

Cuban cruises, 2017

January 7th & February 11th cruises : Cienfuegos, Cuba - Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands – George Town, Cayman Islands – Cayo Largo, Cuba – Punta Frances, Cuba – Havana, Cuba

January 14th cruise: Havana, Cuba – Punta Frances, Cuba - Cayo Largo, Cuba – Cayo Rico, Cuba – George Town, Cayman Islands – Montego bay, Jamaica – Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands – Cienfuegos, Cuba

January 25th cruise: Cienfuegos, Cuba – Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands - George Town, Cayman Islands – Cayo Rico, Cuba – Cayo Largo, Cuba – Punta Frances, Cuba – Havana, Cuba

February 4th cruise: Havana, Cuba - Punta Frances, Cuba – Cayo Largo, Cuba – Cayo Rico, Cuba – Cienfuegos, Cuba

Duration of tours is approximate and may vary depending on traffic and weather conditions. Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

Travelling in Cuba is a unique experience. Guests should always bear in mind that the country is under communist rule, and the system is necessarily different from that in their home countries.

Transfer times by tender may also be longer than usual due to nautical conditions.

Depending on what activities you would like to participate in, the general fitness levels vary. If you like to enjoy walks and other sporting activities like hiking, snorkeling and boating, an average to good fitness level is required

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Brac

Christopher Columbus discovered Cayman Brac and Little Cayman quite by chance when his ship was blown off course while sailing from Hispaniola to Panama during his fourth trip to the New World in the year of grace 1503. These two low lying islands were host to a thriving community of sea turtles which prompted Columbus to name them “Las Tortugas”. By the time the first recorded English visitor, Sir Francis Drake, landed on the islands in 1585, they were known collectively as the “Caimanas” (from the Caribbean Indian word for sea crocodile); indeed that intrepid explorer reported seeing “great serpents called Caymanas”

roaming the island (although rumour has it that these were merely the Rock iguanas that inhabit the island to this day).

The islands' fresh water springs and abundant wild life made them particularly attractive to marauding pirates who would stop off there to replenish their supplies of food and water before setting out again on their swashbuckling adventures. Cayman Brac lies about 143 km north east of Grand Cayman in the Caribbean sea. It is 12 miles/19km long with an average width of 1.25 miles (2 km) making a total surface area of approximately 15 square miles (38 km²). It is the most dramatic of the Cayman Islands with a massive central limestone outcrop, known as The Bluff, rising steadily along the length of the island up to 140 feet (43 m) above sea level at the eastern end. The island owes its name to this geological feature, "brac" being the Gaelic term for a bluff.

Leisure time

George Town, Grand Cayman

Grand Cayman is the largest (approx 76 square miles) of the three Cayman Islands and the location of the nation's capital, George Town. The famous Seven Mile Beach, a crescent-shaped natural wonder, is located on the west side of the island. It is often rated as one of the most beautiful beaches in all the Caribbean - and the least populated. Take a trip into North Sound and visit Stingray City and the Sandbar where you and your family will have the rare opportunity of playing with the friendly Southern Stingrays.

The capital, George Town, is a blend of colourful traditional Caribbean-style buildings and high finance business corporations. Indulge in some up market duty-free shopping with signature brands such as Versace, Tiffany, Gucci, and many more. You will also find a large number of local craftsmen, working from home, who will be more than happy to spend some time helping you to find that perfect gift. The attractions of the Eastern districts of Grand Cayman are not limited to azure blue waters and pristine sandy beaches. Stroll around the Queen Elizabeth II Botanical Park and learn about the rare Blue Iguanas, visit the Wreck of the Ten Sails, a British maritime disaster dating from 1794, and eat freshly caught fish in our local restaurants.

Cayman bicycle tour & Tiki beach

Duration 3h30 (1h30 by bike)

Minimum 10 participants, maximum limited

Euro 50

Transport will be provided to Seven Mile beach. On arrival you will be issued with mountain bikes and safety gear and will receive a short orientation and safety briefing.

