



Guide

Camagüey



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Camagüey

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

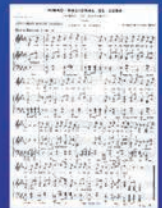
Flag



Coat of Arms



National Anthem



JBA

The Republic of Cuba, located in the Caribbean Sea, at the entrance of the Gulf of Mexico, is an archipelago of nearly 4 195 keys and islands covering an area of 110 992 km² and 1200 km in length. It is made up of 15 provinces, 168 municipalities and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud. The population of the country is around 11 165 000 million people.

Its adjacent warm waters are ideal for swimming and diving. Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, invites you to enjoy all its tourist resources, especially in its largest province: Camagüey.

OUTSTANDING DATES

January 1st: Liberation Day

Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution

May 1st: May Day

July 26: National Revelry Day

October 10: Beginning of the Independence Wars

National Bird



National Flower



National Tree





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TE QUEDAS



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JA DE TINAJÓN
EN CAMAGÜEY

CAMAGÜEY

bell towers and sea foam



The province of Camagüey catches the attention of travelers no matter which direction they are heading. Vast plains and abundant palm trees characterize the countryside scenery. Two clusters of low mountains stand out in the flat landscape: Sierra de Cubitas, to the North, is remarkable for its canyons cutting it deeply and transversely as well as for the presence of a great amount of archeologically relevant caves; Sierra de Najasa, to the South, features fossil wood remnants, a dazzling natural marvel. Right in the very center, as if emerging from the past, the capital city breaks through, full of magnificent bell towers and elegant old buildings that were once the core of the village Santa María del Puerto del Principe: a labyrinthine web of streets, alleys and squares unparalleled in the Caribbean.



Crystalline waters and fine golden sand distinguish the beaches of Camagüey, the province having the largest amount of islets and keys in Cuba. There are over 120 km of beautiful beaches located either in the northern or the southern part of the province: a quarter of all Cuban beaches. Sabana-Camagüey is the northern-shore group of keys, a transit and nesting place for numerous species of migratory birds and the greatest pink flamingo natural reserve in the Western Hemisphere. Cayo Romano, particularly, was the landscape chosen by Ernest Hemingway to look for Nazi submarines during the Second World War as well as to go hunting and fishing. To the South, the Jardines de la Reina keys are exotic and have wild natural scenery, with abundant coral reef biodiversity and sandy beaches.

Despite all these tourist highlights, the best thing visitors find on their journey is the people from Camagüey: gentle, proud, educated and very attached to their land and traditions. Getting to know Camagüey and its people is a unique experience worth trying.



The Most Mediterranean

Camagüey City, among the first seven villages settled in Cuba, is one of the most striking sites of the Island. It was founded in a coastal town in 1514 and originally named Santa María del Puerto del Príncipe.

In 1516, the arrival of settlers from Seville (experienced farmers) determined the removal of the town's original location to more fertile land. They moved many miles westward and settled on the banks of Caonao River. Although the city was far from the sea, it kept its original name.

In the early 1528, the final exodus brought the village to the center of the territory, between Hatibonico and Tílima rivers. It was already known as Santa María de Puerto Príncipe in the 16th Century. Eventually this name was shortened to Puerto Príncipe.

Camagüey, an aboriginal term which means son of the Camagua tree, has been its official name since 1903.

The intricate labyrinth

The whimsical layout in the old part of the town is, mainly, the result of the city's wealthiest families bending the urban planning rules to accommodate their ambitious house designs and influencing the spontaneous distribution of land. The fact of being located between two rivers also shaped this labyrinthine network that resembles a Christian-Muslim Andalusia town: narrow, winding streets opening into squares and tiny plazas often characterized by a parish church that defines each neighborhood.

Camagüey City historic center is the largest in the country (300 hectares); a considerable part of it was appointed World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2008, partly because it displays a notably harmonious co-existence of several architectural styles dating from the Spanish colonial times and the Republican period.



Outstanding personalities

In a city full of history and legends its own people have a leading role, deserving a place in posterity because of their noble work for the benefit of the common good. Many of these individuals were part of the struggles for independence either during colonial times, the republic or the revolutionary period; others, such as artists and religious men, are part of the local cultural heritage. Some of the essential names of Camagüey are the patriots of the Independence Wars Joaquín de Agüero, **Ignacio Agramonte y Loynaz**, Salvador Cisneros Betancourt, **Ana Betancourt de Mora** and **Amalia Simoni**; the prominent scientist **Carlos J. Finlay**, discoverer of the Yellow Fever transmitting agent; Silvestre de Balboa, the author of the first literary work written in Cuba; Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, regarded among the elite 19th Century Spanish-speaking writers; **Nicolás Guillén**, Cuba's poet laureate; painters Flora Fong and Fidelio Ponce as well as musicians Jorge Gonzalez Allué and Adalberto Álvarez.

