

HEART & SOUL OF CUBA!



**With Photo Leaders Karen & Joel Schulman
March 6-16, 2019**

Program Highlights ~ A Cultural and Photographic Adventure:

- **Photo Education with both Karen & Joel Schulman.**
- Program cost **includes TEN NIGHTS** in Cuba, **maximum 12 participants.**
- **Photographic subjects** include musical sessions, environmental portraits of friendly Cubans, city and country landscapes, gardens, and of course the great American cars of the 1940s and 1950s, surrounded by modern & historic architecture.
- Photograph stunning landscapes of the tropical plains dotted with immense limestone mounds, or mogotes, as well as tobacco farms near the town of **Viñales in the Pinar del Río Province.**
- Spend two evenings in the charming colonial town of **Trinidad** on Cuba's southern coast.
- Meet and interact with the Cuban people on the streets of the Pearl of the South - **Cienfuegos, Havana's distinct neighborhoods and in their homes in Trinidad.**
- Explore the architecture of **Old Havana**, designated an **UNESCO World Heritage site.**
- Enjoy panoramic views of the **Morro Cabaña** harbor, & the skyline of Havana.

For more information or to register contact Strabo Photo Tour
Collection: 607-756-8676 www.phototc.com



Join us for this fascinating tour of the land that Christopher Columbus said was “the most beautiful land that humans have ever seen.”

Karen and Joel have been working in the photographic field for over 35 years and are both accomplished professional photographers. Karen is a skilled and sensitive photographic artist and educator and during our tour will share ideas and knowledge to help you create great travel photographs, whether you are using a DSLR or an iPhone! Joel is an expert in the digital imaging world and has done photographic printing for some of the most notable names in fine art photography. He will share his knowledge of both the technical and creative aspects of the photographic medium.



In addition, Karen and Joel will offer visual presentations and discussions highlighting the development of personal vision and awareness, and show how light, color, composition, gesture and 'the moment' contribute to the success of a photograph. There will also be opportunities to have photo reviews of your images, so everyone can share and learn from each other, or private photo reviews can be arranged. Both Karen and Joel are passionate iPhoneographers and during your tour will offer optional creative iPhoneography instruction. Our goal is to make this tour enjoyable and fun for both serious and casual photographers!

From Karen: "I encourage each person to give themselves permission to make mistakes, permission to create. The more we learn to 'see' with our mind, heart and spirit, the more of an adventure life becomes."

Many thanks to you both for helping us discover Cuba; it was such a rich and exotic experience! We will enjoy the memories and the photos for many years to come. ~ Lana and Joe



The Cuba trip was absolutely amazing!!! Joel and Karen did a great job of balancing our interests (as a photo neophyte couple on "vacation") with those of the more serious photographers in our group. The entire trip was very relaxed, with just the right balance of structure, sightseeing, and socializing. The entire group got along very well, and our guide, Leonel, was a tremendous resource! Our driver, Jose, could not have been better ~ Tom & Judy

Thanks so much for all you did to help create such a fabulous trip to Cuba! I had such fun and really enjoyed our group – a great adventure! ~ Martha

Strabo's trip to Cuba will be one you will never forget. There are photo ops galore. While Cuba may be economically deprived, it is culturally rich. ~ Janice

Long a mystery to many Americans, and off limits for many decades, Cuba is a country that shares its charisma on many levels – the beat of the music, the welcoming Cuban people, eclectic architecture, cobbled streets, rugged mountains, the beautiful and lush countryside, the taste of rum and lots more! This is a licensed 'People-to-People' program, immersing you in the Heart and Soul of Cuba and is designed as a cultural and historical tour that will provide dramatic photographic opportunities each day. Enjoy the hustle and bustle of **Old Havana** as well as the slower paced countryside of the **Pinar del Río Province**, and also spend two evenings in the **Pearl of the South, Cienfuegos**.

