



CLASSIC
EDELWEISS TOURS

CAPTIVATING CUBA

” This motorcycle tour through Cuba is loaded with culture, “
great scenery and fantastic roads!

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RIDING DAY 1 : LA HABANA (HAVANA) - VIÑALES

Standard Route (235 km / 146 miles)

Once we are sitting on our bikes, it is really a great feeling to cruise around the island. It is almost like traveling back in time. If you ever had the chance to travel to the Soviet Union or even East Germany, you would see and feel similarities. People in the countryside are living a pretty simple life, only the climate doesn't fit into the imagination of a communist country. In the afternoon we approach the town of Vinales, surrounded by beautiful scenery.

Highlights:

#1: Las Terrazas



Established after the Revolution, this mountain community was built around a lake to provide a sustainable livelihood for impoverished locals suffering from decades of deforestation. Millions of trees were planted in the 1960s, creating a forest reserve. The community is today a center for ecotourism and has an active artist community. We will have the chance to visit a local artist that has chosen to live

here and has participated in exhibitions also abroad.

#2: Viñales



No wonder, that the small village in Cuba's West has become one of the major tourist attractions of the island. The great attraction in the Valley of Viñales is the Mogotes, precipitous rock cones made of limestone, which can be up to 400 meters high. They frame tobacco fields tilled by farmers in a traditional manner, using ox-drawn plows. Hundreds of thatched tobacco-drying houses have shaped

the image of the hill landscape.

RIDING DAY 2 : VIÑALES - LAS TERRAZAS

Standard Route (220 km / 137 miles)

Hotel Change "Route" (306 km / 190 miles)

VIÑALES - MURAL DE LA PREHISTORIA - PINAR DEL RIO - AUTOPISTA - SOROA - LAS TERRAZAS - AUTOPISTA - LA HABANA (HAVANA)

The area around Vinales is one of the nicest in all of Cuba. The so called "Valle de Vinales" is famous for its "Mogotes." The conspicuous limestone cliffs rising like islands from the bottom of the valley give the area its characteristic and gorgeous scenery.

Tobacco and other crops are cultivated at the bottom of the valley, mostly by traditional agricultural techniques. It is great to ride your bike through such scenery.

Highlights:

#1: Mural de la Prehistoria



The Mexican artist Leovigildo González Morillo liked the area so much that, in 1961, he created a huge painting on a rock wall in the Valley of Viñales. Precipitation makes it necessary to renew the color of the painting every once in a while. Of course, we can visit this place on our bikes!

#2: Finca Hector Luis Prieto tobacco farm



The world's best cigars come from Cuba and are being smoked by many important personalities! Montecristo, Cohiba, or Romeo y Julieta: who has not heard these names of famous cigars?

The best production area in Cuba is situated in the region of Pinar del Rio. Perhaps you want to taste one? But be careful not to inhale the smoke!

RIDING DAY 3 : LAS TERRAZAS - CIENFUEGOS

Standard Route (369 km / 229 miles)

Today we are facing a pretty long riding day toward the East of the island. We will partly ride on the Cuban Autopista. This is not like a European or American highway, even if it is considered to be an Autopista. We will see all kinds of vehicles on this road, sometimes even horses.

Around lunchtime, we arrive in one of the most important areas from Fidel Castro's Cuban Revolution -- the famous "Bay of Pigs" in the town of Playa Larga. The riding day ends in Cienfuegos, which is fondly called the "Pearl of the South" by Cubans and is famous for its historical city center.

Highlights:

#1: Bahía de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs)



The Bay of Pigs is an inlet on the southwest coast of Cuba. Its name originates from "cochinos", which in Cuban Spanish refers to the queen triggerfish, inhabiting the coral reefs at the Bahía de Cochinos.

It became famous in April 1961 as the landing site for the CIA-trained army of exiled Cubans. They wanted to link up with counter-revolutionaries and overthrow the Castro regime. Fidel himself led the defense in the three-day battle that resulted in the defeat of this fatally-flawed invasion. Its failure led directly to the cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Let's find out more about the invasion!

#2: Playa Girón



In 1961, not far from the little village of Playa Girón, a number of exiled Cubans started an invasion in today's famous Bay of Pigs. You will find a large number of weapons and pieces of their equipment from back then displayed in the museum in Playa Girón. There is also ample information about the battle.

