



## Pack Paddle Ski Corp.

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#420101

## Photo Cuba: In Support of the Cuban People

Monday, March 13th - Tuesday, March 21st, 2023

### **Highlights:**

- Explore this fascinating culture, kept in virtual isolation since the 50s.
- An extraordinary photo experience, from people to city to landscapes.
- You'll see the classic architecture of the capitol, 50's cars, music and countryside.
- Experience the rich cultural history in partnership with our dear Cuban friends-
- You'll have intimate, one-on-one experiences with local people for great photo opportunities.
- Witness the contrast of a slowly opening society still controlled by a loosening iron fist.
- Limited to only 8 clients for a more intimate experience, with Reed as your private photo instructor, including individual reviews. (note - all the photos used here are Reed's)

***Trip style: It's important you understand this trip is to support and learn about the local people and their story. It is not a resort or luxury trip.***

- Lodging at casa particulares, a local version of bed and breakfast. Wonderful chances to meet the people who live in these restored homes. Sometimes you may have a shared bathroom. Usually 2 to 4 rooms per house, generally the group is split between two homes.
- Limited short walks in a developing country.
- Travel in antique cars, offering a unique way to see the country.
- Breakfast is at your casa, all meals included. Each day you'll have one "big" meal and one small one (like sandwiches or pizza), drinks and dessert not included. The menus will vary based on what local food is available. The fresh fish is great!



***Description:***

Are you looking for a unique photographic experience? This is an opportunity for you to come home with not only wonderful and moving pictures, but a chance to tell your friends and family the story of the Cuban people. Our personal connections there will offer you special opportunities to see deeper into the fabric of Cuba and its people. If you love traveling to unusual places, this is a must-do trip before it changes further. You'll also help support the local people by participating in an experience that supports their private business efforts and opening up their country. You'll be able to witness the beginning of the jump they're making from the 1950's to the present and return home with a collection of life-long memories and wonderful photos. Be sure to read the full itinerary below to see the wide range of photographic possibilities. If you enjoy taking pictures of the human side of life, you'll be able to photograph street vendors, musicians, farmers, dancers and more. Activities are arranged for you each day.

Other photo opportunities will no doubt develop from your small group interactions with locals while there. Reed led two trips there in 2020 (just before COVID!), so has the experience from those trips to help you get the best shots possible. In the evening as you relax, you can review your pictures from the day.

About Reed - Reed Hoffmann has been a professional photographer for over 35 years. Working for newspapers in Indiana, Alabama and New York for two decades, he now splits his time between teaching photography and shooting assignments. He's been around the world: from Australia and New Zealand to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, Argentina's Patagonia region, the Arctic and Antarctic, and the High Peaks of the Adirondacks. His clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, American Photo, Nikon, Microsoft, Best Buy and Lowepro. He also taught Nikon School for 16 years, so is an accomplished instructor. Whether you've got a simple point-and-shoot or an advanced camera with all the lenses, this will be a fun-filled trip where everyone will come back with great pictures and fun stories to tell.

You can find out more about Reed at [www.reedhoffmann.com](http://www.reedhoffmann.com). You're also welcome to contact Reed directly, [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com)



***Itinerary- These dates and lodgings may change based on flight schedules. Please consider making your deposit as soon as possible as this is limited to 8 and we expect it to fill up fast.***

**DAY 1 - Monday, March 13 FLY FROM USA**

Arrive in Havana, be met at the airport for your pickup. Please arrange your travel plans to arrive by 3pm. If you can not get there that early, we can make a return airport trip to get you. This is a travel day as people are likely to come in on various flights.

Lodging in Havana

D

**DAY 2 - Tuesday, March 14 Viñales**

Since it's Sunday, many things in Havana are closed so we will head outside to Vinales. Though it is a small town, Viñales is no stranger to visitors. There are plenty of well-established small businesses including shops, restaurants, and hotels. The major attraction is the cigar factory (really, a farm, which we'll tour) and agriculture. 2.5-hour drive each way.

Lodging in Havana. B, L, D





**DAY 3 - Wednesday, March 15 Havana by day and night**

Havana City tour through sunset, to experience all the city has to offer. This is a great day for getting the old car photos as well as exploring the street life and architecture.

Lodging in Havana

B,L,D

**DAY 4 - Thursday, March 16 Havana and on to Matanzas/Veradero**

We'll spend the first part of the day in Havana, then in the afternoon we'll drive to Matanzas/Veradero.

Lodging in Matanzas/Veradero.

B,L,D

**DAY 5 - Friday, March 17 Matanzas**

Our guide (Raul) and driver (Oscar) are from Matanzas, which is a mid-sized city on the northern coast. Taking advantage of their local contacts, we'll have a full day meeting and photographing the people who live and work in and around Matanzas. This will include a visit to a nearby farm and a father/son mechanic shop in a backyard.

Lodging in Matanzas/Veradero. B,L,D



**DAY 6 - Saturday, March 18 Cienfuegos**

Today we head towards Ceinfuegos, making various stops along the way including a crocodile farm, a parrot breeding center and a local's backyard to photograph the smallest bird in the world, the Zunzuncito, or bumblebee hummingbird.

