

## AfroBuenaventura's Seven Day Itinerary for Havana, Cuba



**Dates:** 1/18/2017- 1/24/2017

**Route:** BWI>FLL>HAV, return: HAV>MCO>BWI

**Carrier:** JetBlue

**Inspiration:** fare sale, divine inspiration, avoid US Presidential Inauguration

### Day 1

- Uber to airport ([free ride for new users](#))
- Early PM Arrival to HAV
- Taxi to Havana from HAV (José Martí Airport) - \$25 CUC max
- Check into housing - \$56 (1 night) - AirBnB Housing ([\\$35 in travel credit for new users](#)): [La Casita del Malecón](#) - one block east of Hotel Nacional
- Explore neighboring Cayo Hueso neighborhood, working class black community

### Day 2

- Check out of previous housing
- 8:00 - 16:00 - Day trip to Viñales in an American classic car - \$170 CUC (3 people - activities and lunch not included), itinerary: Tobacco farm and horseback riding - \$10 CUC, Cueva del Indio - \$5 CUC, lunch at Paladar El Pimiento (across the street from the caves) - \$12 CUC (amazing feast with vegetarian options for the low-low), Mural de la Prehistoria - \$5CUC, Mirador at Hotel Los Jazmines (for the amazing vista of the valley)- FREE)
- Check into AirBnB Housing ([\\$35 in travel credit for new users](#)) - \$118 (3 nights) - [Independent apartment in Havana](#) - 3 blocks southeast of US Embassy

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### Day 3

- Breakfast at Otra Cosa (Calle 11 and Calzada - one east corner with green awning)
- Walk around Old Havana
- 15:30 - 17:30 Free Mini walking tour with Urban Adventures (use code: LOTWN)
- Dinner at La Abadia on the Malecon
- More dinner and live music at Sofia's (23 and O) - great fried chicken
- Gay club (name starts with "Amor", two doors down from Sofia's)

### Day 4

- 09:00-13:00 Meet at Cafe Mamaïne for - AfroCuban Religions Tour - \$60 USD (must book ahead - limited space)
- Explore Havana Centro and Vedado
- Dinner at Al Carbón (pricey, touristy, featured on Food Network)

### Day 5

- Check out of previous housing
- Check into AirBnB Housing ([free \\$35 in travel credit for new users](#)) - \$141 (2 nights) - Cristo 34
- Callejón de Hamel (AfroCuban cultural festival on Sundays from 12-4pm)

### Day 6

- Museo de la Revolución
- Memorial Granma - yacht that Castro brothers used to land in Cuba to start revolution
- Almacenes San José Artisans' Market

### Day 7

- Check out of AirBnB Housing ([\\$35 in travel credit for new users](#))
- AM Departure from HAV
- PM arrival at BWI
- Uber home ([free ride for new users](#))

### Notes

- Visa: JetBlue provides required insurance included in the airfare. JetBlue customers can get a \$50 visa from the desk at FLL (directly across from gate F4, payment by credit card, no cash accepted) during layover before flight to Cuba.
- Budget \$100 CUC per day, anything left over can be added to your souvenir funds
- Do not be afraid to negotiate prices and/or bluff (this is ethical, lol)
- Wi-fi cards can be purchased at the post office for 2 CUC, an ETECSA (telecomm) office for 1 CUC, or on the street for 3 CUC. Wifi spots: Along the Malecon, Hotel Inglaterra, some parks
- Get USD changed to Euros at your local bank, then exchange Euros for CUC at HAV (1.02 at time of my trip), or at a casa de cambio in the city

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- Carry an ID on you at ALL TIMES. I prefer carrying my passport card rather than my actual passport. I was carded one night by the police, and the passport card worked fine.
- Take toilet paper and face towels, just in case
- A traveler recommended Map.ME app for a phone based map of Havana that works offline and provides real-time GPS location, has useful search function
- Ask before taking photographs of people
- Voltage converters not needed
- Taking back rum and cigars: Rum (Havana Club, Ron de Santiago, and others) can be purchased in the duty-free store at the airport at same prices found on street (just take an empty bag for protecting the bottles for transport after they are sealed in the TSA approved plastic bag, receipt must be visible), a variety of authentic Cuban cigars can be found at the kiosk at the San Jose market, and in the airport
- One the way to FFL, make sure your TSA Pre designation (if you have it) is on your ticket for expedited security screening
- On the way back: Get Mobile Passport app for speeding thru customs once you arrive back in the US

### **Resources**

- An excellent overview of Cuban history that helped me understand historical context of some of the Cuban realities that I saw on the ground, Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know
- Nomadness Travel Tribe's Unlocking the Mystery of Cuba subgroup on Facebook (must be added by a member)
- Rick Steves' presentation on Cuba
- How to Take on Cuba: <http://www.weareblackandabroad.com/travelersnotes/2015/12/5/5-things-we-learned-during-our-trip-to-cuba>
- The Best Food in Havana <https://thepointsguy.com/2016/12/best-food-in-havana-cuba/>
- 40 Things to Know About Cuba <http://www.globotreks.com/destinations/cuba/40-things-know-before-traveling-cuba/>
- Cuba Junky <http://www.cubajunky.com/cuba/apps.html>