



PINAR DEL RÍO

Pinar del Río Province, where the best tobacco in the world is grown, is one of the places in Cuba with the greatest natural beauty. It is particularly popular with nature buffs. The birthplace of great painters and musicians, it is 4220 square miles (10,931 square kilometers) in size, the third largest province in the country. Most people reach it by land, but you can also come by sea, dropping anchor at the María La Gorda International Scuba-Diving Center.

Main Attractions
The Valley of Viñales, a part of world cultural heritage; the Sierra del Rosario Mountains, a biosphere preserve (it contains Las Terrazas and ruins of French coffee plantations dating from the 19th century); the Sierra de los Organos, a biosphere preserve; Soroa, with one of the highest (65.6 feet, or 20 meters), most beautiful waterfalls in western Cuba and the largest orchid garden in the country, which has more than 250 endemic and imported species; the Milanés Theater; the distillery that makes Guayabita del Pinar, a drink typical of this province; Indio (Indian's) Cave; and Levisa, Mégano and Romano Cays.

VARADERO BEACH

Located on the Hicacos Peninsula, in Matanzas Province, Varadero is the main sun-and-sand tourist destination in Cuba. The beach is 13.6 miles (22 kilometers) long. A free port, it has three international marinas. Piedras del Norte Cay Marine Park, the only underwater park in Cuba, is nearby. The area's recreational options include scuba diving, snorkeling, swimming with dolphins, going for a ride in a submarine with windows and horseback riding to archaeological sites. The Varahicacos Ecological Preserve, which covers around 30 percent of the total area of the Hicacos Peninsula; the Yumuri Valley; the Canimar and Bacunayagua Rivers; and the Zapata Peninsula make this an ideal area for nature and adventure tourism.

Main Attractions
The Aljibe Restaurant, Retiro Josone Park, a dolphin aquarium, the Plaza América Center, the Xanadú mansion, a professional golf course, the Internacional Cabaret, the Matanzas Tropicana Nightclub, the cities of Matanzas and Cárdenas, the Zapata Peninsula, Larga Beach and Girón Beach (the Bay of Pigs).

TRINIDAD

Trinidad, Cuba's museum-city, has been declared a part of world heritage, as has neighboring Ingenios (Sugarmill) Valley. Founded in 1514, it has mansions, public squares, churches, cobblestone streets, wooden banisters, block-long balconies, horse-drawn carriages and friendly people. While in Trinidad, be sure to sample a Canchánchara, a refreshing cocktail made from high wine, lime juice, honey and ice; go swimming at Ancón Beach, the best beach on Cuba's southern coast, or at María Aguilar Beach; and go on an excursion to Topes de Collantes, in the heart of the Escambray Mountains.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of Trinidad and its museums; Ingenios (Sugarmill) Valley, which contains the Manaca-Iznaga Tower, a construction 148 feet (45 meters) high which was once used for overseeing the work of slaves in the sugarcane fields; the Marlin Ancón Marina; and Blanco Cay.

HOLGUÍN

Holguín, "the most beautiful land that human eyes have ever seen," according to Admiral Christopher Columbus, has practically untouched, lush vegetation; a rich cultural tradition; and several historic sites. The city of Holguín, capital of the province, hosts the annual May Festivals, which celebrate Iberian-American culture. Guardalavaca, Esmeralda, Pesquero and Don Lino Beaches are becoming very well known internationally and have solid hotel infrastructures. The fishing village of Gibara hosts the International Low-Budget Film Festivals, and Banes has an Indo-Cuban Museum. Saetía Cay and Pinares de Mayarí are other attractions.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of the city; the La Periquera Museum; the Hill of the Cross; the Chorro de Maíta Archaeological site; the Mayabe Lookout; a restored Taíno village; Guardalavaca Beach, one of the most important beaches in Cuba; Esmeralda, Pesquero and Don Lino Beaches; Naranjo Bay Nature Park and its aquarium; the Puerto de Vita Marina; and Bariay.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA

