The Best of Cuba
PHOTO TOUR

History and Culture ...
March 5/16, 2016

Celebrating 27 years of incredible photo adventures!

E: julia@worldadventures.com.au
W: www.worldphotoadventures.com.au
CUBA - the adventure ...

Our first tour to Cuba will be outstanding! We target the best locations in Cuba for a very authentic experience of its rich culture and unique history. You have a photo on every corner and in between... The food is outstanding! We include professional photo guides and local expert guides to help you.

Imagine driving in a 1950's/60's giant classic American car? This is one of our methods of transport for a morning shoot. We shoot the culture and history of Cuba, but also flamingo, hummingbirds and beautiful beaches. We check out the famous Cuban cigar, how it is made and other iconic Cuban experiences. The people photo opportunities are special! Your guides will maximise this for you.

Join us on this great 'life experience' photo adventure ...

PHOTO adventures ...
We are offering two very different, but unique linked holidays. In 2016 we invite you to photograph Iceland and Cuba...

1. Guatemala - February/March 2016
2. Cuba - March 2016

FANTASTIC VALUE FOR MONEY...

* We include a complete land package from excellent accommodation, to all meals, all drinks including standard alcoholic beverages, all tips and some of the best guides in the world.

* Quality time in Habana and old historic locations.

* Incredible landscapes with adventures in the Cuban countryside.

* Authentic old vehicle drives and shoots.

* Great culture from people to locations.

* Non photographic partners love our events.

* Small photo group size minimum 6 maximum 10/11.

* Expert professional photo guide who works hard to optimise your photo interests.

* This is our 27th year of offer amazing World Photo Adventures!
There are many reasons our tours are so successful. Here are just a few...

UNTAMED QUALITY AND EXPERIENCE
With over 70 years of combined experience in tailoring premium travel quests, our team ensures you never settle for less than the best. We offer lovely 3/4 star accommodation for your comfort and enjoyment.

EXCEPTIONAL END-TO-END EXPERIENCE
We work towards delivering the time of your life. Our office gem Julia, helps you with all your pre- and post-tour needs. Once you are ‘out in the field’ our professional local drivers and guides are right by your side. Your personal photo guides are the best in the world! World Photo Adventures and its expert team know this captivating land better than anyone.

GREAT TOURS COME IN SMALL GROUPS
Small group travel gives you flexibility and the ability to follow your interests. That’s why we keep tour group sizes small so you can savour your travel experience.

FIRST TIME ON TOUR WITH US?
We’ll happily answer your questions, offer advice or connect you with the experiences that will satisfy your wanderlust. Contact Julia at: julia@worldadventures.com.au.

SAFETY AND SECURITY
Your safety and security is very important to us. Apart from the experience of your WPA guides, our local operators are outstanding and very experienced to local cultures and customs. Our itineraries, accommodation and tour information all add up to helping you enjoy a great adventure, with peace of mind.

ESCORTED BY: Darran and Pearce Leal
TOUR DATES: March 2016
EVENT GRADE: Easy to Moderate
TRANSPORT: Mini bus
ACCOMMODATION: 3 Star hotel accommodation.
TARGETS: Landscapes, Wildlife, Creative, Culture.
Itinerary to photo adventure...

DAY 1 - La Habana
March 5
Arrive today at the latest. No activities are included until we meet at 5pm at reception. Your guides will fill in tour details, you meet the group and we include our first group dinner. Hotel accommodation - (D)

DAY 2 - La Habana
March 6
Early morning walk near hotel, followed by a workshop to help you get the most from your Cuba photo adventures. Afternoon visit to the Fortress of San Carlos de la Cabaña, located on top of a hill overlooking the city and the bay. It was built by the Spaniards in 1774 in order to defend the port from pirate attacks. It is also where Che Guevara’s headquarters was once located. We also visit the nearby Castle of Tres Reyes del Morro, at the entrance of the bay.

At 9pm we shoot the historical ‘Cannon Blast Ceremony’, aiming for unique results. This old ceremony once announced the closing of the port and the gates of the former city wall. It is still performed for residents of Havana, as well as for visitors. Our dinner tonight is a welcome dinner with Rumba and tropical dance show, and time to shoot dancers! Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

DAY 3 - La Habana Vieja
March 7
Full day for exploring La Habana Vieja “The Old Habana”, and its surroundings. The historical centre was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Walk along the main streets and squares of the Historic Centre (Square of Arms, Saint Francis of Assisi Square, Old Square and Cathedral Square) where you will be able to photograph the old world of fortified walls, churches, squares, colonial buildings and the Cuban people, as well. These friendly people will welcome you - dancing or playing music in the streets. Lunch at a typical Cuban Restaurant (Full menu with drinks included).

