural and historical sites of this Caribbean metropolis. We learn about the making of Cuban rum, Ernest Hemingway's life in Cuba, the most important memories and relics of the Cuban revolution and the UNESCO site that is "Old Havana". In the evening we can go to see the world famous Tropicana Show, to the Parisien Cabaret, or we can take in the concert of the world class Buena Vista Social Club.

The following two days of our tour we will dedicate to Pinar del Rio province. We go on a panoramic sightseeing trip in the "city of columns", and visit Soroa, where we enter the country's largest orchid farm, also called the "Rainbow of Cuba". We view the beautiful Viñales Valley and the unique "Mogotes" from the "Mirador Los Jazmines". The unique climate of this land holds the secret of the excellent Cuban tobacco. We visit the verdure tobacco fields; we learn the procedures involved in tobacco production and the rolling of cigars. Our accommodation is an authentic Cuban ranch. We tour the former Spanish estate spread over 1000 hectares, visit the plantations and the stables where Cuban horses were bred and kept. We continue the adventure on horseback or

those who don't ride, can go bird watching or boat on the lake nearby. Our program continues by visiting the largest cave system in Latin America, the "Santo Tomas Cave". We explore the cave's 8 levels and 45 kilometres with a specialist local guide.

During our next days' program we encounter the flora and fauna of Cuba in the "Cienaga Zapata" National Park where we can see crocodiles in their natural habitat. We visit a crocodile breeding farm and learn of the endemic species of birds. We will speedboat in a natural lagoon, observing the flora and fauna. Later we will relax in a hotel on the beach of the Caribbean Sea. Our diverse tour's next days feature cultural and historic trips again, enriched with additional UNESCO site visits, as we take in Cienfuegos and Trinidad. We walk the Malecon, marvel at the Palacio del Valle, stroll down the Prado to greet "Benny More" and admire the main square of the city. Later we travel back in time to visit Trinidad, a preserved 18th century city. We unravel the colonial beauty of the city, try a local drink - the "Canchanchara" and visit the Romantic Museum.

By visiting the Sugar Mills Valley we enter the "Iznaga" family estate. Once an opulent family, we will see the memories of colonial Cuba, evidence of the late Sugar Barons' richness and the everyday life of the colonial era. In Trinidad the evenings are always "hot". On the main square is the "Fiesta de Salsa", where sitting on the "slave stairs" we can watch the moves of local dancers whilst listening to live music.

After the cultural sites we go on a real adventure tour to the Escambray Mountains. This will be our tour's most amusing part: an unforgettable trip, we will travel to the Mountains on the back of a Russian "Zil" truck to



"Topes de Collantes". This is a mountain community, where we start a jungle tour in the Guanayara Natural Park discovering the local flora and fauna. We shall see the 62 metre high "El Rocio" waterfall and then we will swim in the "El Venado" natural lagoon. Our mountain adventure will be crowned on the "Casa de Gallega" ranch with typical Cuban food and a Caribbean siesta. Our tour ends on the white sandy beaches of either Varadero or Cayo Santa Maria, where we can relax in one of the many excellent all-inclusive beach resorts.

The Cuba by Nature program is led by skilled local specialized tour guide. We include in each destination an additional specialist of the area with the group to get the deepest knowledge possible. These professionals know their area in details, specialize in their field of expertise and share their knowledge with the group. The difficulty of the tours is easy to moderate: can be executed by all persons of average health, accessible to all, who are doing some movement regularly, and who are used to walk. Programs include 3-4 hours walk per day, without much carrying. We propose this tour for those looking for active holidays, who like the proximity of nature. It is an ideal program for groups and team building.



GRAND TOUR CUBA ROUNDTrip

The "Grand Tour Cuba" program travels Cuba completely, offering a full knowledge of this multi-coloured country and all its peculiarities. The tour goes from the Eastern tip of the country in Santiago de Cuba including Baracoa, to its most Westerly tip in Pinar del Rio – covering the length of the entire island. The program is especially rich and includes visits to all sites whilst maintaining a relaxed Caribbean style pace. From first base Havana, we take a domestic flight to Santiago de Cuba. The tour can be expanded with all inclusive vacation on the beach. This is an excellent combination of touring; getting a feel for the "real" Cuba as well as relaxing on the beach. We suggest this program for those who are interested in the culture and history of the country and want to participate in a complete, rich program.