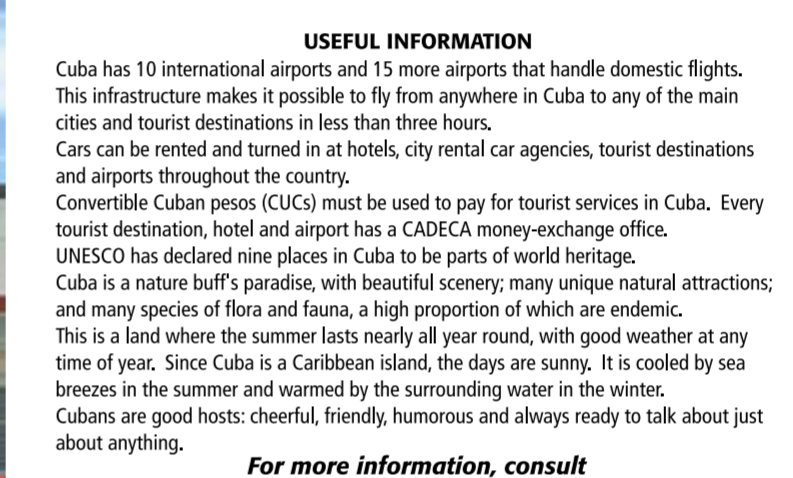
The second most important city in Cuba, Santiago de Cuba has a particularly rich history and impressive cultural development, especially in music. Known as the Cuban city with the greatest Caribbean ambience, its popular festivities provide venues in which its inhabitants can express their talent. Part of the province extends along the coast, hemmed in by towering mountains with areas of great ecological value, such as the Baconao Biosphere Preserve. Farther inland, the province features high mountains, valleys and rivers. Its capital, of the same name, has excellent hotels and a fully-equipped international conference center. Cruise ships make Santiago de Cuba a port of call, and visitors can also engage in water sports and health and quality-of-life tourism.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of the city; the Heredia Theater; San Pedro de la Roca del Morro Castle; the Basílica of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, patron saint of Cuba; Granma Cay; Baconao Park; Gran Piedra (Big Boulder); the ruins of centuries-old French coffee plantations; Santa Ifigenia Cemetery; the Moncada Garrison; Siboney Farm; the house in which Diego Velázquez, first Spanish Governor of Cuba, lived; the Santiago Tropicana Nightclub; Troubadours' House; and Caribbean House.

BARACOA

Nuestra Señora de la Asunción de Baracoa—or, more simply, Baracoa—was the first Spanish settlement in Cuba. A unique spot with many customs, where every day may be exciting and different, it was founded in 1512 near the Macaguangua River. The Parra Cross is a relic of those origins and is preserved in the Municipal Museum. Baracoa is in the easternmost province of Cuba—Guanáncamo, which is known all over the world thanks to Joseito Fernández's Guantanamera, Cuba's best-known musical composition. The area is mainly mountainous but also has several beaches, rivers and alluvial valleys that drop down to the coast.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of the city; Matachín Fort, now the Municipal Museum of Baracoa; Morrillo Chico, La Punta and Seboruco Forts; Villa Castle, now a comfortable hotel; Cuchillas del Toa, a region that, in 1987, UNESCO declared to be a part of world heritage; Alexander von Humboldt National Park, with a great variety of flora and fauna and stunning scenery; and the La Farola highway.



HAVANA

Havana, capital of the Republic of Cuba, is the administrative, political, cultural and scientific center of the country. It has an area of only 281 square miles (727 square kilometers) and is on the coast, with more than 8.7 miles (14 kilometers) of good beaches. Its green belt contributes to the purity of the air, and it also has plenty of hotels and an International Conference Center, making it a great place for meetings of all kinds and incentive travel. In 1982, UNESCO declared the original nucleus of the city and its system of fortifications to be parts of world cultural heritage.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of the city (Old Havana), with its many museums, art galleries and recreational and cultural centers; the city's system of fortifications (Real Fuera and Tres Reyes del Morro Castles and the San Carlos de la Cabaña Fortress); Revolution Square, which is linked to the most important moments of the Cuban Revolution; Chinatown; the Bodeguita del Medio and Floridita Restaurants; the International Conference Center; several international marinas; and Tropicana Nightclub.

