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1. Geographical location

The largest city, province and leading commercial center of Cuba is located on La Habana (Havana) Bay on the island's north coast. The city extends mostly to the westward and southward from the bay that is entered through a narrow inlet dividing itself into three main harbours: Marimelena, Guasabacoa, and Atarés. The city experiences a tropical climate throughout there with an average temperature ranging from 22°C-28°C



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Most Populous City Finds Itself Located 148kms Away From Varadero, Followed By Miami At 369kms, Hialeh At 372kms, Santa Clara At 281kms, Trinidad At 315kms, Camaguey At 542kms And Santiago De Cuba At 887kms. Neighbouring Countries Include Mexico, The Bahamas, Haiti, USA. And Jamaica



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3. Significance

Officially recognized as one of the New 7 Wonders Cities, Havana is a historic seaport bustling with classic American cars, Excellent Spanish architecture and expanding with African and Caribbean rhythms. An enchanting and eye-grabbing city, with the twists and turns of its enthralling history and rich culture, the capital city is a hotchpotch of buildings and people presenting a different way to see the city every now and then. Dividing itself into the old and new world, Old Havana boasts massive-columned palaces, Baroque facades and lush patios whereas new Havana is all about fancy plazas, restaurants, cute cafes, modern buildings and much more. A melting pot of different cultures, Havana, like the rest of the country is on the edge of change and being the capital is leading the charge. Revolution is evident despite the classic cars and rumbling colonial mansions surrounding the city. Offering an interesting mix of revolution, history rum and rhythms, everything about the city is fascinating be it the cobblestone streets or the spectacular museums talking about everything from money and tobacco to African and Asian cultures and so much more. Wander around the streets of Habana Vieja, the capital's tourist centre and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where everyone has a story to tell. Centro Habana is your place to gaze at the most striking and fascinating section of the city's oceanfront promenade, the Malecón. Sharing the Malecon with Centro Habana is Vedado, the beating heart of Havana where attractive, leafy, open plan neighbourhoods bustle with city's cabarets, theatres, cinemas and nightclubs. A walk form here will lead you to the ever-popular Plaza de la Revolución, that boasts of giant monuments and icons of the Cuban struggle for independence and then comes Miramar, the revolutionary stop. Miramar is all about urban landscape and owns the night with some of the best fine dining restaurant and music venues of the city. The city is all about excitement and adventure and although it has a long way to go, you shouldn't.

4. History

The current area of Havana was first visited in the year 1509 by Europeans followed which in the year 1510, Spanish colonists arrived on the island and began their conquest of Cuba. Havana was officially founded in 1514-1515 by Spanish Conquistador Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar on the northern coast of the island. Havana was the 6th town founded by the Spanish on the island and was then known as San Cristóbal de la Habana and was originally a trading port that suffered regular attacks by pirates, buccaneers and French corsairs. These regular attacks resulted in the construction of the first fortresses in the main cities — not only to counteract the pirates and corsairs, but also to exert more control over commerce with the West Indies and to limit the black markets. Havana was granted the title of City on December 20, 1592 by King Philip II of Spain and later on, the city would be officially designated as "Key to the New World and Rampart of the West Indies" by the Spanish crown. Havana expanded in the 17th century. There were new buildings on the rise from the most abundant materials available on the island, mainly wood, combining various Iberian architectural styles along with Canarian characteristics. By the middle of the 18th century Havana had more than 70,000 inhabitants, and was the third-largest city in the Americas. However the city was captured by the British during the Seven Years' War followed which The British immediately opened up trade with their North American and Caribbean colonies, causing a rapid transformation of Cuban society. Less than a year after Havana was seized, the Peace of Paris was signed by the three warring powers thus ending the Seven Years' War. After regaining the city, the Spanish transformed Havana into the most heavily fortified city in the Americas. As trade between Caribbean and North American states increased in the early 19th century, Havana became a flourishing and fashionable city. Throughout the century, Havana was enriched by the construction of additional cultural facilities. From 1902 to 1959, the city saw a new era of development. All endeavours of industry and commerce grew rapidly. The development and opportunity offered by Cuba in general, and Havana in particular, made the island a magnet for immigration. Havana achieved the title of being the Latin American city with the biggest middle class population per-Capita,

simultaneously accompanied by gambling and corruption where gangsters and stars were known to mingle. After the revolution of 1959, the new regime promised to improve social services, public housing, and official buildings. By 1966-68, the Cuban government had nationalized all privately owned business entities in Cuba, down to "certain kinds of small retail forms of commerce". Most of these laws and economic restrictions still remain today.. After years and years of prohibition, the communist government turned to tourism for new financial revenue, and has allowed foreign investors to build new hotels and develop the hospitality industry.



5. Cultural identity

Culture of the country is a complex mixture of different, often contradicting, factors and influence, The people of the country and their customs are based on European, African and indigenous American influences. Known for its cultural diversity Whether in literature or fine art, film, ballet, modern dance or theatre - the island has produced numerous famous artists in many different disciplines. Havana is the capital city hence is also the leading culture center of the country and offers an extensive variety of museums, palaces, public squares, avenues, theatres churches, citadels (including the largest fortified complex in the Americas dating from the 16th until 18th centuries), ballet and from art and musical festivals to exhibitions of technology. The refurbishment of Old Havana has been a blessing to the country for it gives a major glimpse into the rich culture of the country through new attractions, including a museum to house relics of the Cuban revolution. The government placed special emphasis on cultural activities. Havana Film Festival, International Ballet Festival of Havana and Havana International Jazz Festival stand as the major festivals of the city. The music of the country is highly influenced by European and Africa cultures. Most forms of the present day are creolized fusions and mixtures of these two great sources. Polyrhythmic percussion is an inherent part of African life & music, as melody is part of European music. One of the main rhythmic fusions in Cuban music is the son. Other classic Cuban forms include the habanera, the danzón, the guaracha, the bolero, the rumba, the mambo, the cha-cha-cha, the punto, and many variations on these themes. As most cultural aspects of this country, the Traditional Cuban food is a syncretism of Spanish, African and Caribbean cuisines, with a small but noteworthy Chinese influence.

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6. Natural resources

Cuba is home to more than 6 National park, however the capital city isn't home to any National park or Natural reserve. Some of the most popular parks of the country include Desembarco del Granma National Park, Caguanes National Park and Sierra Cristal National Park. The land is bustling with Natural resources like nickel, copper, iron ore along with chromium, silver, cobalt and gold.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. El Morro

Officially called Castillo de los Tres Reyes del Morro, the El Morro fortress stands proudly on a rocky cliff at the mouth of the bay of the city in the Parque Historico Militar. The construction of this historic fort took 30 years to complete and it was structured to defend the city against the constant attacks of the pirates. Planned by Juan Bautista Antonelli, an engineer from Italy, the site today offers spectacular views of the city, especially at the time of sunsets. A historic icon of the city, the fort attracts a huge crowd every year who flock here to get a little taste of the history. There is also a maritime museum on the venue.

Address : Habana 10600, Cuba

Zipcode : 10600

Location : 23.1507603, -82.3562326

Contact : +53 7 8619727

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morro-Castle/108113282550680>

Nearest Public Transport : Neptuno y Marquez Gonzalez Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: CUC\$5, Free admission for children under 12.

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10-15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Museum of the Revolution (Museo de la Revolucion)

Nestled in a mansion that previously served as a presidential palace, the Museo de la Revolucion is an opulent building with stone walled exteriors that are complemented with concrete interiors. The palace was structured by Rodolfo Marurí, a Cuban architect along with Paul Belau, a Belgian architect and is in a heady contrast with the surrounding buildings. Come here and delve deeper into the history of Cuba while wandering around the chambers of the museum. The top floor boasts of a chronological history of Cuba and the exhibits narrate the story from the pre-Columbian times till date. The life-size structures of Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos made of wax are noteworthy. Do not forget to

see the display of Granma yacht behind the museum.

Address : Avenida Bélgica, La Habana 10600, Cuba

Zipcode : 10600

Location : 23.1416312, -82.35667690000002

Contact : +53 7 8601524

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Museum-of-the-Revolution/136691279765911>

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: CUC \$8, Children: CUC\$4.

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:30hrs-16:15hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Cámara Oscura

Located on the topmost floor of Plaza Vieja, Cámara Oscura gives you an opportunity to explore the world of optical illusions. This educational experience comprises of a deeper understanding of the various facets of light and our ability to perceive, capture and reproduce images created by it. Saunter around roof and gape at the enchanting views of old Havana and its harbor or just admire at the city through different lenses for a more fascinating experience.

Address : Corner of Plaza Vieja, Havana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1363751, -82.34971389999998

Contact : Corner of Plaza Vieja, Havana 10100, Cuba

Website : <http://www.lahabana.com/guide/camara-oscuro/>

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus station

Entry Fee : General: CUC \$2, Free for children under 12years.

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 10:00hrs-17:20hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Castillo de la Real Fuerza

Sitting atop of the Cabana Hill, about a 15-minute walk from El Morro in the Parque Historico Militar lies the huge Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabana. The construction of this star-shaped fort was built in the 1500s and today it stands as the largest fort that the Spanish had ever built. Following the British occupation, the Spanish set about building this imposing fort, which dominates the entrance to the Bay of Havana. Part of a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, this fort was originally designed to defend against pirates during a time when Havana was one of the most active commercial ports in the New World. The museum today displays a large amount of information from the 16th and 17th centuries as well as showcasing highly detailed ship models.

Address : O'Reilly, La Habana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1411402, -82.34965499999998

Contact : +53 7 8615010

Website : [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Castillo-de-la-Real-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Castillo-de-la-Real-Fuerza/109122225774119)

Fuerza/109122225774119

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : CUC \$2

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.5. FINCA VIGÍA

Get a glimpse of the former house of the most celebrated novelist Ernest Hemingway at FINCA VIGÍA, where the artist created "The Old Man and the Sea" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls." Take a guided tour to know more about the writer's life and gaze at the collection of books, trophies and other memorabilia. Visit the gardens outside and see the author's boat docked at the pier.

Address : FincaVigía Km. 12 ½, La Habana10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.0675847, -82.2960046

Contact : +53 7 910809

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : Admission: \$5 CUC.

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.6. José Martí Memorial

Adore the bold design and interesting story that lies behind José Martí Memorial, a monument built in dedication to one of Cuba's national heroes. A leader in Cuban revolution thought during the 19th century, Martí is remembered by the tower made of grey Cuban marble, in the shape of a five-pointed star that reaches an elevation of 109 meters. Take the elevator up and enjoy magnificent views of the city and pay a visit to the museum to know more about the Cuban revolution along with the construction of this fort.

Address : Calle Paseo y Ave. Independencia. Plaza de la Revolución. La Habana, Avenida Paseo, La Habana 10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.122708, -82.38656889999999

Contact : +53 7 8820906

Nearest Public Transport : 19 de Noviembre Train Station

Entry Fee : 3CUC per person

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.7. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes Cubano

Spread over 2 buildings, Havana's Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes captivates aspiring artists from all over to explore their international art exhibits dating back from 500 BC to the modern day that are span across 3 separate floors. The Spanish collection, 2,000-year-old Roman mosaics and Greek pots stand as the highlight. 2 blocks away, the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Arte Cubano) displays purely Cuban art and, if you're pressed for time, it is the better one of the duo. One of the highlights is the unique marble sculpture "Form, Space and Light" at the museum entrance.

