



Sierra Escambray Mountains, Yvonne J Butler Photography

HAVANA & CENTRAL CUBA PHOTO ADVENTURE
Yvonne J Butler, Tour Leader Professional
FEBRUARY 20-27, 2020 – 8 days/7 nights

**CIENFUEGOS*REMEDIOS*SANCTI SPIRITUS*SIERRA ESCAMBRAY MOUNTAINS*GRAN
PARQUE NATURAL TOPES DE COLANTES*TRINIDAD*LAGUNA GUANAROCA NATURE
PRESERVE*HAVANA**

**BIRDING*WILDLIFE*NATURE*LANDSCAPE*ARCHITECTURE*
PHOTO & ECOLOGY LECTURES*PORTRAITURE* OPEN TO ALL LEVELS**

You are invited to join us to experience Cuba's breadth of achievements and amazing people, in the glorious rural, urban, and protected nature areas of central Cuba and Havana. This photo adventure will give you an opportunity to learn about and become absorbed in all things Cuba while you shadow and receive photo coaching from experienced Cuba travel escort and photographer Yvonne Butler. Our balanced time in nature preserves and colonial cities will be experiences you will capture with camera phone or camera, share with others, and cherish for your lifetime.

With Yvonne Butler and our English-speaking Cuba guide who is familiar with natural environments, you will take in and photograph the beauty of the people, sights, and variety of landscapes in early morning up to sunset. There will be plenty of time midday for learning and cultural activities when the sun is high. Acclaimed Cuba photographer and entrepreneur Julio Muñoz will share a lecture of his work.

This tour provides a little something(s) for everyone: stays in casa particulares (private bed-and-breakfast inns) with full amenities, yet another opportunity to engage directly with the beautiful people of Cuba; a chance to get out in the great wide open countryside and commune with nature; and varied activities of music, dance, art, architecture, photography and museum locations. After dinner, you will be free to explore, if you wish, the nighttime music and cultural scenes. We hope that you will join us for this amazing photo adventure into the dynamic culture and beauty of central Cuba.

Your tour will be escorted by Yvonne Butler, an experienced Cuba travel escort and leader, world-traveler-photographer, and artist who is knowledgeable of Cuba and its history, art and culture for the past five years. See www.yvonnebutler.com and www.instagram.com/yvonne.butler.artist.



Typical Casa lounge space



Cityscape - Cienfuegos



Yvonne w/Cuba singer

ACCOMMODATIONS:

On this tour, you will stay at lovely Casas Particulares (B&B) pre-selected and approved by our authorized agency for Cuba travel. This experience will be an additional window into daily life in Cuba.



PROGRAM:

THU February 20 Day 1 L, D

- **Day 1 Arrival at Jose Marti International Airport, at approximately 9am – 10 am.** Meet group and guide and go together on our air-conditioned bus or van for our drive to **Cienfuegos**, late afternoon arrival.
- Stops along the way for lunch and to visit historic locations.
- Transfer to Remedios for check in at Casa stay.
- Dinner at paladar.
- Group may go together to El Louvre, Cuba's oldest bar, to socialize (not included)

FRI Feb 21 Day 2 B,L,D

- Visit to **Iglesia San Juan Bautista de Remedios**
- From there, board a **historic steam train** to the **Museo de la Agroindustria Azucarera** for guided tour
- Visit town of **Caibarien**, with walking tour
- **Visit community arts project "Por la Costa"** where we will make a donation to project.
- Lunch in Caibarien for seafood specialties

- After lunch, transfer to **Sancti Spiritus**, to see splendid architecture and people of the area during a walking tour.
- Also visit **Casa de la Guayabera** for shirt making tour.
- Check into casa for the night and have dinner at local paladar in Sancti Spiritus.