CIENFUEGOS

The city of Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 by French immigrants whose influence can be seen in the perfect rectilinear layout of its streets. Martí Park marks the original center of the city, which has several important buildings of historic value. These include the Terry Theater, Purísima Concepción Cathedral, the Provincial Museum, the Town Hall, the San Lorenzo School and Ferrer Palace. The Bay of Cienfuegos (also known as Jagua Bay) is a source of inspiration for many and an excellent place for all kinds of water sports.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of the city, which UNESCO declared to be a part of world heritage in 2006; the Tomás Terry Theater; the Prado Promenade; De Valle Palace, the Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de Jagua (Jagua, for short) Fortress; Reina and Tomás Acea Cemeteries; the dolphin aquarium; El Nicho, a particularly beautiful spot in the Escambray Mountains; Martín Infierno Cave; the city of Lajas, birthplace of Benny Moré, "the King of Swing"; and Rancho Luna Beach.

JARDINES DEL REY ARCHIPELAGO

The Jardines del Rey Archipelago is part of the Sabana-Camagüey Archipelago, an insular system composed of more than 2500 islands and islets that extend for 288 miles (465 kilometers) between the eastern tip of the Hicacos Peninsula and the Bay of Nuevitás. Coco and Guillermo Cays are excellent tourist destinations. Coco Cay, 143 square miles (370 square kilometers) in size, is linked to the mainland by a stone causeway 10.5 miles (17 kilometers) long. Coco Cay has 13.6 miles (22 kilometers) of coral sand beaches bathed by green-blue water. Smaller Guillermo Cay, 5 square miles (13 square kilometers) in size, has 3.7 miles (6 kilometers) of beautiful beaches. Ernest Hemingway used Pilar Beach as one of the settings in his books.

Main Attractions
More than 30 good sites for scuba-diving and other water sports; La Redonda Lake, which is ideal for trout fishing; Leche (Milky) Lake, the largest natural freshwater reservoir in the country; El Bagá Nature Park, with its ecological paths; Florencia, a typical farming region; and the cities of Ciego de Avila and Morón.

GRANMA

Granma Province is famous for the beauty of its mountain areas, marine terraces and beaches (such as Marea del Portillo); La Demajagua National Park; Desembarco del Granma (Landing of the Granma) National Park, which UNESCO declared to be a part of world heritage; and Sierra Maestra National Park. Its capital, Bayamo—founded in 1513—was the second Spanish settlement in Cuba; pro-independence Cuban forces declared it the capital of the Republic in Arms during the Ten Years' War (1868-78), and it is now a national monument. Manzanillo, the second largest city in the province, has a truly beautiful setting on the Gulf of Guacanayabo, with several beaches and other interesting geographic features.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of the city; Luz Vázquez's window, where La Bayamesa, Cuba's national anthem, was composed; the house in which Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, the Father of his Country, who began Cuba's first War of Independence against Spain, in 1868, was born; the San Salvador de Bayamo Parish Church; the remains of the La Demajagua Sugar Mill; Dos Ríos, where Cuba's National Hero José Martí was killed in combat near the end of the 19th century; Desembarco del Granma (Landing of the Granma) and Turquino Nature Parks; and the city of Manzanillo.



LARGO CAY

Largo Cay, with a land area of 14.5 square miles (37.5 square kilometers), is 15.5 miles (25 kilometers) long. It is at the eastern tip of the Los Canarreos Archipelago, off the southern coast of western Cuba. Most people reach it by air, but you can also come by sea; the Cayo Largo Marina offers Immigration and Customs services and facilities for living on board. The beaches on Largo Cay are excellent for relaxation, water sports and other forms of recreation. The water is an intense blue, the seabed is beautiful and the fine white sandy beaches are wide.

Main Attractions
Sirena Beach, whose sand never gets too hot and which is a perfect place for scuba diving; the Colony International Scuba-Diving Center, on the nearby Isle of Youth, venue of important international underwater photography competitions; and Francés (Frenchman's) Point, one of the best scuba-diving areas in the world.