Address : Havana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1404302, -82.3572878

Contact : +53 7 8632657

Website : <http://www.bellasartes.cult.cu/>

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : Individual Buildings: CUC \$5, Both attractions: CUC \$8 , Free for children under 14years

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Saturday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs, Sunday 10:00hrs-14:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.8. Castillo de San Salvador de la Punta

Given its strategic location on one edge of the harbor mouth, this fortress was one of the two most important defensive constructions in Havana's defense system in colonial times. The construction of this fort took place between 1590 and 1630 approximately and it was designed by Giovanni Baptista Antonelli. The castle is also home to a museum that displays artefacts from sunken Spanish treasure fleets, a collection of model ships and information on the slave trade.

Address : Malecón, La Habana10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1460959, -82.3575515

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: CUC 5; free under-12years

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday-Sunday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.9. Acuario Nacional de Cuba

Get up close and personal with an array of marine species at Acuario Nacional, an emblematic Havana institution. The aquarium enchants the little ones with its sea lion show, and displays of coral and other aquatic life. You can also interact with the friendly dolphins at their dolphinarium.

Address : Havana10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.115028, -82.43649299999998

Contact : +53 7 2025872

Website : <http://www.acuarionacional.cu/>

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult/Child CUC\$10/7

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.10. Memorial Granma

A glass enclosure located behind the Museo de la Revolución shelters the Granma, the 38-foot craft that was brought from an American. It narrates the stories of Castro and 81 guerrillas who were transported back to Cuba from exile in Mexico in 1956. The park around the yacht is filled with military curios: tanks, jeeps, the delivery truck used in the 1957 assault on the Palacio Presidencial that will take you back in time.

Address : Calle Colón, e/Av. de la Bélgica (Misiones/Edigio/Monserrate) y CalleAgramonte (Zulueta), Havana, 10200, Cuba

Zipcode : 10200

Location : 23.1408533, -82.35702400000002

Contact : +53 7862-4091

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este

Entry Fee : Combined ticket to memorial and Museo de la Revolución- Adults: CUC \$8, Children: CUC \$4

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.11. Museo de Artes Decorativas

Opened in the year 1964, The Museum of Decorative Arts is an arts museum in the former residence of the María Luisa Gómez-Mena viuda de Cagiga. Designed in Paris jointly by the architects P. Virad and M. Destuque and inspired in French Renaissance style, the museum encapsulates your attention with its neo-classical architecture. Here, you will find Aristocratic wealth, taste and passion that are revealed through the more than 33,000 works of artistic and historic value from the reigns of Louis XV, Louis XVI and Napoleon III. Be fascinated by the

Oriental pieces from the 16th to 20th centuries. The beautiful museum is also equipped with one of the most attractive staircases to be found in Cuban residential architecture.

Address : Havana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1374073, -82.39271459999998

Contact : +53 7 8309848

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este

Entry Fee : Tour CUC \$3 (English-speaking guides available); free under-12years

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Saturday 10:30hrs-17:30hrs, Sunday 10:00hrs-12:30hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.12. Basílica Menor de San Francisco de Asís.

Located in Havana's Plaza de San Francisco is the Basílica Menor de San Francisco de Asís, a cathedral that was built in the late 16th century. It boasts of a baroque-style architectonic form. The church has been reincarnated as a 21st-century museum and concert hall, and is adorned with the tallest bell tower in Havana, which is 42 meters high. The church is crowned by a statue of St. Francis of Assisi, whose head was destroyed by the 1846 hurricane. It is also home to the Museum of Sacred Art, a center that grabs the attention of art admirers through its exhibitions like paintings by José Nicolás de la Escalera and Vicente Escobar.

Address : Oficios, La Habana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1368955, -82.34841019999999

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : Museum and campanario (bell tower): CUC2, Photos: CUC2, Video: CUC10, Guide: CUC1

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.13. Palacio de los Capitanes Generales Casa de gobierno

One of the most important and architecturally significant buildings exemplifying

the baroque style of architecture, Palacio De Los Capitanes Generales was constructed in 1742 and was the former residence of the governor. Today, this building is home to the city museum where you can admire its ornate limestone facade and stained glass windows along with artworks, furniture, clothes, ceramics, weapons and more. Stroll around the building and watch some graceful peacocks in the courtyard.

Address : Cuba Tacón, La Habana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1398856, -82.3502398

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: CUC \$3, Guided Tours: CUC \$5, Free for children under-12years

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.14. Museo de Historia Natural Felipe Poey

Originally erected by Don Felipe Poey y Aloy in 1842, Museo de Historia Natural Felipe Poey boasts of being the oldest museum in Cuba. On display are some specimens of Cuban flora and fauna from the 19th century along with plenty of stuffed animals and a great collection of multicolored Polymita snail shells. It also exhibits the largest collection of mollusks in the country.

Address : Havana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1359697, -82.38160099999999

Contact : +53 7 8793488

Nearest Public Transport : Universidad Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: CUC \$1; Free for children under-12years

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:00hrs-12:00hrs, 13:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.15. Real Fábrica de Tabacos Partagás

In the field of rolling cigars for over 160 years, Real Fábrica de Tabacos Partagás factory is famous for making full-bodied cigars like the Cohibas and

Montecristos. One of the city's oldest factories in Havana, Jaime Partagás, a Spaniard inaugurated this neoclassical style building in 1845 to fulfill the needs of the industry in the late 19th century. This simple yet strong dominant structure from historical times provides you with a profound tour of the process of cigar-making in the capital city. You can buy a cigar from the on-site shop after your tour.

Address : Calle Industria, Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10200

Location : 23.1342226, -82.36047930000001

Contact : +53 7 338060

Nearest Public Transport : Ciclo Bus Station

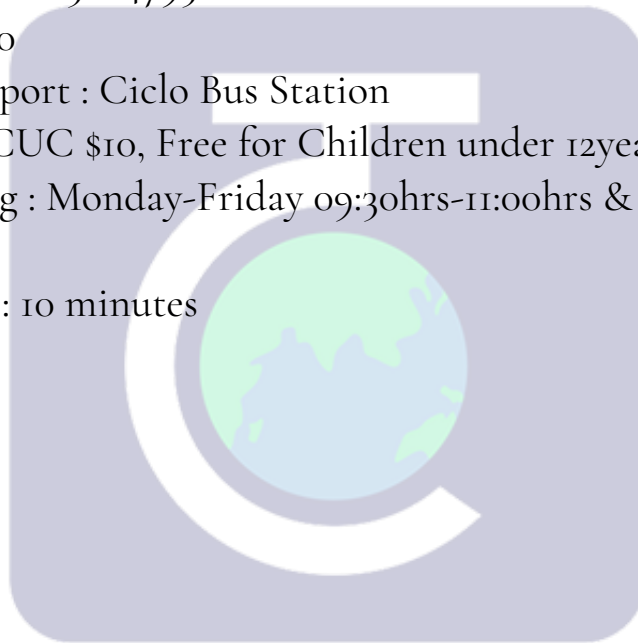
Entry Fee : General: CUC \$10, Free for Children under 12years

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 09:30hrs-11:00hrs & 12:00hrs-14:30hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Colon Cemetery

Come and explore the Christopher Columbus Cemetery, a historical and architectural gem of Havana that is still in use today. Established in 1876, the cemetery was designed by a Galician architect who sadly became the first person to be buried in his own creation. Wander around the exaggerated tombs, ornate mausoleums and family vaults or gaze at the vibrant main chapel.

Address : Calle 12, La Habana 10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.1231137, -82.39896060000001

Contact : +53 7 8321050

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 08:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Old Havana

Old Havana or Habana Vieja, a designated World Heritage Site by UNESCO is a neighborhood that trickles the charm of days gone by. Founded by the Spanish in the 16th century, this historical district once served as the main commercial center of the country. A resting point for raiders who earlier transported new world treasures back to Europe, this historical hotbed boasts of elegant Baroque and Neoclassical buildings complemented by cobbled stone square and winding streets. Highlights in the area include the glorious Catedral de San Cristobal, the stout Castillo de la Real Fuerza along with Plaza Vieja and Plaza de Armas. The starting point of many tours, Old Havana is the place of discovery!

Address : Toda la Habana Vieja, Havana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.13436009999999, -82.3533266

Nearest Public Transport : Estación Central de Ferrocarriles Train station, TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. El Malecon

Soak up the evocative aura of the city of Havana as you gallivant along the Malecón. Meander during the sunsets and allow yourself to be astonished by the panoramas that the enchanting landscapes create along the way. Appreciate the cultural quirks of everyday life in the capital city at El Malecon that spans over 8 kilometers and connects the city center with the harbor. A great meeting point for the locals, the esplanade supports endless cafés, restaurants and bars that brim with energy. Be careful of the surging waves as they might attack you sometimes, leaving you drenched.

Address : Centro and La Habana Vieja, Malecón, La Habana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1416567, -82.37328660000003

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. El Capitolio

Inaugurated in 1929, El Capitolio is yet another example of striking architecture in the capital city. Rising from the Havana skyline, this massive structure is a confluence of Neoclassical and Art Nouveau form of architecture and served as the seat of government until 1959. Marvel at the grandiose structure, a project initiated by dictator Gerardo Machado, observe the huge Doric columns that guard the entrance and gaze at the impressive architecture of the dome that adds to the beauty. The interiors are even more captivating with intricate and rich decoration boasting of an enormous Statue of the Republic.

Address : : Paseo de Martí, La Habana 10200, Cuba

Zipcode : 10200

Location : 23.1351776, -82.35954240000001

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/El-Capitolio/103215773065585?rf=206958579325118>

Nearest Public Transport : Parada del Ciclo Bus Bus Station

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Gran Teatro de la Habana

One of the world's largest opera houses finding itself in the midst of the Caribbean region, the theatre is known for hosting spectacular performances that cannot be missed. Designed by a Belgian architect, the theatre faces Parque Central and was built as part of a larger complex in 1915. Gran Teartro captivates you with its beautiful baroque facade that features 4 awe-inspiring sculptures crafted by Giuseppe Moretti, a renowned architect in the country. Home to Cuba's National Ballet and Opera, the theatre offers various folkloric, musical and cultural performances.

Address : Paseo de Marti 10600, Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10600

Location : 23.1369143, -82.3592448

Contact : +53 7 8613096

Nearest Public Transport : 222 Bus Station

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. El Cristo de La Habana

Come and see the breathtaking landscapes of the city through El Cristo de La Habana. The statue of Jesus Christ here was structured by a renowned Cuban artist and made with marble from Italy that was personally wrapped by the people. Standing at an elevation of 20 meters, you can see many locations of the city and engage with the panoramic views of the region.

Address : Havana10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1439429, -82.3449066

Nearest Public Transport : Casablanca Train Station

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña

Discover the historic Castillo de San Carlos de la Cabana, a fortress built in the 18th century to guard the city of Havana against British colonial conquistadores. Now serving as a public park, the monument is home to various museums and offers stunning views of Habana Vieja. Do not miss the cannon firing ceremony at night, which signals the closing of the city gates and is a tradition that has been cherished since colonial times.

Address : Havana10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1471244, -82.34959700000002

Nearest Public Transport : Casablanca Train Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-22:20hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Havana Cathedral

The Havana Cathedral is an iconic city landmark, which boasts of a magnificent Baroque facade and unequal towers. Built in 1777 by the Jesuits, the church seats of one of three archbishops of Cuba and once served as a home to the remains of Christopher Columbus for over a 100 years before being moved in 1898 to Seville. Marvel at the beauty of the interiors that contrasts the exterior facade with its neoclassical simplicity complemented by antique paintings and frescos. Reach the top of the towers to enjoy the splendid panoramas of the surroundings.

Address : 156 Empedrado, La Habana10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1413696, -82.35190840000001

Contact : +53 7 8617771

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Iglesia de Jesús de Miramar

Being the second largest church in the country, Iglesia de Jesús de Miramar can be spotted from several blocks due to its gigantic Roman-Byzantine styled dome. Opened in 1953, the cathedral treasures 14 large mural paintings by Cesareo

Marciano Hombrados y de Onativia. The garden of the church houses an imposing structure made of Carrara marble, which is 1.8-meters tall.