Culture

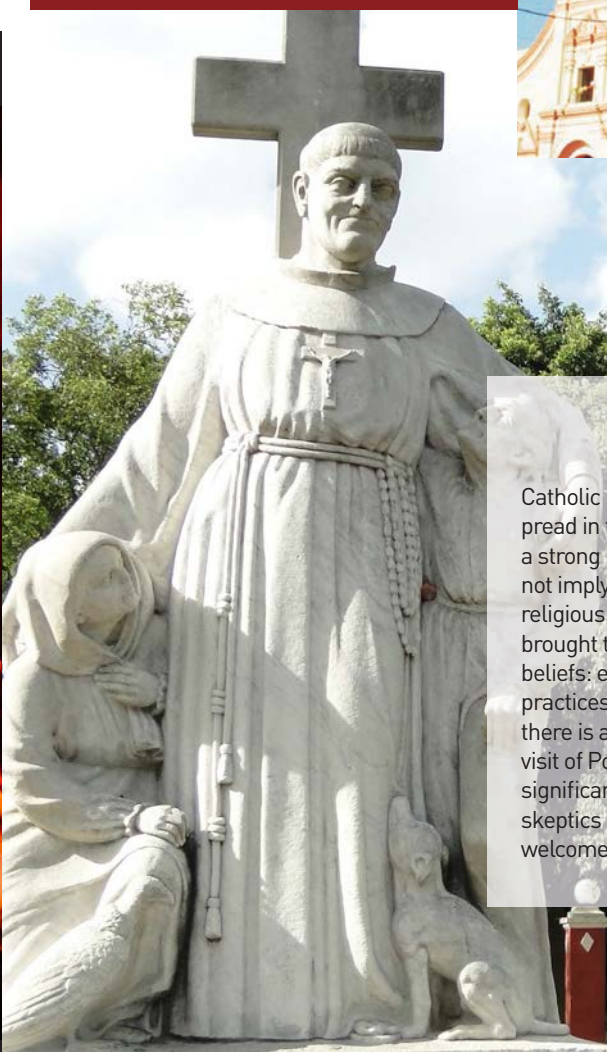
Cradle of poets, virtuous musicians and leading exponents of all cultural expressions, Camagüey shows its potential through a network of cultural centers and events, museums and exhibition galleries. The capital city hosts the second classic ballet company in the country (the famed Ballet de Camagüey, internationally acclaimed for its outstanding performances) as well as prestigious contemporary and folklore dance companies. Various festivals and events bring the talent of artists, critics and experts to light: the Fiesta de Barro y Fuego (arts and crafts), the Festival de la Carcoma (wood carving), the Film Critics Workshop, the Fiesta del Tinajón (a broad display of all cultural manifestations), the San Juan Camagüeyano (carnival) and the Semana de la Cultura (festivities to celebrate the city anniversary) are the best exponents of cultural events in town.





Legends

Legends characterize Camagüey City as much as the city's renowned earthenware jars. Such stories have been passed from generation to generation decorating facts from the past with unbridled imagination. Tales like that of Dolores Rondón, The Holy Sepulcher and The White Vulture are some of the most rooted in the minds of the locals.



Believing

Catholic religion is the most widespread in the province as the result of a strong Hispanic heritage; it does not imply the total absence of other religious forms since migrations brought to Camagüey a wide range of beliefs: evangelicals, Santería, voodoo practices and all trends of spiritualism; there is also a Jewish community. The visit of Pope John Paul II had great significance with both believers and skeptics offering His Holiness a warm welcome in January, 1998.



Architecture

The Cuban Baroque is the predominant architectural style in Camagüey buildings. It is distinguished by its cubic form and thick walls in which functional elements stand out; there are also some examples of Art Deco and Art Nouveau among other architectural movements. Clay marks the oldest structures formed by brick walls and tiled roofs. Worth mentioning is also the great number of religious buildings, palaces and lush courtyards full of earthenware jars, truncated pillars, arches, covers, overhangs, lattice screens and cobble stones.

- Camagüey, then Santa María del Puerto del Príncipe, was one of the first seven villages founded in Cuba, in 1514.
- The first Cuban literary work: *Espejo de Paciencia*, was written in Puerto Príncipe between 1604 and 1608 by Silvestre de Balboa Troya y Quesada, a township hall scribe.
- The oldest cemetery currently open in Cuba, founded in 1814, is located in Camagüey City. Along with its valuable monuments, it houses the graves of several outstanding personalities.
- In 1817, the title of City and the right to use a Coat of Arms were conferred to Puerto Príncipe due to the importance it represented to the Metropolis. Even the Royal Court of Puerto Príncipe, which was originally established on the island La Española, was later re-settled in the village instead.



Curious facts from Camagüey



- The first section of railroad from Puerto Príncipe to Nuevitas was opened in 1846. It was the second to be built in Cuba.
- Three of the Cuban Constitutional Assemblies took place in Camagüey. The first of all, on April 10, 1869, in the town of Guáimaro, served to approve and put into practice the first Cuban Constitution. The second was held in the fields of Jimaguayú, to honor the memory of Ignacio Agramonte, in 1895; and the third one was celebrated in La Yaya, in 1897.
- On October 5, 1890, electric power services began in Camagüey. It was the third town of Cuba to have this kind of utility after Cárdenas and Havana.
- The Camagüey University was the first institution of its kind founded after the Revolution, in 1975.
- Camagüey is the only territory of Cuba in which its inhabitants are called by three different names: camagüeyanos, príncipeños, since it used to be known as Puerto Príncipe and agramontinos, named after Major General Ignacio Agramonte.

Walking around

Discovering a city like Camagüey can be quite a challenge; when it seems you have reached the end of a street, it merges with the beginning of another right before your eyes and takes you to a new maze; however, rather than discouraging visitors, this mystery makes them experience a distinctive sensation: the imagination goes back centuries ago to a colorful village full of street vendors and upright people that greet you kindly by tipping their hats.

A description of the routes leading to the city's main public spaces might prove helpful for navigating such an experience.

The **Avenida de los Mártires** is the key access to La Vigía neighborhood; the avenue is a large four-way street in which you can see important buildings showing different architectural styles dating from the early 20th Century: the **Iglesia de San José**, the **Casa de las Cariátides** and two of the most important Art Deco exponents in the city: the former **Colegio Champagnat**, and **Hotel Puerto Príncipe**. Right at its beginning you will find the first recommended stop.

Casa de las Cariátides

ROUTE 1

AVENIDA DE LOS MÁRTIRES – PLAZA DE LA SOLEDAD


The Provincial Museum **Museo Provincial Ignacio Agramonte** Avenida de los Mártires, was erected in 1848 as cavalry barracks for Spanish troops and remained so for half a century until the railroad company bought the building to construct a hotel, which opened in 1905. In 1948, after a seven-year restoration, the edifice turned into a museum. Currently, it is made of several exhibition halls like the Cuban painting collection, considered the second best in the country, only surpassed by that at the Museum of Fine Arts, and the so called live room, a stunning courtyard that preserves architectural and decorative elements from the Colonial and Republican periods as well as beautiful specimens of Cuban flora.