The first leg of the adventure will take you along quaint country lanes and roads as you wind your way through the West Bay area. Explore the rugged coastline of Boatswain Bay and the palm covered lanes of Cobalt coast. The excursion will then returns back to Tiki Beach where

you will have approximately an hour and a half to enjoy snorkelling at the reef or just relax and admire the peaceful tropical setting before boarding an air-conditioned bus for the journey back.

- You will meet your guide on the pier and transported by bus to the departure point (15 minutes)

Stingray City Sandbar

By motorboat

Duration 2h30

Minimum 20 participants, maximum limited

Euro 37

Did you ever get to pet a stingray in an aquarium? We can offer you a much more thrilling close encounter! Just off Grand Cayman's north shore lies a sandbar inhabited by stingrays; you will be able to interact with dozens of these gentle creatures in their natural environment, it's an unforgettable experience.

The stingrays began gathering in the area decades ago when fisherman used to clean fish on the shallow sand bars. The stingrays overcame their natural timidity as they feasted on the remains of the fish. Soon they came to associate the sound of a boat motor with food, and now they are so tame that they will eat right out of your hand.

Put on your mask and swim freely among the rays (**fins and footwear are not allowed, water is between 2-5ft deep**). As you enter the warm sea, the graceful Southern stingrays glide tranquilly past in only three feet of water. At any time, you could be surrounded by more than two dozen friendly stingrays and make friends with characters like "Ray Charles", "Sugar Ray" and other members of the Southern Ray family.

- *You will be met on the pier by your guide and transported by coach to the Yacht club to board the boat*
- *Entering and exiting the water is via a vertical swim ladder on the boat*

Capitals & Culture

Transport by Air-conditioned motor coach

English speaking bus driver/guide

Duration 3 hours

Minimum 15 participants, maximum limited

Euro 60

Discover the Cayman Islands on this Heritage tour showcasing the history, traditions and natural beauty of the islands.

The bus leaves directly from the pier and guests will be taken along the south coast of Grand Cayman island. During the drive your tour guide/driver will provide an interesting commentary on the history of the Cayman Islands and their inhabitants.

The tour continues to Bodden Town, the former capital of the Cayman Islands, which is situated on a natural harbour and coral reef. The town was founded in the late 18th century. According to local lore the island was first inhabited by a Welshman called Watler and his companion Bodden who came to the island in 1658 after serving with Cromwell's army in Jamaica. In 1773 a British naval surveyor George Gauld visited the island and noted that the majority of the inhabitants were called Bodden, being direct descendants of one of the original settlers (who was apparently more prolific than his friend Watler). Thereafter the town which used to be known as "South side" was called Bodden Town. Bodden town is very attractive with quaint brightly coloured cottages and traditional Caymanian homesteads. Unfortunately this part of the island suffered extensive damage during Hurricane Ivan in September 2004.

The first stop will be at the Mission House a traditional 2 storey Caymanian home. The Mission House is situated on an area of dry and wetland which was inhabited by the very earliest settlers on the island, as evidenced by remains of ceramics and glass found on site. These settlers were attracted by the abundant supply of water and the profusion of water fowl. In the early 1800's the building became a centre for missionaries, who established a Presbyterian church and school at Bodden town, and became known as "The Mission House". The guided tour of the Mission House will give you an insight into how the first settlers used to live, as the house contains many artefacts belonging to the Watler family who lived there for over seventy years. You will also learn about the challenges faced by the missionaries and teachers.

The next item on the itinerary is Grand Cayman's luxuriant Botanical Gardens. Enjoy a leisurely walk through the gardens and discover the exotic local plants and indigenous wild life, including Agouti, Hickatee (a freshwater turtle) and the Blue Iguana an endangered species.

Afterwards it will be time to head back to the coach for the return journey to the ship in Georgetown, where you may like to indulge in a little retail therapy.