Address : Avenida 5, esquinacalle 82 - Miramar, Havana 11300, Cuba

Zipcode : 11300

Location : 23.105707, -82.44106299999999

Contact : +53 7 2035301

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Old Square (Plaza Vieja)

Explore a living piece of the colonial past of Cuba at Old Square or Plaza Vieja, a remarkable that was designed in the 1550s. Travel back in time to the historical past as the crumbling eclectic buildings narrate the tales of the bygone era. Once upon a time, it served as a space for military exercises, public executions, bullfights, religious processions, local festivals, and market stalls, however, today the cozy cafés, vibrant bars and restaurants makes it a popular tourist hub and a favorite hangout for locals living nearby.

Address : La Habana Vieja, Havana 10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1356269, -82.35019419999998

Contact : +53 5 4985750

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Plaza-Vieja-Havana/184915604935653>

Nearest Public Transport : 222 Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Fusterlandia

Embark upon a journey into the world of wonder at Fusterlandia, an emporium of striking colors and wonderfully weird handcrafted installations covering every nook and cranny of the surface. One of the country's most iconic artists designed and established neighborhood, and today, it invites you to explore the maze of walkways and Picasso-influenced artwork dripping off every fence, street pole

and roof. The bold neighborhood stands as an homage to the quaint life of Cuba and also has a gift shop where you can purchase prints and ceramics.

Address : Havana10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.0898458, -82.4831226

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Plaza de Armas

Enjoy the beauty of the peaceful and ever-historic Plaza de Armas as you wander around the unusual wooden-brick paving that was originally put in place to prevent the sounds of horses' hooves as they walked through the square. A great place to pick up traditional souvenirs and knick-knacks, the square is also a perfect place to take magnificent pictures. Take a seat and watch the local life go by in the square.

Address : Havana10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.1401853, -82.34951219999999

Nearest Public Transport : 222 Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Plaza de San Francisco

Plaza de San Francisco is dominated by the beautiful 16th-century basilica and is a popular meeting place near the harbor of the city. Restored in the 1990s, the square excels in quality architecture, cobblestone pavements and a 19th-century white marble fountain covered with lion statues. Come here and relax at one of the cafés, adore the preserved colonial buildings and watch the cruise ships dock here.

Address : Havana10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.137459, -82.34855700000003
Contact : +53 7 2045555
Nearest Public Transport : 222 Bus Station
Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours
Time Required : 1
Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Plaza de la Revolucion

Explore Revolution Plaza that provides the Cuban government with a base for operations and doubles as a site for large-scale political rallies and state speeches. The final destination to learn about the revolutionary history of Cuba, the plaza surrounds itself with steel depictions of Che Guevara and fellow guerillero, Camilo Cienfuegos that perfectly blend with facades of governmental buildings. Gaze up at the towering 109-meter star-shaped memorial, dedicated to the national hero, Jose Marti or take your camera out for some great photographs capturing the square's architecture, as well as the beautiful 1950s American cars.

Address : Avenida Paseo, Havana10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.1215318, -82.394

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. Playas de este

Escape from the humdrum of the city and step onto the soft white sand of Playas de Este, a lesser-known beach which is seldom visited by the locals, but is a tropical paradise for tourists. Grab a fancy drink between swims in the ocean or strolls along the sand. Do stop at the nearby restaurant to taste some scrumptious fresh seafood complemented by spellbinding seascapes.

Address : Havana11300, Cuba

Zipcode : 11300

Location : 23.1769723, -82.1910633

Nearest Public Transport : stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.16. Plaza de la Catedral

Come to one of Havana's oldest and most significant Catholic churches where a long trail of history awaits you. Finding itself on an erstwhile swamp, this epicenter of Old Havana represents a kind of open-air museum of Caribbean Baroque architecture. Just like the cathedral the square dates back to the 1700s, when the area became a naval dockyard. Today you will stumble upon a large variety of restaurants here and the city's museum of colonial art that adds to the beauty of the plaza.

Address : Havana10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1408594, -82.35161959999999

Contact : +53 7 8625109

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.17. Torreón de la Chorrera

The Tower of Santa Dorotea of the Moon Chorrera was built in 1643 to defend the strategic mouth of the Almendares River against pirates and enemy ships. This two-storey structure features various storage rooms and military barracks that accommodated more than 100 troupes of soldiers. Do not forget to visit the on-ground eatery to savor mouth-watering Cuban delicacies in a legendary environment since the place is decorated with cannons and the armor of colonial Havana.

Address : Havana10100, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1320369, -82.40954290000002

Contact : +53 7 8625109

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.18. Fábrica de Arte Cubano

Explore the beating heart of the contemporary Cuban art, Fabrica de Arte Cubano, is an event and exhibition space located in the former headquarters of the city's electricity company. The culture center first opened its doors to the public in 2014 and since then it has been enchanting art enthusiasts with Cuban theatre performances, music, dance and visual arts. It often combines more than one art form to display the true colors of Cuban culture.

Address : Calle 26, La Habana 10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.127487199999999, -82.40991439999999

Contact : +53 7 8382260

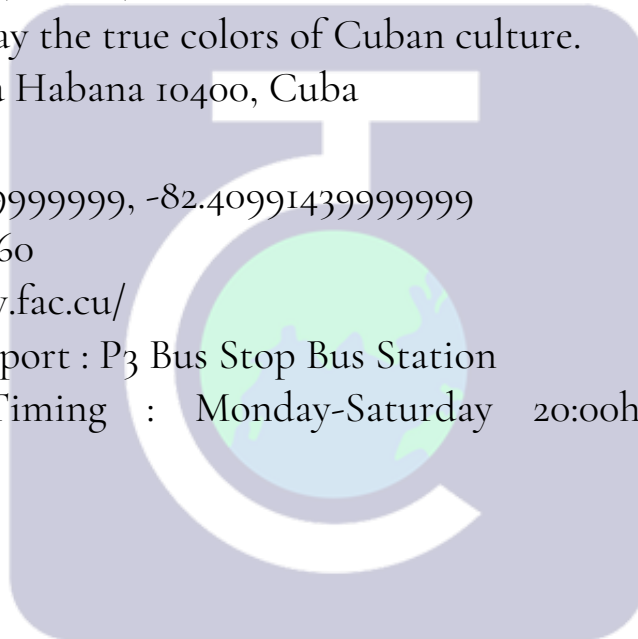
Website : <http://www.fac.cu/>

Nearest Public Transport : P3 Bus Stop Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 20:00hrs-03:00hrs, Sunday 20:00hrs-00:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No



7.2.19. Parque Lenin

Located on the southern edge of the city, Parque Lenin is an urban oasis that was established in 1972. A place where nature lives in perfect harmony with culture and relaxation, it is a great place for a day out with your family. It features a theme park with one of the country's few roller coasters along with the steam train, horseback riding, pools, aquarium and various culinary outlets. There is also Galería de Arte Amelia Peláez, a marble monument dedicated to Lenin and an amphitheater to gaze at. Above all, everything is free!

Address : Calle 26, La Habana 10400, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.0252635, -82.3614632

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Wednesday-Sunday 09:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.20. Palacio del Segundo Cabo

Built in 1772 as the headquarters of the Spanish vice-governor, Palacio del Segundo Cabo served as a post office before turning into the Supreme Court. Since then, this architectural palace has served as many things like the Palace of the Senate, the National Academy of Arts and Letters, and the seat of the Cuban Geographical Society. However, today the building is a well-stocked bookstore appreciated by pop-art fans.

Address : O'Reilly #4, esq. a Cuba, Habana Vieja 10100, Havana

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1405799, -82.35002080000004

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Saturday 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.21. Callejon de Hamel

Surround yourself with the vibrancy and liveliness of Callejon de Hamel, an alley district bustling with colorful murals, Santeria shrines, and exciting rumba music. Explore the area and learn more about the unique Afro-Caribbean religion that grew out of Cuba's slave trade. You can buy some souvenirs from an array of stores or observe the Santeria priests perform their animated rituals. Admire the art pieces that beautify the walls and vivacious murals or just mingle with the locals as you take in the spirit of this neighborhood.

Address : Havana 11300, Cuba

Zipcode : 11300

Location : 23.1385568, -82.37587529999996

Nearest Public Transport : TurBus stop to Playas del Este Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 Hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.22. Memorias Librería

If beautiful antique artefacts grab your attention then, Memorias Librería is your place to be. The first genuine antique bookstore, come here and lose yourselves into the gathered piles and wonderful collections of old coins, postcards, posters, magazines and art deco signs from the 1930s.

Address : No 57, Animas, Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1395855, -82.35799099999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.23. Egrem Tienda de Musica

For all the music lovers touring Havana, visit this small, yet prolific CD-outlet located near the city's most celebrated recording studios.

Address : Avenida Ira, La Habana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10300

Location : 23.126465, -82.42244590000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.24. Librería Centenario del Apóstol

A book lover's paradise, Librería Centenario del Apóstol is a place where you will find rows and rows of bookish glory waiting to be read.

Address : Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.1404047, -82.3791281

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.25. Almacenes San José Artisans' Market

Situated under the shelter of an old shipping warehouse, this open-air handicraft market will pique your interest with its paintings, guayabera shirts, woodwork, leather items, jewelry and numerous apparitions of the highly marketable 'El Che'.

Address : Avenida del Puerto corner of Calle Cuba, Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1298784, -82.34903509999998

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.26. Taller de serigrafía René Portocarrero

If you are into paintings, make a visit to Taller de Serigrafía René Portocarrero where you will appreciate canvases and prints made by budding and renowned Cuban artists.

Address : Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1357255, -82.35099639999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.27. La Maison

Known to be the fashion hub of the city, La Maison features designer clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, cosmetics and souvenirs. This place is known to host the best fashion shows in the city and houses a cabaret, piano bar and a club.

Address : Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10300

Location : 23.1221769, -82.41692499999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.28. Feria de la Artesanía

Embraced by effervescent vibes, you will come across various handcrafted souvenirs like handmade shoes and sandals along with old stamps and coins at Feria de la Artesanía. You will also find artefacts, paintings, jewelry, cigars and other objects at this open-air market.

Address : Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10400

Location : 23.1417856, -82.3521048

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.29. La Puntilla

Hardly a 10-year old shopping center divided into 4 floors featuring various shops. A little bit of everything - shoe, clothing, accessories and more.

Zipcode : 0

Location : 23.1324523, -82.4141899

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.30. Habana 1791 (Museo Del Perfume)

A place restoring the daily basic essences of the city, Habana 1791 is where you will be compelled to change your perfume with the scents that waft in the air. This laboratory-cum-shop sells perfume made from tropical flowers, resulting in colognes with durable, natural and fresh fragrances. You can either pick up a ready-made bottle or have a custom-made one based on your preferences.

Address : 156 Mercaderes, La Habana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1386224, -82.35011320000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.31. Galerías de Paseo

Offering splendid views of the coast through its glass walls, Galerías de Paseo houses a set of stores from fashion boutiques and electronics shops to perfume and accessory outlets.

Address : Havana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.140512899999999, -82.40183830000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.32. Hostal Conde de Villanueva

Situated in the historic center of the city, Hostal Conde de Villanueva is an 18th

century restored manor that is known for its rustic charm and houses the best cigar shop in town. The atmosphere of the hotel is enlivened by the handiwork of their cigar roller who expertly serves you with a freshly bent cigar.

