



# **CUBA**

WITH AUDUBON ALASKA November 3-11, 2017



Join Audubon Alaska to learn about ongoing conservation efforts from local experts as you explore wetlands, mangroves, and limestone caves of western Cuba. Visit Guanahacabibes Biosphere Reserve for an in-depth look at marine conservation programs. Experience Cuba's many cultural offerings, including jazz and dance performances, art museums, and a walking tour of historical Old Havana, and meals in paladares (restaurants run in private homes).

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the unique wildlife of Cabo de San Antonio National Park.
- Enjoy a snorkeling expedition by boat to reefs around the tip of the Guanahacabibes Peninsula.
- Visit the Soroa Waterfall & Orchidarium and Sierra del Rosario, home of Las Terrazas, a self-sustained community named after the reforestation project initiated in 1967.
- Uncover Cuba's unique culture as you meet local farmers, artists, and musicians, and visit important historical sites in the Old Havana.
- Look for the Bee Hummingbird and others of Cuba's most interesting bird species, including the endemic Blueheaded Quail-Dove.

## **ITINERARY**

### BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

#### **NOVEMBER 3 - HAVANA**

This morning fly to Havana. Upon arrival and after clearing customs, you will be met by your guide and driver and taken to your hotel. Gather for a talk, "Cuba: A Transition to What?" The talk offers an introduction to current economic, social, political and cultural changes. Examine the past two decades, looking at the main challenges of the Cuban socialist model, people's concerns, and current public policies. You will have the remainder of the afternoon to explore your surroundings before your welcome dinner at a paladar. *Overnight at Hotel Ambos Mundos.* (D)

#### **NOVEMBER 4 - HAVANA**

Delve into contemporary Havana with visits to Revolution Square, John Lennon's Park in Vedado, and La Rampa. Experience a typical Cuban treat, ice cream at Coppelia, a popular gathering place for Cuban youth. This afternoon stroll along Old Havana's cobblestone streets, visiting the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco de Asís, Plaza de la Catedral, and Plaza Vieja. *Overnight at Hotel Ambos Mundos. (BLD)* 

### **NOVEMBER 5 - VIÑALES**

Travel to Soroa. En route, visit Sierra del Rosario, 61,000 acres of evergreen forest and home of Las Terrazas, a self-sustained community named after the reforestation project initiated in 1967. Target species here are the Cuban Grassquit and Olive-capped Warbler. Also visit the Soroa Waterfall & Orchidarium. Continue on to Viñales for dinner and overnight. *Overnight at Hotel Los Jazmines. (BLD)* 

### **NOVEMBER 6 - VIÑALES**

This morning visit Cueva de los Portales, a limestone cave set adjacent to hills covered in lush vegetation. The cave is interesting both geologically and historically, famous for being where Ernesto "Che" Guevara headquartered during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. This is an excellent place to spot the Cuban Solitaire, Cuban Trogon, Scaly-naped Pigeon, and the Cuban Tody. This afternoon hike the unusual geologic formations known as mogotes and visit a tobacco farm. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Los Jazmines. (BLD)* 

## **NOVEMBER 7 - GUANAHACABIBES**

Depart for María La Gorda in the Guanahacabibes Peninsula, a Biosphere Reserve in the Pinar del Río province. Stop en route to look for the Bee Hummingbird. If time permits, enjoy snorkeling this afternoon from the sandy beaches of your hotel. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel María La Gorda. (BLD)* 

## **NOVEMBER 8 - GUANAHACABIBES**

This morning with assistance from the Guanahacabibes Parque guide, visit El Veral to look for Bee Hummingbird, Blue-headed Quail-Dove, Yellow-headed Warbler, Cuban Vireo, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Tody, and Cuban Green Woodpecker. Later continue on to Cabo de San Antonio National Park, where you will join a snorkeling expedition by boat to various reefs around the tip of the peninsula. *Overnight at Hotel María La Gorda. (BLD)* 

## **NOVEMBER 9 - GUANAHACABIBES**

Morning snorkeling or birding. After lunch, meet with conservation staff to talk about the work they are doing in the area. *Overnight at Hotel María La Gorda.* (BLD)

#### **NOVEMBER 10 - HAVANA**

This morning return to Havana. Lunch on own and time to explore Old Havana. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel and then attend the innovative musical show Opera de la Calle. *Overnight at Hotel Ambos Mundos. (BD)* 

### **NOVEMBER 11 - DEPARTURE**

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana airport for your flight back to the U.S. (B)



## LAND PRICING

**\$3,595** (10 participants)

Includes meals, accommodations, in-country transportation and activities as indicated in itinerary, full-time bilingual guide, full-time ornithologist, bottled water on the bus, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare (estimated at \$1,190 from Anchorage), gratuities, items of a personal nature, \$65 Cuban visa, departure tax, or mandatory Cuban health insurance.

If desired, Holbrook Travel can assist you with flights to Havana.

## THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on 10 participants in double occupancy; a limited number of single rooms may be available at \$595 additional cost. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is required to hold your space. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until July 31, 2017, at which time final nonrefundable payment is due. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured. com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

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This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe

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