- *We recommend you wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes and bring a sun hat and sunscreen.*
- *This excursion is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties*
- *Rest room facilities will be available at the Mission House and Botanical Gardens*

Atlantis dive

Duration 1h30 (approx 40 minutes under water)

Minimum number of participants 4, maximum 24

The submarine is not exclusively for Star Flyer's guests

Euro 80

Experience the thrill of journeying beneath the sea in a real submarine. A technological marvel, the Atlantis XI Submarine was specifically designed for civilian passengers, and is maintained at sea level pressure so the excursion is not spoilt by painful earache. The vessel is 65 feet long, 13 feet wide, and weighs 80 tons with capacity for 48 passengers and 3 crew members.

Your experience begins at the pier where you are greeted by your enthusiastic hosts, and escorted on a 5 minute walk to our reservations dock. After boarding the transfer vessel your host will give a safety briefing and then you can kick back and relax and enjoy the sights on the 5 minute boat trip to the submarine.

Your first sight of the Submarine will be as it breaks the surface, from its previous trip. Once moored alongside, you safely board the deck of the submarine by a ramp and enter the air conditioned cabin through a large hatch. After the hatches are secured, and pre-dive checks completed, your descent begins.

In command of this exciting part of your experience is a fully qualified Atlantis Class pilot. The smooth ride and clarity of the water will amaze you as you explore Grand Cayman's Underwater Marine Park to depths of 100 feet. Huge barrel sponges and star corals abound on the reef and the occasional stingray or turtle, may pass within a few feet of your large view-port.

At the end of the tour, before returning to the dock, you will be able to watch as the submarine descends once again for another excursion, disappearing beneath the surface on its journey to a depth of 100 feet.

Your 1-1/2 hour excursion conveniently begins and ends at the Atlantis Adventure Center, located on the waterfront in George Town, in the heart of the Duty Free Shopping District next to the Cruise tender piers.

CUBA

Cayo Largo del Sur

Cayo Largo, only 3 kilometres wide with 28 kilometres of white sandy beach and very few resorts, is how the Caribbean used to be in days gone by. This second largest island of the Canarreos Archipelago - the biggest one being Isla de la Juventud - is a marine wildlife sanctuary which is home to many different species. You will find turtle kraals where hatchlings no bigger than the palm of your hand are raised to adulthood and released to the sea. Visit the island where iguanas roam freely, and bathe in a natural swimming pool formed by the ocean, surrounded by dunes of flour-fine sand.

Leisure time

Cayo Rico

Part of the Canarreos archipelago, the islet of Cayo Rico is part of a chain of 350 islets, both big and small, which stretches 100 miles westward from the Gulf of Batabano on Cuba's South Coast. Ranging from unnamed sand specks to the 850 square mile Isla de la Juventud, the archipelago and its islets are an unspoilt paradise waiting to be discovered by divers and beachcombers. Today Star Flyer will be at anchor in front of Cayo Rico – enjoy its sandy beach and emerald waters.

Leisure time

Cienfuegos

The lovely neo-classical residences and elegant public buildings lining the Prado, Cienfuegos' mile long boulevard, bear witness to the Empire origins of this gracious city on the Bahia de Cienfuegos. Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 by French immigrants. Now a world heritage site, the city has escaped the ravages of modern urban development thanks to its relatively isolated location. Architectural highlights of the city and nearby Punta Gorda include the remarkable Palacio de Valle, the Jagua fortress, luxuriant Botanical gardens, the cathedral and the Victorian era yacht club.

Trinidad

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Duration: 4h30 /5hour

Trinidad, Cuba's oldest and most enchanting "outdoor museum", was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1988 because of its exceptional colonial architecture. The combination of lovingly restored houses with cool, tiled courtyards and a spectacularly beautiful natural environment, between the Sierra del Escambray and the Caribbean, creates a unique atmosphere which will long be remembered by visitors.

