



# SONIA'S SIGNATURE

## — Havana Culinary Tour —

FEATURING CHEF JULIUS RUSSELL • 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



*Recent changes in US/Cuban relations has sparked much interest in traveling to Cuba, an island just ninety miles away from the coasts of Florida that Americans haven't been able to visit legally for over years.*

*I started the tour company Just 90 Miles, to be able to show my native country to Americans that are rushing to the island because they want to see Cuba before it changes.*



*Since for me traveling and food go together, I started researching the blossoming Cuban culinary landscape and quickly realized that in a country that has limited internet, no GPS and few street signs, it was difficult finding the best places to eat. This prompted me to create the book: "Havana Culinary Tour a Just 90 Miles Project". The book highlights my favorite places to eat in the island and help travelers navigate the growing culinary scene in Havana.*



*I have created my signature Havana Culinary Tour and have partnered with acclaimed **Chef and Culinary Ambassador, Julius Russell of A Tale of Two Chefs**, to offer a not to miss opportunity to experience and discover my birth county through its cuisine. We will visit organic farms, produce markets, local supermarkets and gather the ingredients we will need for our cooking lesson.*

*We will also visit my favorite private restaurants (paladares), take a salsa dancing lesson, learn how to make Mojitos. And of course we will see Cuba's iconic sights, visit art studios, cigar and rum factories and experience classic American cars.*



*As a Private Chef, Television Personality, and Culinary Ambassador to Chile, Chef Julius is a highly sought after industry leader that is committed to exposing the American palette to the exotic flavor profiles. Properly blend, these global flavors are essential to the "perfect dining experience". From Israel, to Jamaica, to France, he travels the world for inspiration for his consistently sold out pop up restaurants. Leading a group of food connoisseurs through the new culinary frontier that is Cuba, will be an adventure of a life time.*

## DAY 1

THURSDAY

In the morning we will meet at the Miami International Airport in terminal G at the Havana Air counter at 9:00 am for a 12:00 pm departure. Once in Havana we will start with lunch at a traditional Cuban restaurant **El Aljibe** that features a 62-year-old secret recipe for roast chicken that has drawn dignitaries, celebrities and Hollywood stars. After lunch we will check into our accommodations, a beautifully Casa Particulares (private homes) that have been restored as bed and breakfast. In the early evening you will be picked up by **convertible Classic Cars** for an unforgettable tour of Havana, with a stop at **Hotel Nacional** for mojitos in the gardens overlooking the Malecon. Then we will have dinner at paladar **El Litoral**, also located along the Malecon to enjoy the house specialty, seafood. **Includes: Lunch and Dinner**  
*Optional - finish the night enjoying Afro-Cuban jazz at La Zorra y el Cuervo or Jazz Cafe.*

## DAY 2

FRIDAY

After breakfast we will go to Old Havana for a guided **Walking Tour of Habana Vieja**. During our tour we will visit all four squares and have lunch at paladar **Ivan Chef Justo** where you can enjoy traditional Cuban food including the house special, suckling pig. We will conclude our walking tour at the end of Calle Obispo at **El Floridita** where we will enjoy a traditional daiquiri. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore Old Havana on your own. In the evening we will have dinner at paladar **El Cocinero** to enjoy dinner in Havana's most famous terrace. Then we will go next door to **Fábrica de Arte Cubano (The Cuban Art Factory)**, a meeting-place where the best of the island's avant-garde art can be enjoyed, with all the artistic manifestations under the same roof - theater, jazz, contemporary dance, exhibitions and more. **Includes: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.**

## DAY 3

SATURDAY

After breakfast we will start our "from farm to table" experience. First we will head to rural Guanabacoa, on the outskirts of Havana, to visit two farms "Vista Hermosa Farm" and "La Mora Farm", that provide fresh produce and grass feed animals to **Mediterranean-Havana** the first Cuban "farm to table restaurant". After finishing our tour we will travel back to Havana to enjoy a fusion of Mediterranean and local cuisine prepared by Luigi, the Chef native of Sardinia. From there the group will visit the market to purchase items for our cooking and mixology classes. Our bounty from the market will serve as inspiration for our cooking class led by Chef Julius working with a Cuban executive chef. During the class you will learn how to make traditional Cuban paella or ropa vieja. When the class is over, we will enjoy the fruits of our labor for dinner. **Includes: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.** *Optional: At 10 pm we will be ready to hit the town and see one of Cuba's best cabaret shows. **Cabaret Topicana** opened its doors in 1939 as a nightclub, a unique place in the world to enjoy music and the Cuban folklore of the Caribbean, in all their coloring, musicality and rhythm.*

## DAY 4

SUNDAY

After breakfast we will tour Modern Havana including El Vedado, University of Havana, make stops at Plaza de la Revolución (Revolution Square) and Jose Marti Memorial, and a tour of **The Colon Cemetery**. At noon we will stop at **Callejón de Hamel** to enjoy homegrown urban arts. An Alley lined with murals and sculptures by Salvador González Escalona that celebrate Afro-Cuban culture and religion. Every Sunday at noon, locals honor the spirits of Santería by dancing the rumba and chanting to drumbeats. After experiencing this lively block party and browsing in the outdoor market, we will be ready for lunch. We will have lunch overlooking the ocean at paladar **Vista Mar** where we will enjoy the most wonderful seafood, and enjoy the fish of the day or the lobster. After lunch you are free to roam around Havana and enjoy dinner on your own. Let us know and we will make reservations for you. Night Cap: After dinner, we will meet back at your private residence for a mixology class where you will learn to make a classic Cuban Mojito. To make it a party, salsa instructors will be available for lessons. **Includes: Breakfast and Lunch.**

