

Computer Aid's second cycle challenge takes us to Cuba - the Caribbean's largest and least commercialised island and one of the world's last bastions of communism.

All money raised will be spent on providing IT equipment to schools throughout the developing world. Along the route we will see at first hand how the computers we're providing will benefit disadvantaged children.

Highlights include the Bay of Pigs, famous for the thwarted US invasion in 1961; Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the Sierra del Escambray mountains; Santa Clara with its statue of the legendary Che Guevara and the captivating city of Havana which boasts glorious Spanish architecture.

Day 1 London – Havana

Fly London - Havana. Evening arrival in Havana and transfer to the centrally located hotel (transfer takes approx. 30 minutes) for a light evening meal and overnight stay.

Day 2 Havana – Bay of Pigs

Morning briefing then transfer (2½ hours approx) to the Bay of Pigs. After the bike fitting there is time to relax on the beach or visit the museum, which has information about the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1962 - an unsuccessful CIA-backed

Cycle Cuba!

23rd February - 3rd March 2008



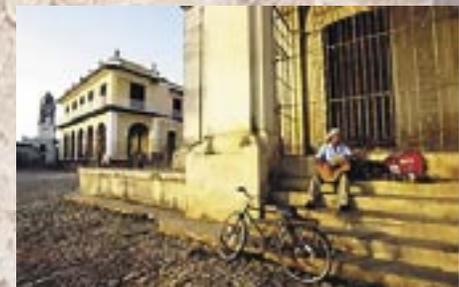
attempt to topple Fidel Castro's revolutionary government. It remains a key event in the continuing bad relations between Cuba and the USA. This evening we dine together and then hear more about the challenge ahead.

Day 3 Bay of Pigs - Cienfuegos (85km approx.)

Today the challenge really begins! We cycle mainly off-road deep into the Zapata Peninsula National Park passing through small country villages. The surrounding foliage is lush and fertile and we start to get a feel for rural Cuban life. The route follows the coast and gently undulates all the way to the provincial capital, Cienfuegos. The city is best

known as the site of the historic battle between Fulgencio Batista and Che Guevara's guerrillas. On arrival at the harbour we board a catamaran to the city and cycle to our hotel, the Rancho Luna, located some 20km south of the town at the entrance to the Bay of Cienfuegos.

Terrain: Mainly flat off-road with some hills towards Cienfuegos.



Day 4 Cienfuegos – Trinidad (81km approx.)

We set off along a coastal road that includes some short sharp hills through beautiful pasture lands. After around 20km we enjoy stunning views of the Escambray mountain range across a valley of sugar cane. The road passes through gentle hills until it hits the coast just beyond Guajimico. After a stop for lunch at La Vega farm restaurant, the final 30km is flat road which clings to the shimmering Caribbean coastline all the way to Trinidad. We overnight here in cabin-style accommodation dotted among groves of fruit trees.

Terrain: Hilly start, gentle undulations for most of the day.



Day 5 Trinidad - Topes de Collantes (39km approx.)

From the hotel we follow the road to the outskirts of Trinidad, then through the town and along the coast. We cycle through the picturesque fishing village of La Boca and stop at the beachside bar for a short break. Our route continues along the Caribbean coast before turning inland, taking in small villages as we cycle. Finishing the day at La Torre de Manaca Isnaga, an old colonial sugar plantation, we board a coach and head for Trinidad for lunch and a sightseeing tour. A "museum town" brimming with colonial architecture, Trinidad was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1988.

Terrain: Some gentle hills.

Day 6 Topes de Collantes - Santa Clara (84km approx.)

We start with a very tough 10km uphill section over mountainous peaks of pine trees and eucalyptus before beginning the descent into Santa Clara. Palm trees and other tropical plants slowly replace pine forests as we descend to the valley floor where we pass between impressive mountains before reaching the foothills and pastures around Santa Clara. A vibrant city with lots of street life, Santa Clara was the first major place to be liberated from Batista's army in December 1958. Today a number of monuments commemorate this important period of Cuba's history, including a statue of the legendary Che Guevara.

Terrain: First 10km is uphill, then downhill to Santa Clara with some smaller hills towards the end of the day.



Day 7 Santa Clara - Cienfuegos (80km approx.)

The day begins on flat terrain with some gentle hills. We cycle through fields of sugar cane with traditional farm houses dotted here and there. The final stretch takes us straight through the colonial heart of the beautiful Caribbean town of Cienfuegos and onto the sea front. From there we'll enjoy views over the Bay of Cienfuegos, our final destination. After a celebratory cocktail and buffet overlooking the sea we say goodbye to our bikes and take a transfer to Havana.

Terrain: Starts flat but becomes more hilly as the day goes on.

Day 8 Project Visit and Havana

Today we see the culmination of all our efforts when we visit a school that has benefited from PCs with the sponsorship we have raised. Every participant on the challenge has equipped a school with these facilities and we'll hear from the staff and students the vital difference that we have made.

In the afternoon we are free to explore Havana independently or as part of an optional tour. The tour includes Plaza San Francisco, Plaza de Armas, Plaza de la Cathedral, Revolution Square and lunch. This evening we all enjoy a celebratory meal.

Day 9 Havana - London

More free time for sightseeing or shopping in Havana. In the evening we take the return flight to London.

Day 10

Arrive London late afternoon

How do I register?

Book your place now at:
www.computeraid.org/cuba
or order a registration form from Stephen Campbell (call 020 8361 5540 or email cuba@computeraid.org)



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