

Pack in more of Cuba on an island cruise

All aboard! Cuba Cruise is offering tourists a different way to see the island



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dobbernationloves.com

Just over a year ago, Cuba Cruise launched its inaugural seven-day circumnavigation sailing, revolutionizing the way tourists experience Castro Country. Guests aboard the Louis Cristal are offered a chance to experience a Cuba rarely seen with stops in Havana, Holguin, Cienfuegos/Trinidad, Santiago and Punta Frances on the Isle of Youth.

Though life on board features the razzle dazzle of nightly entertainment, mojito slobbered al fresco bars, petite casino and relaxing spa, it's each port of call's excursion offerings led by friendly local guides that make a lasting impression. While each destination offers its own unique itinerary, make sure to enjoy these four not-



The drive to Trinidad is peppered with sugar cane plantations and farming communities. PHOTOS: ANDREW DOBSON

to-be-missed jaunts as you sail away into the Caribbean Sea:

No trip to Havana is complete without a visit to The Tropicana, Cuba's most famous cabaret, designed similarly to the extravaganzas of Las Vegas and the famous Lido in Paris back in the 1950s. Every night over 200 dancers and singers appear on stage accompanied by a live orchestra while tipsy

tourists sip on Havana Club under the stars.

On October 27, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed in the province of Holguin located on Cuba's northeastern coast. The explorer famously declared "it is the most beautiful land ever seen by human eyes."

Today a visit to Parque Monumento Nacional Bariay offers guests an opportunity to

remember this historic spot. Thatched roof huts set the scene for a performance where locals dressed as an early indigenous tribe re-enact a scene from the past.

Located eight kilometres south of Santiago, El Morro Fortress stands poised on the high cliffs that flank the entrance to the Bahía de Santiago de Cuba. Designed by an



Catch a cabaret show at The Tropicana in Havana.

If you go...

Cruisers can embark from Havana, Cuba, (Monday) or Montego Bay, Jamaica, (Friday). Departures for the 2014/2015 season now available at yourcubacruise.com or by calling 1-855-364-4999.

ates. The splendor here is the structure's magnificent scale, its sheer cliff-edge and jaw dropping views of the Caribbean Sea.

From the port of Cienfuegos, enjoy a 90 minute drive through sugar cane plantations and rural farming communities before arriving in Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tourists stroll through its cobbled, traffic-free colonial district, which is recognized as the best preserved in the country.

Italian military engineer and named after Santiago's then-governor, it was built between 1633 and 1639 to ward off pir-



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