

PRIORITY

# Departures

**TRAVEL FOR LESS!** For trip deals and discounts, visit [www.wanderlust.co.uk/hotoffers](http://www.wanderlust.co.uk/hotoffers)

## 1 Get behind the wheel in **Cuba** – before it becomes the 51st state of the USA!

**Why now?** Barack Obama's tenancy in the White House looks likely to herald a thaw in America-Cuba relations, easing travel restrictions for Americans to Cuba. Will the US embargo be fully lifted? Will Raúl Castro be able to keep a firm grip on the country? Get there now, before it all changes.

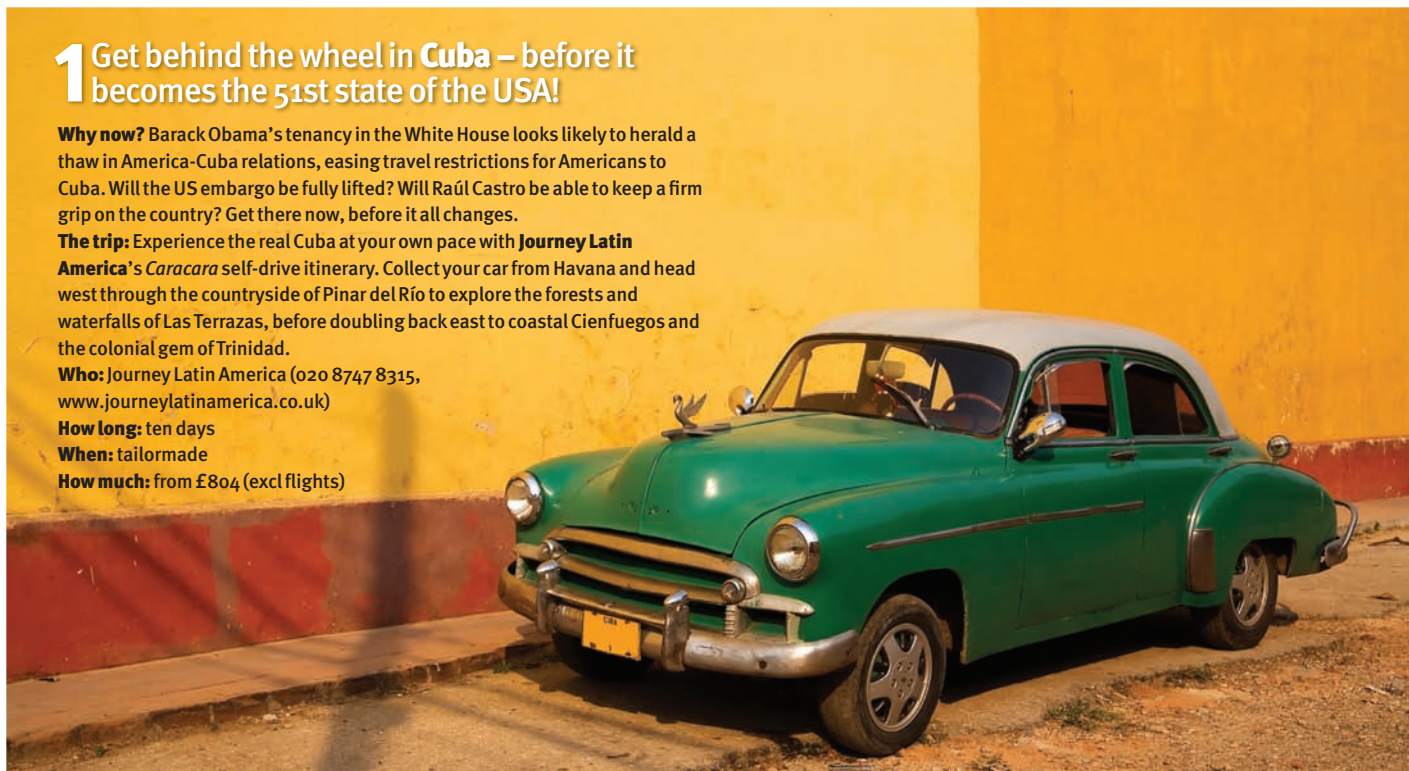
**The trip:** Experience the real Cuba at your own pace with **Journey Latin America's** *Caracara* self-drive itinerary. Collect your car from Havana and head west through the countryside of Pinar del Río to explore the forests and waterfalls of Las Terrazas, before doubling back east to coastal Cienfuegos and the colonial gem of Trinidad.

**Who:** Journey Latin America (020 8747 8315, [www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk](http://www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk))

**How long:** ten days

**When:** tailor-made

**How much:** from £804 (excl flights)



## 2 Discover **Colombia** – safe in the sultry south



**Why now?** With large parts of the country finally off the FCO 'no go' list, Colombia's reputation for adventure unspoiled by tourism is soaring.

**The trip:** **Travel The Unknown's** *Southern Colombia Explorer* tour visits quaint villages, the verdant coffee triangle, historic colonial towns and the bizarre Tatacoa Desert (*above*); climb a volcano and chill in a traditional farmhouse. Even better, you'll probably have the hundreds of mysterious statues scattered around San Agustín to yourself.

**Who:** Travel The Unknown (0845 053 0352, [www.traveltheunknown.com](http://www.traveltheunknown.com))

**How long:** 14 days

**When:** monthly departures year-round

**How much:** from £2,800 (incl flights)



## 3 Return to **Lebanon's** ancient wonders

**Why now?** Another happy departure from the FCO blacklist, the return of political stability to Lebanon means a short break to discover its world-class wonders is again possible.

**The trip:** The four-night *Baalbek to Byblos* trip with **Voyages Jules Verne** packs in the historical highlights – the mighty temples of the 'city of the sun', Baalbek (*above*), and ancient Byblos' castle, plus the flavours of cosmopolitan Beirut.

**Who:** Voyages Jules Verne (0845 166 7035, [www.vjv.com](http://www.vjv.com))

**How long:** four nights

**When:** 1, 15 & 29 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec & 2010 dates

**How much:** from £695 (incl flights)

## 4 Get back on track in **Nepal**



**Why now?** A year of peace and democracy has started to lure back visitors – the majority of monasteries are open, trekking routes are clear and safe, and the welcome is warmer than ever.

**The trip:** *Discover Nepal* with **Explore** – an overview of the country's highlights. Stroll Kathmandu's medieval centre, then watch sunrise from the Himalayan eyrie of Nagarkot. Hike the Annapurnas around Pokhara and visit a Tibetan village before mounting an elephant to spot tigers and rhinos in Chitwan National Park (*above*).

**Who:** Explore (0844 499 0901, [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk))

**How long:** 16 days

**When:** 3, 17, 31 Oct, 19 Dec 2009, 6 Feb, 6, 27 Mar 2010

**How much:** from £1,686 (incl flights)