

SPANISH BEYOND BORDERS: CUBA 2025

OVERVIEW

Dates

Sunday, May 18-Saturday, May 31, 2025 Sunday, June 1-Saturday, June 14, 2025 Sunday, October 12-Saturday, October 25, 2025

The best way to learn a language is to visit the country where it is spoken. An immersion context makes learning much more efficient and reduces the time needed to achieve the required fluency. Our language tours/classes are designed not just as a language course but as a total cultural immersion. You have 13 days of language classes, structured around your previous learning and whether you want to improve your conversational or formal Spanish. These are followed by excursions throughout Havana with your teacher accompanying you, discovering and learning about the culture of your host country, which will give you a new perspective on the world. The course includes lectures on various aspects of Cuban music, politics, culture, art, history, and visits to museums and landmarks, all designed to enhance your studies. You will also have a weekend excursion to relax while you learn. Take 2 weeks to travel with us and improve your Spanish communication skills.

Requirements

- Students must be 18 or older.
- Completion of at least one semester of Spanish.

DAY 1

Sunday, 2025

ARRIVAL IN HAVANA I D

Welcome to Havana! Your adventure begins as you are met at the airport by our professional taxi driver and transferred to your lodging in Havana Center. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 2

Monday, 2025 HAVANA | LESSON # 1 | B, L, D

Good morning, amig@! Enjoy a delicious breakfast and get ready to go to your Spanish classroom. Get an introduction to the course and panorama of Cuban culture taught with a communicative approach to develop basic interpretation, writing and communication skills through knowledge of Cuban culture, cinema, literature, plastic arts and more. After your lesson, your guide and driver will take you to have lunch, and then you will visit the Fine Arts Museum, where you will receive a crash course on Cuban history by examining the art exhibitions. The Cuban Art Collection spans from the Colonial Period to the present day. It includes sculptures, engravings, paintings, photographs, and videos by pioneering Cuban artists. Continue your afternoon lesson with a walking tour of Old Havana, surrounded by beautiful colonial buildings. This is a 'must-see' while in Havana.



Upon return to accommodation, get some rest and be ready around 8:00 pm. Your guide and driver will take you to enjoy a wonderful **NOCHE CUBANA!** You will delight your palate with delicious local food while enjoying the **Buena Vista Social Club** show.

DAY 3

Tuesday, 2025 HAVANA I LESSON # 2 I B, L, D

Today you will get up early in the morning, and after breakfast, take your transfer to your Spanish lessons. Once your lesson is over, you will **visit the Community Project-Art gallery, Corral Falso.** Interact with the community. Introduce yourself formally to its members and exchange with them while creating small, special pieces of art during the ceramic workshop. Your Spanish teacher will accompany you most of the time to make sure you continue reinforcing learning; in that way you'll be in direct contact with the culture. Cultural quirks are often firmly linked to languages. Without a doubt, getting up close to and participating in the culture that surrounds the language will boost your knowledge of the language so that you use it more naturally. Often, being able to link linguistic quirks with real-life experiences helps students to remember them. Enjoy a delicious local lunch at the community project. Return to accommodation. Time to share experiences and relax with private Casa family. They will happily help you with your homework. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 4

Wednesday, 2025

HAVANA I B, L, D

On your 4th day in Havana, after having breakfast, you will be picked up by your teacher, driver and guide to take you to play Scavenger Hunt at a small local organoponic. Go and find your own fruits and vegetables. Learn their names in Spanish and continue to have a 'Farm to Table' experience, including a conversation about the spices they grow and urban organic agriculture. At the restaurant, introduce yourself to the "Ajiaco Family" team and get to know them better. Listen to a brief explanation of Cuban cuisine through the history of our traditional dish "El Ajiaco". Move on to a cooking class under the guidance of our kitchen team, and then go to the bar to learn how to make a good Cuban Mojito. After that, it's just time to enjoy what has been cooked, including drinks, desserts, and coffee. On your way back to accommodation, stop at the Almacenes de San Jose, the ideal destination for authentic Cuban souvenir shopping, and practice your Spanish. Friendly local artisans set up booths within a warehouse, where they showcase paintings of Cubans ranging from landscapes to celebrities, modern and historical photography, embroidered garments, sculptures, jewelry, leather crafts, and cigar humidors, among many other handmade knick-knacks. Return to your accommodation and be ready at 8:00 pm when your guide and driver will pick you up to enjoy the Cannon Firing Ceremony, a tradition dating back to the Colonial Period. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 5

Thursday, 2025 HAVANA I LESSON # 3 I B, L, D



This morning, you return to the classroom. After fulfilling the first part of the day, go have your lunch and visit The New Latin American Cinema Foundation; the FNCL promotes the history and works of the seventh art. Enjoy a Cuban film. Prepare for debate about the movie you watched, speaking mostly Spanish. The FNCL headquarters, located at calle 212 esquina a 31, La Coronela neighborhood, La Lisa, has been incorporated into the heritage route of this Havana municipality. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the former property of poet Flor Loynaz, the youngest daughter of the Loynaz del Castillo family. At night, be ready to enjoy salsa music at Sala de Fiestas "Jardines 1830". This is a great place to dance salsa, and if you don't know how to do it, then you will find a teacher right there. There is good Cuban music and 100% Cuban Salsa. Your driver will be ready to take you back to your accommodations at midnight. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 6

