

BEEKEEPERS TOUR 2017
ARRANGED BY TRANSEAIR TRAVEL
NOV 11 - 19, 2017

Introduction to the Cuba Bee Industry

Long known for its cigars and rum, Cuba has added organic honey to its list of key agricultural exports, creating a buzz among farmers as pesticide use has been linked to declining bee populations elsewhere. Organic honey has become Cuba's fourth most valuable agricultural export behind fish products, tobacco and drinks, but ahead of the Caribbean island's more famous sugar and coffee.

All of [Cuba's] honey can be certified as organic. Its honey has a very specific, typical taste; in monetary value, it's a high ranking product. After the collapse in 1991 of the Soviet Union, Cuba's main trading partner, the island was unable to afford pesticides due to a lack of foreign currency, coupled with the U.S. trade embargo. By necessity, the government embraced organic agriculture, and the policies have largely stuck.

Now that the United States is easing its embargo following the restoration of diplomatic ties last year, Cuba's organic honey exporters could see significant growth if the government supports the industry, bee keepers said.

The country's industry is still tiny compared with honey heavyweights such as China, Turkey and Argentina. But with a commodity worth more per liter than oil, Cuban honey producers believe they could be on the cusp of a lucrative era. Most of Cuba's honey exports go to Europe.

While Cuba's small, organic honey industry aims to reap the rewards of increased trade with the United States, honey producers in other regions are under threat.

There is no doubt that populations of honey bees [in the United States and Europe] have declined... since the Second World War. Climate change, fewer places for wild bees to nest, shifts in land use, diseases and pesticides are blamed for the decline.

Because it is pesticide-free, Cuba's organic bee industry could act as protection from the problems hitting other honey exporters, and could be a growing income stream for the island's farmers.

The overall use of pesticides is fairly controlled. Cuba has been immune to the bee die-offs [hitting other regions].

ITINERARY

November 11 - 19, 2017

November 11, 2017 Day 1 Saturday – Arrive in Havana (D)

Arrive from the USA

Panoramic Tour – Drive through the Marianao, Playa and Vedado sections of Havana

Check in to Capri Hotel or similar hotel

Pre-tour meeting with guide to review the day by day program.

Evening meal at selected Paladar

November 12 Day 2 Sunday – Full Day tour of Old Havana (B, L, D)

After breakfast this morning, enjoy a full guided walking tour of Old Havana, beginning with the [Scale Model of Old Havana](#), an ideal way to start the exploration of Havana's historical center. You will visit all the important historical squares, streets and buildings:

Castillo de las Real Fuerza (Royal Force Castle), Palace of the Captain Generals, the Square of Arms (Plaza de Armas), the magnificent buildings around the square containing important cultural institutions, libraries, and museums. Visit San Francisco de Asis Square (the center of Havana's commercial activities), the Greek Church, the Old Presidential Railway Car, Plaza Vieja (Old Square), and Camara Oscura (Optical Dark Chamber). Most of the historic buildings surrounding the Old Square have been fully restored. Today they contain some of Cuba's main art galleries and cultural institutions such as the National Photography Gallery, The Center for the Development of Visual Arts, and La Casona Art Gallery.

Enjoy a welcome lunch at the stylish Cafe Laurent at the penthouse terrace of a small 1950s apartment building.

Afternoon: Visit to the Cathedral Square surrounded by noble colonial buildings such as the Palacio de Los Marqueses de Aguas Claras, Casa Lombillo, Palacio de los Marqueses de Arcos and the Cathedral of Havana.

Since you are in the area, you will pay a visit to the San Jose Warehouse which contains the largest arts and [handicraft market](#) of the entire island. There will be ample time for shopping.

Evening meal – Welcome Party at a Paladar with musical or jazz event.

Overnight at your Hotel in Havana.

November 13 Day 3 Monday Havana (B, L, D)



Visit a Beekeeper in the vicinity of Havana

Visit the Beekeeping Research Institute. Conference about Cuban Apiculture. The visit includes: Research Center, Labs, Apiary and Packing plant.

Lunch at Paladar.

Then visit Fusterlandia - Cuban artist José Fuster's ceramic art gallery which has been compared to that of Picasso, a comparison that followed him in successful gallery tours across Europe.

Following visit the Revolution Square and Columbus Cemetery, with unique mausoleums.

Dinner at Paladar

After the evening meal enjoy a Cuban Traditional Music Show - Cuban Music with Members of Buena Vista Social Club.

Return to Hotel.