The buildings surrounding the central square "Plaza Mayor", in the historical town centre, date from the 18th and 19th centuries when trade in sugar (from Valle de los Ingenios) and slaves brought great riches to the area. They were once owned by wealthy landowners, but nowadays most of them house museums.

You will visit the Cantero Palace, one of the largest and most impressive of the houses surrounding the Plaza Mayor. Originally built by Don Borell y Padrón, it was purchased in 1851 by another sugar baron, Cantero, who renamed it and spared no expense redecorating it in a Neo classical style. This house is now used as the Municipal History Museum (Museo de Historia Municipal) which details the history of Trinidad.

There is a timeless quality about the place; old ladies in rocking chairs listen to their caged canaries on Colonial porches, and mark the passage of time as they have done for centuries.

- *During the walking tour you will be offered a typical Cuban cocktail, the “Chanchancarra” made from Honey and Rum*
- *there will be some leisure time in Trinidad after the guided visit*
- *Please note below transfer time :*
- *Cienfuegos to Trinidad : Approximately 1h15*
- *Transfer duration very much depends on traffic encountered on the way and road condition and can be unpredictable*

Havana, Cuba

Unlike many other South American and Caribbean cities, Havana was once extremely prosperous, and the vestiges of this rich heritage are everywhere to be seen. Feast your eyes on a plethora of imposing buildings in a variety of styles: elegant neo classical façades vie with rococo exteriors, Moorish residences rub shoulders with art deco and art nouveau designs, and so it goes on right up until the 1950's, with some outstanding examples of modern architecture. Havana became the capital of the island in 1553, thanks to its strategic position, and King Philip II of Spain once described the port as the “Key to the New World”. Treasure laden Spanish galleons returning from the Americas with their precious cargo would flock to Havana harbour before setting sail for Spain in a heavily armed fleet. By the turn of the XVIII century Havana was the third largest city in the New World, after Mexico City and Lima, and wealth poured into the metropolis helping to build churches and convents filled with gold and silver. Old Havana (4.5 square km) is defined by the boundaries of the original city walls. However after the Spanish –Cuban-American war (1898), Havana enjoyed a new era of prosperity, and parks, public areas and aristocratic mansions began to be built beyond the confines of the old walled city.

Havana discovery

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Duration 4 hours

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Euro TBC

On the cruises Cienfuegos to Havana (depart Jan 7th & Feb 11) ending in Havana on January 14th and February 18th the tour will be offered with lunch and will end at the apt Full day tour, lunch included, ending at the airport at approx.16h Euro TBC

The tour will start by a walking tour of Old Havana, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982. During the tour you will discover old Spanish Buildings and a succession of picturesque squares: Old Square, Cathedral Square, St Francis of Assisi Square and the Square of Arms. There will also be time for a cocktail on the roof garden of the Ambos Mundos Hotel. Ernest Hemmingway stayed here in the 1920's (room 511) and it was here that he wrote part of his novel “For Whom the Bell tolls”. The hotel enjoys a privileged location with fantastic views of the old town; small wonder the novelist found it so inspiring.

You will then be transferred by bus to the craft market and you will have some time at leisure to wander around and admire the wide variety of local handicrafts reflecting the country's rich cultural diversity and heritage.