VILLA CLARA

This province offers you beautiful scenery, with alternating plains and mountains; fishing villages; delightful tourist installations; and centuries-old settlements now moving into the modern era with burgeoning industrial development. The city of Santa Clara—or "Che's city," as it is also called—is in the middle of the province. Buildings of different architectural styles dating from the Spanish colonial period—neoclassical, eclectic, art-deco and even postmodern—front on Leoncio Vidal Park. Santa María, Las Brujas (Witches) and Ensenachos Cays, off the northern coast, offer delightful seascapes and water sports.

Main Attractions
The Caridad Theater; the Museum of Decorative Arts; Capiro Hill; the Ernesto Che Guevara Monument, honoring him and his comrades who gave their lives in the Bolivian guerrilla struggle; the Armored Train Monument; the El Mejunje Cultural Center; the city of San Juan de los Remedios; Lake Hanabanilla, the largest mountain lake in the country; and the Elguea Spa, which has thermal water.

SANTA LUCÍA BEACH AND CAMAGÜEY

Santa Lucía Beach, on the northern coast of Camagüey Province, has 13 miles (21 kilometers) of wide, fine sandy beaches bathed by turquoise water. A long coral reef—the largest of its kind in the western hemisphere—lies just a mile and a quarter (two kilometers) from the coast. The area has 35 scuba-diving sites, where you can see ridges up to 33 feet (10 meters) high; a wealth of underwater flora and fauna; and many sunken ships, some dating from the 19th century. On nearby Sabinal Cay, you can explore the ruins of San Hilario Fort (built in 1831) and Colón (Columbus) Lighthouse (built in 1848). The city of Camagüey, which UNESCO has declared to be a part of world heritage, has delightful streets, public squares and churches.

Main Attractions
The original nucleus of the city, the largest in Cuba and one of the best-preserved; the house in which Ignacio Agramonte Loynaz, a hero in Cuba's Wars of Independence against Spain in the 19th century, was born (now a museum); the Principal Theater; the Mamá Inés Coffeehouse; San Juan de Dios Square; and the La Campana de Toledo and Parador de los Tres Reyes Restaurants.

LAS TUNAS

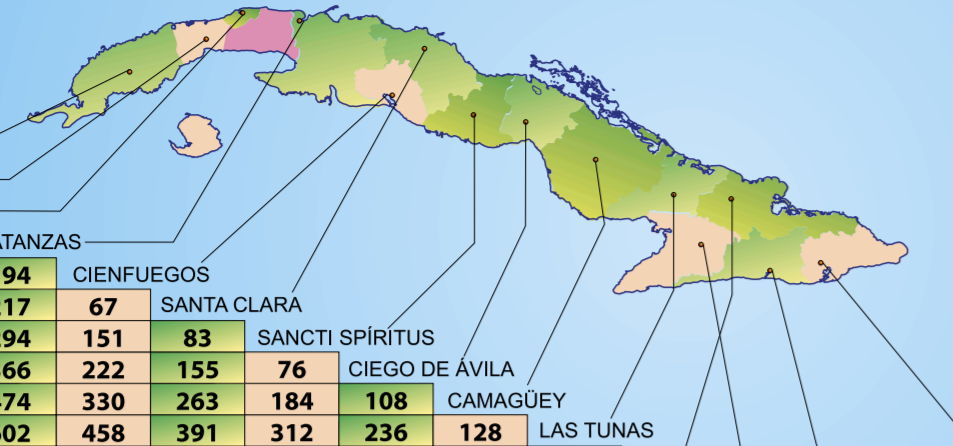
The city of Las Tunas, "the sculptural capital of Cuba," hosts the famous Iberian-American Festivals of Ten-Line Country Verses and Meetings on "El Cucalambé" (Juan Cristóbal Nápoles y Fajardo, their most important exponent). Sculptural groups add a touch of elegance to its parks. The province also has more than 30 pristine beaches. The sand at Covarrubias Beach averages 26 feet (8 meters) wide and is protected by a coral reef around 3.7 miles (6 kilometers) long. This beach has several comfortable hotels and is on the northern coast 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Puerto Padre and 43 miles (70 kilometers) from the capital of the province.

