



Varadero. Sun, sand and much more...

The beach is what it's famous for, the most popular one in Cuba. And the entire world, for that matter.





Varadero is on the Hicacos Peninsula, about 140km west of Havana and hosts more than a million visitors a year, understandably drawn to the many resorts that line its 22 km-long beach.

North of Matanzas province, Varadero used to be the destination of well-to-do Cubans, Hollywood starlets and high-stakes gamblers, prior to the Revolution. Today, it attracts visitors from all corners of the world, looking to enjoy its unique natural, historical and cultural draws.

But aside from its fine white-sand beaches, Varadero boasts many other natural attractions: Located at the east end of the Varadero peninsula is the Varahicacos Ecological Reserve, a dense landscape of cacti, plants and caves that are home to bats, lizards and a 2,000-year-old aboriginal burial site.

Josone Park in Varadero City, is a tranquil spot that features gardens, groves, a lagoon and colourful nesting birds.



It's also a popular fishing and scuba destination. Visitors looking to experience Varadero's offshore beauty have many options. There are over 25 diving sites on the peninsula, including the popular Cayo Piedras Del Norte underwater park, where snorkelers and scuba divers can explore old frigates, planes and yachts that are now home to tropical fish and crustaceans.

Back on land, Varadero is a prime destination for golfers looking to challenge their skills in a truly pristine setting. The Varadero Golf Club is the island's first 18-hole, par-72 course, with palm trees lining its fairways and meticulously manicured greens. The beautiful Mansión Xanadú clubhouse, features Bar Mirador Casa Blanca on its top floor.

Adventure can also be found in the skies over Varadero. Skydiving from 3,000m over the old airport just west of Varadero is popular, as are helicopter tours in Russian M1-8 choppers.

History buffs are encouraged to explore the province's capital city of Matanzas. Known as the Athens of Cuba for its poets, the city 30km east of Varadero has a number of key landmarks, including the famous Sauto Theatre, the Provincial Court, and the Junco Palace Museum, built in 1838. The Castillo del Morrillo fortress, east of the city, has an archeological museum and is dedicated to the executed student leader, Antonio Guiteras Holmes.

Nightlife in Varadero is lively to say the least. Most resorts have their own nightclubs and stage shows, but the

more adventurous may want to check out the other clubs in the area.

Some of the most popular being: Tropicana Varadero, Palacio de la Rumba which boasts a live band before the DJ takes over. Cabaret Cueva del Pirata (Pirates Cave) is unique to say the least. Incredibly, it's a nightclub located within a cave.

Tours and excursions:

- Matanzas city tour
- City tour of Cardenas
- Bellamar caves
- Catamaran cruises
- Jeep safari nature tour into the Yumuri Valley and Canimar River Natural Park
- UNESCO-designated Zapata Peninsula Biosphere Reserve. Compared to the everglades, it's home to many crocodiles and the world's smallest bird, the bee hummingbird.
- Trips to other parts of the island are available of course, including: Havana, Pinar del Rio, Cienfuegos, Trinidad y Cayo Largo.

How can I get in touch or find out more?

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Please note, all information is subject to change.