Address : Calle de los Mercaderes No. 202 esq. a Lamparilla, Lamparilla, La Habana, Cuba

Zipcode : 10100

Location : 23.1379389, -82.34994929999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.33. Plaza Carlos III

Preserving its original name along with the structure that allows you to view all the 4 floors from any corner, Plaza Carlos III is all about high-end brands.

Address : Avenida Salvador Allende, La Habana 10300, Cuba

Zipcode : 10300

Location : 23.1308517, -82.37440070000002

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.34. Palacio de la Artesania

A previous 18th-century colonial manor turned into a gift shop, Palacio de la Artesania sells everything from Cuban cigars, artefacts, souvenirs, apparels, music CDs, jewelry and more at fixed prices.

Address : Havana, Cuba

Location : 23.1428925, -82.35392580000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Being a capital city, Havana is not home to numerous adventure sports for the adrenaline junkies, however there are a few sports that one can definitely practice. Come and get your heart pumping through the following exciting sports

—

- **Scuba Diving -**

Address : Avenida 5ta, La Habana 10400, Cuba

Location : 23.1078832,-82.4404271999999

Contact No : +53 7 2043330

Nearest Public Transport : PARADERO DE LA LISA Bus Station

Entry Fees : Tours starting from CUC 100, Snorkeling starts from CUC 70

Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 10minutes

- **Kitesurfing -**

Address : Calle Cobre E/ 2 y 4 Tarara | Playas Del Este, Havana 11300, Cuba

Location : 23.1756531,-82.1809878999999

Contact No : +53 5 8049656

Website : <http://www.havanakite.com/en>

Nearest Public Transport : PARADERO DE LA LISA Bus Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fees : Tours starting from CUC 300

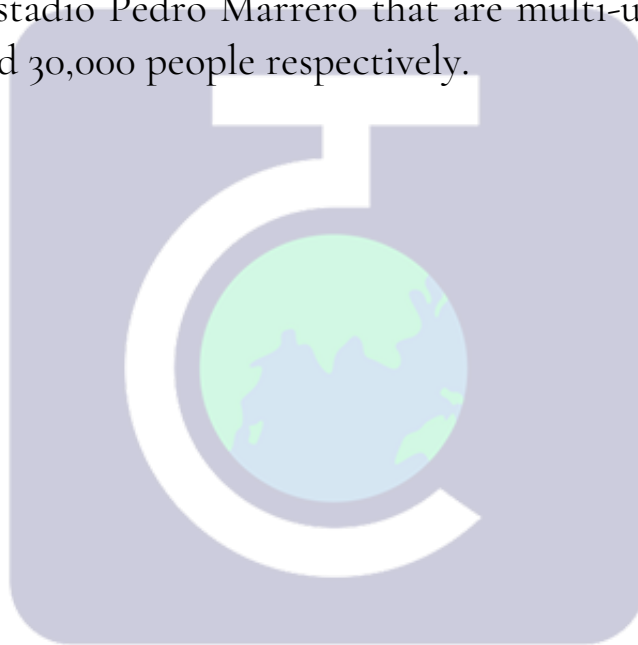
Time Required : 3

Wait Time : 15minutes

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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Cubans are avid sports fanatics who particularly favour baseball. The main teams representing the city in the Cuban National Series are Ciego de Ávila, Artemisa, Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguín, Industriales and Santiago to name a few. The city is also home to various large sports stadium, however, Estadio Latinoamericano being the major and largest one. Other stadium in the city includes Estadio Panamericano and Estadio Pedro Marrero that are multi-use stadium and has a capacity of 50,000 and 30,000 people respectively.



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10. Key local guides and tours

Following are some of the guides and tours that one can take to enhance their journey – Jeandy D: A 30-year old guide with an experience of 2 years, Jeandy is a bilingual guide who likes to create tailor made tours around the interests and necessities of the clients. Jeandy main priority is to guarantee the safety of his valued clients and he is certainly one of the most communicative guide. Yaniel: One of the most recommended guides in the country, Yaniel is proud of his country and loves to show around. There is not a single street or lane that Yaniel is not aware about. Get ready to experience the undiscovered roads and places with him and see the city with a whole new perspective. A graduate in English literature, he offers both classic and tailor made tours. Jorgito: Having worked in the tourism sector for over 12 years, Jorgito loves to show Cuban music and dance and loves to explore the outdoors. Proud of Cuba and a true patriotic, he makes sure to show you the country in a way like no other. Get to know each and every detail, facts and important information on his tour accompanied by some fun. The different tours – Cuban Rhythms: Take this 8-day tour to explore the island that practically buzzes with energy. Explore the culture-soaked streets of Trinidad and Old Havana for your fill of drinking and dancing and hit the beach and explore the outdoors, then connect with the locals in homestays. City Tour Havana: Explore Havana's treasures up close, UNESCO World Heritage Site on this 3 hour walking tour also known as panoramic tour will take you through all the important landmarks. Private City Tour in Vintage Car - Morning Drive: Havana's streets and avenues string the districts together, each with its own style, architecture, character and history. Take a ride through the city in the Vintage car that takes you along the central park, Prado promenade, The Capitol, The Malecon, The upscale district Miramar, The leafy district Vedado and the Revolution Square. Viñales Valley: Just a few hours driving from Havana, Viñales Valley is a unique landscape dotted with gigantic "mogotes" surrounding a lovely valley with rich, red earth and majestic palm trees. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a land to be explored. The tour lasts for 11-12 hours. Private Jeep Tour to Las Terrazas - Nature & Art: Take this 8 Hour tour to this intriguing place where life takes place at a lower gear. Majestic nature, art studios, natural

river pools, and coffee plantation ruins are found at this unique ecotourism community. **Old Havana Walking Tour:** On this Havana City Tour you will experience a city that has morphed its face over five centuries of architectural design. Old Havana has many sights and sounds to captivate the inquisitive traveller. These include Plaza de Armas, El Templete, La Catedral San Cristobal de la Habana and the Museo de la Revolucion. **Varadero All Inclusive:** Take this 13 Hour tour to to the white sandy beaches and an azure ocean of Varadero. Use different services at a 4 star all-inclusive hotel and enjoy the lovely beach and beautiful turquoise sea fronting the hotel the entire day, before rinsing the sand from your feet in the bathroom of one of the hotel rooms. **Little Havana Bike and Food Tour:** Take this 3.5 Hours to enjoy a traditional experience of Miami's vibrant Cuban culture on this bike and food tour of Little Havana. Explore this bustling Cuban neighbourhood and stop at several family-run Cuban restaurants to sample some local favourites such as a Medianoche and croquetas. **Havana Cuban Roots Tour:** Take this 5-hour tour to educate yourself about Cuban culture and folklore as you visit monuments and landmarks important in the island nation's history. Pay a visit to the Rum Museum and enjoy a tasting, see how a fine Cuban cigar is made, and visit one of the largest cemeteries in the Americas. **Afro-Cuban Religions Walking Tour:** Take this 2-hour religious tour to experience local customs, folklore, and beliefs and educate yourself about Afro-Cuban religions from a local insider. There's also voodoo involved so the tour is naturally colourful, eclectic and unconventional.

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11. Transportation hubs

Airport: Jose Marti International Airport: The airport serving the capital city is Jose Marti International Airport and has three separate terminals. Terminal 1 is for internal (domestic) flights, Terminal 2 is mainly for charter flights from the USA and Terminal 3 is used for all other international flights. The airport is located around 18kms away from the city. **Train Station:** Estación Central de Ferrocarriles: The main train terminal of the city is Estación Central de Ferrocarriles that is located 2.5kms away from the city. **Bus Station:** Vía Azul: One of the main bus terminals of the city is Vía Azul that finds itself 4.3kms away from the city. **Ciclo Bus Station:** Another bus terminal located in the city is Ciclo Bus Station that finds itself located about 3kms away from the city. **Port:** Havana Harbor: Havana Harbor is the main port of the capital and finds itself situated around 7.4kms away from the city center. **Ferry Terminal:** Lanchita de Casablanca: The main ferry terminal finds itself located around 9.5kms away from the city centre.

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12. Transportation cost

When it comes to using public transport one can use various transport like taxis, buses, coco taxis or cycles. There are some of the places that can be covered on foot so don't be hesitant to wander around the streets to discover the beauty of the region.

Taxis: As a tourist, the most convenient way of getting around Havana is by taxi. It is illegal for tourists to ride in anything other than the official government taxis. However, it is often easier to wave down one of the old Chevys or Ladas. Car taxis are metered and cost CUC\$1 to start and CUC\$1 per kilometre in the city. However most of the time Taxi Drivers offer foreigners a flat to get away with the divide that goes to the state if taxis run on meters.

Coco Taxis: An auto rickshaw-type goofy vehicle located in the whole country. They are a cheaper form of transport, one ride through a coco taxi would cost around 10 CUC. There are 2 types of Coco Taxis. The yellow coloured ones are for tourists and the black ones are for locals.

Buses: Local buses are known as guaguas; service is notoriously slow, unreliable and crowded. The cost of riding the city bus is 1 national peso or sometimes even 0.40 national cents to anywhere in the city.

Cycle: Cycling can be a great way to get around Cuba. There are no official bicycle rentals that exist in the city however locals can sometimes be convinced to rent bikes.

Cuba Taxi – Yellow Lada: One can also hop onto this taxi service. The yellow with black Lada Taxi's, will cost you about 0.40 CUC/km. These taxis are convenient when travelling to longer distances, however the drivers are not allowed to pick up tourist at hotels.

Scooter: You can also rent scooters in the city for about \$24/150 a day/week.

Viazul Bus: One of the most easy form of transport. This is a hyper modern air-conditioned bus with video and toilet. However these buses most commute outside the city to places like Varadero, Santiago de Cuba and Viñales etc. Journey starts around \$10.

Trains: The only Caribbean Island with passenger transport by railway. The trains are slow and aren't very reliable. Fares starting from 15 CUC and goes up-to 30 CUC depending on the location.

Horse Draw Carriages: One can also commute around Old Havana through this form of transport. One has to pay CUC 30 for a tour.

Colectivos/ Maquinas: Taxis which drives a fixed ride. You pay 10 Pesos for a short and 20 Pesos for a long distance.

Note: Don't pay more just because you're a tourist.

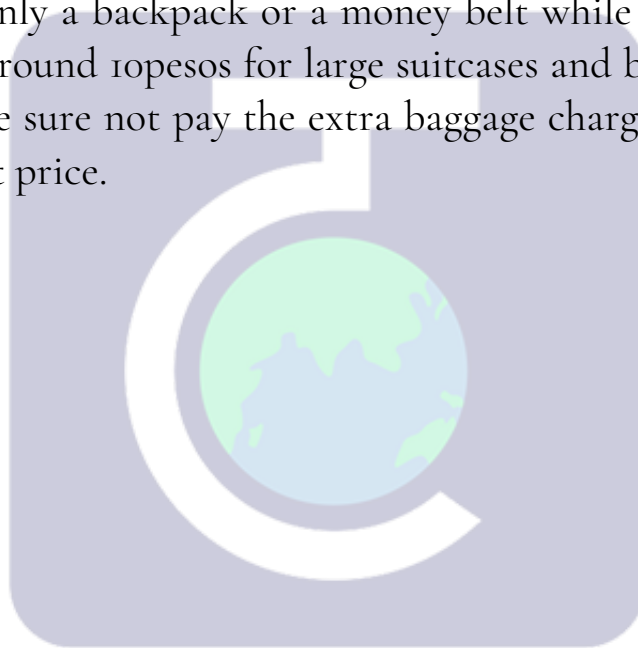
Bici Taxi: The

cheapest way to get around the city is through Bici Taxi. However these aren't allowed to carry tourists. You can be kicked off the taxi and walk for a few minutes if the police is close by. But around the corner you can hop on again and continue the ride. A journey costs around CUC 1. Camions (Trucks): Camiones (trucks) are a cheap, fast way to travel within or between provinces. Every city has a provincial and municipal bus stop with camiones departures. However there schedules aren't fixed as such. A truck from Santiago de Cuba to Guantánamo costs CUC\$0.20. Travelling by Caminos can be struggling, crowded and hot.



