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Nature & Cultural Journeys  
for the Discerning Traveler

# THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU ON THE UNVEILING OF

## CUBA

*CUBANO SATO: THE NATURE OF HEMINGWAY'S CUBA*

THIS PROGRAM IS ORGANIZED UNDER THE AUSPICE OF THE GENERAL LICENSED EDUCATIONAL FOR PEOPLE -TO -PEOPLE TRAVEL SPONSORED BY CLASSIC ESCAPES UNDER CFR 515.565(B).

JUNE 7 TO 15, 2017



## **YOUR TOUR LEADER: DR. WILLIAM FOSTER DVM ~ CEO BIRMINGHAM ZOO**

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William R. Foster, DVM, has been the Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Birmingham Zoo (Zoo) since 2004. While under Foster's direction, the Zoo completed the Junior League of Birmingham-Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo in April 2005, which is a \$15 million anchor exhibit dedicated to children and devoted to urban, rural and wild animals and the environs of Alabama. Dr. Foster has also led the Zoo to record attendance when the Zoo was named the #1 tourist attraction in the State of Alabama by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel. Under Dr. Foster's tenure, the Zoo is living up to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's tough accreditation standards, which only the very best zoos in the United States achieve. The Birmingham Zoo has seen a more than 300% increase in attendance since privatization. It is one of the fastest growing accredited zoos.

In the spring of 2011, Trails of Africa opened, followed in the spring of 2012 with the opening of the Kiwanis Giraffe Encounter. The Trails of Africa is a \$15 million, 14-acre showcase for African animals and birds.

In 2013, the enormously popular Dino Discovery Exhibit, opened in March and ran through Labor Day, helping the zoo set record breaking attendance. Under Dr. Foster's supervision, it is anticipated that attendance will continue to climb steadily as the Barbara Ingalls Shook Black Bear Trail opened in August 2015 and groundbreaking has begun on construction of the \$18 million Asian Passage and Arrival Experience which opens in 2017.

Foster, a leading zoo management authority on the national scene is past president of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) as well as past chair of the AZA Accreditation Committee. He is also involved in community leadership at both a state and local level, serving as an active Rotarian, as a member of the City of Birmingham's Blue Skies Greens Spaces consortium and he completed Leadership Alabama (Class XXIII) training in 2013. Prior to the Birmingham Zoo, Foster was the President and Executive Director of the Louisville Zoo for 28 years. While at the Louisville Zoo, he oversaw the complete transformation of the Louisville Zoo into a world-class zoo attraction. He is past president of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, and has published several academic articles on veterinary medicine during his career. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, a worldwide effort to preserve the endangered mountain gorilla of Africa for future generations. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction & Conservation (SEZARC), whose mission is to serve as an interface between researchers, veterinarians and animal managers to bring research science forward as an applied conservation management tool.



Dr. Foster received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of South Florida and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Bachelor of Science degrees from Tuskegee University.

The Birmingham Zoo is a fully accredited non-profit zoological park with a diverse collection of over 258 species and 848 individual animals from around the world, including many endangered species, centrally located on a 126-acre site. The Zoo offers many events and programs throughout the year to advance its mission, which is to "Inspire a Passion for the Natural World."

## YOUR ITINERARY

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### DAY 1~WEDNESDAY~JUNE 7

#### BIRMINGHAM/MIAMI

Arrive in Miami today and meet with the rest of the group at your hotel. Get to know your fellow travelers tonight over dinner, and get any last-minute instructions and travel documents on your upcoming adventure to Cuba.

Overnight at the MIAMI MARRIOTT. (D)

### DAY 2~THURSDAY~JUNE 8

#### MIAMI/HAVANA

Return to the airport early this morning for your short flight to Cuba. Arrive at the José Martí International Airport in Havana where your Classic Escapes representative is waiting to greet you. Cuba is a mystical place. Blocked from the outside world, Cubans have managed to create a vibrant culture out of humble ingredients. It's a place with warm and friendly people who approach life with a dramatic flair and an ability to dance and sing even in the most difficult times. The people of Cuba are passionate, idealistic and at the same time dreamers.

Start your trip in magical Havana, a city suspended in time with classic cars driving past colonial houses, with local Habaneros dancing to the rumba beat and cigar smoke filled wood-lined bars. Havana was "founded" by Spanish colonialists in 1514 as San Cristóbal de la Habana and was located on the southern coast of the island. The settlement had to be moved several times due to mosquito infestations and in 1519 was moved to its present northwestern location because of the natural bay, which now hosts Havana's harbor. The new location was a great site for a port city and also allowed easy access to the Gulf Stream, the main ocean current that navigators followed when traveling from Europe to the Americas.



The first thing you'll notice in Havana is that the streets are filled with colorful and bright vintage "Old Styler" American cars. Enjoy a panoramic overview of Havana on your stop at the Revolution Square. Located in the modern political and cultural center of Havana, Revolution Square is presided over by a 357-foot tall tower with an elevator to take you to the top for spectacular views of Havana. The 59-foot statue of José Martí, the leader of the Cuban independence movement back in 1895 as well as a gifted poet and journalist, fronts the government palace. Take a group photo under the iconic mural of Che Guevara, the first Minister of the interior appointed by Fidel Castro, before you leave.