After leaving the museum, turn left and continue straight ahead. **Calle República**, the axis connecting the center of the city from North to South, will extend before you. It is an area where dozens of shops, cafés and cultural institutions are located.

The first notable thing, on the left side, is **the old railroad station**, an aged building that is currently being renovated into a railroad museum named Parque Temático Ferroviario.

Across the street, in the opposite side of the station, stands the **Hotel Plaza** (Van Horne No.1), the oldest in town. It was honored by the visit of Literature Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral in the early 20th Century; it is also the place where a curious historical fact took place: the inauguration of the first Cuban radio station broadcasting in a city other than Havana.

Further down Calle República, nearly 250 m from the railroad station, is the **Hotel Colón** (República 472). Outstanding woodwork and beautiful stained glasses at the lobby as well as a picturesque yard in the rear characterize this eclectic building. There you can find the Sales and Booking Agency belonging to Islazul Hotel Group.



Galería República 289

Across the street there is the **Galería-Fundación Caguayo**, an exhibit room related to Design, Plastic and Monumental Arts. (República No. 475)

Not very far away is a telephone center **Telepunto** República No. 453, which provides Internet access, phone cards and accessories.

A fine book shop is just one block ahead **Librería Ateneo** República No. 416- a space where books written by Cuban and international authors are sold and presented, besides the exhibition of works by local artists.

In the same direction, right on the corners of República and Correa, there are two buildings you may like to know about: the office of **Cubana Airline** and **La Bigornia**, a coffee shop that turns into a jazz café plus a shop next door.

Getting cash should be no problem at all since **CADECA**, the currency exchange office is a little forward. (República No. 384). Very near to Cadeca is the **Sala Internacional de la Cerámica de Arte**, (República No. 382), a nice place where you can buy beautiful arts and crafts from Camagüey artists, and also admire an International Ceramic Exhibition.

Exquisite Cuban, Chinese and Italian food flavors and scents are on offer at restaurant **En Familia Impacto** (República No. 358).

Hotel Isla de Cuba (San Esteban No. 453), one of the best samples of modern architecture in Camagüey, can be appreciated by taking a glance to your right on the next corner.

Back on Calle República, at 295, there is the **Complejo Turístico El Bambú**, a place where you can find shops, a cafeteria and the sales bureaus of the Travel Agencies ECOTUR and Viajes Cubanacán. On

Iglesia de la Soledad



the same sidewalk, following the south direction, you will find **Galería República 289**, the most important exhibition hall in the province and the headquarters of the biennial **Salón de Artes Visuales Fidelio Ponce**, the greatest visual arts event in Camagüey.

A nice leisure option is available only a few steps from the gallery: **Ocio Club**, a recreational complex made up of a swimming pool, a coffee shop, a bowling hall and electronic and table games, ideal to be enjoyed with family.

El **Bodegón Don Cayetano Restaurant** (Callejón de la Soledad No. 256 esq. República) is a fine place to taste Spanish cuisine, including light meals called tapas, accompanied by a generous wine variety. It was built in the early 19th Century and took its name from one of its first owners.

At the end of the path lies the old **Plaza de la Soledad** (called Plaza del Gallo or Plaza de la Solidaridad as well), where several important streets flow together. It was named after the **Iglesia de la Soledad** (1777), the most prominent building in its surroundings. Ignacio Agramonte, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda and other outstanding citizens of Camagüey were baptized in it.

Once you arrive at Plaza de la Soledad, you will have different accommodation options at the hotels **Santa María-El Colonial**, **Camino de Hierro** and **La Avellaneda**, this latter is further down República Street, at No. 226; they all belong to the Hoteles E, a branch of Cubanacán Group, which is distinguished by its singularity and good taste. Next to La Avellaneda Hotel there is **Bar Yesterday** (República No. 222), where you can enjoy the music of The Beatles and of the 60's, accompanied by exquisite cocktails and tapas.



ROUTE 2

PLAZA DE LA SOLEDAD - PLAZA DE LOS TRABAJADORES

To continue the route from Plaza de la Soledad you have different choices but our recommendation is to take a right onto **Ignacio Agramonte**, also known as Calle de los Cines, a thematic walk of approximately 250 meters dedicated to the Seventh Art.

The cultural center **Fotograma**, (Ignacio Agramonte No. 409), offers an array of live music performances by Camagüey artists and a wide variety of cocktails featuring Cuban Rums.

Across the street in **Callejón de los Milagros**, is the **Oficina de Información Turística (INFOTUR)**, where you ask about all tourist services and destinations in the country. On the left side is **Centro Nocturno Bar Casablanca**, which specializes in cocktails and tapas.

On the same side of the street and about 80 m forward, you can find **Iris Art Gallery**, a space for the exhibition and sale of works of art created by the artists Oscar Rodríguez Lassería, Oscar Rodríguez Jr. and Leonardo Pablo.

It will surely be useful to know that just two doors down from the Iris Art Gallery there is another sales office of the telephone company (**Telepunto**) and across the street (Ignacio Agramonte No. 449) there is a small health resort -**SERVICIOS MÉDICOS CUBANOS**- specialized in medical assistance for tourists.

La Isabella Restaurant is next door the medical practice (Ignacio Agramonte No. 447); the place is renowned for its unique decoration which pays homage to the film industry and also has a varied Italian menu.

On the corner of Ignacio Agramonte and Independencia Streets stands a stately home typical of the colonial period: the **Museo Casa Natal de Ignacio Agramonte**. It is the place where Major General Ignacio Agramonte y Loynaz, the leader of the independence movement in Camagüey was born, on December 23rd, 1841. It was reopened as a museum in 1973 as part of the official commemoration of the centenary of the hero's death. It exhibits documents, personal belongings, family furniture and objects typical of the 18th and 19th centuries.



