Travel Guide - Cuba



JUST THE BASICS

City: Havana, Cuba; Continent: North America
Language: Spanish
Currency: Cuban Peso - CUC
Climate: Average Temp: 18-32°C, best warm weather between December – May
Map: http://bit.ly/MNCubaMap (Google Pin Map)

TRANSPORTATION TIPS

- ***Transportation from and to the airport:*** There are several ways to get from the airport to Old Havana: Taxi Airport (Takes: 30 min., Cost: 25 CUC) or Bus (Takes: 1-2hrs, Cost: 3CUC).
- ***Taxi:*** Cuban Taxis and Yellow Coco Taxis can be found throughout the island and are great options to get from Point A to Point B. One thing to consider when taking a taxi in Cuba is, make sure to have the driver agree to the fare first before you start driving as the taxis meters rarely work.
- ***Bus:*** Cuba has many bus lines and which can be great options to get around on the island. While many Cubans will utilize Astro buses (only for Cubans!), the best bus to use as a tourist is Viazul. Viazul buses are very modern and are meant for tourists who are conscious of their budget. https://www.viazul.com/
- ***Rental Cars:*** Rental cars are limited on the island and can get therefore, quite expensive from 45 CUC (low season) to 60+ CUC. Additionally, you will have to budget 15 CUC for insurance and a security deposit, which can vary between 150-200 CUC. It is always advised to book you rental care prior to your trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- $$$ - **Gran Hotel Manzana Kempinski** - Calle San Rafael (entrance Monserrate y, Agramonte, La Habana 10100, Cuba) https://www.kempinski.com/en/havana/gran-hotel-kempinski-la-habana/ - +53 786 99100
  This hotel is close to the Barcadi Building, one of Havana's principal landmarks in the middle of old Havana.
- $$ - **Casa Zenia** (several locations available in Havana and Trinidad) http://eng.casazenia.com/home.htm - +5341994834
  These Bed & Breakfast style accommodations are run by the same family, who will provide you with homemade local meals.
- $ - **Hostal Neptuno** - (204 Amistad entre Neptuno y San Miguel, Centro Habana, Old Havana, 10300 Havana, Cuba) - +34655043738

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When staying at a hostel in Cuba, you have to keep in mind the size of the hostel, the location of the premises, and reviews!



MUST VISIT SIGHTS

- Museo Hemingway Finca Vigia – Hemingway's House
  https://www.hemingwayhavana.com/ - +5376910809
  Located in San Francisco de Paula Ward in Havana, the building was constructed in 1886 and was once the house of Ernest Hemingway.
- Old Havana- experience the music and culture of Cuba in the heart of old Havana (Cristo, La Habana, Cuba)
- Plaza Mayor, Trinidad- Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1988
  http://www.ecured.cu/index.php/Plaza_Mayor_%28Trinidad%29

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK

While in Cuba, we recommend you try these food items: Ropa Vieja (One of the national dishes of Cuba), Comidas (which come with a slice of meat, rice and beans, and usually a fruit salad) and Pastelitos or go straight to Coppelia a legendary ice cream shop.

If you are looking for non-alcoholic drinks, Cuba offers various freshly pressed juices. Looking for some adult drinks? Try a delicious Mojito, Cuba Libre or Daiquiris.

Havana

- El Floridita Bar (Bishop 557 esq to Monserrate Old, Havana 10100 Cuba)- +53 7 8671300
  This used to be one of the bars Hemingway frequently visited.
- Draquecitos(Calle San Ignacio, entrance Paula y merced, San Ignacio, La Habana, Cuba)- +53 5 3091135
- 5 Sentidos Restaurant (y, Compostela, La Habana, Cuba)- +5378648699
  https://paladar5sentidos.com/en

Trinidad

- Guitarra Mia (19 Calle Alameda, Trinidad, Cuba) -+5341993452

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Itinerary - Cuba



Day 1

- Fly into Habana Airport (International Airport Jose Marti). Make sure to exchange money before starting your trip or at the airport at the 4 CADECA (exchange houses). This will make sure you receive a receipt for your exchange and receive bills that are no fake or out of circulation. Once you are ready, catch a taxi or bus to your hotel.
- Check-in to the hotel of your choice; we recommend one of the three hotels from our Cuba Travel Guide. Your choice depends on your budget; they are all great.
- Relax and spend the rest of your day, checking out the area and nearby locations around you. We would always recommend checking with your hotel front desk or the hostel owner if there are great local sites to see around your close vicinity.

Day 2

- Explore Old Havana on foot or hop in a Coco Taxi for faster travel. Besides Castillo De Los Tres Reyes Del Morro, the National Capitol building, and La Cabana de Che Guevara, we also recommend taking a look at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, the Revolution Plaza Havana. If you want to see the main sights in style, book a Tour in one of Cuba's vintage cars (i.e.: Urban Adventures, Nely Havana Tour). Make sure you also take about 1-2hrs out of your first day and go visit the Hemingway House, a must.
- Eat at one of the recommended bars or restaurants from our travel guide.

Day 3

- Hop on the Viazul bus to Trinidad. This bus ride will take around 6-7 hours; make sure you bring enough snacks, drinks, and entertainment for the ride. However, it will give you lots of great views of the island.
- Once you arrive in Trinidad, check-in to your hotel or hostel. In Trinidad, we recommend starting at the Plaza Mayor, and it's beautiful colonial buildings surrounding it. If you want to explore some nature, you could also take a taxi to Salto de Caburni, a waterfall located 6km outside of Trinidad at Tope de Collantes National Park.
- After dinner, dance the night away and experience the vibrant Cuban nightlife at Casa de la Musica Trinidad.

Day 4

- Head back to Havana on the Viazul bus. After arriving back in Havana, we recommend checking out the Museo del Ron Havana Club (Avenida del Puerto 262, esq. Sol, Havana Vieja, La Habana) and finish your day with a rum tasting.
- Eat at one of our local bars or restaurants from our travel guide.

Day 5

- Enjoy breakfast at a local cafe you have been sure to discover by now or at the hotel; this is your last morning in the City. Try to soak in what you can before you return home.
- Take a taxi back to the International Airport Jose Marti and have a safe flight home.

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