You will be introduced to the rich culture and strong-willed people of Havana, as well as the spectacular UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage site of the **Valley of the Sugar Mills**, and the colonial town of **Trinidad** on Cuba's southern coast. The people of Cuba are friendly and open. You will find many wonderful faces to photograph in the cities and the countryside – some who earn a living in this way and others who are just as pleased to be photographed looking for nothing in return.



Explore Havana's colonial architecture and historic areas while watching the antique vehicles pass you by. Our warm and incredibly knowledgeable local guide, formerly both a college professor and member of the Cuban Parliament, will lead daily educational discussions about the arts, traditional music, history and culture of the country. You will visit with local families of diverse neighborhoods, and the sugar and tobacco farmers of the countryside.

Itinerary

March 6* & 7 **Home – Santa Clara - Trinidad**

Depart today on your flight to Cuba. A flight schedule will be announced as the tour approaches, likely to have everyone connect in Florida to be on the same flight landing in Santa Clara. Everyone will then return from Havana, therefore flights will be issued multi-city. Once the group arrives in the Santa Clara Airport, you will collect your bags, go through customs and meet your local guide. After exchanging some funds, if time allows, you may have brief photo opportunities in Santa Clara. This is the Capital City of the Villa Clara Province, located in the center of Cuba. Che Guevara liberated the city in 1958 from the Batista regime.



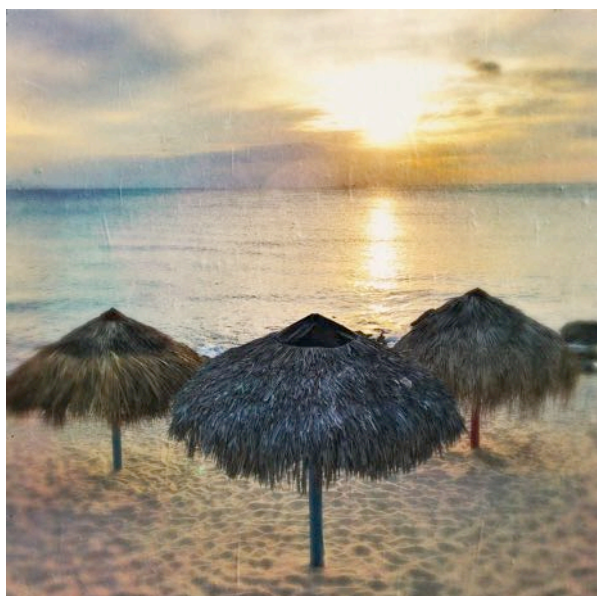
Leaving Santa Clara you will continue on to Trinidad, founded in the early 16th century on the southern coast of the country. It was designated an UNESCO site in 1988, and it's the perfect example of a traditional colonial town, with red tiled roofs and an array of pastel colored houses lining cobblestone streets. Walk with your leader or wander on your own capturing the simplicity of this quaint town and its villagers. For sunset one evening you will drive to Playa Ancon, which provides an opportunity to capture the beautiful, sandy beaches of Cuba lined with palm trees. Both evenings there will be opportunities to listen to some wonderful traditional music and a chance to dance away the night.

After breakfast, your guide will join you for a walking tour of the city streets, where you may have an opportunity to photograph artisans as they work or school children as they interact with one another and their teachers. Travel to the Valley of the Sugar Mills, photographing the beautiful landscape and a ruined 19th century sugar estate. The landscape speaks of the transitions this country has seen. Explore with your local guide as he educates you on the sugar plantations of yesterday. Overnight Iberostar or similar, Trinidad. (March 7 – B, L, D)

***Depending on your home departure airport and flight schedules, it may be required to travel to Miami on March 5.**

March 8 & 9 **Cienfuegos**

After sunrise photography in Trinidad, return to the hotel for breakfast. You may have an additional photography shoot with your leaders before driving west towards the Zapata Peninsula. There is a beautiful mile long nature trail at El Nicho waterfalls, located at the Topes de Collantes National Park. Two natural pools will cool you off or you can explore the trail enjoying bird and landscape photography along the way. Continue on to Cienfuegos, your home for the next two evenings. There will be sunset and sunrise photography on the bay, weather cooperating of course.