#3: Cienfuegos



Cienfuegos, the youngest of Cuba's cities, was founded by French settlers in 1819. Peaceful and calming, it enjoys a lovely bay setting, delightful provincial architecture, and a baseball team that has provided many famous players to the US Major Leagues. Walk the plaza and seafront Malecón boulevard and admire the Palacio del Valle.

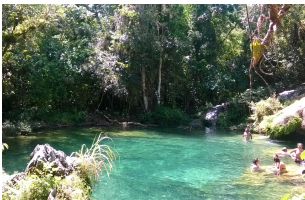
RIDING DAY 4 : CIENFUEGOS - TRINIDAD

Standard Route (168 km / 104 miles)

Today a varied day awaits you: Mountains, winding roads, and tropical forests. In El Nicho we will discover wonderful waterfalls in the jungle, where we can even swim in natural pools. Afterwards, we will ride via Manicaragua on the road to Topes, admire the beautiful landscape from the viewpoint of Topes de Collantes and then take the countless curves down to Trinidad under our wheels. Here we will stop at the Plaza Mayor before enjoying the tropical atmosphere at Playa Caribe or Playa Ancon.

Highlights:

#1: El Nicho



Located in the jungle of the foothills of the Sierra del Escambray lies this natural gem. The Hanabanilla river runs through lush green vegetation before plunging down into an emerald green pool. Do not forget your swim gear today!

#2: Topes de Collantes (National Park)



Topes de Collantes is a nature reserve park (and UNESCO World Heritage Site) established in the southeastern ranges of the Escambray Mountains. The vistas are sublime and the air is crisp and pine-scented as we ride past coffee plantations and through stands of Royal palms.

#3: Trinidad



Trinidad, undoubtedly the most well-preserved and impressive of Cuba's colonial cities, is a beguiling blend of cobbled streets and plazas fringed by pastel-colored 18th-century houses, and teeming with art galleries and lively music. No other city in Cuba will get you into such close contact with the colonial past. A short ride away you'll find the lovely beach of Playa Ancon. An evening of live music at

the Casa de la Música or Casa de la Trova guarantees a night to remember.

RIDING DAY 5 : TRINIDAD

Standard Route (137 km / 85 miles)

The beautiful old city of Trinidad is perfect for a relaxing day of rest. A stroll through the cobblestone streets is highly recommended, and there are many cafes and bars where you can pass the time and watch the people. If you want to soak up some sun, you only have to ride a few kilometers to reach the next Caribbean paradise beach.

But of course you can also ride a motorcycle, a little through the mountains, a little along the coast. And then in the afternoon you can discover Trinidad.

Highlights:

#1: Trinidad



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RIDING DAY 6 : TRINIDAD - REMEDIOS

Standard Route (156 km / 97 miles)

We leave Trinidad towards the East and make our first stop in the Valle de Los Ingenios, at Torre Iznaga, where you can learn about the history of slavery in Cuba.

Nice backcountry roads lead us to Santa Clara, certainly one of the most important cities of the Cuban revolution. Of course, you will get to visit the famous Che Guevara Mausoleum.

After visiting an interesting cigar factory in Camajuani we reach Remedio in the early afternoon. You can spend the afternoon walking around the town and admiring the numerous colonial buildings. The road out to the Cayos is unfortunately closed to motorcycles.

Highlights:

#1: Valle de los Ingenios



The valley was a center for sugar production from the late 18th century until the late 19th century. At the peak of the industry, over fifty cane sugar mills were operated in this valley, with over 30,000 slaves working in the mills and on the surrounding sugar cane plantations. The entire area covers 100 square miles and includes the sites of over 70 former sugar mills. Our stop at Hacienda-Torre Iznaga is an

opportunity to learn about the brutal history of slavery, but also to enjoy a freshly-squeezed guarapo (sugarcane juice).

#2: Monumento-Memorial Che Guevara



The Mausoleum of Ernesto Che Guevara, guarded by a gigantic statue of himself, contains the remains of the Marxist revolutionary and his 29 fellow Guerrilleros killed in combat during the attempt to encourage an uprising in Bolivia during the dictatorship. The monument was created in 1988, but not until 1997 that Guevara's exhumed remains were transferred to Cuba. Santa Clara was chosen

as it was the city that saw the final battle in 1958 between the Revolucionarios and the government of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, who fled into exile after the Santa Clara battle.