Plaza de los Trabajadores



Museo Casa Natal de Ignacio Agramonte

Opposite that house stands the **Iglesia de la Merced** (Charles A. Dana No. 4), one of the oldest in the city and built in 1748. Below the altar, there is a museum which includes part of the former crypts as well as relics collected all around the province. On one side of its main nave there are pieces of the furniture used by Pope John Paul II during his mass in Camagüey, in January 1998.

Both, the church and Agramonte's birthplace, are in **Plaza de los Trabajadores**, formerly called Plaza de la Merced, but in addition to these two constructions there are other important buildings: the Provincial Radio Station **Radio Cadena Agramonte**, **Centro de Convenciones Santa Cecilia**, the **Oficina Central de Correos de Cuba** and two **Banco de Crédito y Comercio** offices.

Important cultural events also take place within the area of the plaza: **Festival de Barro y Fuego**, **Festival de la Carcoma**, **San Juan Camagüeyano** and the celebrations for the anniversary of the city. At one of the ends of the square, next to the church, is the **Asociación Cubana de Artesanos Artistas (ACAA)**, which hosts exhibitions, symposiums and workshops of the local artisans.

To the left of the ACAA, begins a street called **Calle Padre Valencia**, and at around 200 meters ahead, is **Teatro Principal** (Padre Valencia No. 64), the place where Ballet de Camagüey usually performs.

ROUTE 3

PLAZA DE LOS
TRABAJADORES-
PLAZA DEL
CARMEN-
PARQUE
AGRAMONTE

During this route and the next you will discover why Camagüey is known as the labyrinth city of Cuba. We are already at the heart of the historic center where you can easily appreciate the crisscross of the streets.

Basílica Menor

Walk back from Teatro Principal to Plaza de los Trabajadores. On the corner where the bank and the post office are set is the start of a street named **Cisneros** to honor Salvador Cisneros Betancourt, who was the President of the Republic in Arms during the Wars of Independence. His birthplace is located at No. 220.

Down Calle Cisneros there are two magnificent buildings facing each other; the first one (No. 253) hosts the **Tribunal Popular Provincial**, formerly the Real Audiencia Primada de Puerto Príncipe during the colonial period, the first court that ever existed in Cuba. The second building (No. 258) was, for a long time, a

club for Hispanic descendants, the place where Iberian pilots Barberán and Collar were welcomed after completing a nonstop transatlantic flight from Seville to Camagüey; nowadays it is the headquarters of the Culture Clubs Organization in the province.

There are two other outstanding buildings on the corners of Cisneros and Hermanos Agüero: the **Baptist Temple**, founded in 1904, which stands out for its eclectic style and, across the street, the attractive neoclassical **Banco Popular de Ahorro**. Next door are two other Hoteles E facilities, **La Sevillana** and **El Marqués**. (Cisneros No. 211 and 222)

We suggest you continue down the street Hermanos Agüero where, at numbers 56 and 58, you will find the birthplace of one of the most illustrious citizens of Camagüey: our **National Poet Nicolás Guillén**.

A little further past, straight ahead from Guillén's birthplace, is one of the most popular sites of the city, recognized as the place where San Juan festivities originated: **Plazuela de Bedoya**. Its composition is very interesting because there are six corners irregularly distributed.

Plazuela de Bedoya serves as the antechamber to the admirable **Plaza del Carmen**, dating from the 19th Century. Located a bit further away

from downtown, it was a settlement mainly of black and mulatto families. The houses keep their original colonial style, separated from the street by steps. One of the shortest streets in the historical center, popularly known as **Callejón de la Miseria**, joins the square with Calle Martí. A group of **real-size sculptures** made of bronze recreates the life and traditions of the community and has provided international reputation to its creator: **Martha Jiménez**, whose workshop is located in this very square. Other outstanding artists also have their exhibition places here, such as **Osmar Yero** and **Liuba Del Toro**. Next to Martha's workshop there is **El Ovejito Restaurant**, specializing in Mutton dishes, and just across the street there is **El Paso Restaurant**, specializing in Cuban and International food. At the bottom of the plaza is the **Iglesia del Carmen**, a sample of the sober Cuban Baroque, its two symmetrical towers differentiate it from the city's other religious buildings. On the far right of the temple, the former Convent of the Ursuline Sisters is today occupied by the **Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad de Camagüey** (Camagüey City Historian Office).

To return to Cisneros Street from Plaza del Carmen just go up on **Calle Martí**, and walk straight ahead for about 400 meters.



Maqueta del Centro Histórico

Where Martí meets Cisneros Street, there is a place of special significance for the people of Camagüey: the **Parque Agramonte**. Regarded as the foundational site of town, it was the Arms Square during the colonial period. It is home to an important part of the city's history as it was here that the first martyrs of the struggle for independence Francisco Agüero and Andrés Manuel Sánchez were executed. The four palms located on each of its corners are natural monuments dedicated to the memory of Joaquín de Agüero, Miguel Benavides, Fernando de Zayas and Tomás Betancourt who led the first armed uprising against the Spanish colonial army in Cuba in 1851. In the middle of the park stands the statue of Major General Ignacio Agramonte y Loynaz, who was killed

in the fields of Jimaguayú on May 5th, 1873. Amalia Simoni, his widow, attended the monument's unveiling ceremony, on February 24th, 1912.

There are important buildings along the perimeter like **Biblioteca Julio Antonio Mella**, **Casa de la Trova**, coffee shop **Café Ciudad**, **Bar El Cambio**, the **Gobierno Municipal** (city hall), **La Volanta Restaurant** and the **Centro de Interpretación del Patrimonio**, where the model of the historical center is located.