## DAY 5

MONDAY

After an early breakfast, we will set-off from Havana for a Viñales Day Tour. The scenic drive along the "Ruta del Tabaco" (Tobacco Route) will take you into the lush surroundings of the Pinar del Rio Province. Visit a Tobacco Plantation, the famous rum distillery "Guayabita del Pinar", then continue to Viñales Valley for a traditional Cuban lunch of pork, rice and bean. After lunch we'll visit the Indian Cave. We will take a boat ride along the cave where we'll end at Los Jazmines Observatory and experience the amazing views of the picturesque Viñales Valley, including one of Cuba's National Monuments, the Pre-historical Mural, before returning to Havana. We will return to Havana around 6 pm. Dinner is on your own. **Includes: Breakfast and Lunch.**

## DAY 6

TUESDAY

After breakfast we visit **Jaimanita**, a small fishing village where we will be delighted by **Fusterlandia**, painter and sculpture Jose Fuster's vibrant arts complex. Then we will visit **Finca La Vigia Museum**, Ernest Hemingway's former residence. Continuing along the Hemingway trail, we will go on a panoramic tour of Cojimar, the fishing village that inspired Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, followed by lunch at **Casa Grande**. Then we finish the Hemingway tour in Old Havana at Hotel Ambos Mundos, where Hemingway's room has been preserved for viewing. In the evening around 9 pm we will have a Havana farewell dinner cooked by Chef Julius and Cuban Chef Michel at paladar **Atelier**. **Includes: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.** *Optional: Dancing at Casa de la Musica Miramar - Matinee Dancing from 6 to 8:30.*

## DAY 7

WEDNESDAY

In the morning after breakfast we will leave the private residence for our afternoon flight to Miami. We will stop at **Almacenes de San Jose** for last minutes souvenir shopping then we will have lunch at paladar **Starbien** before we head out to Havana Airport for our flight back to Miami. At 2:30 pm we will depart to the airport for our 6:00 flight. **Includes: Breakfast, Lunch.**

# ITINERARY

## DATES

**TOUR #1** Depart: Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> · Flight #EA3143 - 12:00 pm  
Return: Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> · Flight #EA3146 - 4:30 pm

**TOUR #2** Depart: Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> · Flight #EA3143 - 12:00 pm  
Return: Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> · Flight #EA3146 - 4:30 pm

## RATE

**\$4,295** · Rates are per person based on double occupancy. Single room supplement is \$350  
**PER PERSON** · Price subject to change without notice

## INCLUDED

- Non-stop round trip flights from Miami to Havana via U.S. Government-licensed charter service
- Cuba Entrance Visa
- All land transportation, transfers in Cuba
- 6 nights superior accommodations in Cuba
- 17 meals: 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 4 dinners
- Professional, English-speaking local guide
- Old Havana Walking Tour
- Modern Havana Bus Tour
- Convertible Classic Cars Tour
- Farm to Table Experience
- Art Tour: Fusterlandia
- Callejon de Hamel
- Day Trip Viñales
- Tour Hemingway House - Finca La Vigia Museum
- Visit to Cojimar
- Salsa Lessons
- Cooking Class
- Mixology Class
- Mandatory Health insurance in Cuba

## LODGING

Casas Particulares or Private owned guest-houses / Bed & Breakfast. **Just 90 Miles** has secured several houses in a location central to Havana's many attractions that have been completely renovated into Bed & Breakfasts. These independently-owned homes are deluxe vacation rentals that contain 5 to 7 private guest rooms, each with its own private bathroom and air-conditioning. Accommodations will vary based on trip dates and size, but will always be the finest available.

## AIRLINE

Havana Air, a Charter Company Authorized by the U.S. Government, is operated by Eastern Airlines. The planes are B737-800 and the flight will take 45 minutes. Miami - Havana: Eastern Airlines #EA3143, Thursday 12:00 pm · Havana - Miami: Eastern Airlines #EA3148, Wednesday 4:30 pm

## NOT INCLUDED

- Gratuities for tour guide, bus driver, restaurant staff
- Cuban airport departure tax of US \$30 paid in Miami Airport to the Charter Company
- Optional travel interruption and cancellation insurance
- Airline baggage fee \$20 per piece and excess baggage fee of \$2.00 a lb. after 44 lb.

## IMPORTANT

We recommend you arrive in Miami the **night before** since departures and check-in times are early in the morning.

## PAYMENT & DEPOSIT

To make a reservation, please complete the online reservation [www.just90miles.com/reservations.html](http://www.just90miles.com/reservations.html) and send a copy of your passport to [reservations@just90miles.com](mailto:reservations@just90miles.com). We will respond with an electronic invoice to pay an **\$800 deposit** within 72 hours of receipt. This non-refundable deposit will be applied towards the cost of your package. The balance is due 60 days prior to departure, or within 72 hours of booking.

For additional information, contact **Sonia Laguna** by emailing at [info@just90miles.com](mailto:info@just90miles.com) or calling 1-800-431-7151.



**JUST 90 MILES**

Participants should know that Cuba is a special destination, so please understand that all elements of this itinerary are subject to change, and the time and activities listed above are approximate. Please remain flexible as there are often circumstances beyond our control and changes may be necessary. The tour leader reserves the right to make changes to the published itinerary whenever, in his sole discretion, conditions warrant, or if he deems it necessary for the comfort or safety of the program. Be assured that all efforts will be made to provide a comparable alternative should an item on the itinerary need to be changed or cancelled.

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