SAT Feb 22 Day 3 B,L,D

- **Visit to Valle de los Ingenios**
- Manaca-Iznaga Tower
- Stops at high expansion bridge to get a fresh fruit drink and scenic overlooks of valley
- Continue to Trinidad
- Lunch
- Visit **Casa del Crochet**, a women's weaving cooperative, meet the women, and discuss their businesses.
- Check in at casa
- Dinner at local paladar
- Evening free



SUN Feb 23 Day 4 B, L, D

- **Trinidad.**
- Visits to **Palacio Brunet, Museo de Arquitectura Colonial and Palacio Cantero**
- Lunch (Or have lunch and then lecture with Julio Muñoz)
- Gather to go to the home of acclaimed photographer and entrepreneur **Julio Muñoz**, for visit and talk.
- Afternoon of independent exploration and photography on the streets of Trinidad
- Dinner at paladar
- Evening free – Join Yvonne in the center of Trinidad to mingle and talk with the people gathered near the jazz club.

MON Feb 24 Day 5 B,L,D

- Travel to the **Sierra Escambray**
- Visit the **Gran Parque Natural Topes de Collantes**
- Easy, leisurely hiking today, to the **Salto del Caburni** that leads to a 190’ waterfall
- Second easy (flat) hike on the **“Sweet Potato” trail** that leads us to a prehistoric cave and underground river
- Visit a nearby **coffee plantation**, have an authentic cafe cubano, and learn about local coffee production.
- Back to casa in Trinidad Dinner at paladar

TUES Feb 25 Day 6 B,L,D

- After an early breakfast we go to the nearby **Laguna Guanaroca Nature Reserve** for a guided tour with a local naturalist to the **Guanaroca Lagoon**, a birder’s paradise. (We will tip the naturalist guide separately, not included in general tips.)
- Lunch in the area.
- More time in the **Guanaroca Lagoon**.

WED Feb 26 Day 7 B, L, D

- Early morning departure: Check out of casa and make drive back to **Havana**
- Stop for lunch.
- Few stops to stretch your legs.
- Check into casa.
- Farewell dinner at Café Taberna – supper club, jazz music, and dance

THU Feb 27 Day 8 B, L

- Early morning check-out at hotel. Visit Old Havana on foot with guide
- Lunch in Havana.
- Mid-afternoon departure to Tampa, USA.

PRICING – 8 days/7 nights - Cuba visa for US passport holders is included in per person price

Double Occupancy - \$2,699 per person

Single Occupancy - \$2,899 single

*** This is a small group departure. A minimum of 7(seven) paid participants is required. If the minimum is not reached, you will have the option to pay additional or to opt out. ***

Not included are: personal items, extra beverages, meal tips, special guide tips (see Program), airfare to/from Cuba, travel cancellation insurance, and any travel and personal expenses prior to or following tour. Departure and return city for US travelers is Tampa.

CALL NOW, SPACE IS LIMITED! Havana & Central Cuba Photo Tour, with Yvonne Butler
PH: 727.317.9824

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Mail all forms, copies, and payments to Outer Reach Media. If paying by check, **make check payable to Carlson Maritime Travel to hold a space.**

Merchant Fee Required: If paying by credit card or through PayPal (suzanne@scarlsontrl.com), add 3.5 percent (3.5%) merchant fee to total amount.

****Deposit: Non-refundable \$500.00 per person Deposit (or Payment in Full, if you wish) is required to hold your space, no later than November 30, 2019. Space is limited, Book Now.**

****Balance Due: Any remaining Balance is due by mail at Outer Reach Media no later than December 20, 2019, still payable to Carlson Maritime Travel and non-refundable.**

CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Please ask us for insurance quote for optional cancellations, baggage, delay and medivac. We strongly suggest all guests purchase cancellation insurance, conveniently through Carlson Maritime Travel.

