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## Once Upon a Summer in Cuba

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**Trip #1: June 20 – 27**

**Trip #2: July 6 – 13**

**Four Nights in Havana, Three Nights in Viñales**

### **A Cuba Cochinito Tours Experience**

\$1875 per person—double occupancy

\$2195 per person—single occupancy

Cuba Cochinito Tours, LLC

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## Day One

Meet Robert, your CCT guide, as you exit the terminal at Havana's Jose Marti Intl. Airport

Afternoon arrival at your deluxe B&B

**7:00 pm** Departure for the Hotel Nacional, one of Cuba's most famous living monuments.

**7:15 – 8:30 pm** Welcome drinks in the hotel's famous bar, once the Cuban office of the American Mafia.

**8:30 pm** Transport in classic American convertibles to Restaurante *304 O'Reilly* in Havana Vieja.

**10:30 pm** Havana Vieja nightlife exploration and Malecón walk.



**The Havana skyline**



**Lobby of the Hotel Nacional**



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## Day Two

**9 am** Breakfast in your casa

**10 am** Half-day orientation tour of Havana

- Casa Fuster art project
- Rio Almendares
- Plaza de Revolución

**1:30 pm** Lunch at Paladar **La Paila** in Vedado

**2:30 pm – 6 pm FREE TIME**

### Option to come along with me

- Havana Libre Hotel (former Havana Hilton and 1<sup>st</sup> Revolutionary HQ after Batista's overthrow)
- Cayo Hueso neighborhood walk
  - University of Havana
  - Fragua Martiano
  - House of Lazaro Salsita
  - Frisbee with kids opportunity
- Vedado neighborhood walk (our neighborhood, the Hancock Park of Havana, Soviet Havana)

**7:00 pm** Dinner at Restaurante *Nazdarovie* on the Malecón

**9:30 pm** - Havana nightlife



**Casa Fuster is a ceramic wonderland created over the past 20 years by artist Jose Fuster. The work continues, both at his house and in the neighborhood.**



**The Almendares River runs through Havana and out to the sea, and a large forested park along the river's banks offers respite from the noise and bustle of the city. Also a space for Santeria religious rituals.**



**La Plaza de Revolución was, and remains, Fidel's space. It is ground zero for 'el sistema de Castrismo'.**

## Day Three

**10 am** Breakfast

**12pm** Rio Almendares Forest Litter Clean-up Project, with community group Espiral (we will learn more about Santeria, too, in part so that we know how to clean up the trash while not disturbing the spiritual remnants)

**1:30 pm** Lunch with Espiral

**3 pm – 7 pm FREE TIME**

**Option:** Visit the Museo de Bellas Artes in Havana Vieja, one of the best art museums in the world

**Option:** Visit “El Morro” Castle

**8 pm** Dinner and Clubbing experience at the *Fabrica del Arte Cubano* in Vedado



**La Fabrica del Arte Cubano is a nightclub, art gallery, and performance space on the site of a former cooking oil factory. It's the most happening scene in Havana Thursdays thru Sundays.**

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**Day Four****10 am** Breakfast

**11:00 am** Departure to organic farm Vivero Alamar, Havana's largest organic farm, a for-profit workers' cooperative led by world famous Cuban agronomist Miguel Salcines.

**2 – 5 pm** Free Time**6 – 7pm** Dance Lesson with Kenia and Suset**7:30 pm:.** Dinner

**9 pm** Party on Zulema's Terrace in the Marianao neighborhood of Havana, beginning with her famous flan.

(option to party/dance all night with my Cuban friends)



**Our dance teachers, Kenia Garro and Suset Alonzo**



**This is a recent CCT group, along with Cuban friends, on Zulema's rooftop terrace. Zulema Carrion, a professor at a school of medicine, is in the center with her big smile.**