Continue to the Museum of Natural History at the very center of Havana. The museum features four exhibitions each with a different focus: mammals, birds and reptiles of the world; history of the Earth; Cuban life and nature; the Almiquí show room, and the Colibrí games room. Not only a repository for antiquities and wildlife specimens, it is an institution with strong ties to Cuba's leading cultural and scientific institutions and the general population through its scientific and educational outreach work.



After lunch at La California paladar, take a trip back in time and walk in the shoes of one of the world's greatest writers as you drive ten miles east of Havana towards the small, working-class town of San Francisco de Paula to visit Hemingway's legendary farm house, Finca Vigia. The Cuban people have always respected the famous writer's choice to

live in a modest town, amongst the people he fished with. After Hemingway's death in 1961, the Cuban government took ownership of the property and after years of neglect, restoration and preservation work finally began. Finca Vigia is now a museum with Hemingway's library of 9,000 books, stuffed heads and the typewriter he used to compose many of his masterpieces, all laid out just as they were when he was alive and living in Cuba. Here, Hemingway wrote two of his most celebrated novels: *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. *A Movable Feast* was written there as well.

Your home for the next three nights is the Hotel Saratoga, one of Havana's most elegant hotels, offering ample accommodations and top notch service. The hotel is near many cultural destinations, including the Capitol building and Havana's exquisite opera house. The rooms, designed by European consultants, are simple, spacious, elegant, and comfortable. The ultra-modern bathrooms have all the expected amenities. It has a Mudejar-inspired restaurant, a Maugham-ish courtyard bar and the city's best rooftop pool. Tonight enjoy a special dinner in a local restaurant to celebrate your arrival in Havana.

Overnight at the HOTEL SARATOGA in *Deluxe Patio Rooms or similar*. (L,D)[www.hotel-saratoga.com](http://www.hotel-saratoga.com)



### DAY 3~FRIDAY~JUNE 9

#### HAVANA

Venture off to discover Havana Vieja, the old part of the city with some of the most stunning Spanish colonial architecture in the world. The old city was declared a UNESCO Heritage of Mankind Site in 1982. Continue with your educational overview of the City and its people by visiting some of the city's iconic sights, including: Capitolio, Obispo Street and the Cathedral Square. During your journey, interact with a local historian/architect, such as Daniel de la Regata, duties permitting, who will talk about the changes that Old Havana has faced, both good and bad, and give you an overview as to where they get the funding to restore the old buildings and the challenges with receiving supplies.



Also visit a Graphic Arts Studio for an overview of the importance of art in Cuban life through interactions with students and staff. Learn about the training it takes to become an artist including the different techniques used. You will see old printing machinery being used and learn about challenges in getting necessary art supplies and materials. Travelers can discuss their arts experiences in the US, from different schools and programs offered to stores where supplies are readily available. The interaction will consist of understanding the techniques of graphic art as well.

After lunch, venture off to the Botanical Gardens of Havana located nine miles from the city center, where many species of indigenous tropical flora, as well as some international, are exhibited. The garden boasts a considerable collection of palms representing all Cuban species and many from the world's



tropical regions. Visit the amazing green houses with displays of cactus, ferns and many other families of plants. Among the main attractions at the gardens are the Japanese Garden, the ecologic restaurant, the greenhouse, and the exhibition of succulent plants. After your visit you will see that despite revolution and economic hardship, botanical gardens, organic farms, private gardens, and agriculture have thrived in Cuba. At the Gardens, the naturalist and his gardening staff (some of whom are students at the University of Havana) will discuss the importance of certain native plants and their efforts to preserve them. They will interact with the group and talk about different community projects available to children and adults alike. Feel free to share your gardening experiences and to offer ideas on similar projects back in the US.

Continue to the nearby Cuban National Zoo which differs from others around the world. A generous variety of animals from different parts of the world are featured here, some of which move freely in special areas that mimic their natural habitats. On a simulated safari, visitors can observe them from special buses that drive around the zoo grounds. You will get a chance to meet with the zookeepers and scientists and visit the onsite breeding facility for lions. Resident scientists will share success stories in the field, the variety of available government programs and how local volunteers are used. This is an opportunity to discuss the different programs that are offered in our zoos back home. This arranged encounter should prove to be very meaningful learning experience.



After sunset, board your antique cars for dinner at *La Fontana*. Overnight at the HOTEL SARATOGA. (B,L,D)

#### **DAY 4~SATURDAY~JUNE 10**

##### **HAVANA/LAS TERRAZAS**

Following breakfast at your hotel, head to Las Terrazas, a community in Mayabeque Province just 45 minutes from Havana. Las Terrazas National Park is a paradise for nature lovers, where habaneros head for a breath of fresh mountain air. As you drive toward Las Terrazas you will see the landscape quickly transform from the urban Havana to lush green countryside, dotted with brightly colored houses, toiling farmers and grazing cows. Hiking trails, small lakes, waterfalls, sulfurous springs and colonial-era coffee estates await exploration. Visit the former coffee plantations, reminders of the once flourishing coffee trade in the area. You will gain an insight into how the Cuban farmers were able to produce coffee in spite of only having very basic tools. You will have time for a walk around the town to meet the friendly locals and visit the woodwork and pottery studios that are open to the public.