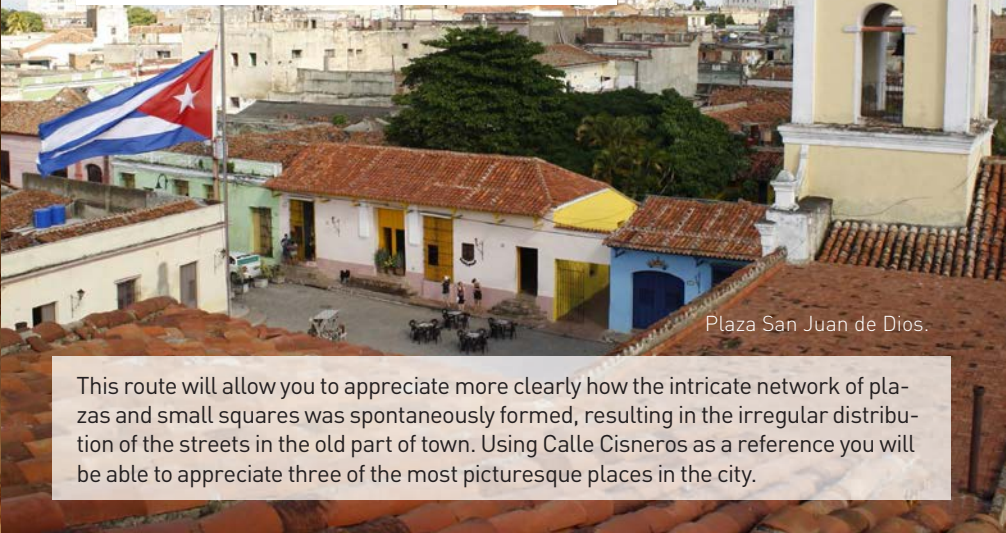
The **Basilica**, known as La Catedral, solemnly stands beside the park with sober naves, paneled ceilings, colorful stained glasses and the magnificent tower topped by the image of Jesus.



Café Ciudad

ROUTE 4

PARQUE AGRAMONTE- PLAZA SAN JUAN DE DIOS



Plaza San Juan de Dios.

This route will allow you to appreciate more clearly how the intricate network of plazas and small squares was spontaneously formed, resulting in the irregular distribution of the streets in the old part of town. Using Calle Cisneros as a reference you will be able to appreciate three of the most picturesque places in the city.

Leaving behind Parque Agramonte we find the **UNEAC (National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba**, Cisneros No.159), an organization that gathers the artists of the province. In its spacious building you can appreciate the art works displayed in the gallery or enjoy regular live performances by local musicians.

If you turn right from the corner where the UNEAC sits, you can take a look at **Plazuela Juana del Castillo**. This square dates from the 18th Century and is also known as Plazoleta del Templador. During the San Juan festivities it was the favorite spot of the poet laureate Nicolás Guillén.

At your right side, in the next corner, lays the **Plazuela del Cardenal Arteaga** (San Clemente and Cisneros). In this small square stands the Palacio Bernal (San Clemente No.3) a 19th Century building with some modifications added in the twentieth century.

Walk about 50 meters down San Clemente Street, leaving the square behind, and turn left at the first corner. The belfry of the church in the **Plaza de San Juan de Dios** indicates that you are approaching one of the most characteristic squares in the city. The colonial architectural environment here has been acknowledged as a National Monument, one of the best preserved of its kind in the entire country.

The **Iglesia y Hospital de San Juan de Dios** was open in the 18th Century thanks to public support; its architecture is well-preserved in the Moorish-influenced Baroque Style. The one-towered church consists of a small chapel with original brick floors and paneled ceilings. Inside the old hospital, the corpse of Major General Ignacio Agramonte was put on display by Spanish troops after he was killed in action. **Father José Olallo Valdés** was in charge of cleaning the body and paying the respect his venerable



figure deserved. This Father, loved by the people of Camagüey for his work and generosity towards the poor and sick, was beatified in November 2008 and his ashes are kept within the church. The building occupied by the old hospital is currently the **Museo San Juan de Dios**, which is dedicated to the town's foundation. The museum preserves the architectural style of the city and recreates the time when it served as a pediatric hospital; inside the building are different offices devoted to preserving the local heritage as well as rehearsal spaces for several cultural groups. The edifice was declared a National Monument in 1978.

Another important construction in this square is the house of the balcony where the second-floor room and its balcony, above the entrance, recalls the typical Andalusia building style. The house is painter **Joel Jover's Workshop and Art Gallery**.

Around the square you can find galleries displaying the varied and original styles of recognized artists like **Ileana Sánchez, Eduardo Rosales, Magdiel García, José Gutiérrez** and **Yanel Hernández**.

La Campana de Toledo and Parador de los Tres Reyes restaurants are classic examples of Camagüey colonial houses including gabled roofs and sheltered corridors designed to provide cool refuge from hot summer afternoons; a well in the middle of the courtyard was used to supply fresh water for both houses. These constructions were converted into some of the finest restaurants in town where Cuban food is served. Next door sits the attractive **Restaurante 1800** which serves a range of Camagüey, Cuban and international cuisine.

ROUTE 5

PLAZA SAN JUAN DE DIOS-
CASINO CAMPESTRE-
PLAZA DE LA REVOLUCIÓN

This route ventures beyond the historic center into a newer section of town. Both areas are clearly defined by the bridge crossing Hatibonico River.

Monumento
a Salvador
Cisneros,
Casino
Campestre

Calle Pobre, the street beginning on one side of the Iglesia de San Juan de Dios, will take you back to Calle Cisneros. Where Calle Cisneros ends is the place where most tours of Camagüey begin: the **Parque de las Leyendas**. Re-designed to celebrate the city's 490th Anniversary, it depicts some of the most significant stories from the legendary history of Puerto Príncipe.

Over the **Hatibonico River** rises a bridge that divides the old part of the city from other areas founded more recently; it is popularly known as **Puente de La Caridad** as it is near the church and plaza bearing the same name.

After crossing the bridge, turn left and notice the increase in greenery. This marks your arrival in the grounds of **Casino Campestre**, the largest urban park in Cuba and one of the favorite recreational places for Camagüey families.



The area between the bridge and roundabout is the smallest part of the park, separated from the rest by the Main Road, Carretera Central. Two excellent restaurants are located in the surroundings: seafood-restaurant **Dimar Casino** and **Dinos Pizza**, an Italian food place.