Afternoon free for streets photography, or simply to explore the fascinating places and markets of the Historical Centre of La Habana. Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

PRE TOUR
Darran and Pearce will flying from Australia to overnight in Cuba at least 24 hours before the tour starts. Accommodation and services start for this tour - DAY 1.

This timing will give you a chance to relax and acclimatise to the new time zone. We generally commence booking pre/post tour accommodation/flights about 8/9 months before departure.

NOTE: This itinerary is flexible to allow your guides to maximise your photo and travel interests to weather and unique opportunities. Specific villages and targeted subjects will be offered the day before departure. This will offer you ‘the best of Cuba’. Meals not included in the itinerary, are organised to ‘fit in’ with the days shoots. Some of the cafes and restaurants are a real ‘Cuba treat’...

FINAL ITINERARY
Note that a final itinerary will be sent to you about one month before departure.
DAY 4 - La Habana
March 8
Morning: Imagine a drive in an 'Old American Car', along the Havana seafront. You will do this! Tour through the modern part of the city, driving towards Centro Habana, Vedado and Miramar neighbourhoods, with stops in the most interesting places for sightseeing such as the Capitol Building, The Grand Theatre, the Revolution Square, etc. (about 3 hours)

Afternoon: Tobacco and Rhum Tour including: Lunch at the Smoker’s Hostel “Count of Villanueva” (full menu with drinks included), meeting with the roller of the house and tasting of a Cuban Cigar. (Optional of course to smoke, but classic Cuba!) Visit a cigar factory, The Tobacco Museum and the Rhum Museum, where the rhum manufacturing process is shown in detail and tasting at Havana Club Rhum. Last Tour to the most famous bars of the old town, “Floridita” or “La Bodeguita del Medio”, also frequented by the American author Ernest Hemingway. Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

DAY 5 - La Habana – Pinar del Río
March 9
Drive towards the east of the Island, along sugar cane, coffee and tobacco plantations, arriving to the picturesque region of Pinar del Río, where palm groves and patches of forest grow at the foot of the mountain range in the Viñales Valley. Visit the Botanical Garden of Soroa at the Sierra de Rosario Biosphere Reserve, where we will visit the most important orchid greenhouse of the Caribbean, and we can also shoot several species of hummingbirds and woodpeckers.
Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

DAY 6 - Pinar del Río
March 10
Photograph the Viñales Valley, with its picturesque round-shaped peaks emerging from the land (Mogotes), declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and also visit a waterfall in the rainforest. The tobacco plantations are very important in the region and we will also visit a local factory where the famous “havannos” (the big Cuban cigars) are hand-made, and also photograph the production of rhum and a liquor made with goyaba (licor Guayabita del Pinar)...Taste it! Time for shooting sunset from your hotel.
Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

DAY 7 - Pinar del Río – La Habana
March 11
We drive to Pinar del Rio, visit the “Indian’s Cave”, Tour to La Guabina farm to taste coconut milk, to see and shoot a horse display and to take a swim and boat ride in The Guamá river. Tour to Cayo Levisa and its beautiful white sand beaches. After sunset, we return to La Habana.
Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)
DAY 8 - To Cienfuegos
March 12
We drive to the central-south coast of the island, where we will visit Cienfuegos, a city with typical French colonial architecture. We visit Palmira, a town with a dominant African heritage. Afternoon visit to Guanaroca Lake (weather and road permitting) where we can shoot an abundant diversity of birds including the Caribbean flamingo. At Palmira, we will have permission to assist to a local Santeria ceremony. The Santeria is a local cult or religion performed by the descendent of the African slaves introduced to Cuba for working in the coffee and tobacco plantations. Accommodation in local Hotel accommodation - (B, L, D)

DAY 9 - Trinidad & Valle de los Ingenios
March 13
Sunrise and early morning shooting at Cienfuegos Bay. Breakfast at hotel, then we drive towards Trinidad, an old town declared UNESCO’s World Heritage Site, and Ingenio’s Valley, (Valley of the Sugar Mills) including the Manaca-Iznaga farm. We will also visit the ruins of some of the 40 sugar factories that worked during the colonial town. At the Escambray Mountains we can photograph many endemic Cuban lizards and birds. Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

DAY 10 - Santa Clara & Northern coast
March 14
We return to the west, visiting the territory between the mountains of Santa Clara and the ocean, stopping for opportunistic shoots. The program continues with a stop at Sancti Spiritus, where we will visit the church of ‘Our Lady of the Good Journey’, and Santa Clara, where we will visit the Mausoleum devoted to Ernesto Che Guevara. We’ll stop as well en route for shooting landscapes, markets and other places of interest as times allows. Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