Las Terrazas is an ideal place to enjoy outdoor sport activities (*optional, at an additional cost*). A host of activities await you, such as easy hiking trails, horseback riding rowing on the lake and fishing. For the adventurous there is also a zip line,

Canopy Las Terrazas, which crosses the lake into the trees. You'll enjoy the fantastic sight of the beautiful environment of Las Terrazas community from above.



It is also a superb place for birding and for seeing the Cuban Trogon (*also called tocororo*) which is the national bird of Cuba because its colors mimic the colors of the Cuban flag. Other birds sought after are the Yellow-headed Warbler, the Red-legged Warbler and the Cuban Tody.

Several well-known Cuban artists are based at Las Terrazas, including Lester Campa, whose work has been exhibited internationally. Lester Campa is a political artist, his subject the politics of the environment. Las Terrazas has a store that sells original art on recycled paper and silk-screened T-shirts. Profits support a collective of local artists organized by Mr. Campa. You will enjoy lunch at "Casa del Campesino" and coffee tasting at a local café before heading back to Havana in the late afternoon feeling truly inspired.

Return to Havana and enjoy a cultural visit to the Gaudi inspired neighborhood of a mosaic tile artist Jose Rodriguez Fuster. His work has been exhibited all over the world, so it is a wonderful

privilege to visit the extraordinary home of the "Picasso of the Caribbean" and see his work. He has turned his entire neighborhood in a fantasy land "Fusterlandia". The entire area surrounding José Fuster's studio and home is decorated in Fuster's unique style of mixing painting and ceramic and it is utterly surreal. The community art project now incorporates over 50 houses in the neighborhood in which the residents have allowed Fuster to use their homes, walls, and benches as an artists' canvas. The neighborhood was not created for tourism, and is still functional predominantly on a civilian level. Fuster's work beautifies the streets, and generates money. Dinner at paladar *Mediterraneo Havana*. Overnight at the HOTEL SARATOGA. (B,L,D)



## DAY 5~SUNDAY~JUNE 11

### HAVANA/CIENEGA DE ZAPATA/CIENFUEGOS

Today's drive takes you south-east of Havana towards the Peninsula de Zapata. Walk through Cienaga de Zapata Natural Reserve, the largest swamp in the Caribbean area, which stretches over to the south coast. A national park and a wildlife reserve, it is on the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve list. It is one of the most important ecosystems in Cuba and features spectacular flora and fauna species, native residents and migratory. Mangroves, marshes, and woodlands are home to a wide variety of birds, including two found nowhere else: the Zapata Wren and the Zapata Rail.

Visit Criadero de Crocodilos, a huge crocodile farm. Interact with breeders and scientists of the research facility and learn about this breeding facility for the Rhombifier (the endangered Cuban Crocodile) and the Acutus (the threatened American Crocodile) species of crocodiles, and a sanctuary for sixteen species of endangered reptiles. The farm began operating in 1960 by a government ministry to preserve these species which had



become endangered due to indiscriminate hunting, and to provide employment for local residents. The farm has more than 100,000 reptilian residents, kept in a variety of pools. You can observe them from a viewing platform that overlooks the farm.

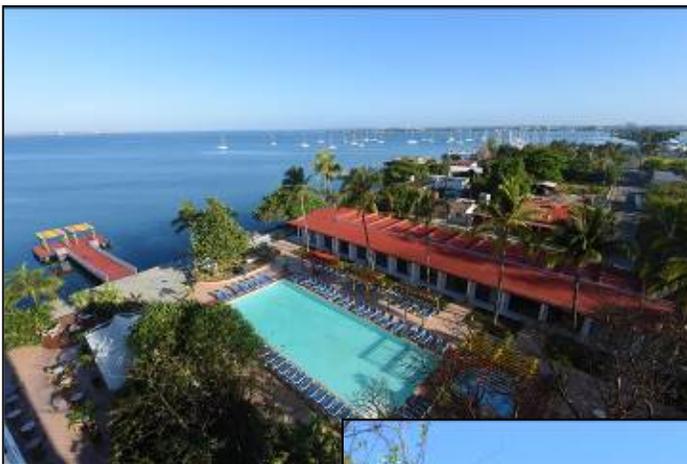
Continue your journey via Bay of Pigs, where each spring millions of land crabs pour out of nearby swamps and into the shallow waters to breed. The bay holds historic significance as the site of the failed invasion attempt in 1961 by the U.S. against the Cuban revolution.

Lunch at Casa Enrique, a private house, and trade stories with the owners and learn of their many talents. Family owners can give an in-depth view of owning a private business in Cuba, both the challenges and benefits.

Arrive in Cienfuegos, once Fernandina de Jagua, which was awarded the title of "city" in 1880, and in July 2005, its Historic Center became a World Heritage Site. Cienfuegos has also been known as the Pearl of the South, and others have called it la Ciudad de las Cupulas (the City of Domes), for the amount of buildings whose towers end in domes. Appreciate the neoclassical architecture as you walk down the boulevard, visiting Palacio del Valle, Marti Park, Tomas Terry Theater and the cathedral.