- **Military Fort El Morro (1640)** : The fort is situated on the other side of the harbour and you will cross the bay via an underground tunnel built in 1958, during the Batista era, by a French company, the Société de Grands Travaux de Marseille. The view from the other side of the bay is quite spectacular
- **Revolution Square** : On the way to Revolution Square you will drive along the Malecon a 5 mile (8km) esplanade which runs along the coast from the mouth of Havana Harbour to the Vedado district. You will see the former Havana Hilton hotel as well as architecture from the first half of the 20th century. Revolution Square is one of the largest city squares in the world and it is the stage of all the major social and political events in Cuba. The square is dominated by an imposing star shaped tower, dedicated to José Martí, a Cuban national hero and acclaimed poet, known as "The Apostle of the Revolution". Other landmarks are the Ministry of Interior building, the Ministry of Communication, the National Theatre and Library. Huge images of the Argentinean revolutionary Che Guevara and Camil Cienfuegos, a revolutionary guerrilla fighter, emphasize the political significance of Revolution Square.
- **Capitol district** : El Capitolio, the National Capitol Building, was the seat of government until after the Cuban Revolution in 1959 and now houses the Cuban Academy of Sciences. It was built in 1929 and is strongly reminiscent of the United States Capitol in Washington DC. The district is situated 100m from the old city walls and is swarming with vintage cars. You will get the opportunity to take fantastic photos of superbly maintained Chevrolets and Pontiacs

Hemingway in Havana

Not offered Saturday / Sunday

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Duration 4 hours

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Euro TBC

Departure by coach to visit to the Hemingway museum "Finca Vigia" located outside Havana. The property was purchased by the writer in 1940 and he lived there until 1960. It was here that he wrote part of "For whom the Bell tolls" and also "The Old Man and the Sea", about a Cuban fisherman who earned his living fishing off the waters of Havana. As well as being a writer's paradise Finca Vigia was also a family home and during the Second World War Hemingway's three sons often came to visit. It was here that the writer first started to keep and breed cats. The property is just as the great writer left it

The tour will continue to the fishing village of Cojimar which was the inspiration for Hemingway's novel "The Old Man and the Sea". It was here that the writer kept his sport

fishing boat, the Pilar, captained by Gregorio Fuentes (1897 - 2002) on whom the character of Santiago, the eponymous hero of the novel, is based. The visit includes a stop at La Terraza, a bar-restaurant frequented by Hemingway, where you can enjoy a local cocktail.

You will then return to Havana for a panoramic tour by coach.

- *Visitors cannot enter the Finca Vigia, you will see it from the outside windows*

Punta Frances, Isla De La Juventud (Island of Youth),

Cuba is an archipelago, composed by Cuba (the main island) and about 1600 keys and little islands. All these islands are grouped into 5 minor archipelagos. One of them is Canarreos, the westernmost chain of smaller islands of the country. It includes the well-known Cayo largo, and the largest island off the coast of Cuba, ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD (2200 square kilometers). Besides their spectacular beaches, this island is scuba divers' delight and possesses 39 sites with astounding coral formations, reason why it is known as the Caribbean Cathedral. Covering 6 079 hectares, PUNTA FRANCES National Park occupies the westerly tip of the island. 4.3 hectares of this National Park are ocean terrain and offshore there are 56 diving sites. But arriving there means getting to a long-white-sandy beach, superior to all visitor's expectation. This entire park is inhabited and the animals live in their own environmental spaces.....just walking along the sand line and swimming on these transparent waters makes feel in heaven.....

Leisure time

JAMAICA

Montego Bay

Ah Jamaica, where reggae and ska were born, and the beat goes on and on. The lush tropical landscape, the soaring mountains, inviting beaches and gentle waterfalls, the scent of gardenia and jasmine. The taste of a pina colada and pungent aroma of jerk. No wonder Jamaican music is so inspired!

Martha Brae Rafting

Transfer by air-conditioned vehicle

Duration 3h30/4hours

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Euro 78

The trip begins right at the cruise pier where you will board your air-conditioned transport and wend your way through the Jamaican countryside from Montego Bay to Martha Brae. The

scenic route to the raft centre will take you along the coastline and through many interesting small towns.

Martha Brae is a corruption of the Spanish name for the river Matibereon. Legend has it that an old Arawak witch used to live there. She was captured by Spanish adventurers looking for Arawak gold and was forced to take them to the hidden treasure trove. Pretending to comply, she led them to a cave and then used her supernatural powers to disappear. The terrified Spaniards rushed out of the cave and were drowned in the river. The witch then changed the course of the river forever. The rafting trip down this three mile stretch of water is truly exhilarating. The journey aboard the long two seater rafts poled by an expert guide, takes about 90 minutes.