13. Baggage allowance

One can certainly carry heavy amount of baggage if travelling by cars or taxis in the city, however when it comes to commuting through public transportation within the city, make sure not to carry heavy amount of luggage especially in Buses, Bici Taxis, Colectivos and Coco Taxis since it can cause inconvenience to self and those around you. If you have chosen to walk or cycle around the city, make sure to carry only a backpack or a money belt while if travelling by taxis, you can be charged around 10 pesos for large suitcases and bags. When you travel in Viazul buses, make sure not pay the extra baggage charges as they are already included in the ticket price.



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14. Must try food and local savouries

Cuba gastronomy has influences of Spanish, African and Asian cuisine, resulting in a varied cuisine known for its flavor. As with many countries, the core ingredient to the majority of meals is meat, and the main meats which you will find in Cuba are chicken, pork, beef and fish however here the meats are marinated with lemon or sour orange and sauces are made from onion, garlic, pepper and tomato. Due to the lack of oil, Cubans use lard for frying. The most typical Cuban food is the comida criolla. This is a dish made up of various ingredients. There always is a protein source (it can be fish, seafood, pork, chicken and sometimes beef), a salad, fried plantains and rice and beans. Some of the traditional dishes to look out for – Tamales: Quite similar to the Mexican tamales, but in Cuba the meat is actually mixed with the dough and not used as a filling. Ropa vieja: The most famous traditional dish that contains beef is ropa vieja (literally translated it means “old stuff”). It is a stew with beef chunks slowly cooked till they shred, together with tomatoes and onions. Congrí: Also called moros y cristianos, congrí accompanies any real comida criolla. It literally is white rice and black beans cooked in garlic, oil and other spices. Paella: This is the Cuban version of the traditional Spanish dish includes ham, chicken, mussels, chorizo, shrimp, scallops, and lobster. Medianoche: Literally meaning “midnight”, it is a sandwich usually served in nightclubs in Havana. This Cuban food consists of sweet egg bread filled with ham, pork, cheese and pickles. Pernil Relleno de Moros y Cristianos: This Cuban dish is made more interesting as it is filled with another Cuban dish! A pork shoulder is marinated in orange juice, garlic, oregano and pepper and then filled with rice and beans and cooked in the oven. Frita: Frita is the Cuban version of a hamburger. A bun is filled with a patty of mince beef – occasionally mixed with chorizo; topped with french fries. Lechon asado: A milk piglet is cooked whole on a spit, until the skin is crispy. It is often served a spicy Cuban marinade called mojo. Tostones: Found all across the Caribbean countries (although with different names), these are plantains thickly cut, fried, then pressed and refried. Pulpeta: This is the Cuban equivalent to meatloaf. It is a mix of mince meat which is well seasoned and ham, with hard boiled eggs put inside, that is however not cooked in the oven but on the stove. Picadillo cua cua:

The Cuban version of hash and eggs, it is usually served with rice, and includes beef hash, eggs, and plantains. Vaca Frita: Literally translated as “fried cow”, this dish is prepared with beef marinated in lime, garlic and salt and then seared till it becomes almost crispy. Shrimps in coconut sauce: Typical of Baracoa (Guantanamo Province), considered the gourmet capital of Cuba. The coconut sauce (locally known as lechita) is prepared with coconut milk, tomato paste, garlic and a mixture of spices and is generally poured over shrimps, octopus or even lobster. Arroz con pollo (rice with chicken): The Cuban version of paella, but without the seafood.



Index

15. Restaurant & Nightlife

Whilst you can easily find standard Western food such as pizza or burger chains, this is a country in which the food is fairly simplistic and basic, based on a few staple foods and cooked in a variety of ways. The capital city has a captivating and diverse gastronomic landscape, where time time-defying classics meet the nouvelle Cuban cuisine. From traditional paladar recipes to the Swedish-influenced establishments, there's everything. Cubans have been running privately owned paladares, or home restaurants, for years, serving everything from tostones to sashimi with increasingly liberal interpretations of “living room” and the best food is to be found at the these establishments, which are not endorsed by the government. Havana’s nightlife is a bustling one where people wait for the weekends to kick in and loosen up. Dance to the Cuban tunes and drink to the glory, however be aware of strolling around streets after dark. Major area to look out for are Habana Vieja, Malecon and Teniente Rey Y Calle Bernaza. Here are some of our favourite places to dine and dance

Food -

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- **Atelier Restaurante:**

Address : Calle 5ta., No. 511 altos, entre Paseo y 2 | Vedado, Havana 10400, Cuba

Location : 23.1380372,-82.401546600000

Contact No : 53 7 8362025

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **La Guarida:**

Address : Concordia. No. 418 | Gervasio y Escobar, Havana 10700, Cuba

Location : 23.1383553,-82.3684728

Contact No : +53 7 8669047

Website : <http://www.laguarida.com/en/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-16:00hrs, 19:00hrs-23:45hrs

- **Paladar Doña Eutimia:**

Address : Callejon del Chorro # 60-C | Plaza de la Catedral, Habana Vieja, Havana 10100, Cuba

Location : 23.1405059,-82.352099399999

Contact No : +537 8013332

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/DonaEutimia?fref=ts>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **San Cristóbal:**

Address : Rafael No 469, E/ Lealtad y Campanario, Havana 10400, Cuba

Location : 23.1362778,-82.366009000000

Contact No : +53 860-1705

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 12:00hrs-midnight

- **Nao Bar - Paladar:**

Address : Obispo No 1 e/San Pedro y Baratillo | Old Havana, Havana10100, Cuba

Location : 23.1388084,-82.35293899999999

Contact No : +53 7 8673463

Open / Close Time : 12:00hrs-midnight

- **Restaurante Paladar Café Laurent:**

Address : Calle M # 257 | 19 y 21 Vedado, Havana 10400, Cuba

Location : 23.1417683,-82.38371999999999

Contact No : +53 7 8312090

Website

<https://www.facebook.com/RestaurantePaladarCafeLaurentHabana>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-midnight

- **El Chanchullero de Tapas:**

Address : Teniente Rey, 457A bajos | Plaza El Cristo Habana Vieja, Havana10100, Cuba

Location : 23.1356521,-82.3561783000000

Contact No : +53 7 8610915

Website : <http://www.el-chanchullero.com/>

- **El cocinero restaurant:**

Address : Calle 26, Vedado | Between Calle 11 and 13, Havana11300, Cuba

Location : 23.1272243,-82.4099701000000

Contact No : +53 7 8322355

Website : <http://www.elcocinero.cuba.com/>

- **Restaurante Prado y Neptuno:**

Address : Paseo del Marti, esquina Neptuno, Havana 10100, Cuba

Location : 23.1384583,-82.359613200000

Contact No : +53 7 8609636

Website : <http://www.pradoyneptuno.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 10:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Paladar La Cocina de Lilliam:**

Address : Calle 48 No. 1311 | Entre 13 y 15. Miramar, Playa., Havana 11300, Cuba

Location : 23.1105983,-82.426581599999

Contact No : +53 7 2096514

Website : <http://www.lacocinadelilliam.com/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday-Saturday 12:00hrs-15:00hrs & 19:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Nazdarovie - Retro Soviet Restaurante in Havana:**

Address : Malecon #25 E/ Prado y Carcel | Centro Habana, Havana 10200, Cuba

Location : 23.1450017,-82.3594218

Contact No : +53 7 8602947

Website : <http://www.nazdarovie-havana.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Habana 61:**

Address : 61 Habana, La Habana 10100, Cuba

Location : 23.1422764,-82.35508470

Contact No : +53 7 8016433

Website : <http://www.paladarhabana61.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-00:00hrs



Index**16. Average meal cost**

Economical Meal: CUC 5-10 Mid – Segment Restaurant: CUC 15-20 Luxury Dining: Above CUC 50 Average cost of beer: CUC 1 Average cost of water: CUC 0.60



17. Shopping

Earlier when one wandered around the streets of Havana, there won't be many options but due to bustling tourism in the recent years, the capital city has transformed itself into a shopping paradise. Making sure to cater to all the tastes and budgets of all types, Havana has everything to offer, from high-end shopping centers to exquisite boutiques, from speciality stores to handicraft and book stores, just utter a word and Havana will present it to you. We look at some of the best shopping centers in the city –

Memorias Librería: This shop deals with beautiful antique artefacts. The first genuine antique bookstore come and lose yourselves into the gathered piles and wonderful collections of old coins, postcards, posters, magazines and art deco signs from the 1930s.

Egrem Tienda de Música: For all the music lovers out there, visit this small CD-outlet located at the site of Havana's most celebrated recording studios.

Librería Centenario del Apóstol: Book lovers will appreciate this shop where an assortment of used books await.

Centro Cultural Antiguos Almacenes de Deposito San José: The capital city's open air handicraft market is situated under the cover of an old shipping warehouse in Desamparados. Here you will find everything from paintings, guayabera shirts, woodwork, leather items, jewellery and numerous apparitions of the highly marketable El Che.

Taller de Serigrafía René Portocarrero: If you are into paintings, make a visit to Taller de Serigrafía René Portocarrero where you will appreciate paintings and prints by young Cuban artists.

La Maison: Time to change your wardrobe at La Maison, a large boutique selling designer clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, cosmetics and souvenirs.

Feria de la Artesanía: Find handmade shoes and sandals along with old stamps and coins at Feria de la Artesanía.

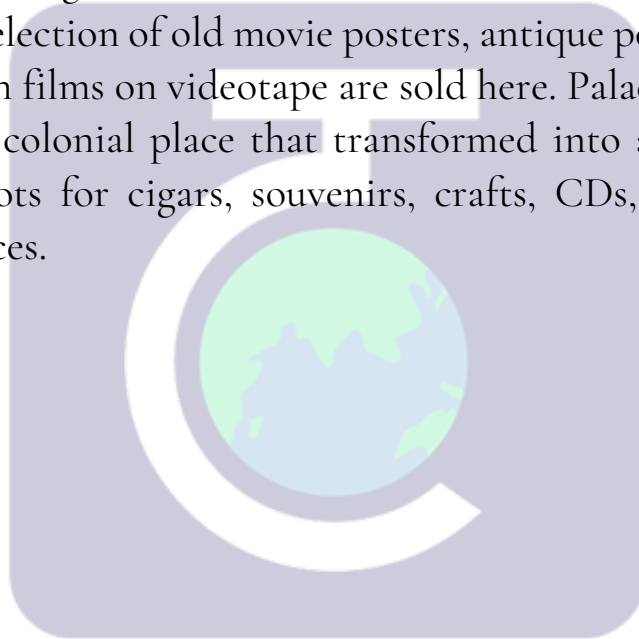
La Puntilla: Hardly a 10-year old shopping center divided into 4 floors featuring various shops. A little bit of everything - shoe, clothing, accessories and more.

Fayad Jamás: A throwback to the 1920s, this book store features some of the most cultural magazines of the capital city along with interesting reads about the region and otherwise.

Habana 1791: Change your perfume at this place. A specialist shop that sells perfume made from tropical flowers, Habana 1791 proves it work on ground where one can see the petals drying in a laboratory out the back.