The Camagüey people commissioned a majestic statue to honor the memory of the two intrepid Spanish pilots who won the locals' hearts because of their bravery and kindness: **Barberán** and **Collar**, the protagonists of the first transatlantic Seville-Camagüey flight, accomplished in 1933. In the Cuatro Vientos ('Four Winds') aircraft they flew nonstop on this previously unexplored path: the so-called 'lonely route'. Sadly, the pair disappeared without a trace flying from Havana to Mexico City a few days after their ground-breaking achievement.

Across from this section of the park, there is a building dating from the early 20th Century which housed the former **Instituto de Segunda Enseñanza**. It is a neoclassical construction that reflects one of the several new architectural

styles that were introduced in the city during that period. Many young people who studied here later went on to join the Cuban revolutionary struggle.

Crossing the road, we enter the largest area of the park. It was founded in the 19th Century and served as an exhibition center for livestock and a site of agricultural fairs. Striking sculptures honor martyrs, patriots and personalities from history, the most outstanding of which are the **Mausoleo al Soldado Desconocido** and the **Salvador Cisneros Betancourt statue**. Right in the park's tranquil center, a **band stand** provides a former musical space well remembered by the Camagüey people. Very close to it, an **artificial grotto** built in the 1920's is hard to miss. The park's small **zoo** and **playground** will undoubtedly be the favorites for any children.

The bridge over the **Juan del Toro River**, a tributary of the Hatibonico River, marks the boundary between the park's center and an area occupied by great sports facilities: the **Ciudad Deportiva Patricio Lumumba** (sports center), the **Estadio**

Cándido González (baseball field) and the **Sala Polivalente Rafael Fortún** (arena), the second largest indoor stadium in Cuba.

The last place to visit on this route is the **Plaza de la Revolución Mayor General Ignacio Agramonte**, near the border of the Casino Campestre. This area has witnessed great political, social and cultural events: July 26 rallies in 1989 and 2007

led by Fidel and Raúl Castro respectively; May Day parades; the performance of well-known Cuban bands and the Holy Mass offered by Pope John Paul II, on January 23, 1998. Each has seen the gathering of thousands of Camagüey citizens. The monument, designed by a multidisciplinary group in 1983, resembles the figure of Ignacio Agramonte surrounded by a monolithic piece depicting the most significant moments in our history.





Sede de la Asamblea Provincial del Poder Popular

ROUTE 6

PLAZA DE
LA REVOLUCIÓN-
PARQUE JOSÉ MARTÍ -
CALLE MACEO

This final route will take you back to the **Plaza de la Soledad**, completing an approximately four-kilometer-wide journey around Camagüey's historic center and its surroundings.

On the left side of the **Plaza de la Revolución** stands the headquarters of the **Asamblea Provincial del Poder Popular**– the People's Power Assembly. This building was founded in the 19th Century by the Catalan merchant Zenón Carbó and later owned by the world-famous engineer Sir William Van Horne. Afterward, it hosted the Escuela Normal para Maestros and it was remodeled to play its current role in 1998.

The **Avenida 26 de Julio** runs right across the Assembly's building. Walk down the avenue, turn right and cross the **Caballero Rojo** bridge. From here, the route will lead you through a series of twists and turns typical of the chaotic distribution of streets in this part of the city and these will lead you back downtown to the historical center.

A small square is formed by the intersection of the streets **Calle San Fernando** and **Calle Pobre** and is the reference point for two other attractive streets in the area.

Calle Ramón Ponte, on the right of the square, has become one of the city's most colorful sights and is considered the narrowest alley in the old town, being only 80 centimeters wide. As a result, it is popularly known as **Funda del Catre** (folding-bed cover).

In contrast to this, on the left side along Calle San Fernando is one of the largest and most magnificent places in the historic center: the **Parque José Martí**, formerly the Plaza de San Francisco. Completed between the 17th and 18th centuries, this square used to be the city's portal to the path leading towards the Eastern side of the country. A common stop for religious processions at that time is marked by a wooden cross which still remains in front of one of the houses. The plaza features a collection of buildings from different periods and architectural styles: colonial Baroque, Neoclassical and Eclectic. The **Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón**, a Neo-Gothic building, is the most impressive in the entire area. Next to it stands the old Colegio de las Escuelas Pías, a monumental building of the neoclassical style built in 1862 which is regarded a landmark of Camagüey urban architecture and currently houses the educational complex **Inés Luaces**. The community health clinic **Policlínico José Martí** is located in a two-story Eclectic building where one of the most influential families in the city, the Cisneros-Betancourt family, lived from the 17th Century through 1921. Tomás Pío Betancourt, the first city historian, was one of its distinguished members.

Calle Luaces, on the left side of the clinic, is the street that takes you to within a few steps of the Parque Agramonte. On the way, we recommend that you stop

to admire the facade of the **Camagüey Archdiocese** (Luaces No. 55), a two-story building decorated by a beautiful balcony. If you love arts, visit the **Galería Alejo Carpentier** (Luaces No. 153), home of Salón de la Ciudad, an event that is convened to celebrate the city's anniversary.

Bordering the Parque Agramonte, on **Calle Independencia**, we arrive at **Plaza Maceo**. According to historical evidence, it was previously known as Plaza de Paula in the 18th Century due to its proximity to the San Francisco de Paula hermitage, which was demolished in 1906. In 1899, it was named after Lieutenant General Antonio Maceo, a General known as The Bronze Titan because of his physical strength and courage. A bust was erected here in his honor in 1947. Glancing downward at the street, you can see the old tramway rails as well as the early 20th Century symmetrical cobblestone paving which is characteristic of the old town.

The **Banco Financiero Internacional (BFI)**, in front of the square, provides a range of banking services that you may require.

The colorful **Las Ruinas** cafeteria, an outdoor space next to the bank, offers a wide variety of light meals and drinks.