The upper reaches of the river tumble down at quite a fast pace before slowing down further along at Tarzan's corner, where you can take a dip in a calm pool. After the raft trip you will drive back to the pier taking the high route which affords spectacular views of the island.

You will pass through Sam Sharpe square, named after one of Jamaica's national heroes. Your tour guide will tell you all about this charismatic leader whose actions led to the abolition of slavery on the island. Then you will take the Howard Cooke Highway back to the cruise ship pier.

- *We recommend you bring a sun hat, sun screen, swimsuit & towel*
- *45 minute drive to Martha brae & back*
- *About 1h30 at the river*
- *2 persons per raft*

The Great Houses of Montego Bay Tour

By air-conditioned vehicle

Duration 4hours

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum

Euro 69

This tour takes you to Rose Hall Great House, which was once home to the 'White Witch of Rose Hall' and Greenwood Great House. Upon arrival, an experienced guide will welcome you with a complimentary glass of the exotic 'Witches Brew'. Legend has it that the 'White Witch' Annie Palmer murdered her three husbands and numerous slaves who worked the surrounding plantation, before she in turn was murdered, in 1831, by one of her lovers – a cunning slave who decided to exact revenge on her. You will learn more about this chilling tale during the tour.

Leaving Rose Hall Great House, the tour continues into the beautiful countryside. Nestled in the lush greenery is Greenwood Great House, built in 1690 by the Right Honorable Richard Barrette-Browning, for the lavish entertainment of fellow plantation owners and their guests. Here you shall see a fine collection of antiques and rare musical instruments; a complimentary drink is served.

After this delightful and informative tour, you will return to the ship via our main tourist area -- Gloucester Avenue, popularly known as the 'Hip Strip', with landmarks such as the Casa Blanca – one of the first hotels in Montego Bay – and Doctor's Cave Beach, once the playground for the rich and famous. A stop will be made at the Craft Market before the return to the ship.

- *35 minute to Greenwood Great house where you will spend 45 minutes*
- *15 minute to Rose Hall Great house where you will spend 45 minutes*
- *25 minute to the craft market for some time at leisure before returning to the ship*

Croydon Pineapple and Coffee Plantation Tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Duration 5 hours

Euro 88

Lunch included

Croydon Plantation estate nestled in the foothills of the Catadupa Mountains offers breathtaking and panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. This piece of tropical paradise is a must see. Take in by the rich history of the plantation, which is the birthplace of Samuel Sharpe, one of Jamaica's national heroes who gave his life in the fight against slavery. Your tour guide will take that opportunity to tell you all about this charismatic leader whose actions led to the abolition of slavery on the island. The drive up to the Plantation will take you through the island's lush interior, passing by small and farming villages like Reading, Montpellier, Bickerstein, Seven Rivers, Cambridge, Retrieve and Marchmont. Views are spectacular.

Your guide will take you around and explain the plantation's history and the crops grown onsite. The plantation tour will give you the opportunity to taste many different varieties of pineapple and citrus fruits. Sample exotic and delicious fruit and the juices made from them. Nibble on a pieces of juicy sugarcane, whilst walking through the coffee groves, all the while learning the secrets of coffee cultivation and processing.

The delightful plantation tour includes a delicious feast of barbecue lunch served with world famous Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee.

- *It is 1h30 minute drive to the Plantation (each way)*
- *Barbecue lunch will be served (drinks are not included)*
- *The roads to get to Croydon Plantation are typical of most Jamaican roads. You will discover a very rural Jamaica. Beware if you suffer from motion sickness: because Jamaica is full of mountains, the roads can get quite winding, narrow and bumpy. This is just part of a true Jamaican experience! the scenery is amazing.*