

Your Guides:

- Dr. Tamie J. Jovanelly
Geologist, Professor,
International Researcher,
and Best-Selling Author
- Mr. Joseph Cook
Co-Founder

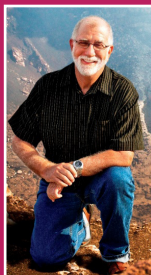
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You will
not find
a better
guided
tour
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“Dr. Tamie Jovanelly is obviously very knowledgeable about geological concepts, but it's her sheer enthusiasm about it that draws you in and makes you want to learn and explore more! She has the ability to explain complex scientific concepts to ordinary folks”

-Smithsonian Associates Program Curator

Are you curious about Cuba? This eco-tourism focused trip will safely show you the best the country has to offer. We will visit cigar factories, dance the Rumba, learn from local geologists, and explore many facets of Cuba's cultural heritage that makes the country unique. Over the course of 9 days we will explore the entire island.

Our Local Guide and Guest Lecturer:
Dr. Manuel Antonio Iturralde-Vinent
Researcher, educator and promoter of knowledge in a wide range of natural science topics. Specialist in Earth Sciences and Disaster Prevention. Has visited numerous countries on five continents, both for field and laboratory research, as well as attending collaborative sessions and workshops, teaching seminars and attending international scientific events in Cuba and other countries. Academician Emeritus of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, Doctor in Geological Sciences (1995), Geological Engineer (1975).



Dr. Tamie J. Jovanelly created AGT by following her passions for geology, teaching, and travel. She is a Geological Society of America Fellow, a 2X Fulbright Research Scholar, and a best-selling author (Iceland: Tectonics, Volcanics, and Glacial Features, Wiley, 2020). Dr. Jovanelly is currently writing her second book on Volcanoes for Oxford University Press and is a featured host on The Earth Unlocked for The Weather Channel.



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Yes!
You can
go to
Cuba!

UNEARTH CUBA'S
GEOLOGICAL & CULTURAL
TREASURES IN OUR
9-DAY EXCURSION



“We had so much fun WHILE we were learning!”

VIBRANT LAYERS OF GEOLOGY & CULTURE

Different than other Caribbean islands, Cuba offers clues to the ancient past with 900 million year old metamorphic rock in Santa Clara and extensive Jurassic and Cretaceous age outcrops around the island.

One of the most striking features is the Viñales Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its unique limestone formations called mogotes. These towering limestone hills dot the valley, creating a breathtaking panorama that has captivated visitors for centuries. The valley's geological wonders also include underground cave systems, such as the Cueva del Indio, where visitors can explore fascinating underground rivers and ancient cave paintings, offering a glimpse into Cuba's rich prehistoric past.

Cuba boasts treasures relating to its hydrology, such as the Ciénaga de Zapata National Park. This vast wetland area is a haven for biodiversity in its underground labyrinth of caves and sinkholes. Furthermore, the island's coastal regions feature stunning coral reefs offering opportunities for snorkeling in Cuba's crystal-clear waters.

Moreover, Cuba's geological history is intertwined with its cultural heritage, as evidenced by the presence of historic sites like the Bay of Pigs. This area, known for its failed invasion attempt in 1961, also includes underwater caves and coral reefs, adding layers of intrigue to its historical significance. Whether exploring the limestone landscapes of Viñales, the wetlands of Ciénaga de Zapata, or the coastal wonders of the Bay of Pigs, Cuba promises an immersive experience that combines geological marvels with rich cultural heritage.

ABOUT THE TOURS

Undoubtedly, the natural beauty and culture found in Cuba is supported by the country's active geologic history. Taking a guided tour of the country with a geologist will not only help you to capture the country's natural beauty, but increasingly enhance it through detailed descriptions linking the relationship between structure, process, and time to the country's evolution.

These tours are intended for people who are interested in learning about the formation of the many unique landscapes found in Cuba. Please note that a background in geology is not necessary to be a trip participant. Instead, prior to trip departure, Dr. Jovanely will provide you with introductory-level videos and reading materials that will highlight relevant geological concepts (e.g. karst topography, coastal geomorphology). This background material will build your foundational knowledge in geology so that you will be prepared to engage in more advanced content as presented during the trip.

Also, please know that the content for the trip can be altered for school or university groups who are interested in learning advanced concepts.

“AMAZING PROGRAM! I have a background in geology, and she had enough info for people with some knowledge and complete novices alike. Well done.”