Jagua Hotel is located in the well-known residential area of Punta Gorda, in the southern city of Cienfuegos. Hotel Jagua opened as the first hotel in post-revolutionary Cuba. The hotel's mid-20<sup>th</sup> century architecture style features large, bright airy spaces. Rooms are spacious with balconies offering beautiful panoramic views of the bay. The hotel also has a pool and spacious pool-deck, a delightful place to relax after a busy day. Two gift shops, a pharmacy, small gym, buffet-restaurant and ample parking are also offered.

Overnight at HOTEL JAGUA or similar (B,L,D) <http://www.hoteljagua.com/>



## DAY 6~MONDAY~JUNE 12

### CIENFUEGOS/TRINIDAD

Your day begins with an excursion into the Escambray Mountain range and El Cubano Park, where you will take part in a river walk with ample opportunities for bird watching. A compelling narrative on the local flora and fauna from an experienced nature guide accompanies the walk. Afterward, you will have lunch at a rustic restaurant within the park.



Leave the park and motor your way to Trinidad and Casa del Alfarero where potter Chichi

Santander and his family have been crafting beautiful and nationally recognized works of pottery for generations. You will meet with the family and they will demonstrate their throwing techniques that inform the various shapes and sizes of their pieces. Trinidad is a haven for many other artists and you will have time to visit their studios as you walk around historic Trinidad and visit with artists in their own galleries.



Trinidad's Historical Center is your next destination. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988, the city center is an architectural treasure trove of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings that rim the Plaza Mayor. Many of these expansive edifices are the remnants of the once flourishing sugar trade, fueled with cane harvested from the nearby Valle de los Ingenios. The sugar barons are gone but their beautiful homes remain. You will arrive back in Cienfuegos in time for a succulent Cuban dinner. Dinner at the local restaurant 'Carmelina.

Overnight at the HOTEL JAGUA. (B,L,D)

## DAY 7~TUESDAY~JUNE 13

### CIENFUEGOS/SANTA CLARA/SANTA MARIA

Your first stop of the day is at the 232 acres botanic garden, just 10.5 miles east of Cienfuegos, one of Cuba's biggest gardens. Today, the garden is run by the Cuban government and is a really fine showcase for what grows in the tropics. It houses 2000 species of plants, including 23 types of bamboo, 65 types of fig and 280 different palms (purportedly the greatest variety in one place anywhere in the world). The botanic garden was founded in 1901 by the American sugar baron Edwin F. Atkins, who initially intended to use it to study different varieties of sugarcane, but instead began planting exotic tropical trees from around the globe. It became a center for tropical plant research back in the early 1900's, and had strong links with Harvard University during the first half of the 20th century, as a result of a meeting between Edwin Atkins and Harvard professors.



Continue with your drive to Santa Clara City located in the heart of Cuba. Founded in 1689, this vivacious city is remembered throughout history for the Battle of Santa Clara in 1958. As the Batista regime fell so did Cuba's guerrilla revolutionary, Che Guevara. Visit the monument of Che at the Plaza de la Revolucion Ernesto Guevara, where the remains of Che and his comrades who fell in Bolivia have been interred at this site. The Che Guevara Monument confirms that El Che, "the man of the people", is no longer a person but an icon.





You will have lunch at a community center for the elderly. The center offers classes on all types and activities from dancing, to playing dominos, various sports, sewing, and aerobics. Time permitting, you can share a game of dominos with the community members over discussions about each other's lives, families and pass times.

Depart for Cayo Encenachos, an island located north of the main island of Cuba in the "Jardines del Rey" (King's gardens) archipelago. Your home for two nights is the hotel Iberostar Ensenachos, an all-inclusive resort located on a private key and facing two dazzling white sand beaches, Megano and Ensenachos. The nearby Cayo Santa Maria National Park is home to flamingos, herons, cormorants and many other birds.

Crystal clear waters, perfect for bathing and watersports, soft white sandy shores and offshore reefs teeming with marine life make impressive dive sites among these cayos. Enjoy various cuisines at the resort's several restaurants featuring Italian, Asian, and international cuisine as well as fresh seafood and local delicacies. Overnight at the HOTEL IBEROSTAR ENSENACHOS. (B,L,D)



**DAY 8~WEDNESDAY~JUNE 14**

**NATURE TRAIL/CAIBARIEN/REMEDIOS**

Explore Cayo Santa Maria this morning. More than 60 local animal species and 245 plant species live on these cayos.



After your trek amongst the flora and fauna of the cayos, drive to Caibarién for lunch at El Curujey. Known for its beaches that resemble stretches of refined sugar, Caibarién was a mill town where raw cane was processed into granulated sweetness. You will visit the now defunct mill and gain insight into how the sugar industry, and its eventual diminution, has affected Cuba over the last 50 years. This tutorial on the impact of the sugar industry on this island nation continues when you make your way, aboard a vintage steam train, to Remedios. During this trip into the past, the crew will highlight the importance of trains and its attending rail system to the sugar industry.



In Remedios meet up with the local priest who provides many programs to the community, free of charge. He involves the entire community to make their lives better, not just through religion but through activities, sports and hobbies. Take part in, or observe, one of these activities to gain understanding of the importance of this community effort.



In the evening, share your favorite stories while attending your farewell dinner at the hotel.

