Beyond Havana
Custom Ecotours in Cuba
“I am art among the arts, with the mountains I am one” - Jose Mari
**Sample Trip Highlights**

**FEAST** on home-made cuisine, sip refreshing mojitos and dance to local music with your new Cuban friends and family

**ENJOY** a private concert with some of Cuba’s most exciting young musicians as they present a history of Cuban music

**EXPLORE** old Havana’s incredible architecture and captivating history

**RELAX** under palm trees on a white sand beach with a coconut in hand and swim in the turquoise waters of the Caribbean

**VISIT** a fourth generation tobacco farm, and if you are up for it try a hand-rolled cigar

**RIDE** horseback through a rolling valley encompassing fields of tobacco, towering mountains and breathtaking vistas

**DIVE** into a beautiful “Cenote” pool and explore one of Cuba’s lesser known national parks

**SNORKEL** in crystal-clear waters teeming with colorful fish and coral reefs

Not into cruise-ship style travel? Then you’ve come to the right place. Join us for an authentic, off-the-beaten-path experience where you’ll get an insider’s view into the unique culture and nature of this incredible island.
Experience Authentic Cuba

Custom Dates

Custom Tours

Contact us for Custom Dates and Tours!
What’s Included

- All of your meals and drinks
- All of your accommodations (casas particulares)
- All of your tours
- All of your transportation in Cuba
- Your local guide and drivers plus Humanitarian Aid
- In other words: Everything besides your flights, visas, souvenirs and tips!
Day One (Sample Itinerary)

Arrive in Havana in the early afternoon, exchange some money with the help of your guide and then head to Old Havana to settle in at your Casa.

Your guide will stop by in the late afternoon to give you a map and a local archaeologist will teach you about the history of this amazing country. After dinner, you will visit our guide’s friend’s house for drinks and a live band that will perform and teach you about the history of Cuban music.

Day Two

Today’s highlights include a walking tour of old Havana, a visit to the Revolutionary Museum, and some free time in the late afternoon to rest or explore.

In the evening we enjoy a family-style dinner with home-made Cuban cuisine and mojitos.

Day Three

Havana has a lot more to offer than just the famous and beautiful historic district. In the morning we will get off the beaten path to explore some fun neighborhoods and then the famous Hotel Nacional.

In the afternoon we will drive along the Malecón, Havana’s scenic ocean drive, one of the city’s most memorable areas. Tour El Morro, the 400 year old fort that stands guard over the Havana Harbor and then dine at one of Havana’s tastiest Paladares.
Day Four
Today is full of rural country adventures, so get ready to see a completely different side of Cuba. On the way to Viñales we’ll stop for lunch at Las Terrazas, a pioneering eco-village that started as a government reforestation project in 1968. Bring your swimsuit and towel.

In the early afternoon we will arrive at Viñales and jump onto horseback (no experience required). Our guide will lead us through a spectacular valley filled with tobacco and coffee farms and stunning scenery. An unforgettable tour of a tobacco plantation and coffee farm will be included and tasting is always highly recommended!

Day Five
White sand, turquoise water, palm-trees, coconuts and pineapples filled with delicious drinks - today’s adventure is all about ultimate relaxation! The road to this remote paradise is a little bumpy and long, but it is absolutely worth the journey.

Upon arrival you will see colorful classic cars parked in the forest along gorgeous coastline. We will take our time relaxing today and enjoying this slice of Cuban paradise.

Day Six
Today we will head back to Havana, but not without another one-of-a-kind stop along the way. Our guide’s family has a small farm we will visit to learn about their sustainable way of life. Tito, Yeyu and Cha Cha are all in their 80s and still growing their own food, tobacco and coffee.

We may also stop at a Cigar factory on our way into Havana. Once back, there will be time for some souvenir shopping at local art markets and free time in Old Havana. A final Cuban dinner at El Biky will cap off the main part of our adventure.

Itinerary
Cuba Ecotour

Gondwana Ecotours
Day Seven
This is the end of our regular itinerary and after breakfast guests will be brought to the airport for their departing flights. Head home with incredible memories of local adventures you just can’t find with any other company!

Sample Extension: Ciénaga de Zapata National Park

Enjoy some free time in the morning and then have lunch with the group in Old Havana. In the afternoon we head to the park. Cienaga de Zapata (Zapata Swamp) is one of the best examples of coastal Caribbean biodiversity left in the entire region. Now a prized National Park for Cuba and a proposed World Heritage Site. We’ll stay at a hotel right on the beach for an especially relaxing afternoon and evening.