- » 1 night Havana
- » 3 nights Santiago de Cuba
- » 1 night Baracoa
- » 1 night Holguin
- » 1 night Camagüey
- » 1 night Sancti Spiritus
- » 1 night Cienfuegos
- » 2 nights Havana

We start the round trip by discovering Havana. We visit the modern part of Havana, and through a walking tour we visit the sights of Habana Vieja that was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. We enter to Havana Club Rum Museum and in the footsteps of Hemingway we learn about his life in Cuba and the favourite cocktails of the famous writer. Then with the evening flight, we fly to the Eastern tip of the country to Santiago de Cuba. We will start our trek back to Havana from here with a fun-filled two-week tour. Santiago de Cuba is the second capital of Cuba. We can visit the house of Diego Velazquez, the conqueror of Latin America, which is situated in "Parque Cespedes", the oldest city centre square of the country. We can stroll along the "Dolores" and "Marte" squares, explore the "Castillo de Morro", which had an important role in the war of independence, and we can visit the tomb of José Martí. We will go on a boat excursion to Cayo Granma to visit local fishermen and we will visit the most famous pilgrimage destination in Cuba – "El Cobre". The statue of the "Virgin Mary" or "Caridad del Cobre" as she is known in Cuba is said to have ethereal powers. We take a look from "La Gran Piedra" (Big Stone) observatory and take a panoramic tour of Guantanamo before continuing our trip to the first recognised settlement of the country - Baracoa.



This city is a special gem of Cuba with its almost untouched natural beauty and historical heritage. Here we can have a taste of the "Real" Cuba. We visit the Humboldt National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2001, and a real specialty of the tour. The trip enters to "Finca Biran", where the Castro brothers were born and raised. We visit Holguin, the second largest city of Cuba, the "city of parks", and then stop at Camagüey, a UNESCO city with its winding streets once built to fight against the pirates. We visit the main sites, the Cathedral, the birthplace of Cuba's national poet, Nicolas Guillen and many more. Then we continue our trip to Sancti Spiritus, a small town founded in 1514, where the country's oldest brick built bridge can be found. In the evening we can go to the "Casa de la Trova" and watch or learn to dance salsa there. (As at every other stop on the trip!) By the end of the tour you could be an accomplished almost professional salsa dancer! All our guides are also excellent dancers. Arriving to the Escambray Mountains in the centre of the country, our round trip gets more intense as there are more UNESCO sites as well as natural, cultural and historical sites one after the other on the way. At the Escambray we visit a real Cuban ranch offering a "Cuban Day" where we can experience the everyday life in the rural countryside. Then we visit the World Heritage Site Sugar Mills Valley, the former estate of the Iznaga family,

where we can have an excellent panorama from the top of the slave tower. Entering Trinidad we travel back in time to the 18th Century, to the colonial era visiting the main square of the city, the Romantic Museum, the cobble stoned streets in this UNESCO city. Our next stop is Cienfuegos. Founded by French settlers and also part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, here we encounter the amazing architecture of the "Palacio de Valle" palace. Strolling along Prado we can feel the pace of the city that is different from the other Cuban cities. Our round trip cannot miss the Cienaga de Zapata National Park. This is one of the most important Natural Reserves housing many endemic flora and fauna. We will visit a Crocodile breeding farm, go speed boating on the Laguna de Tesoro, visit a reconstructed aboriginal village, and see crocodiles and other wildlife in their natural habitat in the swamp. To complete our round trip we go on a tour to the Western corner of Cuba, to Pinar del Rio province, where the famous Cuban tobacco is produced. We visit a tobacco

plantation, enter a tobacco barn and get to know the process of cigar making while visiting an original tobacco producing family's farm. Then we move on to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Viñales Valley, take a boat into the "Cueva del Indio" and visit the "Mural de la Prehistoria" huge wall painting, which was made using a unique technique. At the end of our cross country trip we return to Havana, allowing us to finish off the complete tour with a relaxing beach vacation on the beautiful white sandy beaches of Varadero, Cayo Largo, Cayo Coco or Cayo Santa Maria, all easily reachable from Havana.



TASTE OF CUBA



How to make it special?

The Havana Club Rum Museum is an integral part of almost every Havana program. You learn how rum is made and can enjoy a tasting session too. Add the Marysol touch!

How's about organizing a bartender course here?