DAY 11 - La Habana
March 15
Last day in La Habana: Morning Tour “La Habana from top”: Half Day to photograph La Habana Nueva y Vieja (The “New and Old Habana”) with panoramic views from different angles and points of the city. Lunch at the Tower restaurant, located at the highest building in town (FOCSA Building) where you will take outstanding photos of the city and its bay. Afternoon free to relax or explore La Habana. We include a final group dinner and the chance to tell a few tall stories of our adventures. Hotel accommodation - (B,L,D)

DAY 12 - La Habana - March 16 - TOUR ENDS
Tour ends. Transfer to the airport to board the international flight. (B)
MEET YOUR TOUR TEAM

WHO ARE WE?
At World Photo Adventures, creating marvellous and memorable journeys is our mission. Our tours give you impressions and experiences you’ll cherish for a lifetime. We’re more than travel and tour specialists — we’re your complete photography adventure solution. We take you straight to the photographic heartlands of your chosen tour region. As a family business, personalised service is close to our hearts.

STAND-OUT SERVICE
Stunning Norfolk Island set the stage for our first photo tour in 1989. (In fact Darran and Julia met on this very first photo adventure!) Since then our tours have gone from strength to strength — and continent to continent. Wherever you travel with World Photo Adventures, our superior service levels are a mainstay. Claim the ultimate tour experience for you and your lens. From our friendly helpful staff, you’ll enjoy the peace of mind and exceptional experience that only comes from working with one of the world’s most experienced photo travel companies.

DARRAN LEAL
Professional photographer/guide
With over 400 successful photo tours/workshop and seminars worldwide and counting, Australian-born Darran’s lifetime loves are travel and outdoor photography. He combines these with vast experience in delivering global photo tours, workshops and seminars. Darran is one of the world’s few full-time professional photo guides. He leads photographers of all levels to many of the world’s most captivating locations. As a natural born photographer, educator and adventurer, Darran’s career inevitably led him to help others explore and capture their world. Now Darran spends his time up to his arm pits in crocodiles, cuddling gorillas or herding photographers.

Check out Darran’s work first-hand at: www.worldphotoadvntures.com.au

PEARCE LEAL
Professional photographer/guide
No photographer could wish for a better guide to getting remarkable destination shots than a fellow photographer. Pearce is the man to get you weaving incredible lens magic, with over 30 tours and workshops under his belt, Pearce has traversed incredible image opportunities in Africa, the USA, South America, Asia and Australia. In addition, his own photographic work has been featured in magazines and media around the globe. He has won several awards in the AIPP, to finalist in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the year. His teaching skills and his dedication to help those on tour is outstanding.

Check out Pearce’s work first-hand at: www.pearcelealphoto.com

JULIA LEAL
Professional travel consultant
Exploring new territory is an adventure Julia has been savoring since childhood. Julia was born in Liverpool, England yet soon migrated to New Zealand with her family. She launched her travel career in 1979 in tropical Noosa, Queensland where she managed one of the first resorts in the region. Then it was back to Auckland, New Zealand to take up the role of travel consultant. Before long, Go International snapped Julia up as a travel rep. While leading an educational tour on Norfolk Island in 1989, Julia met Darran. Though her career remained trans-Tasman for several years after, Julia is now in her element as a travel consultant extraordinaire for World Photo Adventures. When it comes to securing an extraordinary photographic adventure tour founded on unrivalled service, Julia has it covered.

FRAZER LEAL
IT Wizard
At a very young age Frazer pulled apart computers to ‘see how they worked’ and started to fix all sorts of technology. He first became serious with a camera when he borrowed his dad’s camera while on a workshop on Fraser Island. He went on to win best photo with over 100 adult photographers. Frazer is our IT and Social Media manager. He designs and manages our website and helps to keep you up to date with our great adventures.

WORLD PHOTO ADVENTURES
WHO BOOKS OUR PHOTO HOLIDAYS?
From animated ‘point and shoot’ amateur photographers to seasoned photographic veterans, we get a broad cross-section of photo enthusiasts on every tour. Not super keen on snapping? No problem. You are still guaranteed a great time. Whether your finger never leaves, or never hits a camera during a tour, you will have an unforgettable experience. Our unique locations, top guides and small travel groups make sure of it. While our clients vary in age and experience, all attend with the same goal — to have a fantastic holiday. We ensure every client gets exactly that.

WE OFFER YOU ...

- All inclusive land package ...
That's right, we include everything from hand picked 3/4 star accommodation, plus all meals, transport, entrance fees and even drinks, as per itinerary.