Overnight at the HOTEL IBEROSTAR ENSENACHOS. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 9~THURSDAY~JUNE 15

#### SANTA CLARA/MIAMI/BIRMINGHAM

It's time to return to the USA, as you will be transferred this morning to the airport for your return flight home, carrying with you many fond memories of your Cuban adventure. (B, Meals Aloft)



## INCLUSIONS

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- Flight between Miami/Havana and Santa Clara/Miami.
- Superior accommodations as indicated or best available.
- Dinner in Miami. All meals while in Cuba.
- All transfers by private motor coach.
- Complimentary bottled water in vehicles and with meals.
- Dr. William R. Foster will accompany the group with a minimum of 15 travelers.
- Professional guide throughout.
- All applicable hotel and lodge taxes and gratuities for baggage handling.
- Gratuities to guide and driver, as well as local guides where needed.
- All park entry fees.
- Visa fees.
- Cuban departure tax of \$25 (currently and subject to change).
- Complimentary baggage tags and passport wallet.

## EXCLUSIONS

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- Roundtrip flight between Birmingham and Miami, including taxes and fuel surcharges, currently subject to change (quoted separately.)
- Passport.
- \$20 per bag luggage fee.
- Gratuities to guide, driver and other conveyance attendants.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals and beverages, other than specified.
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.
- Personal and baggage insurance.
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above.

***NOTE: DUE TO THE NATURE OF TRAVEL IN CUBA, OUR ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. AN UPDATED SCHEDULE WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE BUT PARTICIPANTS WILL NEED TO BE HIGHLY FLEXIBLE AND WILLING TO ACCEPT MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM.***

Please Note That The Itinerary Sequence Is Correct At The Time Of Writing,  
But Is Subject To Change.



## THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CUBA

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### Participants

- This is not a regular vacation: Travelers who envision days full of sunbathing and sipping mojitos should be forewarned: the new regulations mean traveling with U.S. and Cuban government-authorized operators, and busy schedules of educational and cultural activities. The U.S.'s new regulations allow for "person-to-person" travel that facilitates interaction with locals and an understanding of Cuba's culture. Itineraries can vary, but activities can include visits to local medical facilities, orphanages, recording studios, tobacco farms, and community arts projects. Organized activities are intended for the whole group (which can be as small as 10 or as large as 30), and free time can be limited to just a few hours a day.

### General

- True adventure in travel can sometimes be accompanied by unexpected changes in conditions, itineraries and occasionally your accommodations.
- Participants should travel with a spirit of adventure and flexibility. Remember to pack your patience and sense of humor! Be willing to look past self-imposed ideals of Western amenities and do not compare these new experiences with your life back home. Travel often includes visiting destinations with modest infrastructures and a bending definition of comfort. That being said some locations are nestled in absolute luxury where pampering is the norm.
- Participants should generally be in good health and prepared to travel in locations with limited medical facilities.

### Air Schedules

Choosing the best possible air arrangements for our travelers is always a challenge. We work with many airlines that offer the best level of service, routings and value for our programs. While there may indeed be more direct routings available with another airline, the cost of these flights may not be within the budget that allows us to give you the best value possible. If you prefer to purchase your own international air, please feel free to choose the "land only" rate for this program. **The start and end city for this program is Miami.**

*Upon registration, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with reissuing the ticket.*



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# YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

**INCLUDING:** HAVANA, PINAR DEL RIO, VINALES, LAS TERRAZAS, CIENAGA DE ZAPATA, CIENFUEGOS, TRINIDAD, REMEDIOS, CAYO SANTA MARIA & CAIBARIEN.

**SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:** BIRMINGHAM ZOO

**ESCORTED BY:** DR. WILLIAM R. FOSTER, PRESIDENT & CEO, BIRMINGHAM ZOO

**DATES:** JUNE 7 TO 15, 2017

<b>COSTS:</b> PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	<b>MAIN</b>
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY COST - LAND INCLUDING THE FLIGHT MIAMI/HAVANA-SANTA CLARA/MIAMI	\$5,695 PER PERSON
ESTIMATED ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FROM BIRMINGHAM TO MIAMI INCLUDING TAXES & FUEL SURCHARGES	\$640 PER PERSON, ADDITIONAL
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT, ADDITIONAL*	\$1,595 PER PERSON

*\*SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: RATE IS VALID FOR FIRST TWO SINGLE ROOMS BOOKED. IF MORE THAN TWO SINGLE ROOMS, ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT MAY APPLY. SINGLES ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE BASIS.*

*\*\*ALL AIRFARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND BASED ON MINIMUM OF 10 TRAVELERS. TAXES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL TICKETED. IF LESS THAN 10 TRAVELERS, THE FARE WILL INCREASE & SUPPLEMENTAL COSTS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE TRAVELERS PRIOR TO ISSUING THE TICKETS, APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. NOTE THAT THE SPECIAL RATES NEGOTIATED BY CLASSIC ESCAPES ARE NOT UPGRADABLE.*

**DEPARTURE CITY:** BIRMINGHAM

(OTHER DEPARTURE CITIES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT ADDITIONAL COST)



## CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:

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### REGISTRATION

**HOW TO BOOK:** Fill out and sign the enclosed reservation form and send it, along with the relevant deposit as shown below, to: Classic escapes Inc. 58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside NY, 11377. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice and invoice from us.