The City of Cienfuegos is a very modern city by Cuba's standards, offering architectural photography of the historic square, as well as a beautiful harbor, two of the reasons this city is now an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy photographing in the city's main square, Parque José Martí, the Tomas Terry Theater, and the neo-classical cathedral. After lunch take a walk to view the bustling Paseo del Prado and one of Cuba's longest waterfront walkways, the lively Malecon. Overnight Hotel La Unión, Cienfuegos. (B, D; B, L)

March 10 & 11 **Viñales – Pinar Del Río Province**

After breakfast we will depart for the Pinar del Río Province, home of many sugar and tobacco fields. It has an economy based on agriculture, mainly tobacco farming, and its soil is considered to be some of the richest in the world. Photograph rural family life amidst the tobacco fields and traditional buildings of this region. In the Viñales Valley, another UNESCO World Heritage site, we'll see mountainous "mogotes", made of hard limestone left over after millennia of erosion, as well as rural farmland vistas. An overlook offers commanding views of the landscape, which we will capture at sunset one evening. Karen & Joel will lead an early morning photography walk the next day in town before breakfast. We will then head down into the valley and walk the paths through fields of tobacco and sugar cane, meeting the farmers and photographing their homes, farms and families. Lunch will be at an organic farm overlooking the valley. Overnight Casa Particular: participants will stay in various local homes to experience the family hospitality and central location in town. Rooms have private baths and would be considered their version of a B&B. (B,D;B,L)

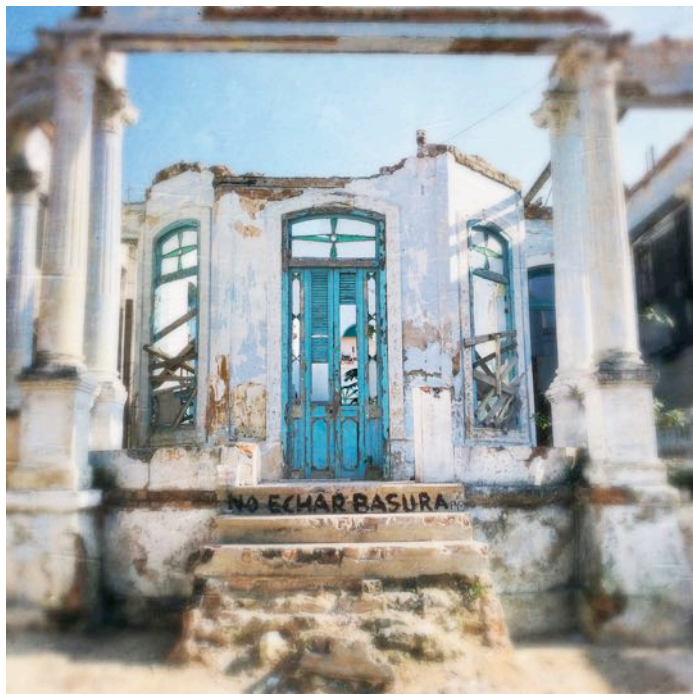


March 12-15 **Old Havana**



Enjoy a leisurely morning in Viñales with additional photography before departing for Havana. In 1982, Old Havana was designated an UNESCO World Heritage site. It is brimming with a variety of historical landmarks and interesting things to do. Walking the streets in this area is a favorite pastime and will surely result in an unforgettable experience with many varied photo opportunities. Your guide will orient you to the highlights of Old Havana on a walking tour. As you stroll the streets, you will be overwhelmed with sights to photograph, from the antique American cars, children playing in the streets or in abandoned lots, from the beautifully restored hotels to the paint peeling off dilapidated buildings. Havana's architecture is the most beautiful in the various plazas, where locals and tourists congregate to share stories. Plaza de Armas, Plaza de la Cathedral, Plaza Vieja, and Plaza de San Francisco, are a few that are within walking distance of our hotel. You will be able to return late at night while music fills the air, or early in the morning to photograph as the streets come to life again.

