



## Cuba : Discovering Havana



**Directed by Jacques VICHET**

*French version  
English Version*

©2013

A documentary of 52'

High Definition  
Digital Betacam 16/9

Bubbling, open, gay, atypical, are some of the words that could describe Havana, or the "City of Columns"... initiated by the Spanish conquistadors, its rich history is a game of colonisations and revolutions.

Founded in 1514 on Cuba's southern coast by Diego Velazquez, the Spanish conquistador, it is displaced five years later and moved up north, where it is named "Havana".

In 1762, the British army, led by the count of Albermarle, attacks Havana and the island's centre.

This starts the seven year war between the French and the British, forcing the Spanish to surrender.

The victorious British occupied the capital for almost a century, bringing 10.000 slaves to the island. A year later, the Spanish recover Cuba in exchange for another colony, Florida.

From this rich legacy, Havana kept its Hispanic buildings. Sumptuous palaces neighbour popular housing.

The city's squares trace back Havana's history, therefore crossing through the Plaza de Armas, Plaza de la Catedral, Plaza de la Revolucion and Plaza de San Francisco will take you through Cuba and its people's greatest moments.

The City of Havana is protected by a 7 kilometre embankment, called the Malecon. It is a place for the Havaneans to meet and have fun.

Among the island's most famous inhabitants, is Ernest Hemingway.

Hemingway's Cuba is one of smoky rooms and fiery debates.

His favourite bars can still be found (the Floridita, la Bodeguita del Medio), as his boat the Pilar, his room in the Ambos Mundos hotel, and his house, the Finca Vigia, recalling the golden age when Ava Garner would bathe naked in the pool.

From Havana's beaches to its historical centre, the Havana Vieja, this film takes you for a tour in the heart of the Cuban capital, filled with surprises.