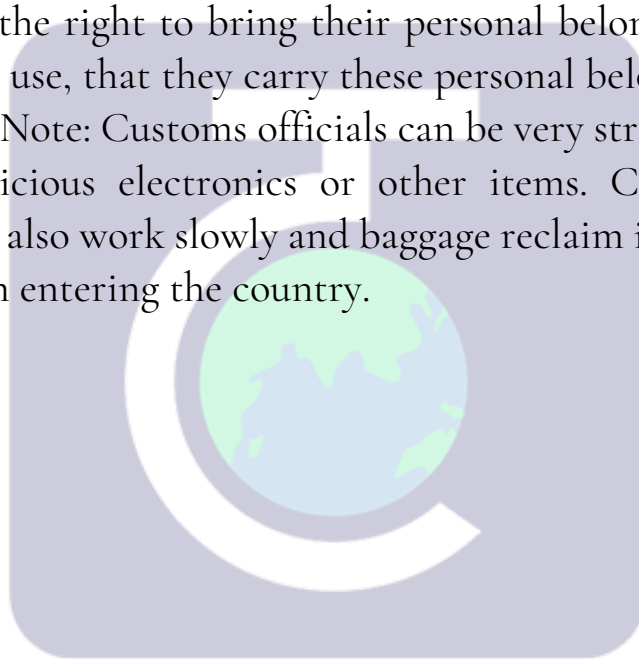
u The country's most modern and largest shopping and business center

houses myriad stores, airline offices and embassies. El Bulevar: This market located here Hotel Inglaterra is all about peso snacks and surprises, and 1950s shopping nostalgia. Real Fábrica de Tabacos Partagás: The capital city is known for its Cigars and this shop is affiliated to Havana's main cigar factory so without a doubt, spend here. Galerías de Paseo: This shopping center is known for some designer labels and even a car dealership. Hostal Condes de Villanueva: The capital city's best cigar shop with its own roller, smoking room and expert sales staff. Plaza Carlos III: One of the country's most flashiest shopping mall, Plaza Carlos III is all about high-end brands. Andare – Bazar de Arte: Come here to choose from a wide selection of old movie posters, antique postcards, T-shirts and all the greatest Cuban films on videotape are sold here. Palacio de la Artesanía: A former 18th century colonial place that transformed into a shopping mall, this ,mall has various spots for cigars, souvenirs, crafts, CDs, clothing, crafts and jewellery at fixed prices.



18. Tourist benefits

The VAT charged in the country ranges is 15% that is decent compared to the other countries of the Americas. One will bump into a few shops in the capital city, however the airport stands as the best option to buy anything and everything from Liquor, Jewellery, Clothing to Footwear, Electronics etc. Tourists enjoy the provisions of the Convention on Customs Facilities for Tourism. They have the right to bring their personal belongings, provided they are for their personal use, that they carry these personal belongings with them or within their luggage. Note: Customs officials can be very strict, and will probably snoop out any suspicious electronics or other items. Customs officials and immigration officials also work slowly and baggage reclaim is very slow, so expect a very long wait when entering the country.



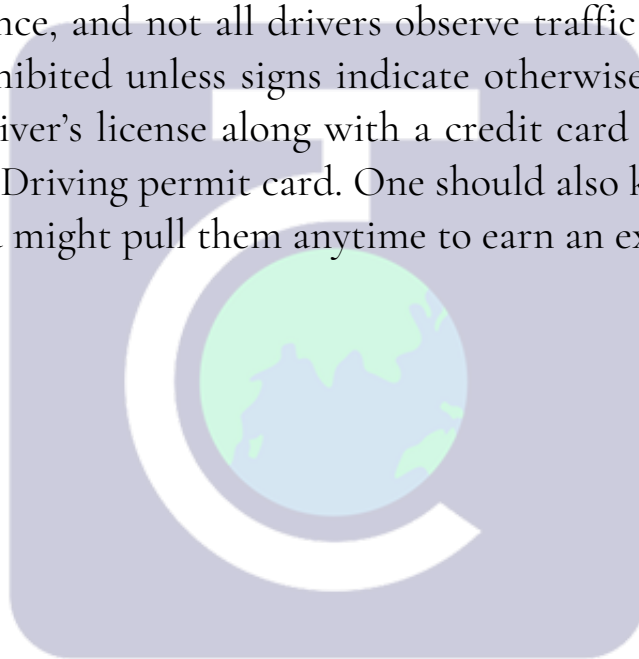
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19. Essential local apps

Following are some of the local applications that must be downloading when visiting the city – SMS Habana: With SMS-Habana you can send SMS to Cuba, and some more destinations like USA, Spain, Mexico, France and Italy. RADIOS FM CUBA: The most simple, fast and clear application for listening all the best radio stations from CUBA. Listen online to free live Internet all radio stations. Cuba News: Cuba News brings you the most popular newspapers from Cuba in Spanish. This is a fast and easy way to read the latest news. All Currency Converter: All Currency Converter is a real-time currency exchange rates converter and offers rates for almost all currencies. WiFi Cuba 2.0: WiFiCuba is an essential tool of assistance which will enable you to search for Wi-Fi access points available in Cuba. AlaMesa: eat and drink in Cuba: AlaMesa App lets you discover places to eat and drink like home during your stay in Cuba and is a leading platform for information on gastronomy and culinary culture in Cuba and the most up to date Directory of Restaurants in the country.

20. Driving

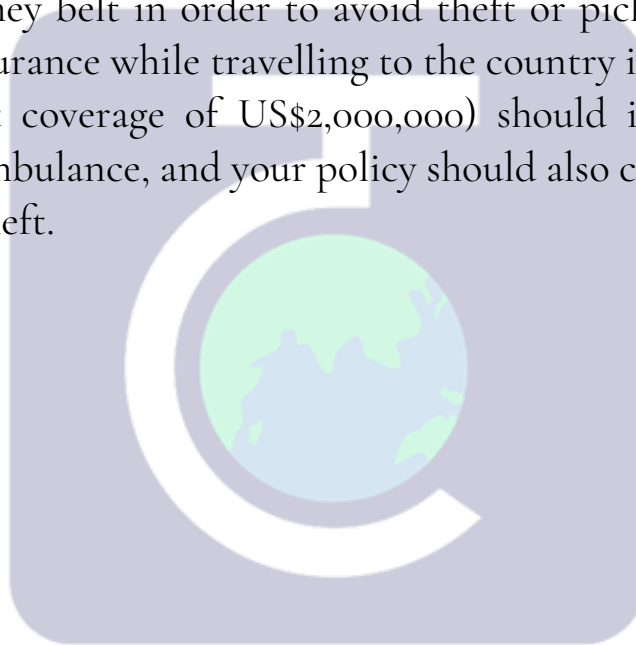
Driving in Cuba is on the right-hand side and the rest is pretty much the same like everywhere in the world. The maximum speed limit is 100 km/h. Road quality in the capital city is pretty decent however there are certain potholes here and there. Traffic is a bit complicated just like other big cities. The main with driving in the city is the lack of signs on the road. Traffic lights may or may not be working for instance, and not all drivers observe traffic laws. Making a right on a red light is prohibited unless signs indicate otherwise. To drive around in Cuba one needs a driver's license along with a credit card with sufficient funds and an International Driving permit card. One should also know that police does target the tourist and might pull them anytime to earn an extra buck.



Index**21. Travel essentials**

Following are the necessary things to keep in mind while travelling in the country –

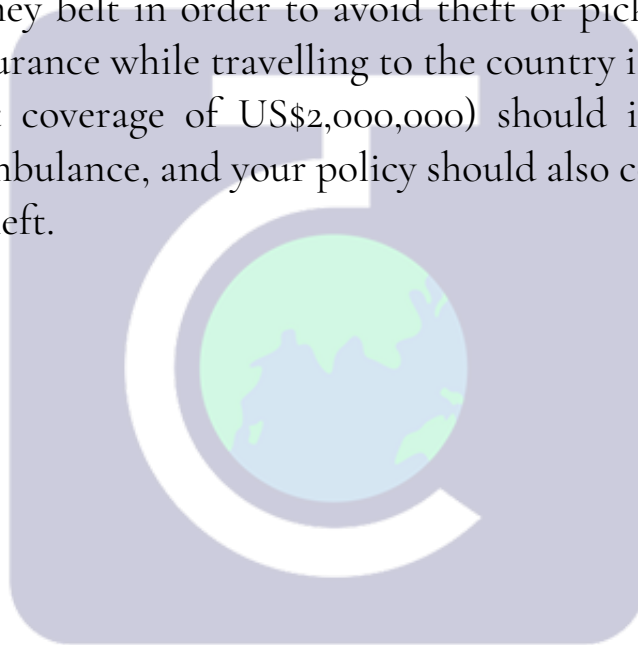
1. Adapter/Plug – The standard voltage in the country is 110V with a frequency of 60 Hz. Power sockets: type A / B in Cuba. Note: Most of the modern hotels have dual voltage with all the sockets in the room being 220 volts.
2. It is always advised to carry sufficient prescribed medicines as OTCs are not allowed.
3. One needs to carry a money belt in order to avoid theft or pick pocketing.
4. Please note that a travel insurance while travelling to the country is mandatory. Medical insurance (you want coverage of US\$2,000,000) should include provision for repatriation by air ambulance, and your policy should also cover you for illness or injury, and against theft.



22. Essential clothes

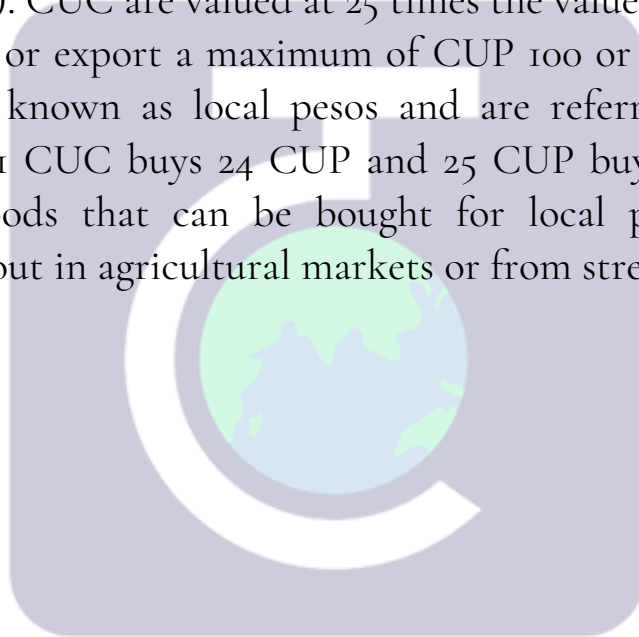
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Index**23. Local currency**

There are two currencies circulating in Cuba, Cuban Pesos (CUP) and Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC). The two-currency system was created in the year 1994 as a way to deal with a weak economy. The Convertible Cuban Peso emerged as a second currency, and was pegged to the U.S. dollar. CUC is the currency most tourists use in Cuba. Conversion into CUC can be done at exchange houses (casa de cambio, or cadeca). CUC are valued at 25 times the value of CUP. Tourists are permitted to import or export a maximum of CUP 100 or CUC 200 at any one time. CUP are also known as local pesos and are referred to in Spanish as "Moneda Nacional". 1 CUC buys 24 CUP and 25 CUP buys 1 CUC. There is a limited range of goods that can be bought for local pesos, and these are transactions carried out in agricultural markets or from street vendors. 1 USD = 1 CUC



24. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

ATMs are relatively rare in Cuba, with most being in Havana. Most are linked with Visa/Plus interbank systems. Most ATMs will only give a maximum of 40 bills in one transaction, so if they only hold CUC 3 notes, that is a maximum of CUC 120. Note that American credit- and debit-cards can not be used in Havana. Always check with your bank or credit card company before leaving home to see if your card will work in Havana. Also, the ATMs do not accept MasterCard/Maestro but are marked to accept Visa. Banks are likely to charge you with a foreign transaction fee in an ATM, hence make sure to confirm with your bank about the fee charges prior to your transaction. One can exchange the currency at the bank for good exchange rate, otherwise the next best options Cadeca. A Cadeca (Casa de Cambio which means House of Exchange) is a government exchange facility. They're located at airports, many resorts and at locations all over the country. CADECAs can also be found in most hotel lobbies and on some well-trafficked streets. (Note that the exchange rate at CADECA windows are better than at hotel front desks.) CADECAs exchange dollars, euros, and other international currencies, but only accept cash. Banks and CADECAs are trusted venues for money exchanges; we advise you not to use other places/institutions that deal with money exchange. Never exchange money on the street or with an individual Cuban. The exchange commission charged might be 9-10% higher than usual hence make sure to confirm the price prior to buying the currency and do carry a calculator in order to avoid any scam. However there is a 10% penalty charged when exchanging USA dollars cash, so, you will only receive 87 centavos CUC for one USA dollar when changing the money, allowing for the 10% penalty and a 3% currency exchange fee. Note: Cuban currency is not traded internationally, so you can't buy it in advance. You buy it when you arrive in Cuba. Your passport is necessary to exchange money. There is no extra fee in Cuba for using a credit card. Your Credit Card may be subject to a Foreign Transaction Fee at your home Bank, but there are no additional charges in Cuba. Your credit card purchase in Cuba will be converted from CUC to USD then when the transaction is posted to your statement it will be converted to your local currency. Note: Do not expect to easily exchange travellers cheque in the

country.