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## Day Five

**9:30 am** Breakfast

**10:30 am** Departure for Viñales

**12:30 pm** Visit to Patio Pelegrín Community Art Project in Puerta de Golpe

**Lunch at Patio Pelegrín**

**2 pm** Arrival at Viñales B&Bs

**2pm – 5 pm: Free Time**

**5pm:** To dinner at the Finca Agroecologica “*El Paraiso*”

**9 pm:** Viñales’ one weekday disco opens just off the main plaza.



**Patio Pelegrín is a magical place—an organic farm, a ceramics workshop, a café and art gallery for tourists like us, a four-generation family compound. This is one place to buy some art. Patio Pelegrin is not supported by the Cuban state. It survives on our donations and art sales.**



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## Day Six

**9 am breakfast. Walk to the farm.**

**11am -4pm** Horseback riding to my friend Pipo's tobacco farm and through the beautiful Viñales Valley. Water-centric cave exploration opportunity.

**5 – 7pm Free Time**

**7:30 pm** Horse ride back to Pipo's farm

**8:30 pm** – farm dinner and fiesta

**11pm** Horseback riding under the stars, back to our casas



**The best tobacco in the world is grown in the Viñales Valley.**



**Jose Luis Yanes, or Pipo, as he's known by all, is a tobacco farmer and horseman who makes the best cigars I've ever smoked. He also cooks a mean pig, and his wife, Yuseilis, makes delicious congri, yuca, and salads. Pipo is also up for anything. He has had only one answer to anything I've ever asked of him: "Sí, como no!"**

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## Day Seven

8:30 am Breakfast

9:30 am Beach excursion to Cayo Jutias

5 pm – 8pm FREE TIME

8 pm Dinner at a local restaurant

## Day Eight

Breakfast

Taxi back to Havana and Jose Marti International Airport



**This beautiful beach is almost entirely undeveloped (great seafood, though, available at two open-air eateries). The only tough part is getting there: it's a two-hour drive over roughly 40 miles of intermittently terrible roads. Part of the adventure!**

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## My closest friends and associates in Cuba

Havana

### Kenia Garro, Ronier Herrera, and Suset Alonzo

I met these three extraordinary individuals two years ago at a party I had arranged for clients and they have become my closest friends in Havana, people I know I can trust and depend upon in any circumstance. Kenia and Ronier are husband and wife, in their mid 40s, with two kids of their own, a 16-year-old son and a 21-year-old daughter. You'd never know it from their pictures but these two are grandparents to a 2-year-old baby boy. Suset Alonzo, 31 years old, is like an adopted younger sister to Kenia. These three have been members of Havana's folkloric dance company Okan Tomi for about 15 years. As dancers in a state-run company, they have traveled twice out of the country, once to Germany and, just this year, to China. Ronier also has a side business as a baker of cakes.

Kenia, Ronier, and Suset conduct an awesome salsa dance lesson for my clients but they do much more than that. They accompany us on most evenings as we explore Havana's nightlife, helping to provide us access to cool spaces and experiences, and also helping me to enhance the safety and well-being of my clients. We call ourselves Los Mosqueteros (the Musketeers). If you know your Dumas then you'll see from the pic below that one musketeer, Atos, is missing. That would be yours truly, el Cochinito.



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## My closest friends and associates in Cuba, continued

### Viñales

#### **Jose Luis 'Pipo' Yanes and Humberto 'Chino' Malagon**

I met Pipo, a master tobacco farmer and expert horseman, by accident on my first trip to Viñales in 2014. I've contracted with other Viñaleros for horse tours and for country-rolled cigars and so I have considerable confidence that I'm working with the very best farmer and one of the best people in the valley. We have become close friends and our professional relationship has deepened as well. Pipo is one of the most well connected and respected people in Viñales and so provides me with considerable peace of mind in what is already one of the safest places on the planet.

Chino is 30 years old and is one of Pipo's best friends and neighbors. At an early age he began teaching himself English by reading books and watching movies. Chino has an entrepreneurial mindset and, in addition to guiding foreigners on day excursions in and around Viñales, he has plans to open a themed bar in town. On my trips, Chino participates in everything I do with Pipo. His English, his knowledge of Cuban history and culture, and his wonderfully impish sense of humor add great value to our experience.



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