From the square leads one of the most populated pathways in the city: **Calle Maceo**, an elegant pedestrianized street where visitors will find most of the city's biggest stores and commercial facilities. Camagüey inhabitants are very familiar to **El Encanto Department Store**, the largest of its kind in the city, and the **Gran Hotel**, which is well appreciate for the quality of its services and stand out in the scenery. At the end of the street and of our walking tour you will find the familiar Plaza de la Soledad.



Calle Maceo





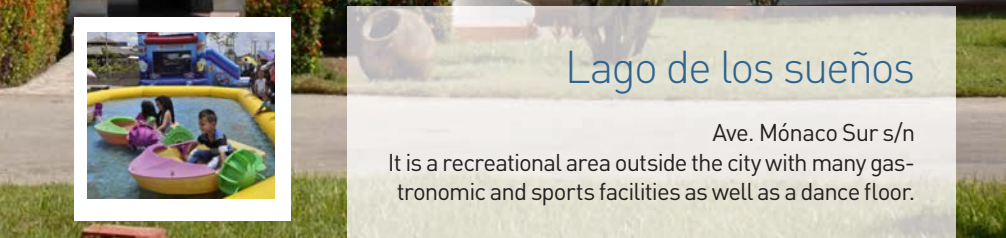
OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



Ballet de Camagüey

Carretera Central Este No. 331

Since its foundation in 1967 by Vincentina de la Torre, the Ballet de Camaguey has continued to grow and attract an ever-expanding international audience. In 1975, Fernando Alonso, founder of the Cuban School of Ballet, the Ballet Nacional de Cuba and a world-renowned teacher, was appointed as the company's director. Regina Sánchez Balaguer currently oversees the company. The Ballet de Camagüey's repertoire includes 250 different choreographies, 120 of which are modern or contemporary in style.



Lago de los sueños

Ave. Mónaco Sur s/n

It is a recreational area outside the city with many gastronomic and sports facilities as well as a dance floor.



Parque Infantil de Diversiones Camilo Cienfuegos

Carretera Santa Cruz del Sur

Founded in the mid-1970's, it is one of the local's favorite family-friendly attractions. Next to the park, a site that hosts cattle fairs was recently built.

SANTA LUCÍA: THE EMERALD-GREEN BEACH

Santa Lucía Beach, located some 110 km from the capital city of Camaguey, is the main tourist destination in the province. Blessed by nature, it comprises 22 kilometers from **Punta de Ganado** to **Los Cocos Beach**; the latter of which is particularly appreciated for its wide sand strip and privacy. Embraced by the Atlantic Ocean, the crystalline greenish color of its waters and its proximity to one of the largest coral reef formations in the world makes it different from other beaches on the north coast of Cuba.

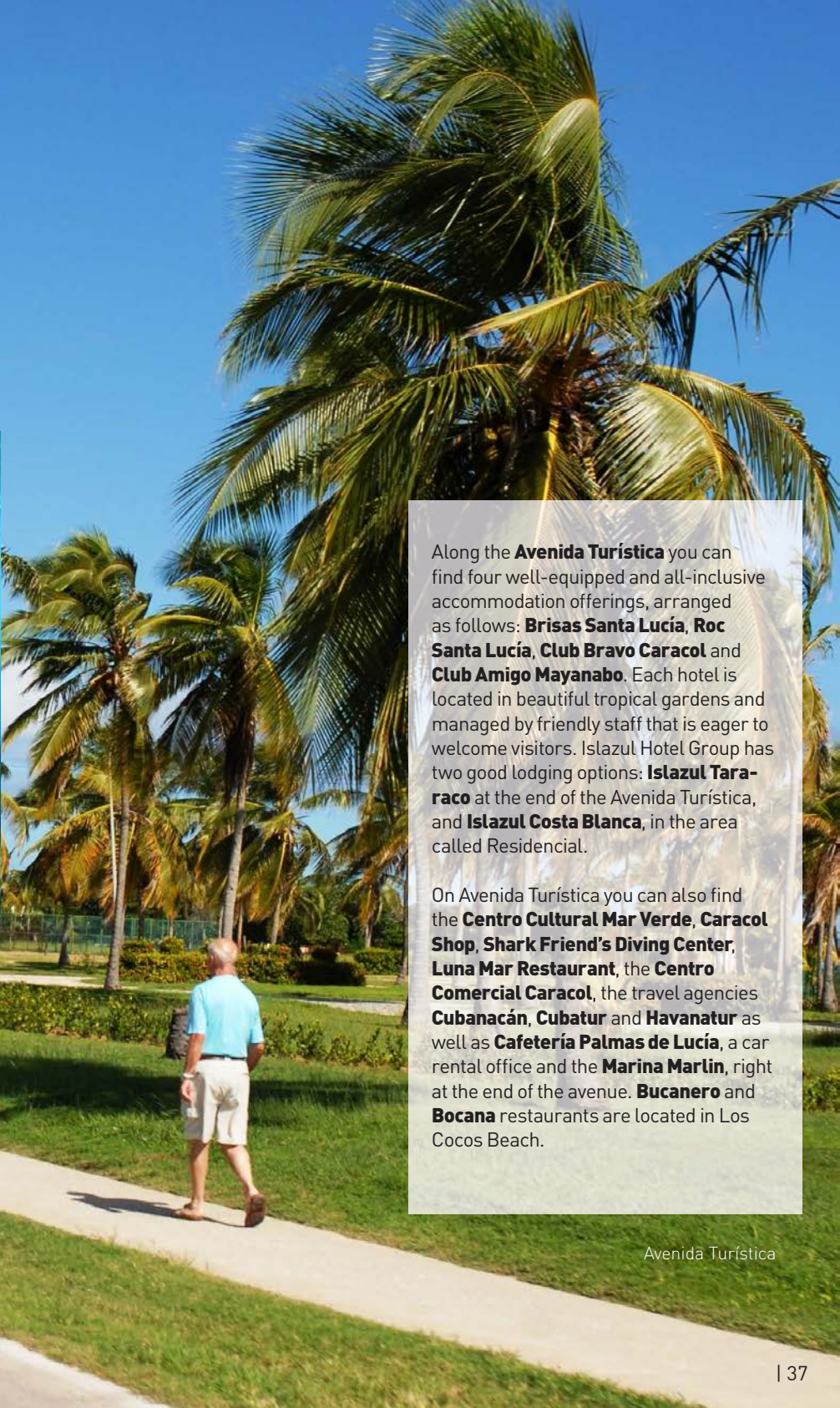






Its shallow waters are ideal for all types of nautical activities, including fishing or catamaran boating across the coral reef. Santa Lucía Beach is also known as one of the finest diving destinations in Cuba: there are about 35 dive sites where you can find 19th and 20th century shipwrecks as well as numerous marine species. The diving center's instructors present a unique and exhilarating show at the entrance of the Nuevitas Bay channel where they feed formidable bull sharks underwater with their bare hands.