#3: Cigar production plant Camajuani (optional)



The world's best cigars come from Cuba and are being smoked by many important personalities! Monetcristo, Cohiba or Romeo y Julieta. Who has not heard of these famous cigar names?

The best production area in Cuba is situated in the region of Pinar del Rio. The cigars which are produced down here in Camajuani, however, are also of very good quality. Perhaps you want to try one? But be careful not to inhale the

smoke!

#4: Remedios



The city of Remedios was one of the first villages founded by Spanish colonizers in the 16th-century. Enjoy its colonial charm as you explore the central square and surrounding cobbled streets. Remedios is renowned for its year-end parranda—a carnival featuring extravagant fireworks and parades. A museum is dedicated to the theme.

RIDING DAY 7 : REMEDIOS - VARADERO

Standard Route (258 km / 160 miles)

Leaving Remedios we head towards Varadero.

Cuba's population does not only consist of a typical type of people like you would find in other countries. From the Spaniards conquering the country in the late 15th century to the Creole people and the black slaves who were brought in from Africa, etc. - the mix of people of different heritage living peacefully together is an essential part of today's Cuban culture. Just enjoy a little chat here and there - the locals are enthusiastic to talk to you!

We will arrive in Varadero early enough to enjoy an extraordinary highlight: Varadero possesses one of Cuba's most beautiful beaches. White sand and turquoise water make you want to sit here forever. Just get yourself a Mojito or a Cuba Libre, maybe also a Cuban cigar, and live for the day.

Highlights:

#1: Museo de Agroindustria Azucarera



The Museo de la Agroindustria Azucarera provides a fascinating profile of the historical development of the sugar industry in Cuba, as well as the production process of sugar, which undoubtedly played and still plays a very important role for the country. The most prosperous time for sugar industry in the region dates back to the 19th century, when a new railway facilitated the transport to the

nearby Caibarién harbour. You will also see a number of antique steam locomotives, one of which still runs up and down the tracks.

#2: Varadero



Because of its white sandy beaches and crystal clear ocean water, the Varadero peninsula has been famous since the early 20th century as Cuba's principal beach resort. Before the Revolution, wealthy people such as Al Capone or the Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista bought properties there. Dozens of new hotels were built there since the 1990s.

RIDING DAY 8 : VARADERO - LA HABANA (HAVANA)

Standard Route (211 km / 131 miles)

Even the best trips come to an end. Today we start our engines for the last time and cruise back to Havana, mostly on the main road that connects Havana with Varadero.

But of course, also on the last day, we will have some interesting spots for you. After the drop off of our motorcycles, we will have a farewell dinner and, of course, some Mojitos and Cuba Libres - maybe with a nice Cuban cigar! Cuba - hasta pronto!

Highlights:

#1: Cojímar



Fifteen minutes east of Havana, you'll find the humble fishing village of Cojímar. Cojímar is the place where Ernest Hemingway berthed his sport-fishing boat, Pilar. His Nobel Prize-winning novel 'The Old Man and the Sea' is based on the real-life experiences of the local fishers.

#2: Castillo de los Tres Reyes del Morro




The entrance to Havana harbour is guarded by a massive fortress on the East side of Havana bay. Built in 1589 by the Spanish colonial power, it was designed to protect the city from pirate attacks.

Regarded as impregnable for decades, it was heavily damaged and occupied by the British in 1762, and was returned to the Spanish under treaty terms a year later, followed by restoration.

#3: La Habana (Havana)



Havana was founded by the Spanish in the 16th century and due to its strategic location it served as a springboard for the Spanish conquest of the continent becoming a stopping point for the treasure laden Spanish Galleons on the crossing between the New World and the Old World. After the revolution the beautiful old town got badly destroyed and the country had no money to restore it. The historic centre was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982. Over the last 20 years the Cubans were working on their old town and now it is really beautiful!



We wish you a wonderful tour.

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EDELWEISS BIKE TRAVEL // Sportplatzweg 14, 6414 Mieming, Austria
Tel.: +43 5264 5690 // Fax: +43 5264 5690 3
facebook.com/edelweissbicycletours // info@edelweissbicycle.com
www.edelweissbicycle.com