25. Staying connected

Major networks that dominate Cuba are Cubacel, Avenida 5 and Calle 76. However make sure to unlock your phone prior to your travel in order to use any SIM card in the country. That said, do know that Cuba is still not very well advanced when it comes to the use of smartphones. Although there are 3 network providers, Cubacel is the only one that has a calling plan but no access to the internet. Cubacel is owned by ETECSA, which is under the Cuban government who prohibits wide access to the internet for its population. Also if you want to use Cubacel in the country, do know that your phone should be GSM working in the 900 MHz band width. Also the phone should be decodified (that is, free of any commercial company). If it meets these two criteria, it will be able to make and receive international calls while you are in Cuba. Pre-paid SIM cards can be availed from all Cubacel offices for 10, 20 or 40 CUC each. The SIM card costs around 3 CUC a day to rent and must be returned when leaving the country. The only advantage of a Cuban cell phone is that making calls within the country is cheaper than roaming international phone. People in the country still use landline to call across. To buy a SIM of Cubacel, you will need to show your passport and you will need to pay CUC 3 per day for this service. In order for your phone to be able to use the Cubacel SIM card, it will need to be unlocked and to operate on the 900 MHz frequency. You will also have to top up your phone through purchasing pay-as-you-go Cuban phone cards, which generally retail at CUC 10 or CUC 20 per card. There is a large abundance of payphones since having any type of cell phone is considered a luxury item in Cuba if you don't want to go through the unlocking phone process. Your cell phone will probably work in Cuba but check roaming fees before you depart to avoid incurring large fees. Note: Any phone with a SIM from a U.S. provider will not work in Cuba. The country code for Cuba is +53, which is used only when dialing from outside the country. When it comes to using Internet in Havana, ETECSA runs an increasing number of telepuntos, or small Internet cafés. One can purchase an access ticket at the telepuntos that will provide you with a username and password, allowing you to log on to the public computers and use the Internet by the minute or the hour. Most of the upscale hotels have wi-fi, but you will first

need to purchase the internet card. Connection is also ‘dial-up’ speed or perhaps better. The computers are accessed using a scratch-off card purchased from the hotel desk. Cuba offer WiFi, with hourly rates varying from CUC\$2 to \$10 (US\$2 to \$10). Be sure to contact your hotel to verify availability, speed, and cost in advance of travel. There are also over 65 public WiFi hotspots throughout the country and Wifi access costs US \$2/hour. Tip: Be sure to log out of your accounts or your card time allocation will erode.



26. Time Zone

Cuba observes two time zones throughout the year. From Nov 6th -March 12th, it observes Central Standard Time which is 5 hours behind the Universal Coordinated Time whereas during March 13th-November 6th, it observes Central Daylight Time which is 4 hours behind Universal Coordinated Time.



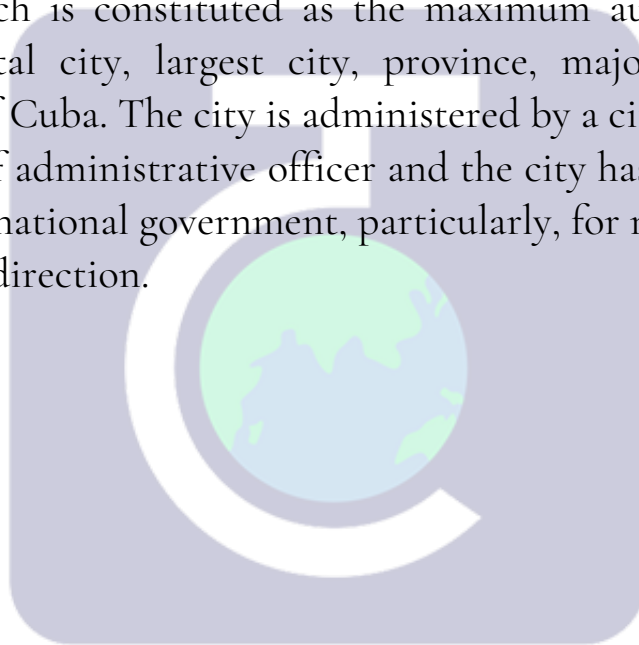
Index**27. Languages**

The official language spoken in Cuba is Spanish and it is the first language of about 90 percent of the entire population. Spanish as spoken in Cuba is known as Cuban Spanish and is a form of Caribbean Spanish. Other languages spoken in the country include Haitian Creole, Lucimi, Galician, and Corsican.



28. Political Scenario

Cuba has had, according to the Constitution, a democratic centralist. Cuba is constitutionally defined as a Marxist–Leninist "socialist state guided by the political ideas of Marx. Executive power is exercised by the Cuban Government, which is represented by the Council of State and the Council of Ministers. Legislative power is exercised through the unicameral National Assembly of People's Power, which is constituted as the maximum authority of the state. Havana is the capital city, largest city, province, major port, and leading commercial centre of Cuba. The city is administered by a city-provincial council, with a mayor as chief administrative officer and the city has little autonomy and dependent upon the national government, particularly, for much of its budgetary and overall political direction.



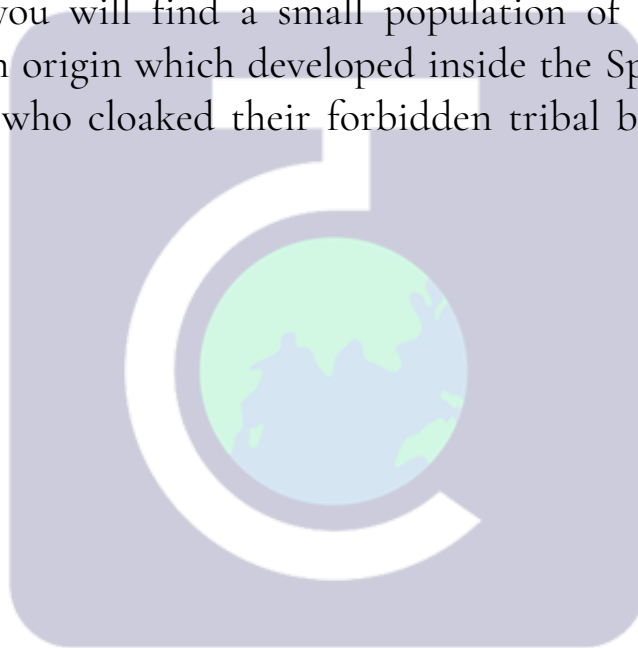
29. Economic Scenario

Havana has a diversified economy, with traditional sectors, such as manufacturing, construction, transportation and communications dominating the economy along the recently revived ones being biotechnology and tourism. The traditional sugar industry, upon which the island's economy has been based for three centuries, is centred elsewhere on the island and controls some three-fourths of the export economy however manufacturing is completely concentrated on the capital city.



Index**30. Religious belief**

Catholicism remains by far the most populous and influential religious faith in Cuba today. Roman Catholicism partly dominates the country with nearly 60% of the population being Catholic followed by only 5% of population who are Protestantism, Non-religious/Atheist at 25%. whereas Others/African religions at 11%. Other religion includes Islam and Jews. Besides this there are some parts of the country where you will find a small population of Santería, a syncretic religion of Caribbean origin which developed inside the Spanish Empire among West African slaves who cloaked their forbidden tribal beliefs under a veil of pseudo-Catholicism

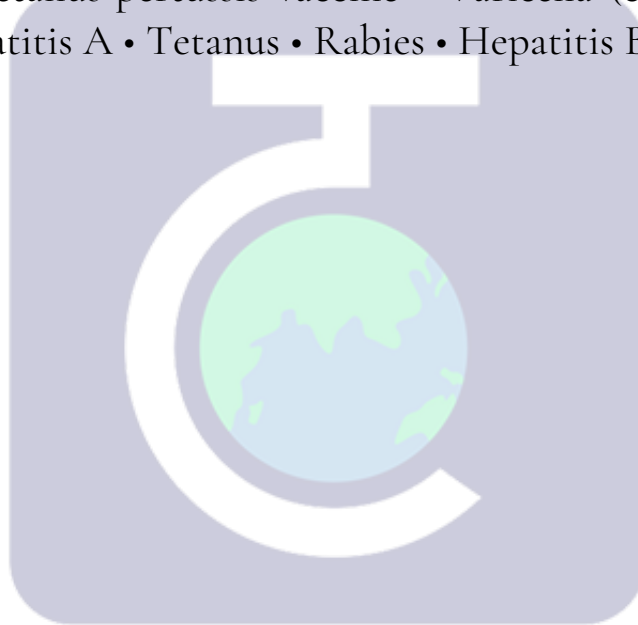


31. Visa requirements

Every person going to Cuba as a tourist needs a passport valid for at least one month beyond the date of your expected departure from Cuba, and a tourist card (visa). One should also have proof of sufficient funds to cover your stay. It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. You must provide proof of confirmed return flight and booked accommodation. Note: Every one who visits Cuba needs a tourist card that can be provided by airlines or can be obtained from a Cuban government office abroad in the case of privately organized flights. One can also purchase it from certain airports in Canada and abroad. Residents of Canada are allowed to stay in Cuba for 90 days whereas other foreign nationals can only stay for 30 days from the date of entry into the country and is valid for 1 entry into Cuba. If you are willing to stay more than 30-90 days you can request an extension of another 3 months at any tourism office in the country, for a maximum stay of 4/6 months. Children also require a tourist visa, regardless of their age. Another thing to keep in mind is that a tourist card is only applicable when you are either staying at a hotel or a private house legally renting in Cuba. If you are staying at a friends place, do apply for a personal visa. The processing time for a Cuban Visa can take as long as 4 weeks, but it is subject to change. A Cuba visa's processing time depends very much on the type of visa, the nationality of the person applying, the time of year and other variables. A Tourist Card is valid only for one entry within 180 days after the date of issue. It is valid for a 30 day stay in Cuba, extendable in Cuba for a further 30 days maximum. Important Information for US Travellers: Nationals of (1) the USA are subject to the Cuban assets control regulations enforced by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC; www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/pages/cuba.aspx). Although sanctions have been eased, travel for touristic purposes is still prohibited. However, it's possible to visit Cuba as an American if you're visiting for one of 12 specified reasons, including visiting close relatives, professional research, or participation in public performances or sports activities etc. For more information, follow the link below – <http://www.visabureau.com/worldwide/cuba-visa.aspx>