### PAYMENTS

**DEPOSIT:** A deposit of \$750 per person must be submitted when requested. Deposits may be paid by check or charged to American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Discover.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Final payment is due 95 days (March 1, 2017) before departure – you will receive a final invoice. Final payment is payable by check or money order ONLY.

**RATES:** Rates are based on the minimum number of guests outlined in this document, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. Though it is rare for Classic Escapes to make a price adjustment after promotion of an itinerary, we do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if **increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.**

**NOT INCLUDED:** Cost of passport; excess baggage charges levied by airlines; laundry and other items of a personal nature; optional personal, baggage and tour cancellation insurance policy; cost for anything not specifically included in listing above.

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** The quoted rate is valid for the first two single rooms booked and on a first-come, first-served basis. If more than two single rooms are needed, an additional supplement may apply. Single accommodations are not guaranteed, but will be provided at additional cost if available (see reservation form for cost.) The single room supplement pays for privacy, not better accommodations. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.

**GRATUITIES AND TAXES:** Gratuities for baggage handling, service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, and entrance fees to all points of interest as outlined in the itinerary are included. U.S. and foreign airport taxes are included in air costs. Tips to drivers and guide are also included.

### CANCELLATIONS, DEVIATIONS & CHANGES

**TRIP INSURANCE:** Medical insurance in Cuba is included in your air cost. Because of the array on unforeseen circumstances that could delay or cancel a guest's trip, we highly recommend that guests purchase an optional insurance policy. Information will be sent to registrants.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to March 4, 2017, less \$300 handling fee.
- March 5 to March 24, 2017, deposit is forfeited.
- March 25 to April 3, 2017, less 75% of tour cost.
- After April 3, 2017, no refund is possible.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any fees imposed by airlines.

**CHANGES TO ITINERARY:** Once you reserve your tour, changes are NOT possible. The itinerary has to be adhered to at all times. Leisure time is NOT possible while in Cuba.

### DOCUMENTS

**PASSPORT & VISAS:** The onus is upon the guest to ensure that passports are valid for at least six months after the return of the trip, as outlined by the U.S. Department of State ([travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)) or by the passport holder's country. The program includes your visa. Please note that Cuban born travelers should contact Cuba Travel Services, our tour supplier, for information on requirements for traveling to Cuba. Processing Cuban born travelers takes a minimum of 5 to 8 weeks prior to departure. Contact Cuba Travel Services at 1-800-963-2822 and ask for Luisa Franco.

**PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION:** Upon receipt of your registration and deposit, we will send a pre-departure packet to you. This packet contains all the information you need to prepare for your tour, including the complete itinerary, packing checklist, required documents, etc.

**FINAL DOCUMENTS:** Final documents and tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure, provided all monies have been paid in full. Documents with Cuba charter flight and visa, including travel authorization letter will be given to travelers in Miami on their pre-night.

### TRANSPORTATION

#### CHARTER FLIGHTS:

- **TIMES:** Charter flights are operated by CTS Charters (sister company to Cuba Travel Services, our provider). Exact Departure Time will be available no more than 30 days prior to departure and will be printed on tickets. Flights and times may not be consistent throughout the season.
- **LUGGAGE:** With the charter flight to Cuba (on the outbound only), each checked luggage will be charged at \$20 per bag. In addition, each passenger is allowed up to 44 lbs. of luggage (includes checked bag and larger carry-on). Anything over 44 lbs. will be charged at \$2 per pound. A small carry-on, like a purse or small backpack, will not be weighed. Any larger carry-on may be weighed and added into the 44-lb allowance per person. On the return flight, there is no charge for luggage, as long as it stays under 50 lbs. per person. In Cuba, the carry-on is exempt from the weight limitations.
- **SEATING ASSIGNMENTS:** On your charter flight there is no pre-assigned seating. This will be assigned at the check-in counter at the airport. Please note that all attempts will be made to seat passengers together when possible. It's a short flight.

#### FLIGHTS FROM HOME CITY:

**OPTIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Roundtrip, economy-class flights via AMERICAN AIRLINES, and/or other IATAN carriers are between BIRMINGHAM and MIAMI noted in the itinerary. Rates are based on special promotional fares; cancellation fees apply once tickets are issued. Departures from other cities in the USA are possible at additional cost; inquire at the time of reservation. Please note that these promotional fares are subject to 10 passengers traveling together on the same airline routing and itinerary. If this minimum is not met, the special group rates are not applicable and it might become necessary to issue instant purchase tickets earlier than when final payment is due in order to take advantage of airfares that are similar to the group rates. Should this occur, you will be contacted with the details.

**AIRLINE SEATING:** For AMERICAN AIRLINES we request seats together for the group. All planes are non-smoking. We can request a seating preference on your behalf, however requested seats cannot be guaranteed. Requests should be made in writing no later than 60 days prior to departure. Bulkhead and/or emergency row seats can only be requested at airport check-in on the day of departure. Boarding passes will only be issued at the airport on the day of departure. You may inquire about seat changes during check in, based on availability and is at the sole discretion of airport staff.

