

# CUBA INFO

## NECESSARY DOCUMENTS:

- Visa passport validity of at least 6 months
- Tourist visa validity max 90 days (is extendable only once for 90 days). Remember that you will have to hand over the other part of the tourist card when leaving Cuba, it is important that you keep it with your passport.
- Travel insurance with medical coverage (best a big company that can cover directly on spot any medical problems/accidents, etc... without the insured having to advance the sum out of his own pocket: this is because if he is unable to do so tourist may risk not being able to leave or having problems leaving the country)
- Round trip plane ticket and (where possible) confirmations of accommodation reservations, services, etc...
- the digital form <https://www.dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu>: after completing it you will receive a QR code that you will have to show when entering the country.



## WHAT TO BRING:

Personal effects, for which customs duties will not be paid: food, hygiene, drugs and medical supplies. The Cuban population is especially short of antipyretics for children and adults and other medicines. Also: wheelchairs for disabled people; scientific, technical, art and literature books; music sheets; discs, tapes, still images and cinematographic films for educational use; prostheses, when they replace or replace an organ or part of it; equipment, books or materials intended for the blind; disposable pads for adults; used personal items brought with them by passengers in general and by members of the Cuban crew of ships and planes and by maritime workers; household goods and personal effects of persons arriving in Cuba with the aim of residing there permanently, in accordance with the provisions of current legislation; Furthermore, they will be able to import one (1) computer with its peripherals only once during the period of their stay in the national territory;

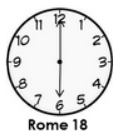
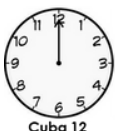


## CLIMATE & TIMEZONE:

Although you may find diverse opinions on when it is best to travel to Cuba, every season has its pros and cons. Our advice to you is to choose the one that suits you the most and plan accordingly. You cannot go wrong. That been said, most travelers prefer visiting the Island between mid-November and March. The weather at this time of year is not as hot and wet as it is in summer. Therefore, it represents the peak season for tourism and prices for accommodation, car rentals, and other services.

On the other hand, some other consider the time from April until June to be the most adequate for traveling around the country. Although this shoulder season is often recognized as a rainy period, any rainfall is usually just a 10-20-minute tropical downpour and then we are back to sunshine. In contrast, July to October can be really hot and humid and that is thought as to be our hurricane season.

Cuba enjoys a rather tropical climate, moderated by northeasterly trade winds that blow year-round. From December through mid-April is considered to be the drier season, while a rainier season can be thought from May to October. Temperatures average 21 °C (69.8 °F) in January and 27 °C (80.6 °F) in July. Cuba falls in the GMT-5 zone, which means that we are in the Eastern Time Zone. This is the same as Miami, New York, and the East Coast of the U.S. Yet, during Daylight Saving Time, our time difference will be decreased to GMT-4.



## PAYMENTS IN CUBA:

The national currency in Cuba is the Cuban Peso (CUP), which is equivalent to 100 cents. 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 pesos bills circulate, as well as fractional coins of 1 and 3 pesos and 1, 2, 5 and 20 cents. Upon arrival you can exchange money at the airport or at the banks and Cadecas of each destination. Visa, MasterCard, Access, Eurocard, Banamex and American International Service (AIS) magnetic cards can also be used in Cuba, with the proviso that they cannot have been issued by United States institutions since they do not work in Cuba, so Firstly, it is recommended that you verify beforehand that your card is not associated with an American banking institution and secondly, and of great importance, that you always have cash as a backup to avoid setbacks. In addition to using your magnetic card to withdraw cash in the Cuban National Currency (CUP), according to the exchange rate, making use of the ATM network, you can also buy in national store networks that operate freely in currency convertible and other establishments enabled with the necessary devices. For more information on the location of banks, CADECAS and ATMs visit <https://cubamaps.travel/>

The best currency to tip in Cuba is the Euro because it has the highest “official” and “unofficial” exchange rates. However, tipping in any foreign currency, including the US dollar, is fine. It is advisable to exchange GBP for Euros or USD before you arrive in Cuba. You can use foreign currency in local and private business such as restaurants, bars, markets and taxis but some hotels only accept bankcard payments. You should not take Cuban pesos (CUP) out of the country. Travelers should confirm alternative payment options before traveling, as policies concerning the use of U.S. dollars in Cuba are subject to change. The Cuban government requires that travelers declare cash amounts over the equivalent of 5,000 USD.

## INTERNET IN CUBA:

Upon arrival you can buy a SIM, called Cubacel TUR, valid for 30 days from its activation that contains a basic package worth 25 US dollars or its equivalent in other freely convertible currencies (MLC), which includes 1 gigabyte of data for internet connection, 20 minutes for calls and 20 text messages.

This service can be purchased on the official international vendor websites of ETECSA, these are: [www.cubaceltur.com](http://www.cubaceltur.com) and [www.recargasacuba.com](http://www.recargasacuba.com).

Once the purchase is made, the customer can pick up the Cubacel Tur SIM directly at the José Martí airport, Terminal 3 at the CubaTur counter or at any ETECSA office in the destination. On the other hand, in international airports you will have free internet access for 30 minutes while in 4 and 5 star hotels access will be free.

Internet access in Cuba is easier in 2022 than before, but it still is not generally available in restaurants, shops, or through 4G if you use a foreign sim card and phone. The number of public wifi hotspots is also increasing; in 2023, there are more than 1100 hotspots throughout the country.