Your group learns how to make famous Cuban

cocktails like Mojito, Daiquiri

& Piña Colada and the program closes with a cocktail competition with all participants receiving a certificate. Interested?

One of the most popular evening programs in Havana is to take in the concert of the Buena Vista Social Club. The Marysol touch?



How's about organizing an Exclusive concert for your group? At this venue you can personally meet the members of the famous group receiving a real "backstage pass".

From Havana we can easily get to the province of Pinar del Rio, at just 170 kilometers

from

the city. Here you can see the tobacco plantations and visit the tobacco barns.

With Marysol – let's do something more unique, stylish and visit the estate of the Robaina family, the only family in Cuba

that has its own cigar brand. The head of the family, Hiroshi, the grandson of Alejandro Robaina will personally guide us through the plantation and after the exclusive lunch at the farm, he will also show us which Cuban rum should be paired with his cigars. You may receive a surprise gift before you leave.

It is an extraordinary experience to visit a cigar factory to see how cigars are rolled. Why not let us introduce

you to Jose Cueto for some insider tips? Cueto holds the Guinness World Record for rolling the largest cigar in the world. He will teach us about the different brands, and also show us how to smoke a Habano.

How about converting the 140 kilometers transfer from Havana to Varadero into a Jeep Safari? Marysol Travel will do it for you with 4X4s driven by yourselves. This way the group can enjoy off-road driving among the

sugarcane plantations with the added options of snorkeling, swimming in a "cenote" and having lunch in an authentic Cuban ranch.

During the Varadero beach relaxation Marysol Travel will organize a gala dinner at the beach or in the former mansion of the DuPont family or prepare a private Beach Party with musical group or DJ.



Marysol Travel makes it special!



The longest cigar measured 81.80 m (268 ft 4 in) and was made by Jose Castelar Cueto (Cuba) at the La Triada shop at Parque Morro-Cabaña in Havana, Cuba, on 3 May 2011. He completed the record cigar in only 6 days!





SPECIAL INTEREST TRAVEL!

The world is changing constantly. Travel is accessible for wider audiences day by day. Travel habits are changing as do travel needs. Travelers' turning from mass tourism to small group tours, exclusive, thematic programs, authentic experiences, opportunity of meeting locals, receiving personalized treat. In our next chapter you will meet the Special Interest Travel Portfolio of Marysol Travel, that offers unique programs for segmented target groups, and with the help of it you can widen your clientele. But we do not stop at this point! We encourage being creative! The special interest program elements can be perfectly included into the itinerary of a general interest tour, and we can show another face of this beautiful country for the tourists who always look for something new, something extraordinary.

Think outside the box! Think of Marysol Travel!

ECO & NATURE TRAVEL

Active Holidays

Cuba has a diverse and unique landscape. From the spectacular beaches and magnificent mountains of its coastline through to the hidden inland treasures of its rivers and breathtaking waterfalls, you will be taken on a voyage of discovery. There are 8,666 km² of national conservation areas. The National System of Protected Areas has 263 sites, 81 of national significance and 155 of local interest. Flora and fauna in Cuba consist of a wide variety of different species. Approximately half of the 7,000 species of plants are indigenous as well as nearly 80% of the animals. Cuba has neither dangerous animals nor plants – it is simply a small paradise for nature lovers. Our aim is to „smuggle“ the Nature Travel elements into the wider program of general interest groups, forming a general program into Active Holidays and/or Team building. Marysol Travel also offers „hard core“ trekking, bird watching and diving programs with qualified guides for committed eco tourists.

Let us mould your basic itinerary into a real Marysol Travel Cuba experience!



100%
NATURAL

CUBA AND THE LOCALS



Experience Cuba in the most authentic way possible. Participate in “people-to-people” cultural exchange as well as getting involved in experimental learning as a part of our “Cuba and the locals” themed programs. These are fascinating and unforgettable opportunities to interact with Cuban people on a personal level.

The emphasis of these programs is on the learning of local customs and getting to know the people but visits to the main tourist sights of Cuba can be incorporated too to give any group its own tailor made package.

During our “Cooking with the locals” program we learn about Cuban “creole” cuisine. The “Be a farmer for a week” agro tourism program offers the chance to work on a real Cuban farm – sowing yucca seeds, cutting tobacco and even ploughing with oxen. To cap things off, in the evenings we can play dominoes with the locals.

