

February 2012

Havana and Trinidad

Cuba

Havana and Trinidad

A photographic experience with Richard Martin

Tuesday January 31 – Friday February 10, 2012

Richard invites you on an unforgettable journey through two of the most photogenic cities in Cuba. This tour offers the photographer a unique opportunity to discover both Old Havana and one of the island's crown jewels—the colourful city of Trinidad, with its red-tiled roofs and cobblestone streets. Via air-conditioned coach, travel to the southern city of Trinidad including a visit to the Sugar Mill Valley. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy the Pearl of the South; Cienfuegos with its colonial architecture and tree lined Prado, including its own Arc de Triomphe in the Centre Square. Returning to the pulse of Cuba, Havana, an eclectic mixture of old and new, crumbling and restored. Photograph the hauntingly beautiful 16th and 17th century streets of colonial Havana—its people, architecture, and atmosphere. Placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1982, old Havana remains the most authentic colonial city in the Americas. Discover this magical place and experience an island frozen in time.

Our tour itinerary has been designed specifically for serious photographers, to ensure that more concentrated time is spent in the most photogenic areas. In addition to individual attention in the field, time will be spent reviewing participants work. Instruction is kept flexible to accommodate a changing itinerary and varying skill levels of the participants.



Havana and Trinidad January 31- February 10, 2012



Day 1: Tuesday January 31

Today is our travel day with arrival in Havana. You will be met at the airport and brought to your hotel. We will be checking into the Parque Centrale Hotel, one of the best hotels in Havana, certainly the best situated with its easy access to Old Havana. The rest of the day is at your leisure. (D) 7:00pm Meeting in Lobby with Richard Martin, followed by a short walk.

Hotel: Parque Central

Note: The following days will include optional early morning outings, each day before breakfast. An opportunity to explore the streets at an easy unhurried pace and make images in the beautiful morning light.

Day 2: Wednesday February 1

After breakfast we will meet with our guide and depart for the Colon Cemetery, arguably one of the most ornate cemeteries in the world, full of monuments made of carrera marble. After time at the cemetery, we will board our bus and tour the Miramar area of Havana. The afternoon will be free to continue the photo tour with Richard. (B)

Hotel: Parque Central



Day 3: Thursday February 2

Today we take an early morning field trip with Richard, followed by breakfast and check out of the hotel. We will be joined by our English-speaking guide for our travel to Trinidad and check into our hotel. Founded in the early 16th century in honour of the Holy Trinity, the city was a

bridgehead for the conquest of the American continent. Its 18th- and 19th-century buildings, such as the Palacio Brunet and the Palacio Cantero, were built in its days of prosperity from the sugar trade. (B, D)

Hotel: Grand Iberostar Trinidad

Day 4: Friday February 3

After breakfast we have a walking tour of Trinidad with a visit to the Romantic Museum and the Canchanchara. After lunch we will walk the streets of Trinidad and discover many photo opportunities amongst the delightfully painted colonial houses and the colourful people displaying their wares. (B, L, D)

Hotel: Grand Iberostar Trinidad

Day 5: Saturday February 4

After breakfast we will travel to the Valley of Los Ingenios. In 1988, the Valle de los Ingenios and neighbouring Trinidad were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Although most of the sugar mills are in ruins, intact structures endure at some sites, including Guachinango, where the plantation house remains, and the plantation of Manaca Iznaga, where the owner's house, a tower and some barracones, the original slave quarters, still stand. Although the barracones are now used as housing and are in poor repair, the house (which has been converted into a restaurant) and the "Iznaga Tower" are well maintained. The 45 metre (147 ft) tower was constructed sometime in 1816 by the owner, Alejo Maria Iznaga y



Borrell. According to experts, the bell that formerly hung on top of the tower announced the beginning and the end of the workday for the slaves, as well as the times for prayers to the Holy Virgin in the morning, midday and afternoon. It was also used to sound an alarm in case of fire or slave escape. The height and magnificence of the tower served to display Iznaga's power over his slaves and his stature in the sugar industry and local society; at one time it was the tallest structure in Cuba. A recognized landmark of the region, the Iznaga Tower testifies to the area's flourishing material culture in the Spanish colonial period. The large bell now rests at the foot of the tower.



We return to our hotel after lunching enroute. (B, L)

Hotel: Grand Iberostar Trinidad



Day 6: Sunday February 5

Free day in Trinidad, follow Richard as he leads you through the streets of Trinidad. We will endeavour to try and visit some remote villages far from the tourist paths. (B, D)

Hotel: Grand Iberostar Trinidad

Day 7: Monday February 6

Today after our last breakfast in Trinidad, we will travel along the picturesque coast to Cienfuegos, named the “Pearl of the South” by its famous resident, Beny More, the father of the Cuban “son”.