Friday, 2025 HAVANA I LESSON # 4 I B, L, D

On your 4th day of class, you are already sure that this is the best country to learn Spanish: sunny most of the year, beautiful long beaches, rugged mountains, and welcoming with its open and sociable people. Here, you will surely have fun while you learn. Second language skills are increasingly in demand in today's job market, so the language could open doors for you. Besides, Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world, so it will always be useful for you. After lunch, continue the day by visiting a primary health care institution in Cuba. The Cuban model is a comprehensive public health approach that meets the World Health Organization's definition of primary care. Learn more about how it works from a primary care professional. Return to homestays. Dinner at homestays. Free afternoon to relax.

DAY 7

Saturday, 2025

HAVANA→VIÑALES I B, L, D

The weekend is here, and as part of your language trip, there is a weekend excursion included! Get ready to visit the western part of the island. The Viñales Valley is located in the province of Pinar del Río, one of the richest agricultural areas in Cuba and certainly one of the most picturesque. Your first stop will be at the Los Jazmines viewpoint for a panoramic view of almost the entire valley. Continue your tour of the Cueva del Indio. Wear comfortable shoes as you will walk about 250 meters inside the cave and enjoy a 10-minute boat ride through the subterranean river San Vicente. Once you leave the cave, continue to visit Macondo, a tobacco plantation also called Vega where you will meet local farmers to learn a little more about the planting and harvesting process of this important product and receive a demonstration of how to roll a Cuban cigar traditionally. Afterward, continue to the Prehistoric Wall, which shows the evolution of human beings in this part of the island. After the visit, your guide and driver will be ready to take you to your accommodation in this impressive valley. Rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure. Dinner at homestays.



DAY 8

Sunday, 2025

VIÑALES→HAVANA I B, L, D

Today in the morning, you will have **free time for zip-lining, biking, walking, horseback riding, etc. (on your own).** Then you will enjoy a farm-to-table menu. In the afternoon, visit the **Soroa Orchid Botanical Garden**. Soroa, a privileged natural environment, is one of those places that are only found in Cuba where the sun and tropical rains combine and explode into trees, rivers and waterfalls that stretch as far as the eye can see. This area is named "the rainbow of Cuba". At the end of the tour, continue your way back to Havana. Rest of the afternoon and evening, free at leisure. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 9

Monday, 2025 HAVANA I LESSON # 5 | B, L, D

Get up early, and after breakfast, take your transfer to your Spanish classroom. After your lesson, delight your palate at a delicious Cuban paladar. Always try to use your Spanish when making your order. In the afternoon, visit the "Cabildo Quisicuaba Socio-Cultural Project". It aims to rehabilitate traditional popular culture, taking into account the spiritual, cultural and material needs of this population. Given the qualitative and multidisciplinary nature of this effort, social concerns are of great importance, as the project is an attempt to rescue and rehabilitate the tangible and intangible values of a locality with serious social problems. The name given to this socio-cultural project, "Quisicuaba," came in part from the name of free blacks who lived there in the 16th century: the "Quisis," individuals who originated from the southern Angolan Basin. The word used for designating a settlement of black slaves was "cuabal," which came from the word for the farmhouses built in the area. The merger of these two terms gave the neighborhood — and now the project — the name "Quisicuaba," which is the rescue of an important historical and cultural value that evolved from the area's past (though the neighborhood later acquired the name "Los Sitios," which has remained through today). Actions carried out within this project are, in one way or another, achieved by the participation of many community members. Exchange with the community! This is the key to the sustained success in this socio-cultural project designed for the comprehensive transformation of families as the basic unit of society. Return to accommodation. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 10

Tuesday, 2025 HAVANA I LESSON # 6 I B, L, D

Rise and shine, and prepare for your 6th day of class. After lunch, visit the headquarters of the Habana Compás Dance Company. A mix of Afro-Cuban and contemporary rhythms with flamenco and other Spanish dances; however, the inclusion of percussion in the repertoire made them achieve that dream of being completely different from what was done in Cuban music and dance. Enjoy a rumba-percussion lesson. Train your ears and learn through dancing. Return to accommodation and be ready to enjoy your evening at Fábrica de Arte -*For



some, the best nightclub in Havana! (Entry fee: on your own; transportation included) At midnight, your guide and driver will take you back to accommodations. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 11

Wednesday, 2025 HAVANAILESSON # 7 I B, L, D

7th day of class! After your lesson, you will visit the Eastern part of Havana, where you will find a community project called Bacura. This is an equestrian center that organizes equestrian therapies—treatments that use activities with horses with the purpose of positively contributing to the cognitive, physical, emotional, social, and occupational development of children who suffer from some type of disability or special need. Enjoy lunch at the project. Upon return to accommodation, have some rest and be ready around 8:30 pm, when your guide and driver will take you to enjoy a delightful dinner in a lovely ambiance in the company of exquisite Latin jazz.