TO JOIN US FOR THIS AMAZING "CENTRAL CUBA ADVENTURE TOUR", PLEASE CONTACT:

YVONNE BUTLER
Outer Reach Media, LLC
2442 Enterprise Rd, Suite 4
Clearwater FL 33763 (Secure Lock Box)

PH: 727.317.9824
ybutlertours@gmail.com

AFTER YOU REGISTER, FOR CANCELLATION INSURANCE AND TO BOOK AIR FLIGHTS, CONTACT:

CARLSON MARITIME TRAVEL
623 E. Tarpon Ave, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Ph: 727.945.1930
info@scarlsontrl.com

TO DOWNLOAD REQUIRED FORMS:

Click here: "[Cuba Reservation Form](#)" and then Cuba Affidavit Form. On forms, check: **515.567** category. Your passport must have at least six months remaining, after return date.

Carlson Maritime Travel is a licensed travel service provider and is OFAC compliant to provide travel to, from and within Cuba, for those who are licensed to engage in travel-related transaction involving Cuba. This tour is being conducted under license (**31 CFR 515.567**). Each traveler will be provided with the proper visas and documentation to participate in this tour.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Airline Tickets: Tampa departure/return --- For US travelers, please book your flights through Carlson or on your own for flights that arrive early morning at approximately 9 am and returning late afternoon on the return flight from Havana, Southwest flights.

Baggage Limitations/Fees: Normal airline baggage rules apply per each airline. Please check their website. If traveling on our group block on Southwest, you are allowed two free checked bags plus one carry-on and one personal item.

Travel Insurance/Cancellation Insurance: We are offering additional medical evacuation, cancellation, baggage delay, trip interruption insurance for your trip. Premiums are based on age, price and state of residence. Please ask us for a quote.

Passports: Be sure your U.S. Passport is current and valid for at least six (6) months beyond your return from Cuba. Please make a photocopy of your passport and carry the copy with you. Leave the original and your extra cash and valuables in the room safe. **IMPORTANT:** Guests born in Cuba must obtain a special Cuban Visa before traveling.

Inoculations: There are no vaccinations required for travel to Cuba; however, always follow your doctor's orders. We suggest that you bring insect repellent as a precaution.

Visa: You will be issued a Cuban Tourist Card/Visa with your travel documents. Please keep the Cuban Tourist Card along with your return ticket, and passport, required to present when you depart Cuba.

Meals: Breakfast is served at the hotel or casa restaurant, between 7:00 and 10:00 am. Our lunch and dinner schedule is indicated on the itinerary.

Water: It is strongly recommended that you drink only bottled water while traveling in Cuba. Bottled drinks are safe, as well. The water used in the ice at the hotel and the restaurants on this program is safe to drink. We will have a daily supply of bottled water on our bus.

Gifts: We will supply you with a list of items that are needed by youth and seniors.

Safety: We are safe to travel throughout the island, but please use caution as you would when traveling in any other foreign country. There is very little crime in Havana. We ask that you stay with your group.

Document Requirements: All travel to Cuba is currently regulated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and each traveler must have documentation showing that their travel is authorized. You will be provided with proper documentation for legal travel to Cuba. A valid passport is required for travel to Cuba. A Cuban Visa (Tourist Card) is required for travel to Cuba. Your visa will be included in your travel documents and is included in your package price.

Medications: We recommend that you bring an adequate supply of the prescription medicines you use regularly to last throughout the program.

Medical Insurance while in Cuba: Medical Insurance is included in your program. This policy covers major medical emergencies while in Cuba. The policy is in effect throughout the country. It does not however cover medivac situations.

Cuba's Climate & Weather: Cuba is subtropical with a mean temperature of 87-94 degrees. The wet season runs from May to October, and the dry season from November through April. The average high temperature in Cuba's hottest month of July is 94 degrees Fahrenheit. Unless traveling in the winter, be prepared for hot weather and a chance for brief periods of rain with temperatures averaging 75-85F. You may want to bring sunscreen, definitely sunglasses. Havana weather forecasts are available on the Internet at all news bureaus sites such as CNN.com.

Photography gear: Drones are not permitted. You may bring a mobile camera phone and/or a minimal amount of P&S/DSLR camera gear, including one camera body, two to three lenses, and a tripod for rural use. As with any travel, please be sure to exercise caution and care when carrying and using your gear. Yvonne Butler will provide a list of what to bring, soon after you register.

