



CIGAR CAPITALS

III

The Ultimate Guide

Epicurean Cigar Travel Route : A Luxurious Journey Through the World's Finest Cigar Destinations

This curated cigar-themed travel route takes discerning travelers to the most renowned cigar-producing regions, offering not only a taste of the finest cigars but also access to exclusive, behind-the-scenes experiences. These luxurious adventures allow you to fully immerse yourself in the culture, craftsmanship and traditions that shape the world's best cigars.

1. Cuba (Havana, Pinar del Río)



- **Cigar Varieties:** The Vuelta Abajo region produces the finest Cuban tobacco, known for its bold, complex flavors. Cuban cigars are characterized by their strength, richness and balance with brands like **Cohiba**, **Montecristo** and **Partagás** being the most prestigious.
- **Notable Cigar Factories:**
 - **Cohiba:** Known for producing some of the world's most exclusive cigars.
 - **H. Upmann:** A brand with a long-standing tradition of excellence.
 - **Partagás:** One of the oldest and most iconic cigar brands in Cuba.
- **Exclusive Experiences:**

- **Private Cigar-Rolling Masterclass:** Enjoy a one-on-one lesson with a master cigar roller (torcedor) in one of Cuba's iconic factories. Learn the intricate process behind creating the perfect cigar.
 - **VIP Access to the Habanos Festival:** Gain exclusive entry to the prestigious **Habanos Festival** with private tastings of rare Cuban cigars and opportunities to meet the industry's elite.
 - **Vintage Car Tour & Private Plantation Visit:** Travel through Havana in a classic 1950s convertible, ending with a private tour of a tobacco plantation in Pinar del Río where you will see every step of the tobacco-growing process.
- **Where to stay:**



Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski La Habana – Havana, Cuba

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2. Dominican Republic (Santiago de los Caballeros)



- **Cigar Varieties:** Dominican cigars are known for their smooth, mild and aromatic profiles with popular varieties including **Piloto Cubano** and **Olor Dominicano** tobaccos.
- **Notable Cigar Factories:**
 - **Tabacalera de Garcia:** The world's largest handmade cigar factory, producing brands like Montecristo, Romeo y Julieta and H. Upmann.
 - **La Aurora:** One of the oldest cigar manufacturers in the country, offering premium cigars.
 - **Arturo Fuente:** A legendary brand known for its artisanal quality and heritage including the famous Fuente Opus X line.
- **Exclusive Experiences:**
 - **Private Cigar-Blending Workshop:** Customize your own cigar blend with a cigar master at **Arturo Fuente** or **La Aurora**. Choose from a selection of premium tobaccos and create your signature cigar.
 - **Procigar Festival VIP Package:** Experience the exclusive **Procigar Festival** where you will enjoy VIP access to factory tours, premium cigar tastings and gala events attended by the world's cigar aficionados.
 - **Helicopter Tour of Tobacco Plantations:** Take to the skies with a helicopter tour over the picturesque tobacco fields of Santiago de los

Caballeros, landing at top plantations for an intimate experience of the cultivation process.

- **Where to stay:**



The Ocean Club, a Luxury Collection Resort, Costa Norte - Sosúa, Dominican Republic

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3. Nicaragua (Estelí)



- **Cigar Varieties:** Nicaraguan cigars are known for their robust and earthy flavors, often described as rich and full-bodied. The volcanic soil in regions like **Estelí** and **Jalapa** is ideal for growing strong and flavorful tobacco.
- **Notable Cigar Factories:**
 - **Drew Estate:** Known for its innovative blends and popular Liga Privada series.
 - **Joya de Nicaragua:** The country's oldest cigar brand, producing bold, full-flavored cigars.
 - **Padron Cigars:** Famous for its Nicaraguan puros, offering full-bodied cigars with a rich, complex taste.
- **Exclusive Experiences:**
 - **Behind-the-Scenes Factory Tour:** Visit the **Drew Estate** or **Padron** factories for an exclusive tour with access to restricted areas of the factory and personal conversations with the master blenders.
 - **Cigar & Coffee Pairing Experience:** Visit both the cigar factories and the renowned coffee-growing regions of Nicaragua where you'll enjoy private tastings pairing strong Nicaraguan cigars with local premium coffee.
 - **VIP Nicaraguan Cigar Tour:** Embark on a curated tour of Estelí's top cigar producers with VIP access, private tastings of unreleased cigars and a meet-and-greet with some of the country's most famous cigar makers.
- **Where to stay:**