November 14 Day 4 Tuesday Havana to Artemisa – Vinales - Las Terrazas - Pinar Del Rio - (B, L, D)

Drive to Viñales, located in the Pinar del Rio Province.

Visit the Viñales Community including the Prehistoric Mural and a Cigar-Tobacco Farm.

Visit "La Torre" Apiary.

Lunch at Local Paladar. Included

Transfer to "La Moka" Hotel. Pinar Del Rio Las Terrazas Community.

Dinner at Hotel.



November 15 Day 5 Wednesday Pinar Del Rio / Las Terrazas (B, L, D)



Visit an Apiary in Las Terrazas Community where you will receive an explanation about the breeding system and have the possibility to buy samples of supplements of honey.

Lunch at Local Paladar

Visit “Cafetal Buena Vista” - Cafetal Buenavista is Cuba’s oldest (now partially restored) coffee plantation, built in 1801 by French refugees from Haiti. Ruins of the quarters of some of the 126 slaves held by the French-Cuban owners.

Visit an Art Gallery at Las Terrazas.

Visit Polo Montañéz Museum - A museum about the short life of Polo Montañéz, a famous baladeer from Las Terrazas.

Enjoy the River San Juan. An excellent natural enclosure with places to swim, wooden chairs and tables to eat there and endless walking paths ..

Accommodation in Hotel. “La Moka” Hotel

Dinner at Hotel. Included

November 16 Day 6 Thursday Pinar Del Rio to Cienfuegos (B, L, D) – 6 hour drive

Drive to Cienfuegos.

Lunch at Local Paladar in Matanzas Province.

Visit an Apiary in Jovellanos, Matanzas.

Accommodation in “Jagua” Hotel or similar. Cienfuegos.

Dinner at Hotel.

November 17 Day 7 Friday Cienfuegos (B, L, D)

Cienfuegos City Tour. Cienfuegos has a well preserved colonial heart which can easily be explored in a short space of short time.

The focus of this tour is on the city's main square Parque Marti, which is surrounded by the impressive Palacio del Ayuntamiento, the elegant Italian style Teatro Tomas Terry and the neo-classical cathedral. This part of the city was recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is flanked by the busy Paseo del Prado, which has some colonial buildings and a statue of the famous musician Benny More, known as the 'barbarian of rhythm'.

There is also time for a drive up to the picturesque district of Punta Gorda, the old aristocratic quarter of the city which has a good view back across the bay to the city. The Palacio de Valle is next to Punta Gorda and is a quirky neo-Moorish, gothic and Venetian style palace which can be visited.



Lunch at Paladar in Cienfuegos.

Visit an Apiary nearby and learn about the breeding and management of the species of bees which sting.

Accommodation in “Jagua” Hotel or similar. Cienfuegos.

Dinner at Hotel. Included

November 18 Day 8 Saturday Cienfuegos to Havana (B, L, D)

Transfer to Havana via Zapata National Park.

Drive north for an exchange on the Management and good practices in Beekeeping with a Lecturer at the Apicultural research Institute located in the Cienaga de Zapata National Park Area.

Lunch at Paladar.

Accommodation in Havana Hotel.

Farewell Dinner.

November 19 Day 9 Sunday Havana (B) Depart Havana, Cuba for Home

After breakfast and check out this morning, you will say good bye to Cuba. The bus driver and tour guide will escort the group to the Jose Marti Airport for your flights back to your home. We wish your travel to Cuba to be among your most rewarding travel experiences ever!

The order of the Itinerary may vary.

INCLUSIONS:

- Airport/Hotel Transfers
- Accommodations and meals as indicated in itinerary
- Transportation in Private Bus.
- English Speaking Tour guide for all activities included on program.
- Specialized Guide for Apiaries and tours.
- Conference and professional activities.
- Venues entrances fees.
- Breakfast daily
- Specified Dinners and Lunches mostly at Paladars (private restaurants in homes).
- Cuban Visa
- Cuban Medical Insurance
- Organization, coordination and operation of tour
- Travel Tips and complete Travel Advice

NOT INCLUDED:

- Air fare from hometown to Havana, Cuba, Round Trip including taxes
- Gratuities to Guide and Driver
- Comprehensive Trip Cancellation, Trip Delay, Medical, Baggage Insurance
- Personal Expenses: Wifi, laundry, telephone, liquor, wine, beverages not included with meals,
- Passport
- Currency Exchange Variations

Trip Cost:

Sharing Twin: USD \$ 3,485.00 per person

Single: USD \$4,235.00

Deposit: \$500 to Transeair Travel as soon as possible, no later than July 1. Space Limited. The trip application is enclosed.