**FREQUENT FLYER MILEAGE:** This program is based on travel with AMERICAN AIRLINES. For a list of the airline's partners, visit <https://www.aa.com/advantage>. You may obtain frequent flyer mileage on any of these carriers. Present your frequent flyer card for all flight check-ins and keep the boarding passes until you receive a statement with the mileage credit.

**TRANSFERS:** Roundtrip airport transfers are included in the tour for the Cuba flights only. No transfers are included in Miami, but can be arranged at extra cost.

**DEPARTURE TAXES:** Please note the amount of departure tax reflected in the airfare is subject to change, at the discretion of governments and airlines, and with no advance notice. Should this occur, you will be invoiced prior to departure for any additional taxes imposed. Please note that there is a \$25 per person Cuban departure tax that is included in your charter ticket. The amount is as of August 19, 2015 and it's subject to change. Should the amount change, you will be invoiced for the difference.

### TRIP DETAILS

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** You will marvel at the wonderful accommodations provided throughout your tour. All rooms have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning and/or fans. All rates are based on double occupancy. Most rooms are twin-bedded, but king-size beds are occasionally available and should be requested in advance. Accommodations listed in this itinerary are correct at time of writing, but on rare occasions may be substituted for a different property of comparable quality.

**MEALS:** All meals are included, as specified in the itinerary. Please notify us if you have special dietary needs or requests, and we will do our best to accommodate.

**INOCULATIONS:** When it comes to vaccination and disease prevention, we suggest that travelers first review information provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)) and then review those details with their personal physicians.

**WATER:** It is always advisable to drink bottled and/or filtered water when traveling overseas. Safe drinking water will be provided to travelers free of charge in the vehicles and during meals.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Neither Classic Escapes (the Company) nor any person or agent acting for, through or on behalf of the Company shall be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any cause whatsoever and without restricting the generality of the foregoing shall particularly not be responsible for loss or damage arising from any errors or omissions contained in its brochure or other literature, loss or damage caused by delays, sickness, theft, injury or death. In addition the Company shall have the right at any time at its discretion to cancel any tour or the remainder thereof or make any alteration in route, accommodation, price or other details and, in the event of any tour being rendered impossible, illegal or inadvisable by weather, strike, war, government or interference or any other cause whatsoever, the extra expenses incurred as a result thereof shall be the responsibility of the passenger. The Company may at its discretion and without liability or cost to itself at any time cancel or terminate the guest's booking and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing it shall be entitled to do so in the event of the illness or the illegal or incompatible behavior of the guest, who shall in such circumstances not be entitled to any refund.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** The Company reserves the right without further notice to make use of any photograph or film taken on the tour by our photographers without payment or permission. We guarantee that no photographs of a compromising nature will be used.

**CHANGES TO SCHEDULES:** Although every effort is made to adhere to schedules, please understand that changes are frequent in Cuba and cannot be predicted. The Company reserves the right and in fact is obliged to occasionally change routes and hotels as dictated by changing conditions.

**REFUNDS:** While the Company uses its best endeavors to ensure that all anticipated accommodation is available as planned, there shall be no claim of any nature whatsoever against the Company for a refund either in the whole or part, if any accommodation or excursion is unavailable and a reasonable alternative is not found. If the guest is unable to use any service provided in the itinerary, then there are no refunds due.

**AIRLINE CLAUSE:** The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passengers' tickets in use by the airline or by other carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passengers.

**DELAYS:** We cannot be held liable for any delays or additional costs incurred as a result of airlines not running to schedule. If one of our guides is unable to take the tour due to illness, etc. we reserve the right to substitute with another guide. This agreement is made subject to and shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the country in which the tour takes place. Classic Escapes act merely as an agent for the operating companies. To the best of our knowledge the itinerary is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or changes that may occur after printing.

**CONSENT:** The payment of the deposit OR any other partial payment for a reservation on a tour constitutes consent by all guests covered by that payment to all provisions of the conditions and general information contained in this brochure whether the guest has signed the booking form or not. The terms, under which you agree to take this tour, cannot be changed or amended except in writing signed by an authorized director of the Company.

**INSURANCE:** It is a condition of booking, that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/traveling companions for the duration of their trip. Classic Escapes, including their representatives, employees and agents will take no responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, or guest's dependents or traveling companions.

Please visit the website to enroll - <http://www.travelguard.com/classicescapes/>. For any questions you may have on insurance, contact Travel Guard at 1-866-385-4839 and refer to ARC #71298.

**INCLUDED EMERGENCY EVACUATION COVERAGE:** For the convenience of our travelers, Classic Escapes provides a complimentary Medical Insurance Plan during this trip for all US citizens through Travel Guard Group, Inc. This includes:

- o Emergency evacuation insurance up to \$100,000.
- o Up to \$25,000 medical expense and up to \$500 dental expense coverage subject to the terms and limitations of the insurance policy.
- o 24-hour worldwide travel and medical assistance.

Please click here to view complete coverage of details.