Real Intercontinental Metrocentro Managua, an IHG Hotel - Managua, Nicaragua

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4. Honduras (Danlí)



- **Cigar Varieties:** Honduran cigars are prized for their full-bodied strength and earthy, spicy notes. The **Jamastran Valley** produces some of the finest tobacco in the region.
- **Notable Cigar Factories:**
 - **Camacho Cigars:** Known for producing bold, intense cigars with a focus on flavor and craftsmanship.
 - **Alec Bradley:** Famous for producing award-winning cigars with a rich, balanced taste.
 - **Flor de Selva:** A luxury brand offering premium Honduran cigars that emphasize smoothness and complexity.
- **Exclusive Experiences:**
 - **Private Plantation Tour & Cigar Rolling Workshop:** Get a personal tour of Honduras' top cigar plantations in the Jamastran Valley and try your hand at rolling your own cigar under expert guidance.
 - **Exclusive Access to New Releases:** Visit **Camacho** and **Alec Bradley** factories for an exclusive tasting of their upcoming cigar releases, paired with a special selection of local rums.
 - **Cigar & Rum Pairing Event:** Take part in a luxurious evening event hosted by **Flor de Selva** where you'll sample some of the brand's finest cigars, perfectly paired with rare Central American rums.

- **Where to stay :**



Kimpton - Grand Roatan Resort and Spa - West Bay, Honduras

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5. United States (Tampa, Florida)



- **Cigar Varieties:** Tampa, especially **Ybor City**, is known for its history in producing Cuban-style cigars. **Florida Sun Grown** tobacco is notable for its unique profile, delivering mild to medium-bodied cigars with sweet and nutty notes.
- **Notable Cigar Factories:**
 - **J.C. Newman Cigar Co.:** The oldest family-owned premium cigar maker in the U.S., producing cigars like Diamond Crown and Cuesta-Rey.
 - **Arturo Fuente USA:** While based in the Dominican Republic, Arturo Fuente has roots in Tampa and continues to influence the region's cigar culture.
- **Exclusive Experiences:**
 - **Private Tour of J.C. Newman's Historic Factory:** Take an exclusive guided tour of the **J.C. Newman** factory, learning about the history of cigar production in Tampa and enjoying a private cigar-tasting session in the factory's exclusive lounge.
 - **VIP Cigar Lounge Access:** Gain access to Tampa's private cigar clubs and lounges where you can enjoy premium cigars in a sophisticated, members-only setting.

- **Cigar Heritage Walking Tour:** Explore the cigar history of **Ybor City** with a private guide, visiting historic sites, cigar museums and boutique cigar makers.
- **Where to stay:**



The Tampa EDITION - Tampa, United States

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Additional Information for Cigar Aficionados:

- **Cigar Varieties Overview:** From the robust Nicaraguan purros to the smooth Dominican blends and bold Cuban cigars, this journey offers an exploration of diverse flavor profiles and craftsmanship techniques from around the world.
- **Notable Cigar Festivals:** For those looking to enhance their travel, schedule your journey around cigar festivals such as the **Habanos Festival** in Cuba or the **Procigar Festival** in the Dominican Republic where you can network with aficionados and sample exclusive blends.
- **Cigar Pairing:** Many destinations offer curated cigar-pairing experiences with local rum in the Caribbean and fine whiskey or bourbon in the U.S., allowing you to savor the full spectrum of flavors.

This exclusive cigar-themed travel route delivers unparalleled access to the most prestigious cigar factories and plantations, complete with luxurious experiences that elevate your understanding and enjoyment of the world's finest cigars.