-Smithsonian Associates Short-Course Participant

For the cost of the trip you will receive:

- 8-nights in Cuban-style hotel accommodations or rural "casas" or guesthouses that allow you to meet and interact with locals
- All breakfasts, lunches, and dinners
- All in-country transportation
- Geology interpretation at field sites by expert Cuban geologist, Dr. Manuel Iturralde
- Naturalist interpretation by local guides
- Visa entry, gratuities, carbon offset
- Adventure Geology Tours – Cuba t-shirt, fancy water bottle, and stickers
- Color printed field guide
- Many included activities, such as: Hotel Nacional National Monument, Walking tour of Old Havana, Cuban Dance Lessons, Studio Tours of upcoming Cuban artists, Geopark Visitors Center, Farm Tours for tobacco, fruit, and more, Viñales Valley National Park and Monument, Playa Larga and UNESCO Biological Reserve, Bay of Pigs Museum, Fidel Castro Center, Ernest Hemingway's Home, Revolution Square, Jose Marti Memorial Park, & National Theater

Book a 9-day excursion

“Memorable trip!”

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: Upon arrival in Havana, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met by your guide and driver and taken to your hotel located in Old Havana. Have time to relax or explore the area before a welcome dinner this evening.

Day 2: Travel today to Viñales. Enjoy lunch upon arrival and then visit a tobacco farm. Explore area geology with Dr. Manuel Iturralde. Later in the day, check-in at the hotel or casa and have some time to freshen up. In the evening enjoy spectacular views of the valley at dinner.

Day 3: Start the day with a visit to the Geopark Visitors Center followed by exploration of geological sites in the Viñales and San Vicente valleys and the Alturas de Pizarra del Norte. Sites of interest include outcrops of the Jurassic, Cretaceous rocks of Pangea and proto Caribbean seaway and karst landscape. Enjoy lunch at Agro Ecológico in the hills surrounding Viñales. Arrive early to meet the owners and learn about their life in Cuba, and then savor the dishes made with the farm's fresh produce. After lunch, visit Viñales's Stonehenge and Cretaceous-Tertiary bolide impact deposits above Cretaceous limestones. The final stop will be Moncada Town and the monument to the local farmers' Guerrilla Los Malagones. Return to the accommodations before dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4: This morning, depart for the Zapata Peninsula stopping at René Dopico's farm land at El Cuajani valley en route. This site offers fossil-bearing Late Jurassic limestone, including an Ichthyosaur skeleton in a cave. Enjoy lunch before arriving in Playa Larga. Spend time exploring coastal geomorphological features before dinner.

Day 5: After breakfast visit Casa Ana to look for the endemic Bee Hummingbird, the smallest bird in the world. Head east to view Pleistocene rocks, karst and storm boulders along the roadway. Visit Cueva de los Peces a 70 meter deep cenote (sink hole) that connects to the ocean through underground channels. Optional snorkeling is available in the cenote or nearby ocean. Snorkeling in the ocean offers crystal clear waters full of tropical fish and coral. After lunch at Cueva de los Peces, visit the Bay of Pigs Museum to learn about the famous events of the 1961 invasion. The last stop of the day will be at Korimakao project in the town of Palpite to learn about their work and interact with the artistic community. Group dinner to follow.

Day 6: Depart for Varadero stopping en route a crocodile research center and a breeding facility learn about conservation of the Cuban crocodile. After a lunch stop, arrive at Varadero and visit Cueva Ambrosio to see eroded Pleistocene dune and aboriginal drawings. Drive over the Bacunayagua Bridge on the way back to Havana. The bridge built over a canyon is the longest and tallest bridge in Cuba. Upon arrival in Havana, check in at the hotel. In the evening enjoy dinner at a local paladar.

Day 7: Start the day with a walking tour of Old Havana. Explore the cobblestone streets, visit many plazas, and Museum of Natural History. After lunch at Dona Eutemia, visit the Museum of Fine Art followed by a Latin dance class. This evening, have dinner at a local paladar.

Day 8: After breakfast, visit Finca Vigia, Ernest Hemingway's Havana home from 1939 to 1960. You will have free time to explore and shop in the San Jose Handicraft Market in the afternoon. This evening, explore the city in an antique car, passing by the Malecón and stopping at the Revolution Square followed by a special farewell dinner in a historic home.

Day 9: Transfer to Havana International Airport for the flight home.