[https://webservices.travelguard.com/Product/FileRetrieval.aspx?CountryCode=US&StateCode=NW&ProductCode=009031&PlanCode=P4&FileType=PROD\\_PLAN\\_DOC](https://webservices.travelguard.com/Product/FileRetrieval.aspx?CountryCode=US&StateCode=NW&ProductCode=009031&PlanCode=P4&FileType=PROD_PLAN_DOC)

# HELP US GO GREEN

Dear Traveler,

In an effort to help protect our planet, Classic Escapes has begun the transition of becoming paperless. We need your help getting there!

**Did you know?**

*Recycling one ton of paper saves 20 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space, 60 pounds of air pollutants, and saves enough energy to power the average home for six months...*

Please indicate in the chart below whether or not you prefer to receive paperless correspondence from us – all you need to do is put a check under the “green” symbol for yes or a check under the “NO” for no.

Simply fax or email your responses to [reservations@classicescapes.com](mailto:reservations@classicescapes.com)!

<b>You Will Receive The Following Items For Your Program:</b>		NO
Welcome Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary Materials – prelude packet and invoice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reminder Invoice with balance due	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paid-in-Full Invoice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Final Documents and final booklet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Tour Code: **17NAZ0607/BIRM**

Together we can make the world a better place!

Thank you for your support,

# RESERVATION FORM:

# BIRMINGHAM ZOO~ CUBA

17NAZ0607/BIRM

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$750 per person) to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on your journey to Cuba departing on June 4, 2017. Cost is \$5,695 per person, double occupancy, land only. Additional roundtrip airfare from Birmingham to Miami is \$640, including departure taxes & fuel surcharges. (Currently - subject to change).

**Final payment due date is: March 4, 2017**

Please make check payable to CLASSIC ESCAPES and mail to 58-25 Queens Blvd., Woodside, NY 11377. **OR**

Charge deposit to:  MasterCard  Visa  American Express  Discover

(Credit Card Authorization form needs to be completed and returned to Classic Escapes via mail or fax to 718-204-4726)

Deposits can be made by credit card; however, all final payments are required to be made by check or money order only.

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVN# \_\_\_\_\_

Deposits can be made by credit card; however, **all final payments are required to be made by check or money order only.**

1) NAME (As appears on passport):  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

2) NAME (As appears on passport):  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME FOR NAME BADGE IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONES: HOME: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**A copy of your passport must accompany this form. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the return of your trip and have two consecutive blank pages in the visa section.**

- I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.
- The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with:  ONE  TWO Beds (Make one selection only)
- I am sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ (form sent separately)
- I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if Birmingham Zoo or the tour operator cannot locate one for me by final payment date, I agree to pay the additional single supplement. I prefer to share with:  Smoker  Non-smoker
- I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost of \$1,595

- Please make my/our round trip air reservations on the group flights from Birmingham via American Airlines
- Please make domestic round-trip air reservations for me from my home city: \_\_\_\_\_ to connect with the group flights and let me know the additional cost.

Airline Seating Preference on US flights only. Charter flight to Cuba has open seating.  Aisle  Window  
Frequent Flier # \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*We can request a seating preference on your behalf, however this is only a request and NOT guaranteed, as some seating assignments may be airport check-in only. Requests should be made in writing no later than 60 days prior to departure. Bulkhead and/or emergency row seats can only be requested at airport check-in on the day of departure. Also note that even if we do obtain your preferred seat, it is not guaranteed that the seat will be provided during check-in as there might be equipment changes that nullify our selection. The special rates negotiated by Classic Escapes are not upgradable.*

- I/We will make own air arrangements and will provide you with an itinerary before trip departure.

All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of November 4, 2016, and are subject to change. Cancellation penalties are applicable as outlined on Conditions of Travel. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN TRAVEL INSURANCE. RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO TOUR CONDITIONS AND WILL BE CONFIRMED ONLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED FORM SIGNED BY THE TOUR PARTICIPANT(S).**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIC ESCAPES INC.  
58-25 Queens Blvd.  
Woodside, NY 11377

(We recommend that you keep a copy of your selections as noted above for your future reference)

BIRMINGHAM ZOO ~CUBA  
JUNE 7 TO 15, 2017



CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

*Please Note: If you wish to charge your deposit to Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, this authorization form MUST be completed and returned to us along with your reservation form before we can process your application.*

I authorize (**Classic Escapes Inc.**) to charge my VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER/AMEX listed below:

Name appearing on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Verification Number\* \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address of credit card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of transaction \_\_\_\_\_

Services rendered/Items purchased \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*How To Locate Your Card Verification Number:**

(**Visa, MasterCard, Discover:** Locate the credit card number on the back of the card above the signature box. Enter the 3 digit number which follows the credit card number. **American Express:** Enter the 4 digit number found directly above and to the right of the credit card number.)

I understand that all rates quoted on this tour I'm making a payment on are based on tariffs in effect as of November 4, 2016, and are subject to change. Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- \* Up to March 4, 2017, less \$300 handling fee.
- \* March 5 to March 24, 2017, deposit is forfeited.
- \* March 25 to April 3, 2017, less 75% of tour cost.
- \* After April 3, 2017, no refund is possible.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any fees imposed by airlines.

PLEASE NOTE: At times, our bank requires photocopy of credit card (both sides) and driver's license or document showing signature of cardholder, in order to process the charge. While it is not required at this time that you include these materials with your deposit, if our bank requests it, we will contact you for these copies.