Lodging in Cienfuegos. B,L,D



### **DAY 7 - Sunday, March 19 Trinidad**

After an early-morning tour of Cienfuegos, we'll head towards one of the oldest cities in Cuba, Trinidad. Other outings that day will be to one of the abandoned sugar plantations in the area and Manaca Iznaga tower and the fabric market surrounding it. Late day walking tour of Trinidad.

Lodging in Trinidad.

B,L,D

### **DAY 8 - Monday, March 20 Havana**

More time in Trinidad, including a visit to a local pottery shop. Then off to Santa Clara, with a stop to visit a small local farm on the way. At Santa Clara we'll learn about Che Guevara, and after that make the drive back to Havana.

Lodging in Havana

B,L,D

### **DAY 9 - Tuesday, March 21 Return Flight**

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### **Tourists and Foreigners**

You may have heard a variety of things about the legality of visiting Cuba. This is our 9th trip there. When you book your airfare, or more likely at the airport (probably the last airport in the

U.S. you're flying from to Cuba), you will be asked to fill out a form that says why you are going to Cuba. You will check the box that says "Support for the Cuban People". Obama opened up this license to being self-issued. This category wants to make sure you don't support the Cuban government. So your itinerary needs to fall within the limitations of this category (which it does). It means you are staying with and eating at local houses (the casas mentioned) and not using the government supported resorts and other establishments like some of the larger entertainment venues. Make it clear you are visiting to support the Cuban people, not a photographer making commercial use of your images, and not a tourist on vacation. That form is what most people call a visa, which costs \$75 to \$100 dollars depending on the airline. Technically it is not a visa, it is a tourist card. They do stamp your passport both ways. I have had my stamp from Cuba for several exits and entry into the USA and never had a question. No one from our last two photo trips, in February of 2020, had any issues. Technically it is still illegal to visit Cuba as a tourist. However, it is legal to be a visitor in Support of the Cuban People traveling independently as friends with arrangements made with a local in Cuba. You will be using local drivers and a local agency, not government run, which fits the protocol. PPS is not a sanctioned travel agency in Cuba. If this makes you uncomfortable, don't go. That is the situation as it is right now. Feel free to contact Reed if you have questions about the two photo trips he led there in 2020.

## **Detailed Services**

### **Included Services**

- Double occupancy lodging in Casa Particulares, local bed and breakfast. Usually private bathroom but sometimes could be a shared bathroom. Meals per itinerary.
- Local guides
- Local transportation
- Reed Hoffmann, professional photographer and instructor
- Entrance fees
- Photo sessions
- One bottle of water per day (you can buy more)

### **Not Included Services**

- International airfare to Havana, Cuba
- Drinks and desserts
- Tips
- Single supplement (optional, please request)
- Transfers outside of our itinerary (special circumstance)
- Services not shown or detailed in the program, optional excursions.





***Lodging:***

Double occupancy.

***Level of Difficulty:***

Riding in an antique car on sometimes rough roads. Thirty-minute to two-hour walks on sometimes uneven surfaces, like rough cobblestones. Likely to be warm and humid.

***Travel Information:*** We suggest that you coordinate your travel with us. We will let you know when it is time to book flights and tell you how. We suggest that you wait to book your flight until we let you know we have done so by letter to coordinate the flights as much as possible. If you do land at a different time there is a small additional charge for your airport shuttle. We plan to book our airfare about 4 months in advance.

***Group Size:*** We have limited the group to 8 participants so that you can get plenty of personal photo instruction from Reed and to maintain a small, intimate group size.

***Cost:*** \$3,790/person

\$800 nonrefundable deposit required to book and hold your space, and may be paid by check payable to Pack Paddle Ski and mailed to the address at the top of this document. If you prefer a single room, there is an additional fee of \$450/person for a single supplement. Final balance will be due December 19th, 2022 and is a cash price payable by check. An additional 3.8% convenience fee will be applied to accept the final balance on a MasterCard or Visa.

***When is more information coming out?*** We will send you information on airfare when it is time to book and a final information packet when your final balance is due. Once you register you will receive more information on packing and planning.

***Travel Insurance:*** We highly encourage you to investigate this as a way to protect your investment. Details will be in the registration packet.

***PPS Refund Policy***

We understand that you may have registered well in advance of your trip. We appreciate that work schedules and plans may change and unforeseen emergencies do occur. Therefore, we have established the refund policy below to try to fairly accommodate such eventualities and yet

maintain quality programs. Please realize that once you have registered for a course, we immediately incur expenses on your behalf. Because many people start planning longer trips a year or more in advance, it can be difficult to fill an empty spot at the last minute.

In order to receive a refund for a course, we require you to submit a written notice of cancellation. Your refund comes from your travel insurance. If you elected not to take travel insurance there is no refund. Rev. 1/09

***What Next?***

**Contact Reed at [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com) if you are interested in joining him!**