

# The Experience of a Lifetime



## Trip Details

Trip Name: Hola Cuba  
Group Leader: Mrs. Kevan Sano-O'Brien  
Departure Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016  
Departure City: Boston, MA  
Group Username: Cuba  
Group Password: Sano2016

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### An Enriched Educational Experience

WorldStrides International Discovery programs offer unrivaled travel experiences to more than 60 countries on six continents. For more than three decades we've leveraged personal service, uncompromised quality, expert craftsmanship, and an unwavering focus on educational value to inspire and enrich the lives of our travelers. Our unique LEAP program uses creative and fun contemporary teaching methods to maximize the learning experience. LEAP engages students, making them active learners who translate information into knowledge and understanding.

### Why Quality Matters

WorldStrides quality enhances the educational outcomes for our students, provides for the comfort and safety of the whole group and gives peace of mind to teachers and families. We use centrally located hotels in safe neighborhoods, which mean more time where you want to be and less time travelling. Meals are carefully chosen to reflect local cuisine. Our Tour Directors are much more than escorts. They use their extensive training to act as cultural mediators, engaging students throughout the program.

### Safety

Your child's safety is always our top priority. Our staff members are on call 24 hours a day and our Tour Directors stay in the same hotels as their groups. Tours have a ratio of one chaperone for every six students. Each Group Leader is provided with an international cell phone. We include travel insurance and strongly recommend the Cancellation Protection Plus.

## Included in the Trip Cost

### Transportation

- Round-trip airfare and other transportation described in the itinerary

### Travel Insurance

- Traveler Assistance
- Medical Insurance
- Travel Insurance

### Hotel Accommodations & Meals

- Centrally located three- and four-star hotels for 8 nights
- Daily breakfast to start the day energized and ready to go
- Appetizing, hearty three-course dinner daily

### Tour Director & Local Guides

- Full time, bilingual, WorldStrides International Discovery programs Tour Director who is LEAP-trained in experiential education
- Local guide at sites and on city tours as described in the itinerary
- LEAP! Educational Program

## Trip Cost

### Total Cost

**\$3679**

Using EZpay Plan

6 Payments of \$563.17

Based on enrollment today with deposit of \$300 and then 6 payments of \$563.17

### Cost Breakdown

Tuition (Valid through 09/18/15)	\$3839
Weekend Supplement	\$90
Early Enrollment Savings (Valid through 09/18/15)	-\$250

# Itinerary

**DAY 1 FLY TO MIAMI.** Fly to Miami and spend the night. Rest up for your trip to Cuba tomorrow!

**DAY 2 HAVANA-SANTA CLARA** Take a charter flight this morning to Havana. En route to Santa Clara, discover Ernest Hemingway's lovingly preserved home with a local curator. While it is not open to the public, the house is just as Hemingway left it, with a large collection of books, records, paintings and furniture to observe through its open windows. After lunch, continue on to Santa Clara, stopping at the Che Guevara mausoleum, housing the remains of Marxist revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara. Overnight and dinner in Santa Clara.

**DAY 3 SANTA CLARA-GUAJIMICO** Depart hotel and head south toward Trinidad. Learn about its sugar industry and visit Valle de los Ingenios, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you will climb the Iznaga Tower. Continue on to Trinidad for an in-depth walking tour of a city that is maintained as a living museum, just as the Spaniards left it in its period of greatest opulence. Discover its many sites, including a visit to Palacio Cantero. During *Musica Cubana* learn about Cuban musical tradition during an interactive musical workshop. Afterwards, meet with a prominent local entrepreneur in his home to learn more about daily life in Trinidad. Continue on to Guajimico where we will stop on the way at a rural medical clinic to learn about the health-care system in Cuba. Overnight and dinner in Guajimico.

**DAY 4 CIENFUEGOS** Tour Cienfuegos, a World Cultural Heritage site founded by French Settlers in 1819. Visit a cooperative of young Cuban artists. After lunch, drive to Cienfuegos Botanical Garden and learn about its important research focused on tropical botany. Afterwards, attend a performance of Cantores de Cienfuegos choral group.

**DAY 5 BAY OF PIGS** En route to Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs), stop near Zapata Peninsula Biosphere Reserve for a chance to spot the world's smallest humming bird. The region boasts a great diversity of ecosystems, including mangrove forests and coastal lagoons. Visit the Bay of Pigs Museum and learn about the 1961 invasion and failed attempt to overthrow Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Upon arrival in Havana, view the short documentary film *La Maestra*, focusing on the stories of young women literacy workers throughout Cuba and have an opportunity to meet one of the women featured in the film. This evening, have dinner at Hotel Nacional de Cuba, a historic luxury hotel located on the Malécon. Afterwards, visit the U.S.S. Maine Memorial before returning to the hotel.



**DAY 6 HAVANA** Interact with students from a local school after breakfast at a Cuban School Visit. Afterwards, go to Old Havana for an in-depth visit with a local guide. Learn about its Spanish colonial architecture, see its many landmark buildings, and learn about its current restoration progress. After lunch, a local architectural historian and professor will lead an orientation tour of the city, to learn about its many iconic sites. Walk through the Cementerio de Cristóbal Colón before watching a rehearsal of the well-known MalPaso Dance Company.

**DAY 7 VINALES** Stop at the Orchid Farm at Soroa before arriving at Vinales for a full day excursion with a local guide to explore this stunning region. Learn about the unique landscape and formations, visit a tobacco farm, and have lunch on a private farm. After lunch, spend the afternoon touring the town of Vinales with your Tour Director before returning to Havana this evening.

**DAY 8 HAVANA** Start the day with a round-table discussion on "US/Cuban Relations" with a Professor from University of Havana. Afterwards, visit Vivero Alamar, a state-owned research garden to learn about urban gardening. During *Cocina Cubana* learn about traditional cuisine as you prepare your own lunch during a Cuban cooking class. Afterward, tour Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes with an art curator. End the afternoon at Callejon de Hamel, the site of a huge multidimensional Afro-Cuban mural. Learn about the Santería religion from a local practitioner in his home. Meet for a round-table discussion with a former member of the Ministry of Agriculture to learn about contemporary life in Cuba. Join in a farewell dinner.

**DAY 9 RETURN JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES.** Visit the Presidential Palace and the Granma Memorial, which preserves the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956. Return to airport for charter flight to Miami where you will continue to your chosen gateway.