Clothing and Packing Tips: During your daytime excursions, dress is casual with casual slacks, jeans, shorts and skirts being acceptable. Remember to bring comfortable, well-broken-in walking shoes. During the evening smart-casual attire, such as a button down-shirt with Khaki/casual slacks for men and a dress or blouse with skirt or pants for women is appropriate. Cuba is a casual destination. Slacks are required for men at Café Taberna at farewell dinner.

"Waste Management" Toilets in Cuba are plentiful, but depending on their location, they may be encountered in various states of cleanliness and conditions. Often there is an attendant at the entrance who will collect the equivalent of US 25 to 50 cents for entry, and he or she will usually give you a small section of toilet paper so it's highly recommended that you carry your own tissue packets and paper at all times.

Language: Spanish is the official language in Cuba, although many people you encounter will speak English. Learning and using even a few basic words will be much appreciated by the locals.

Time: Cuba is on the same time as EST.

Currency & Credit Cards: **The U.S. dollar is not accepted in Cuba and US credit cards issued by US banks generally are NOT accepted nor will they work in ATM machines (see below.)** We will provide a time for you to exchange dollars into Cuban Convertible Pesos (a.k.a. the CUC – "kook"). All exchange locations charge a standard 13% exchange fee. We will exchange our money at the front desk of our hotel as needed. US\$100 = CUC\$87. Your unused paper CUCs can be exchanged for U.S. Dollars at face value upon departure. We recommend that you do not exchange all your U.S. Dollars at once. Please exchange as you need throughout the week. We will advise you as we go.

Credit cards: At this printing, credit cards issued by U.S. banks are still NOT accepted in Cuba except for a Stonegate Bank credit card. Supplementary Expenses Personal expenses such as telephone, mini-bar, room service and laundry services are not included in the program and will have to be settled with the hotel prior to departure. Meals and beverages (including wines and liquors) not indicated in your itinerary are considered personal expenses as well. Please adjust the amount of cash you bring accordingly. Remember, no credit cards are accepted at this time. Cash is king! Bring MORE than you think you will need. You can always bring it back.

Tiping: Most gratuities are included in your package price to your guide and driver. However, we will ask that you leave a 1-3 CUC gratuity at each lunch and at each dinner. Additional modest gratuities may be collected by your travel leader, for the guide at La Yoandra and at Muraleando (see Program.)

Shopping and What Can Be Brought Back to the U.S: The U.S. regulations now allows the importation of "Cuban products" such as rum, cigars or other consumer products in the amount of personal consumption. As of this date, you are legally allowed to bring back up to one hundred (100) cigars and the standard amount of alcohol beverages, in this case rum. You may not carry any bottles of liquids in your carry-on. If you purchase valuable art and photographs, please obtain a receipt and stamp that shows you have paid the duty for the item(s); otherwise, you will be required to pay duty on departure.

Electrical Current: The standard electric current in Cuba is 220 volt, 50 cycles. North American appliances such as razors and hair dryers are made to operate on 110 volt, 60 cycle current and will burn out if a current converter is not used. An electrical current converter and a European-style "two prong" plug adapter should be purchased prior to departure.

Communications: Your Cuba guide will provide details on locations to purchase the Wi-Fi card for Internet access. We will announce times and places where you may make a purchase. Your casas may not have Wi-Fi cards for purchase.

Generally, it is now possible to use U.S.-issued cellular phones for calls to the U.S. provided Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, or Sprint is your carrier. It is also possible to make direct calls to the U.S. from your hotel room, if you are staying in a hotel. The price of the call will be charged to your room account. Please note that calls to the U.S. from your hotel room are expensive (approximately \$3 CUC per minute). We ask you to please bear in mind the phone service in Cuba is sometimes unreliable.



MAP OF CUBA - Click on image for map



CLICK ON PICTURE FOR MOVIE ON CUBA!