DAY 12

Thursday, 2025 HAVANA I LESSON #8 | B, L, D

After your Spanish lesson, **Visit Hemingway's house** on the island. **Finca Vigía** is where the American author lived, in the capital, for more than two decades. After this visit, enjoy a **wonderful ride on an elegant vintage American car** through the area of Modern Havana. A stop at the Revolution Square is included. Continue to visit an awesome project, "Familia Manrique", a Cuban Family business consisting of a restaurant, hostel, market, store and coordinator of family events. Learn about the project and enjoy the cozy atmosphere and its good vibes. Located in front of the sea, it offers a sensory experience due to the surrounding natural beauty. You will have an unforgettable moment to remember. Delight your taste buds with the best Creole food, surrounded by Cuban family, some music and a lovely sea breeze. Return to your accommodation and prepare your luggage for your transfer the next day. Rest of the night at leisure. Dinner at homestays.

DAY 13

Friday, 2025

HAVANA I LESSON #9 & EXAM DAY I B, L, D

It's your last day in Cuba! We hope you have learned not only a little more of Spanish, but also a little more about Cuba, this beautiful island that enchants. After your last Spanish lesson, you will visit a beautiful area you cannot miss. Have an idea? Discover it!

DAY 14

Saturday, 2025 DEPARTURE OF HAVANA I

Transfer to airport. Flight to US.



Price per person

□ Double occupancy: \$3000.00 USD
 □ Single occupancy: \$3170.00 USD
 □

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Itinerary subject to change based on weather and/or suppliers.

In case there is any activity of the program that for reasons beyond our control is not available on the scheduled date, our company will offer a second alternative to replace it.

Average guided tour group size: 10-20 pax (this program is available for groups of 10 people or more)

What's included:

- Accommodation in Casas & Daily Breakfast
- Airport Transfers
- Ground transportation to all scheduled activities
- Entrance fee to all the activities described in the program
- English-speaking tour guide
- Meals as described in the program
- One day trip to Viñales
- Unique and immersive experiences

- Spanish lessons at Universidad de La Habana
- Souvenir

What's not included:

- Gratuities (at your discretion)
- Flight tickets / Travel Insurance / Travel Visa
- Activities not described in the program

REMARKS:

As specified above, Flight tickets, Travel Insurance and Travel Visas are not included, but SST team may assist you with the booking process if needed. Take into account that an extra fee of \$50.00 USD will be charged for operating expenses.

Cuba requires all visitors to have a travel visa and travel insurance at the time of entry to the island to cover their entire stay. Please note that SST will book your flight ticket and travel insurance directly through the airline depending on their availability for the scheduled date. Most of these airline tickets are NON-REFUNDABLE. If you cancel your trip, the amount paid for the airline ticket and the travel insurance will not be refunded.



SST assists its clients in the choice and purchase of the travel insurance plans, limiting itself only to the assistance during the purchase and not to the implementation of said plans. Therefore, in case of unforeseen circumstances, you should contact your insurance company directly.

To acquire your Travel Visa you can purchase it directly at the airport during your check-in process. In case you want it to be included in your package, please contact our team. An extra fee per visa will be added and you will receive your visa at the address you request. We only ship within the United States. Note it will arrive blank for you to fill out with your passport information. This travel visa is valid for 30 days. Make sure you do not misplace it while in Cuba since you cannot leave the country without it, and please, do not detach the two separate sides. Customs in Cuba is responsible for this.

BOOK NOW, PAY LATER...

Sagua Services & Travel offers a simple and flexible travel payment plan to make it easy for you.

- Reserve your spot for as little as \$100 per person (Enrollment deposit I Non-Refundable).
- ★ Your package must be paid in full 45 days prior to departure.

Payment processing fees will apply.

PAYMENT METHODS:

- ★ CREDIT/DEBIT CARD | Credit Card Processing Fee: 4%
- ★ WIRE TRANSFER I Payment Processing Fee: \$0.00

How to book? Directly via the Sagua Services & Travel website www.saguaservices.com; via WhatsApp Business and/or email info@saguaservicestravel.com

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Cancellations made

- g Up to 45 days prior to program start date, cancellation fee: \$100.00 (Enrollment deposit | Non-Refundable).
- 20 to 8 days prior to program start date, cancellation fee: 50% of trip total.
- ✓ Less than 7 days prior to program start date, cancellation fee: 100% of trip total.

Photography and Video

Sagua Services & Travel (SST) reserves the right to take photographs and/or videos during the operation of any program and to use them for promotional purposes. By enrolling in a **Sagua Services & Travel (SST)** program, participants agree to allow their images to be used for such purposes. Participants who prefer that their images not be used are asked, should identify themselves to program staff and the photographer at the commencement of their program.