One morning, after photographing with your leaders, return to the hotel for breakfast, then meet your guide for a driving tour of some of the area's highlights (time and weather permitting): La Torre (the tower) with a bird's eye view of the harbor and city; Morro Cabaña (fortress) just across the harbor, which provides another perspective of the waves crashing on the lighthouse and fortress, along with the skyline of Havana; Fusterlandia, where a Cuban artist reclaimed his impoverished neighborhood as a dreamy folk art kingdom; Ernest Hemingway's former home, Finca La Vigía, where we can view the remembrances of his 20 years in Cuba; and Cojimar, Hemingway's beloved fishing village.



There will be free time in the late afternoons to walk the promenade down to the harbor, with incredible panoramic views and the historic malecón. The rooftop terrace of our hotel offers outstanding sunrise and sunset views of the city. Overnight Hotel Inglaterra (B; B, L; B, D)

March 16 **Havana – Home**

There will be a transfer to Havana airport for your trip home (exact time to be announced). Confirm with Strabo Tours, prior to booking domestic flights. Be sure to leave three hours between flights if you are making a connection after the Havana flight. This will all be worked out when we are closer to our trip date. (B)

Participants should know that Cuba is a special destination. Please understand that all elements of the itinerary are subject to change and that activities listed are examples of opportunities that may present themselves. Since the program is authorized by the U.S. Treasury Department, we have to abide by any changes to regulations that may take place. Please remain flexible as these circumstances are beyond our control. Be assured that all efforts will be made to provide a comparable alternative should an item on our itinerary need to be changed.



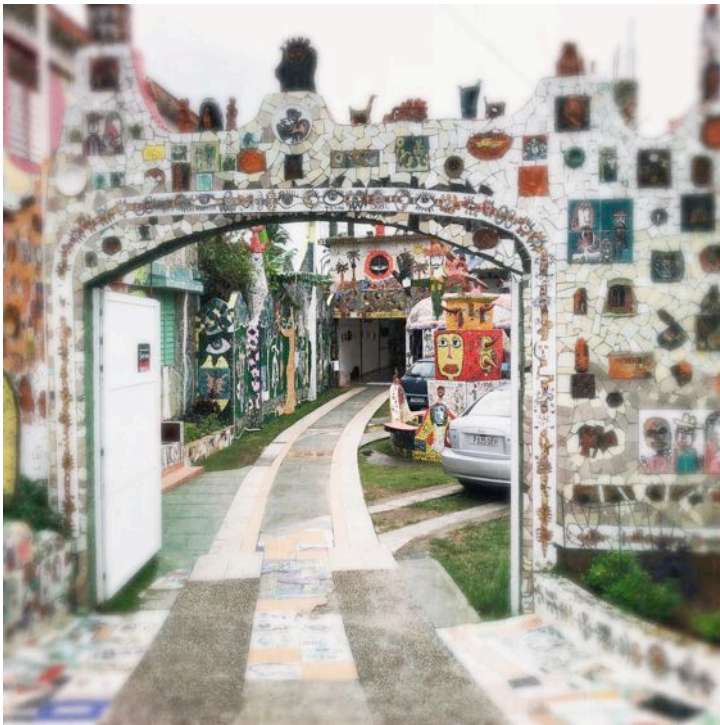
General Information

Land cost: \$5395, based upon minimum of 9 paying passengers, maximum 12. There will be a small group surcharge of \$300 per person if there are 5 to 8 paying passengers.
Single room supplement: \$595 (available on first-come, first-served basis).