Day Eight
In the morning we have a guided tour in the forest to look for birds, reptiles, and bats. There will also be a chance to swim in a beautiful Cenote pool. If you are really feeling adventurous you can jump in from the rocks above! In the afternoon we snorkel or scuba in crystal clear caribbean waters above brain corals and schools of exotic fish.

Day Nine
After breakfast and a morning swim/sun session, we will head back to Havana while taking our time for lunch and stops. Depending upon our arrival time we may fit in another city activity before a final dinner and drinks.

Day Ten
The hardest part is always going home, but the memories we make on this trip are ones that send you home feeling refreshed and exhilarated. We will make sure you get to the airport safely and see you off until the next time.
Meals & Accommodations
Accommodations

Casas Particulares
Throughout the trip, you will have a private room and bathroom in different Casas Particulares, providing you with a unique opportunity to get to know the locals.

We take great care in choosing the best ones, operated by wonderful people.

Basically these are Cuban home-stays, like an AirBnB but with much more privacy and service. In most cases there is an entirely separate area where you will be staying.

The rooms are basic and comfortable, and you will always have use of a private bathroom and air conditioning. The family is available to help you out and socialize, but you’re given as much privacy as you need.

There are plenty of nice state-run hotels in Cuba, but they simply can’t compare to the cultural experience of staying in a Casa Particular.

Meals

Breakfasts
Our breakfasts will be at our Casas Particulares and will generally consist of toast, eggs, fresh juice, fresh fruits, and coffee. They are a great chance to get to know your hosts and enjoy some tasty homemade fare.

Lunches
We will have lunches at Paladares for the most part, which are in-home restaurants. The food is innovative and always delicious. We will visit some of the most famous spots as well as some lesser-known hangouts in order to give you a nice sampling of the local culture and cuisine.

Dinners
Some of our dinners will be at popular restaurants such as El Biky in Havana, while others will be at the homes of our guides and hosts. They are always filling, authentic and rico.
David is a native of Havana. He studied biology and worked as a biologist before devoting himself to sharing his beautiful country with the rest of the world.

He has been an ‘ambassador particular’ for 10 years. He is passionate about Cuba and conversing about the island’s past, present, and future. He speaks Spanish, English, Italian, French, and German. He loves cooking, dancing, and snorkeling.
Why travel with us?
Our promise is to deliver custom crafted and authentically local travel experiences that send you home with lifelong memories of your unique adventure. We strive to put our values into practice with every Ecotour that we create.

Small-Group Size: We limit our Cuba group to 10 so you can have an educational and personalized experience.

Local Guides: Enjoy the company of guides who share their culture and customs with you for a completely authentic local adventure.

Carbon Offset: We carbon offset every guest’s flight—good for our conscience and good for our planet.

Donations: A portion of the proceeds from this tour go towards a sustainable farm initiative in Cuba.

Low Impact: Our ecotours leave a small impression on the environment because of the small size, accommodations, restaurants and activities we choose.

Unique Lodging: Feel the heart of the destination by staying at Casas Particulares that are clean, comfortable and owned by friendly locals.

One-of-a-kind Activities: Many of our local activities have been created exclusively for our guests; you cannot get these experiences with any other company!

Is this trip for me?
This trip is for the intrepid traveler who wants to see the real Cuba. The accommodations will be comfortable and the food will be delicious but this is not a luxury trip. It is a unique adventure with one-of-a-kind activities, beautiful nature and cultural immersion. While the trip does offer chances to walk, hike, snorkel, swim and dive, it doesn’t require a serious degree of physical fitness. Some of the car rides can be bumpy though, especially when visiting the beach near the valley.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a special visa?
You will be able to purchase your visa directly from the airline at the airport on your way to Cuba. It is an easy process and the price is between $50-100. We will provide more details to registered guests.

How do I book a flight?
For no additional fee we can help you book your flights to and from Cuba. The cost of the flights is not included but there is no fee for this service. We understand this can seem like a daunting process but rest assured, we have the logistics and legalities covered for you.

Will there be air conditioning?
Yes, the rooms at the Casas Particulares will have wall-unit air conditioners.

Will I have a private bathroom?
Yes, you will have use of a private bathroom and most of the Casas have hot showers.

How do I sign up?
To reserve your spot simply request (via phone or email) an invoice for your $500 deposit. This deposit is refundable for any reason within 30 days of booking. Upon signup we will send you our pre-trip guide to prepare you for the journey. It contains booking terms, a packing list, health and safety tips, suggested reading and lots of other useful information. We will also send you 2 easy links to fill out for your personal information and flight details.

Thanks so much for contacting us and if you have any other questions please email us (Info@GondwanaEcotours.com) or call us at 877-587-8479.