



Christmas at Las Parrandas, Remedios




Join Cubas most riotous annual festival, Las Parrandas, when every Christmas Eve sees the tiny town of Remedios transforms into the biggest one-night fiesta in Cuba.

The origin of this party lies, unusually, with the towns priest, who in 1820 noticed his parishioners dwindling as the weather got colder. To make them attend mass, he rallied all the townsfolk together and encouraged them to make as much noise as possible to get the adults out of the house.


Over the years, it has become a full-scale party, and now the towns districts compete with vibrant floats, towering illuminated sculptures, music, dancing and all-night fireworks.




Isabela de Sagua Tour



This tour developed by CPT takes you off the beaten path north to one of the most abandoned but fascinating towns in Cuba. Sagua has amazing buildings each with fascinating stories and on weekends a country music scene. As this area had a high population of Slaves, Afro-Cuban culture is very strong here so we can organize a Rumba or a visit to a Cabildo. Take the train for a 40 minute ride through the sugar plantation to Santa Isabella. Eat the freshest lobster and seafood on one of the many beach shacks frequented by locals. (bring a nice bottle of white wine)



Remedios Panoramic Tour




Remedios was the eighth village founded by the Spanish conquistadors in Cuba in the 16th century. It has some beautifully restored colonial architecture including the wonderful Cuban Baroque church San Juan Bautista which was restored in the 1940.


The first part of the tour brings you to the Museum of Parrandas where you will discover the history of this spectacle. The tradition dates back to the 1820 when a young priest named Francisco Vigil de Quinones noticed that in the chilly mornings of the last days of the year, his congregations were dwindling. People seemed to prefer to spend time in their warm beds than fill the pews of his church. To persuade them to change their ways, he came up with an ingenious solution. He got together a group of children and encouraged them to make as much noise as they could. Today on Christmas eve, its a wild battle of firework displays, lights and artwork between two huge floats, each representing one half of the town and is the cultural highlight of the year.

Next on the tour you will visit the Golden Church of Cuba, with a gold-plated altar and a sculpture of a pregnant Immaculate Conception, which is the only one of its kind in the world, according to experts. A donation is appropriate as they do not ask for a tour fee.

Afterwards enjoy a coffee with your guide at El Louvre a restored Cafe in the centre of the town.



Day Trip to Cayo Esquivel



Departure at 9am from the Marina at Isabela de Sagua, the port town of Sagua la Grande. Sail on ship or catamaran to the loney islet Cayo Esquivel, and enjoy a day at the beach and simple lunch onsite. Return at 3pm.



Evening at El Mejunje



Wish every town had one. This community project spear headed by locals in an abandoned building offers entertainment nightly to different strands of the local community . Everybody gets a look in and there are shows and live music nightly.

Explore Caibarien



The charming seaside town of Caibarién, in the Villa Clara province on Cuba's northern coast, lies far from the island's tourist trail, yet offers noteworthy attractions, from community art projects and deliciously fresh seafood, to one of Cuba's most renowned festivals, fragile crumbling buildings, extra-friendly locals and a way of life seemingly stuck in a bygone era.

Exchange at Bormey Co-Op



Bormey, a small co-op business in the heart of Santa Clara, specializes in delicious organic treats made from peanut and sesame. From peanut brittle bars to peanut butter jars, salted or caramelized nuts, to beautiful gifts baskets, they use only organic, local products and local labor force for their treats and their beautiful packaging and presentation.

The Santa Clara Battle Tour



In the middle of the island, the Santa Clara Battle of December 1958 led by Che Guevara was the catalyst for Bastistas runaway. A guided tour throughout strategic locations, hills, trenches; hidden traces of the battle will take you all over the city, picturing history within the frame of today's current life in a city that is always busy. Places visited along the tour: Parque del Carmen, Tren Blindado, Loma del Capiro (only clients who can use stairs can go to the top), Cuartel de 31, Palacio de Justicia, Parque Vidal and Revolution Square.

Kids from the *Compañía a la Sombra de un Ala*, a community project that helps children develop their theatrical talents.



The *Compañía a la Sombra de un Ala* is a children's community project within an art gallery. Here, theater instructors, musicians, and dancers from the province help children develop their artistic discipline. Meet with the program's director and local children to understand how and why Cuba puts a premium on developing the arts among kids across the country.

Che memorial



No trip to Cuba is complete without a trip to the Che memorial. Pay homage to this charismatic leader of the Cuban revolution where he fought and won the battle of Santa Clara.

Exchange at Estudio Teatral de Santa Clara



Estudio Teatral de Santa Clara is an experimental theater group founded in 1989. The bulk of their work lies in acting training, and the creation of a body of work inspired Cuban every day life, with a universal approach.

45 minute presentation, including fragments of physical and vocal training, as well as a performance of one scene of the play *Cuba and the Night*. To be followed by 15 minute Q and A session with actors and director.

Dinner at Suite Florencia, a private culinary experience



Suite Florencia, a beautifully restored colonial house and luxury B n B, has the most incredible food in Santa Clara, and one of the bests in Cuba, combining Cuban food with the best culinary traditions of Italy and Spain.

Santa Clara City Tour



A foundation on the run from pirates is the beginning of the history of Santa Clara in 1689. Independence, philanthropy, Che Guevara and the triumph of the Revolution, a place where the LGBT movement stands tall; a walk through the footprint of a town in the center of the island where many paths meet.

Places visited along the tour: Parque del Carmen, Tren Blindado, Parque Vidal, Mejunje (passing by, not entering), La Caridad Theater (one the three existing theater of the XIX century in the country) and Revolution Square.

Piquete Melodías Antilanas & Alegrías de Vivir.



Meet musicians from *Piquete Melodías Antilanas*, one of the Cuba's last piquete groups - a street music style that combines waltzing and marching. The musicians will perform 19th century Cuban music on 200-year old instruments-as performers from *Alegrías de Vivir* teach you Cuba's national dance, the *Danzón*. Both a musical genre and dance, the *Danzón* is a fusion of European and African styles brought to the country over centuries of migration and foreign occupation