The land cost includes:

- Land transportation: All group ground transportation in country in our private tour van.
- A local guide will escort you.
- Photo Instruction by your photo leaders.
- Accommodations as listed in itinerary, based on two people sharing a room.
- Meals as indicated in itinerary, (B= breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner).
- Miscellaneous fees and service charges: All portage fees that are included in the itinerary; service charges, hotel taxes, and park entrance fees.
- Predeparture information: You will receive information on all aspects of the program, including packing recommendations, plus readings on the history, culture, and ecology.

The land cost does not include: International and domestic airfare; transportation and transfers for those not traveling with the group; domestic hotel overnight cost if required to make connection flight; air tax; foreign airport taxes; excess baggage charges; passport and visa fees; meals not listed in the itinerary; personal medical and travel insurance; any activities not specified in the program itinerary, or those listed as optional; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone charges, beverages; film and processing, medical expenses, and room service; tips for meals not included in itinerary and optional tips to guides and service personnel. Upon the completion of your program, modest gratuities to the local guides and the drivers are customary.



Please contact Strabo Tours if you would like rates on **connecting airfare**. Please note on your program application form if you would like us to assist you with your airfare needs, a \$65 per person charge will be added for this service. If making your own arrangements, it is important to discuss flight days with Strabo Tours before booking any airline tickets. This will avoid you having to pay airline cancellation penalties.

Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds

A deposit of \$750 (\$500 on domestic programs) per person is required. Specific programs may require an additional deposit due to accommodation bookings or transportation requirements.

If applicable these will be noted on your invoice. Payment in full is required when bookings are made less than 120 days before the departure date. Space is subject to cancellation by Strabo if payment is not received when due.

If a passenger wishes to cancel they must send notification in writing to: Strabo International Tour, Co., P.O. Box 580, Dryden, NY 13053; fax 208-545-4119. At the time we receive your notification, the following per person charges apply:

- 91 days or more before departure: \$300 cancellation fee (\$150 fee on domestic programs), plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your program, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation.
- 61-90 days before departure: \$500 (\$250 on domestic programs) minimum cancellation fee, plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your program, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation. Fees may range from 25% to 100% of program costs.
- 60 days or less before departure or anytime after departure: NO REFUND.

Refunds for services that are voluntarily not used by you cannot be made.

Fitness and health

The program is not strenuous, and anyone who is reasonably fit and in good health should be able to participate. One day the group will spend several hours in a vehicle traveling between destinations. Rest stops and photo stops are planned approximately every two hours.

If you have any questions about your ability to participate in this program, please contact 607-756-8676 for more information. You should also be aware that medical services or facilities might not be readily available during all or part of your program. This could include emergency medical care, presence of physicians, or adequate medication. If you have any special needs or any physical condition that you feel might prevent you from fully participating, please contact Strabo Tours with your concerns (607)756-8676.

Insurance

Each participant must be covered by medical insurance that is valid overseas. (Cuba Programs: Medical insurance is mandatory and is included in the airfare ticket cost between U.S. and Cuba).

We strongly urge you to evaluate your risk and to take out insurance on your program. It is vital for you to realize that if you experience a delay or find it necessary to cancel or cut short your program for any reason, you will lose part or all of the sum you've invested in it (see the section "Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds" in the program brochure).

Travel insurance helps to minimize the risk of monetary losses you would incur in the event of a delay of your departure due to weather, airline strike, missed connection, etc., your inability to travel for reasons such as illness, injury, unforeseen financial complications and other personal circumstances, or if you were required to cut your program short for medical or any other reasons.

There are restrictions and limitations on any insurance program. for this reason, please read carefully the enclosed pamphlet, which outlines their program of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance. trained agents are available to answer your questions, so don't hesitate to call the toll free number in their brochure. it is to your advantage to apply

Note: This program has been carefully constructed to assure participants the best Cuba has to offer. However, should events arise or there be governmental changes that are beyond our control, this may change the itinerary, activities and hotel arrangements without notice. Be assured that we will make substitutions that are as similar in quality and interest as possible.