- Great guidance every step of the way ...
A vibrant travel itinerary that never misses a beat. Local knowledge to fully immerse you in the richest offerings of the region. Professional photographic support is provided to ensure you secure superlative images. You will have it all thanks to our professional photographer and local guide. Both are with you throughout your tour.

- Small group sizes for big personal advantage ...
You want to maximise your photographic and experiential opportunities. We want you to as well. So we keep tour groups small with a maximum of six travellers per guide. You will benefit from utmost flexibility and personal attention, with an experienced guide on-hand too.

- Fantastic accommodation ...
Comfort is an important part of all travel. So we ensure a high standard of accommodation throughout your tour. That means you will always be well rested to make the most of every tour day.

- Marvellous meals ...
Eating ‘on the job’ can only be planned to a certain extent. After all you would not want to miss incredible photographic and travel opportunities because you were busy dining. So we provide a selection of meals as detailed in your itinerary. Your guides will arrange all other meals to ensure you never miss a chance to enrich your tour memories and books or albums.

LIBERATE YOUR LENS AND YOUR SENSES
Our ‘end-to-end’ tour takes you on a journey of incredible discovery. So put yourself in the big picture with prime travel information and inspiration ...

GET TO KNOW THE DESTINATION
You can begin your exploration of the tour destination without leaving home. Visit www.maps.google.com.au. Simply type in the locations on your itinerary and explore to your heart's content. It's a great idea to embark upon your adventure well informed on this rich natural wonderland.

WEATHER
Please google temperatures for that time of the year at the destination. We will offer more information in our - Final Itinerary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR TOUR PRICE
We aim to provide a convenient price for almost all your travel and tour arrangements. Yet some additional costs do fall outside our tour prices. Your airfares are an extra cost unless your itinerary specifies otherwise. All transfers, laundry and sundries not listed in the itinerary also fall outside our tour price.

PLEASE NOTE: it is vital that you do not book any flights or other travel services for your tour before speaking to our office first. No tour is ever ‘guaranteed’ until minimum numbers and other key logistics are confirmed.

ITINERARY AND PRICE CHANGES
Tour prices are correct at the time of printing, but these are subject to change. Please use your itinerary and associated pricing as a guide only.

KITTING OUT YOUR CAMERA COLLATERAL
No matter what your photographic level or style, World Photo Adventures maximises your image interest. Our clients use everything from top line D-SLRs with pro lenses to mid-range kits. We even have a wealth of non-photographically inclined partners come along with basic compact cameras.

Your equipment is personal to you. What matters is that you know how to use it and how to get the most out of your tour. That is why we offer a workshop at the start of all tours. Plus you’ll have a professional photographer on-hand to give you personal assistance while you're in the field. You can even benefit from ‘mini photography workshops’ during the course of your tour. In short, we give you everything possible to help you capture lasting images of the world’s most breathtaking location — in a way that matches your style, desires and photographic equipment.

Itinerary, price and details are subject to change.
CUBA PHOTO TOUR PRICE -

AU$6,995 Twin Share per person
As per itinerary, with small group size - local guide and driver and professional photo guides.

EVENT DEPOSIT REQUIRED - AU$1,500 pp.
Please read our terms & Conditions and fill in our booking form. Julia can offer travel insurance, including deposit protection insurance.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT - AU$695 pp.
We will try our best to find someone to share with you. However, part of the booking conditions is that a single supplement is applicable if no one is available to share.

TO BOOK: Please ask for our booking form.

THE COST INCLUDES

- All land tour costs as per itinerary
- Accommodation in 3 and 4 star hotels and lodges based in double-room occupancy
- Single accommodation as per Single Supplement cost
- All drinks and meals as detailed in the itinerary. This includes standard alcoholic beverages
- Private land transportation in mini bus
- Entrance fees to national park
- Local English-speaking expert guide
- Professional photo guide

NOT INCLUDED

- International Air tickets
- Personal expenses
- Items not included in the itinerary

FLIGHTS
We do not include your international flights. (Or any other flights, unless included in the itinerary.)

We are happy to help you!
We are happy to check your flight itinerary, before you have tickets issued, to make sure you will be arriving and departing at the correct times for the tour. (Julia will need a copy of your flight itinerary, for her records).

IMPORTANT - To make sure you book the correct dates and times, we would request the following:
1. Don’t purchase any air tickets, until Darran’s flights have been booked, which we will do approximately 8 - 9 months prior to the tour departure. We will advise you when Darran’s flights are booked and you can then use his itinerary, as a guide. This will also coincide with confirming the tour departure, making sure we have met minimum passenger numbers for the tour and the logistics of the tour have not changed.
2. We suggest you arrive a minimum of 24 hours prior to the tour departure, to help with jet lag and in case of airline delays.