



**Detours With Matt**

**presents**

# CUBA

**Specializing in intimate  
cultural adventures**

**Private, custom trips for  
groups of any size**

**Legal for U.S. citizens and  
residents**



# Detours With Matt

4112 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78756 • (512) 900-9080 • [info@detourswithmatt.com](mailto:info@detourswithmatt.com)

Detours With Matt offers custom People-to-People trips to Cuba – one of the few ways to visit Cuba legally. We keep our groups small and intimate to give you a very personal experience of Cuba, the kind you'd never get on your own or in a larger tour group.

Because every trip is custom, we're happy to work with you on exactly what you're after. Some travelers want a luxury experience, and others prefer to experience life more like an average Cuban. Some travelers also come to us with a special interest, like nature, politics, or music. Whatever the case, we work hard to give you a varied, rich experience of modern Cuba.



*Our group enjoyed a cigar and rum tasting together with a private concert by the Trio Natural, one of Cuba's leading jazz combos. The musicians were kind enough to help us out a little with the rum. The jug in the center is Isla del Tesoro, the finest rum we tried.*

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## **1. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Of course we hit major historic and cultural spots like Old Havana, Revolution Square, and key museums. But we specialize in creating more intimate moments with our Cuban friends and other connections.

### **EXAMPLES OF OUR PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE ACTIVITIES:**

- Drop in on the daily rehearsal of the Luna women's chorus. Enjoy some of their music and learn why music is a more viable career in Cuba than in the U.S.
- Visit Havana's leading garage dedicated to the restoration of classic cars. Meet the owners and learn how their business is affected by the Cuba-U.S. relationship
- Visit an off-the-books winery run by a small family out of their home. The vineyard's on the roof, bottling's in the kitchen, labeling's in the living room, and retailing's on the front porch! Taste the wines and learn why a family would start an informal business like this
- Get invited to a birthday party and chat with other random guests
- Spend a day with a rural family Matt knows, cooking a typical country stew over a bonfire

For those with a more flexible budget, you might also enjoy experiences such as:

- Private rum and cigar tasting, with music by one of Cuba's leading jazz combos
- Pig roast in the country with music by a favorite local band
- Visit the home that's one of Havana's leading art galleries. Our hostess will explain Cuba's art scene and show off works by some of the nation's hottest contemporary artists
- Private VIP tour of the Cuban Art Factory, a former factory converted into Havana's trendiest spot for nightlife. The space combines art galleries, bars, a restaurant, a cinema, and several performance venues. Every night there are varied performances and events.

### **THEMED TRIPS**

In the past, special themed trips have focused on cars; art; music; the LGBT community; Jewish life; Cuba's female entrepreneurs; the medical system; education; and nature/conservation. Or if you have another idea, we're always open to special requests.

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## **2. WHAT'S INCLUDED**

Every trip is different, but our attitude stays the same. We aim to include all anticipated costs for the trip in the sticker price. We don't believe in hidden costs, and we don't nickel-and-dime you for small expenses that may arise during the trip.

### **PROGRAM COST INCLUDES:**

- Travel within Cuba under the auspices of Detours With Matt, with a full-time program of activities in compliance with Cuban Assets Control Regulations section 515.565(b) (“Educational activities: General license for people-to-people travel.”)
- Escorted in Cuba by bilingual Detours With Matt trip leader (in compliance with 515.565(b)) and local Cuban guide
- All meals in Cuba unless otherwise specified. Meals include unlimited non-alcoholic beverages and limited alcohol
- Bottled water provided daily
- Airport transfers and transportation for all included program activities
- All gratuities with the possible exception of housekeeping

### **PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Personal costs such as laundry, email, fax or telephone calls, room service
- Activities outside of our program even if accompanied by Detours With Matt staff
- Unlimited alcohol at meals

**WE CAN ALSO MANAGE** airfare and related items. We're happy to make these arrangements for you upon request. We do this as a courtesy and only charge you the actual cost.

- Airfare to Cuba
- Related items handled by the airline, such as Cuban visa and medical insurance
- VIP access at the Cuban airports
- An overnight stay in a gateway city prior to your flight to Cuba; or upon return from Cuba

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## 3. TYPICAL PRICING

Price is often in the range of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per person for a week-long trip. The final price will depend primarily on:

- Length of trip
- Number of people in the group
- Number and quality of hotel/B&B rooms
- Number and type of private activities organized just for your group

Lodging quality is a huge variable. A modest B&B with hot water and AC is under \$100 per night, where a top hotel in Havana can run \$500 per room per night.

Examples of private activities include:

- Private musical performances by prominent artists
- A tasting at a leading restaurant hosted by one of Cuba's most acclaimed chefs
- A discussion or lecture led by a prominent, English-speaking academic. We could learn about some aspect of Cuban society or culture, the U.S.-Cuba relationship, or how Cuba is expected to change in the coming years.



*A family of nature lovers visits Cuba's National Botanical Garden*



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## 4. ABOUT OUR TRIPS

### **OUR COMMITMENT**

Matt maintains very high standards for these trips. He personally designs most itineraries and leads most trips himself. When there's an exception, it's because he's involved a trusted colleague, someone every bit as qualified and passionate about Cuba as he is.

Itineraries are compliant with U.S. regulations on travel to Cuba. Matt selects restaurants, activities, and other vendors ethically, based primarily on what's in your best interest. He works to spare you the hassles of travel whenever possible. He aims for respectful, socially conscious trips that benefit the people and communities we visit.

### **FLEXIBILITY**

In Cuba, things don't always go as expected. Maybe technical difficulties will prevent us from getting online for a few days. A museum may close for the day without warning. It's even possible (though not likely) that we'll experience a power or water outage at a restaurant, activity venue, or B&B. Flexibility and a sense of humor are crucial!

### **CREATURE COMFORTS AND ACCESSIBILITY**

Cuba is a developing country where not everything is up to the standards you're used to.

Should you expect to have AC in your bedroom? Yes. En suite bath with hot water? Yes. Decent water pressure in the shower? Depends where we're staying. Refrigerator in the room? Maybe. Air conditioning everywhere we go? No. Plenty of toilet paper and soap in public bathrooms? No. A toilet seat on every toilet? No. (If not, you either sit on the toilet bowl's rim, stand/crouch over it, or look for a better bathroom.)

Cuba is **not** ADA compliant. Buildings may not be accessible. Terrain can be more challenging than we're used to. Sidewalks can have gaping holes. Staircases may be steeper than we'd like and may lack banisters. If this is the kind of thing you'd have trouble with, please talk to us. We do our best to accommodate everyone who'd like to participate in the trip. .

### **RELATIONSHIP-BASED TRAVEL**

Visiting a foreign country is richer when you connect with people who live there. That takes personal relationships with locals. We use relationships to:

- Give you a more personal experience than the typical tourist routine

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## GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

A portion of your trip cost is used to support the people who make your trip so special. We prioritize medical needs and gifts that help people help themselves. Some recent examples:

- Battery-powered bass and guitar amplifiers for a Cuban band in a rural area. The amps let them play gigs in venues without electricity.
- A tablet and smartphones for a community project. They use these to get online and promote their programs internationally.
- Supplies for a favorite music school whose students can't get what they need – from strings, reeds, and drumheads to microphones and school supplies
- A wooden staircase for a B&B owner's new loft. She can now rent both the home's original bedrooms while she sleeps in the loft.

## ANY QUESTIONS?

Please contact us at (512) 900-9080 or [info@detourswithmatt.com](mailto:info@detourswithmatt.com)



*A group of Princeton alumni and friends visit Havana's LGBT community spaces with a couple local activists.*