With our Social programs we visit schools and homes for the elderly; we visit the workshop of Emiliano Nelson Guerra where we can learn the history of the famous “Guayavera” and meet “Papito”, who introduces his own “Artecorte” community project.

Marysol Travel’s people-to-people connection themed tours are available for all travellers.



CUBA ART TOURS



Cuban art is a diverse cultural blend of African, South American, European and North American design reflecting the wide demographic of the island. If you are passionate about art in any form or have a particular interest in Cuban and Contemporary art, Marysol Travel's Art Tours are designed especially for you! Our informative tours give an in-depth knowledge of Cuban art. Our close partnership with the most significant artists and institutions guarantees the opportunity not only to visit the best art galleries and museums, but also to have the opportunity to personally meet some of the most influential Cuban artists. Our "Cuba Art Tour" program includes workshops, studio visits and lectures by internationally recognized artists, sculptors, ceramicists, muralists and photographers. We recommend Marysol Travel's Cuba Art Tours to working artists, art professionals – basically to anyone who is an art lover.



ECLECTIC CUBA

Architecture Tours

The buildings of Cuba are as multicoloured and diverse as the country's people and music. Cuba's eclectic style is none more evident or significantly portrayed than via its architecture. There are two fundamental eras, the pre & the post revolution periods.

During our architecture themed program, called "Eclectic Cuba", each day is dedicated to a different architectural style, and we visit the most significant buildings linked to that given style of the day. The programs of Marysol Travel are led by a guide who specialises in architecture and a Professor of Architecture from the University of Havana. Between them they add specific knowledge about the past, present and future of the city's architecture.



Percussion Workshop With Oscar Valdez

Marysol Travel is pleased to announce the exclusive "Percussion Workshops" under the professional direction of Oscar Valdez! Oscar is the undisputed personality of Cuban Jazz music. He is a founder member of the famed "Irakere" group and a "Grammy" award winner. Participants will acquire the basics of the Afro Cuban Latin Jazz and can learn to play the typical Cuban instruments such as "Chekere", "Bata", "Conga", "Cayon", "Güiro" or the "Maraca". The course will end with a performance with Mr. Valdez and his current band, the "Diákara" in one of the best jazz clubs of Havana, "Jazz Café" or "La Zorra y El Cuervo".

What is so special about the Workshop is that, thanks to its unique technique, participants will be able to continue their course at home. The Workshop is available to beginners and professionals who want to master their percussion knowledge or just get to know the exotic Cuban instruments.



Oscar Valdez with Jimmy Sommers at the Habana Jazz Festival 2012, performance organized by Marysol Travel!

UNIQUE PROGRAMS FROM MARYSOL TRAVEL



Yoga retreats and teachers' training courses with Eduardo Pimentel

The "Marysol Yoga Retreats" offer relaxing beach holidays combined with Ocean Front Yoga classes, just a few steps from the sandy beach and turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Staying on this tropical and enigmatic location you will discover the charms of living 'Off Grid' in full contact with Mother Nature. Marysol Yoga Retreats are supervised and led by Eduardo Pimentel, President of the Cuban Yoga Association. A wide variety of classes and styles are offered that focus on sensibility and awareness. Our teachers understand that each individual is unique and everyone's practice is different and are adept at adjusting their instruction to cater to all levels.





INCOMING TOUR OPERATOR & DMC.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a light pink long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants, is riding a brown horse. She is holding the reins and a rope. The horse is in motion, and another horse is partially visible behind it. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a clear blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

ROUNDTrips
ACTIVE HOLIDAYS
ECO & NATURE TRAVEL
SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS
BIRD WATCHING, TREKKING
TAILOR MADE ITINERARIES
...FOR GROUPS,
INCENTIVE & FIT

European standards in Cuba. We make the difference!



INCOMING TOUR OPERATOR & DMC.

A vibrant tropical beach scene. In the foreground, a large, green coconut has been cut open, and a white straw is inserted into it. A bright red flower is placed inside the coconut, behind the straw. The background shows a clear blue sky, a turquoise ocean with white waves, and a palm tree on the right. The overall atmosphere is sunny and relaxing.

HOTELS
TRANSFERS
FLIGHT TICKETS
GROUND HANDLING
ROUNDTrip PROGRAMS
MANAGING COMPLETE OPERATIONS

European standards in Cuba. We make the difference!