The colonial town of Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 in the Spanish territory but was initially settled by immigrants of French origin. It became a trading place for sugar cane, tobacco and coffee. Situated on the Caribbean coast of southern-central Cuba at the heart of the country’s sugar cane, mango, tobacco and coffee production area, the town first developed in the neoclassical style. It later became more eclectic but retained a harmonious overall townscape. Among buildings of particular interest are the Government Palace (City Hall), San Lorenzo School, the Bishopric, the Ferrer Palace, the former lyceum, and some residential houses. Cienfuegos is the first, and an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble representing the new ideas of modernity, hygiene and order in urban planning as developed in Latin America from the 19th century. We will have a city tour and lunch at the Yacht Club before continuing on to Havana. (B, L, D)

Hotel: Parque Central

Day 8: Tuesday February 7

Good Morning Havana! The Spanish founded Havana in 1519. By the 17th century, it had become one of the Caribbean's main centres for shipbuilding. Although it is today a sprawling metropolis of 2 million inhabitants, its old centre retains an interesting mix of Baroque and neoclassical monuments, and a homogeneous ensemble of private houses with arcades, balconies, wrought iron gates and internal courtyards. Old Havana is famous for its four Plazas: Plaza Cathedral, Plaza Las Armas, Plaza Vieja and Plaza San Francisco. Our guide will first bring you on a tour of the city including lunch in UNESCO World Heritage Old Havana. After the tour, we will walk the Prado down to the Malecón, perhaps stopping by one of the many art galleries along the way. In the evening we will board the bus to cross to the other side of Havana Harbour to have dinner and then enjoy the Cannon Shot Ceremony at the Morro Fortress. (B, D)

Hotel: Parque Central

Day 9: Wednesday February 8

You will have the morning free to walk and discover the photographic memories amongst the shops and galleries of Old Havana. Lunch will be on your own. In the afternoon, you may want to hop onto the hop on hop off bus that will wind around the city and Miramar allowing you to re-visit what was seen on the tour the previous day. In the evening we will leave to have dinner and a show at the world famous Tropicana. (B, D)

Hotel: Parque Central



CUBA RICHARD MARTIN

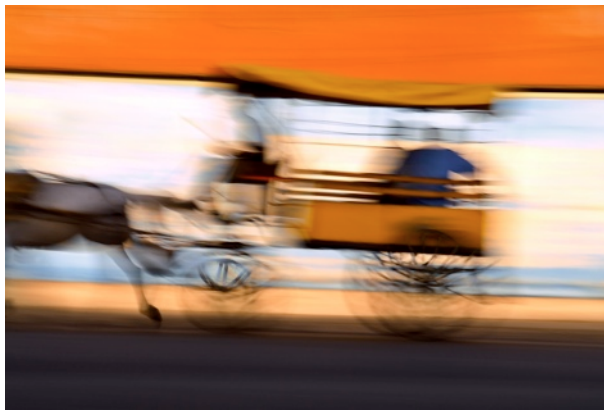
Day 10: Thursday February 9

Our last full day in Havana sees us visiting the little seaside fishing town of Cojimar, where the writer Ernest Hemingway had a house and frequented the local bar. We will see his house and boat before lunch. After lunch (\$) we will have the opportunity to go to East Beaches where we will have an afternoon at the beach before returning for our last evening in Havana. For our last evening we will dine at the Café Oriente, the flagship restaurant of the country. (B, D)

Hotel: Parque Central

Day 11: Friday February 10

On our last day we will rise early to benefit from the sunrise and then enjoy our last breakfast in Havana before preparing to go to the Havana airport for our flight home. (B)

**Included:**

Cuban Tourist Card
 10 nights Hotel
 Dedicated English speaking Guide
 Air Conditioned 16 passenger bus with bottled water
 8 full Breakfasts/3 Lunches/8 Dinners
 (B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner)
 All Entrance Fees as indicated
 Photographic Instruction and feedback

Not Included:

International Airfare
 Meals not indicated
 Gratuities for guide/driver/porterage and maid service
 Travel Insurance
 Personal Expenses
 Cuban Departure Tax 25CUC (about \$30.00)

Cost per person based on double occupancy: \$3599.00 USD

Single Supplement: \$400.00USD

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