Index**32. Essential vaccination**

One needs to be any disease free before travelling in the country and during the visit in the country. Make sure that you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. Hence it is recommended that one should visit their General Doctor for a routine check-up. Also, when travelling to Cuba, some basic vaccines are suggested – • Yellow Fever • Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine • Typhoid Fever • Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine • Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine • Zika • Malaria • Hepatitis A • Tetanus • Rabies • Hepatitis B • Diphtheria



33. Theft and Safety

Since Havana is dependent on tourism, it is quite safe. Cuban police are everywhere and pay special attention to spots where travellers usually wander around, so you don't have to be afraid of being accosted in the daytime. Since prison sentences involving crimes involving tourists are harsh, the residents do not engage in crime-related activities. However do keep the following things in mind –

- Do not wander around on the dark streets of Centro Habana at night for muggings have been reported. While this part of town is perfectly safe to explore in the daytime, and can be crossed safely while going to Habana Vieja or Vedado, it's best not go there at night. If you're male, expect to be accosted regularly by prostitutes and/or their pimps, especially in Habana Vieja.
- Be wary of hustlers (jinteros/as) offering to show you a place to eat or offering a tour of the city, as you'll be stuck paying hefty prices to cover their commission.
- Cigars are the most popular merchandise for the tourists to Cuba, however make sure to check that they aren't fake.
- Beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers for relatively a big amount of population is poor.
- When booking a car, beware internet scams. There are many reports of people who booked and pre-paid through an internet agency arriving to find no car exists. Best book directly with an actual car rental company (Via, CubaCar or Rex).
- Water is often sold around tourist areas. Sometimes these bottles have been filled with local tap water and re-sealed (which can be poisonous). Also the bottles are sold at a higher price to the tourists.
- Credit cards scams are common and accordingly money should only be withdrawn in reputable hotels or banks.
- In Havana it is important to always be careful when using money. When taking a taxi, ask someone familiar with the system what the approximate fare should be, as many drivers will try to set an artificially high fare before departing.

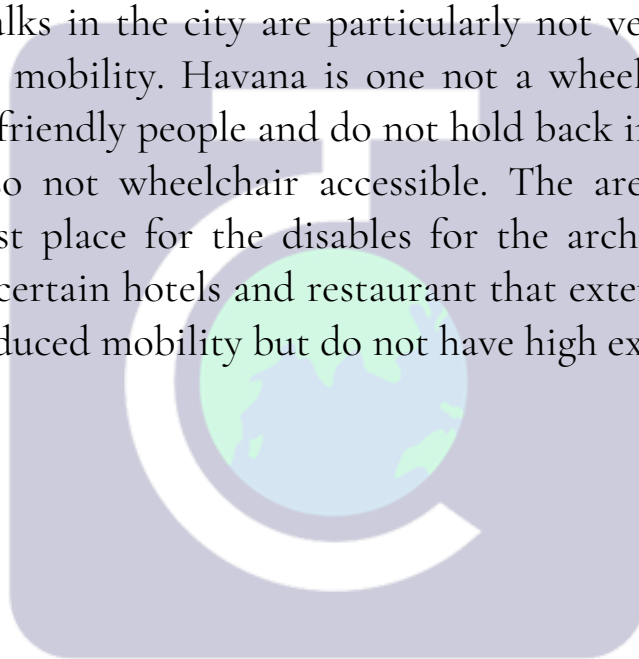
Index**34. Embassy/Consulate**

Follow the link below to find information on Embassies and Consulates –
<https://www.embassypages.com/cuba>



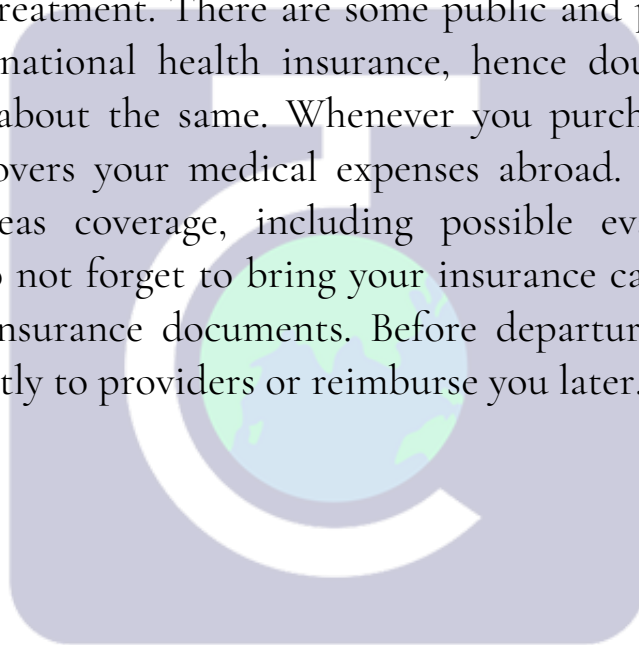
35. Accessibility

While in Cuba, individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what they find in their home country. The law only mandates access to new or remodelled public buildings for persons with disabilities, which is being enforced for new construction. Havana being one of the modern cities and the capital city is not a place for people with reduced mobility. The sidewalks in the city are particularly not very well equipped for people with reduced mobility. Havana is one not a wheelchair accessible city, however Cubans are friendly people and do not hold back in helping you. Cuban tourist buses are also not wheelchair accessible. The area of Old Havana is certainly not the best place for the disabled for the architecture is not at all equipped. There are certain hotels and restaurant that extend their hands to the aid of people with reduced mobility but do not have high expectations.



36. Emergencies

Clinica Central Cira Garcia Address: Ave. Lazaro e/ 18 y 20, Pya, La, Cárdenas, La Habana, Cuba Phone: +509 34 86 8761 Hospital Hermanos Ameijeiras Address: Havana, Cuba Phone: +297 568 1084 Note:. All the above hospitals accept traveller's health insurance, however if you fail to present a valid credit card, sufficient funds in cash or check and a proof of traveller's insurance coverage then you will be refused treatment. There are some public and private hospitals that do not accept International health insurance, hence double check from the respective hospitals about the same. Whenever you purchase health insurance make sure that it covers your medical expenses abroad. If not, supplemental insurance for overseas coverage, including possible evacuation, should be considered. Note: Do not forget to bring your insurance cards, claim forms and any other relevant insurance documents. Before departure do make sure will make payments directly to providers or reimburse you later.



37. Do's and Don'ts

Do's • Do have more than one credit and debit card. • Do have a photocopy of your passport. • Do learn some Spanish words before your travel for better understanding of the city and the country. • Do stroll along the Malécon, the city's ocean front esplanade where Havana Bay and the Gulf of Mexico meet. • Do make sure to have @25 CUC in cash for your departure tax at the airport. • Do be aware of the fact that homosexuality is frowned upon by Cuban society and law enforcement agencies. • Do make sure that you always ask for menus before ordering food at a restaurant or cafe for sometimes there are specialised tourist menus. Don't • Do not interact with beggars around the region but do buy tortillas or bananas from adults. • Don't take jewellery, or anything you can't afford to loose. • Don't drink the water from the tap. • Don't worry about exploring Old Havana on your own, it's very safe, even at night. You might want to be a little more vigilant in Central Havana. • Avoid spitting or blowing your nose in public. • Don't forget to negotiate your fare up front if you plan to take a bici-cab (a Cuban pedi-cab), coco cab (a tiny round vehicle that looks like a wheeled Pac-Man) or a traditional taxi. There are no meters. • Don't forget to look down, the old streets can be treacherous. • Do not litter for it is against the law. • Don't speak anything against the government of the country. • Avoid dealing with drugs as the penalties are very severe in Cuban Law. Do not carry anything through customs for anyone else. • Don't take photographs of military, police, airport or other transportation facilities for the laws are very strict.

38.Tipping basics

Tipping is never customary (except for the 10% already included in your restaurant tab) but if your instructor, guide, driver or service staff made your stay particularly enjoyable consider giving them a gratuity. As noted restaurant bills normally include service but it's normal to leave an extra 10-15% for really good service. Housekeeping staff, Toilet attendants and Bellhops usually expect CUC 10-25 per person as a tip. Taxi drivers need not be given any tip unless you have hired them on a full day basis, then a tip of 10% is expected to be given. Spa service providers (massage therapists, aestheticians, manicurists, hair stylists) are usually tipped 15-20% of the cost of the spa treatment. When it comes to paying the Musicians, do give CUC 1-2 per group, however if you have liked someone a lot and they played songs especially for you then do pay extra amount. But, nonetheless, music is the life of Cuba and a dollar here or there is appreciated. When it comes to tour guides, do give them around CUC 2 per person per day for their services. Note: Cuba has no parking meters and very few places where you can pay to park your car. But still most of the times someone is likely to come and ask you for money for looking after it. There are licensed parqueadores who take around CUC 25-100. Whatever the basic rule is that anywhere that you park the car, give someone 25 cents (CUCs). Note: Tip only when you are happy with the services and if you feel the need to tip. And tip with convertible pesos (CUC). Do not tip with coins of your own currency, because foreign coins can not be exchanged in any country. Do not tip with US dollars either. Since 2004, the US\$ has been subject to a 10% penalty when exchanged in Cuba.

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39.Pet info

Cuba does not quarantine healthy pets who meet the following requirements:

- Proof of current rabies vaccination administered at least 30 days prior to entry. Cuba does honor the 3 year vaccine.
- Dogs, Birds, Cats must be assisted by a veterinarian (government) certificate of good health issued at the point of origin. Veterinary Certificate for Cuba completed by a licensed veterinarian shortly prior to entry. A USDA or CFIA licensed veterinarian must complete the APHIS Form 7001 and you have it endorsed by the USDA or CFIA if traveling from the United States or Canada. If you are traveling from another country, the Governing Authority responsible for the import and export of animals should endorse the forms.
- A copy of the Rabies Certificate should also be included for endorsement for dogs.
- Although Cuba does not require a pet microchip, we strongly recommend that you microchip your cat or dog prior to traveling.
- If your pet is not a dog, cat or ferret, and especially if it is a turtle or parrot, you should verify that it is not protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). You will need to apply for additional permits if this is the case.
- All Certificates to be issued by the Cuban consul in country of origin. Any pet will be quarantined (free of charge) for a period no longer than 2 weeks.

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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

A mix of past and present, restriction and freedom, this confounding capital welcomes you with open arms. Havana is a city of architectural decay, but also creativity, where artists have turned a defunct cooking-oil factory into a performance space, bar and music venue that on any given night makes the city look vibrant. Havana is a city with verve and rhythm along with being lazy and laid-back. Dilapidated alleys, cobblestone streets co-exist with modern restaurants, skyscrapers and beautiful colonial buildings. Despite being neglected for 50 years, Havana still has its charm and is gorgeous. Get lost into the time at La Habana Vieja's or more popularly known as Old Habana. Walk around the stretch of the Malecon and taken a ride in a 1940 Dodge taxi through crumbling Centro Habana to experience the Tropicana floor show, or Afro-Cuban religious rituals on the street. Many plazas occupy the streets of the city and are waiting to narrate stories to you. Once upon a time an important port in the Spanish colonial empire, the city became the capital of colonial Cuba in 1607. Over the centuries Havana has grown steadily in wealth, size and prominence. A city where Internet is just arriving, where paladares (owned-home restaurants) are more popular than actual restaurants, where opera is subversive, and where young Cubans without money are immigrating. Not completely frozen in time after the revolution of 1959, tourism is still banned by the embargo. But for those who reach Havana under the 12 categories of legal travel, or without permission, the city awaits!

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