Main Attractions
The Cavalry Barracks; La Loma Fort; Salcedo Castle; the house in which Major General Vicente García, a hero in Cuba's Wars of Independence against Spain in the 19th century, lived; the Provincial Museum; El Quijote and Fuente de las Antillas Parks; the Boulevard of Statues; Covarrubias Beach; Malagueta Bay; and the Cabaniguán Wildfowl Preserve.



Cuba

DISTANCES IN KILOMETERS



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|-----------|---------|--------|------------------|------------|
| PINAR DEL RÍO | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 162 | ARTEMISA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 109 | 59 | LA HABANA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 167 | 164 | 105 | MATANZAS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 416 | 313 | 254 | 194 | CIENFUEGOS | | | | | | | | | |
| 438 | 335 | 276 | 217 | 67 | SANTA CLARA | | | | | | | | |
| 516 | 413 | 354 | 294 | 151 | 83 | SANCTI SPIRITUS | | | | | | | |
| 588 | 485 | 426 | 366 | 222 | 155 | 76 | CIEGO DE ÁVILA | | | | | | |
| 696 | 593 | 534 | 474 | 330 | 263 | 184 | 108 | CAMAGÜEY | | | | | |
| 824 | 721 | 662 | 602 | 458 | 391 | 312 | 236 | 128 | LAS TUNAS | | | | |
| 905 | 802 | 743 | 683 | 539 | 472 | 393 | 317 | 209 | 81 | HOLGUÍN | | | |
| 1017 | 803 | 841 | 741 | 611 | 543 | 457 | 382 | 273 | 139 | 71 | BAYAMO | | |
| 1023 | 920 | 861 | 801 | 657 | 590 | 511 | 435 | 327 | 199 | 138 | 177 | SANTIAGO DE CUBA | |
| 1067 | 964 | 905 | 845 | 701 | 634 | 555 | 479 | 371 | 243 | 182 | 161 | 84 | GUANTÁNAMO |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Capital: Havana
 Population: over 11,217,000
 Average temperature: 77.9° F. (25.5° C.)
 Relative humidity: 78 percent
 Language: Spanish
 National flower: Butterfly lily (*Hedychium coronarium*)
 National bird: Cuban Trogon (*Priotelus temnurus*)
 National tree: Royal palm (*Roystonea regia*)

The Cuban archipelago consists of the island of Cuba, the Isle of Youth and around 4195 smaller cays and islets, for a total land area of 42,854 square miles (110,992 square kilometers). It has great biodiversity and several well-preserved land and marine ecosystems. The average coastal water temperature is 77° F. (25° C.). You can count on around 330 sunny days a year. For political and administrative purposes, the Republic of Cuba is divided in 15 provinces. From west to east, they are as follows: Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Mayabeque, Havana, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Camagüey, Las Tunas, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín and Guantánamo.

The special municipality of the Isle of Youth is just south of the main island of Cuba. Cuba has more than 300 natural beaches, which are famous for the clarity and many shades of their water. More than 500 years of history are preserved in its majestic architecture, cities and heritage sites. It also has a rich cultural heritage and excellent cuisine, plus an extensive, well-structured calendar of activities. It is a perfect place for weddings and honeymoons. Enjoy its attractions in complete safety. Moreover, you'll be welcomed with a smile.



SCALE 1 : 1 880 74

- Cities, by number of inhabitants
- Capital of the Republic, over 2 million inhabitants
- Provincial capital, between 500,000 and 1 million inhabitants
- Municipal capital
- From 20 000 to 100 000 inhabitants
- From 5 000 to 20 000 inhabitants
- From 2 000 to 5 000 inhabitants
- Fewer than 2 000 inhabitants
- National Throughway
- Highway under construction
- Central Highway
- Main highway
- Railroad
- Provincial boundary
- Coral reef
- Airport
- Port
- Beach
- Marina
- Colonial city
- Scuba diving

CUBA IN THE CARIBBEAN