You can access the Internet in Cuba by using a prepaid NAUTA Internet card at an ETECSA Wi-Fi hot spot. You can buy a NAUTA card at ETECSA offices, at hotels, or at the airport. In larger cities like Havana and Santiago de Cuba, ETECSA runs an increasing number of telepuntos, or small Internet cafés.

## TRAVEL WITH ANIMALS:

For travelling to Cuba with pets you need a certificate from the consulate.

The documents to obtain the above certificate are as follows:

- A health certificate released by your veterinarian with all required vaccinations for the voyage of the animal
- A photocopy of the passport of the person travelling accompanied by the animal.





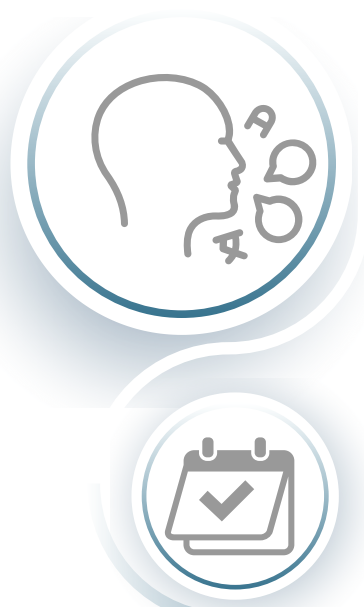
•The island of Cuba, Isla de la Juventud and other 4,195 islets and islands form the Cuban archipelago which has an area of 109,886 km<sup>2</sup>. From the narrow and elongated shape of the year dubbed “the key to the Gulf”. It is subdivided into 15 provinces and 168 municipalities. The territory has isolated reliefs and hilly chains, interrupted by large plains whose soil is very fertile.

## COMMUNICATE IN CUBA:

The Spanish spoken by Cubans is a variation of Castilian Spanish, brought over by immigrants from the Canary Islands in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, Cuban Spanish and Haitian Creole are the two most widely spoken languages of this vibrant island nation.

### SMALL USEFUL PHRASEBOOKS

USEFULL EXPRESSIONS		ON THE STREET		AT THE RESTAURANT	
YES/NO/MAYBE	SI/NO/ QUIZÁS	OPENED/CLOSED	ABIERTO/CERRADO	A TABLE FOR...	UNA MESA PARA
GOOD MORNING	¡BUENOS DIAS!	DEPARTURE/ARRIVAL	SALIDA/LLEGADA	THE MENU, PLEASE	¡EL MENU' POR FAVOR!
GOOD EVENING	¡BUENAS TARDES!	LEFT/RIGHT	IZQUIERDA/DERECHA	APPETIZERS	ENTREMESSES
EXCUSE ME	¡PERDONA/E!	TRAFFIC LIGHT	SEMÁFORO	SWEETS	POSTRE
PLEASE	POR FAVOR	STRAIGHT/NEAR/FAR	RECTO/CERCA/LEJOS	KNIFE/FORK/SPOON	CUCHILLO/TENEDOR/ CUCHARA
THANKS/YOU'RE WELCOME	GRACIAS/DE NADA	CAR	COCHE	ACCOUNT/TIP	LA CUENTA/PROPINA
HI/HELLO/BYE	HOLA/ADIÓS	GAS STATION	GASOLINERA	<b>AT THE HOTEL</b>	
HOW ARE YOU?	¿QUE TAL?	EXCUSE ME, WHERE CAN I FIND...	PERDONE. DONDE PUEDO ENCONTRAR...?	ROOM/BED	HABITACION/CAMA
I'M SORRY	LO SIENTO			BREAKFAST	DESAYUNO
HOW MUCH IS IT?	¿CUÁNTO CUESTA?			BOOKED IN THE NAME OF	RESERVA A NOMBRE
				PARKING	APARACMIENTO
				SUITCASES	MALETAS



## CUBA FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS:

Among the various festivals of the country, of patrons, parades or carnivals, you can find from the festivals of Hispanic and Canarian origin like the Fiesta del Fuego, celebrated in rural areas, in which predominates the local music; Another similar feast is that of the Changüí, celebrated in Guantánamo. Among the most important celebrations of carnival, of Hispanic origin, is that of Santiago de Cuba, with great influence French, coming from Haiti; Havana, both carried out in July, and of Camagüey. Among the many festivals not to be missed, there are the most characteristic and identifying festivals of the Cuban culture, celebrated in the month of December, the parades and the fanfare, which share some traits with the carnivals.

Among these festivals, the most popular are those that are celebrated in Remedios, in the province of Villa Clara, those of bejucal in Havana, the festivals of Sancti Spíritus and those of Ciego de Ávila. The most curious and engaging thing about these celebrations is that the various neighborhoods compete with each other through music, carts, and pyrotechnic performances. Due to the cultural crossings of the area, in addition to the festivals of African origin, other Haitian origin can be found such as the Bande-Rará and the festivals in Le Loás. Other internationally famous Cuban celebrations are those related to Santería, which link religion, music and dance. In addition, there are important dates in Cuban history related to major events, such as the independence of Cuba of May 20, its liberation January 1, The day of the workers on May 1 d The day of the national rebellion between 25 and 27 June, in addition to the Triunfo de la Revolución (January 1), Día de la Rebelión Nacional (26 July), Aniversario de la muerte del che Guevara (8 October), Día de la Independencia (10 October) and Nochevieja (31 December)