The entrance of Nuevitas Bay is the space separating Santa Lucía Beach from one of the most interesting places in the surroundings: **Cayo Sabinal**.



Along the **Avenida Turística** you can find four well-equipped and all-inclusive accommodation offerings, arranged as follows: **Brisas Santa Lucía, Roc Santa Lucía, Club Bravo Caracol** and **Club Amigo Mayanabo**. Each hotel is located in beautiful tropical gardens and managed by friendly staff that is eager to welcome visitors. Islazul Hotel Group has two good lodging options: **Islazul Tararaco** at the end of the Avenida Turística, and **Islazul Costa Blanca**, in the area called Residencial.

On Avenida Turística you can also find the **Centro Cultural Mar Verde, Caracol Shop, Shark Friend's Diving Center, Luna Mar Restaurant**, the **Centro Comercial Caracol**, the travel agencies **Cubanacán, Cubatur** and **Havanatur** as well as **Cafetería Palmas de Lucía**, a car rental office and the **Marina Marlin**, right at the end of the avenue. **Bucanero** and **Bocana** restaurants are located in Los Cocos Beach.

Avenida Turística



Clubes de playa

There is no shortage of ways to enjoy the beach and sparkling ocean here. **Beach Clubs** offer all kinds of recreational options already included in your hotel package such as pedal boats, catamaran sailing, kayaking, sailing boats, surfboards and snorkeling equipment. You can also rent banana boats or take sailing, kite surfing or water skiing lessons for an additional fee not included in your hotel reservation price. As well as this, the hotel entertainment staff will keep you busy through a series of games, contests, performances and sport events such as volleyball, bingo, and live shows.

There is the chance to hire a bicycle or motorbike to explore the area by yourself. These are available at rental offices located in all hotels; you can also opt to ride a horse along the avenue to the nearby village or get on board a tourist "train" in which a knowledgeable guide will brief you on the characteristics of the area and its surroundings.

If you want to explore further afield from the hotels, the local travel agencies will provide you with a catalog of tours you wouldn't want to miss.



PLAYA BONITA



Sailing by catamaran, you can reach **Bonita Beach** as part of the excursion that runs along the coast of Santa Lucía Beach to the virtually virgin island of Cayo Sabinal. Do not miss the amazing change in watercolor from a delicate emerald-green near the beach, where the water depth does not exceed three meters, to an intense dark blue in the deeper bay channel. If you decide to snorkel in Cayo Sabinal waters, you will have the opportunity

to admire one of the most beautiful areas of the region. The natural splendor on that side of the island will make you feel like you are discovering a new and unexplored world. To refresh yourself afterwards, nothing is better than a hearty lunch at the restaurant including fresh seafood, vegetables, tropical fruits and an excellent Cuban coffee.

Visiting Santa Lucía Beach without seeing the coral reef would mean missing the region's most charming feature so do not waste the opportunity to take the **Coral Tour**. This excursion will allow you to go snorkeling in the coral reef, where there is abundant tropical flora and fauna to be seen in crystal-clear shallow waters, with great visibility and safety. The crew also offers a special detour to take photos and learn about a very peculiar marine species in its natural habitat: the starfish.

The Marlin nautical base staff also promises real fun for seasoned and enthusiastic amateur fisherman alike. Four simultaneous lines will allow you to catch barracudas, sawfish, Wahoo, snappers and other species while enjoying conversation with the experienced local seamen.

The Sunset is one of the most beautiful moments of the day. You have the opportunity to enjoying the stunning views with your friends and family over a delicious light meal aboard a boat from Los Cocos Beach. Do not miss this tour by making a reservation at a sales office upon your arrival.



IGUANA TOUR

If you like to admire wildlife in its natural environment, the **Iguana Tour** is for you. Become a modern corsair aboard the comfortable boat that sails from Santa Lucía Beach to the waters near **Fuerte San Hilario**, a fortress that was incapable of withstanding pirates' attacks during the colonial period. A snorkeling excursion and the chance to photograph dolphins in Nuevitas Bay at certain times of the year when they are visible from the boat are some of the highlights of this rich tour. Lunch is served amidst your beautiful surroundings: an island within the bay where you can spot the many Cuban rodents, birds, trees and, of course, iguanas, which are not afraid of gently posing for the cameras.



LANGOSTADA

It is not only on the open sea and shore that Santa Lucía Beach will amaze you. Inland you will also find plenty of pleasant things to see and do.

Try a delicious meal at the swashbuckling restaurant: the **Bucanero**, which offers an exquisite range of seafood products, especially lobster, accompanied by live music and a campfire.



COCODRILES

Impressive is the word that many people use to describe their visit to the **Crocodile Breeding Center**. Adrenaline levels increase as the size of these reptiles grows: from a few inches when they are newborns, to nearly four meters in adulthood. Go throughout the facility accompanied by expert guides and have a go at feeding them yourself standing in the hut in the middle of the dam. In addition to a detailed explanation of the characteristics of these imposing animals, you can take a boat trip down the Máximo River, explore a cave and enjoy a show of Afro-Cuban rituals followed by a typical Cuban countryside meal.



RANCHO KING

The Rancho King Tourist Farm, just half an hour from Santa Lucía Beach, is the ideal opportunity to get acquainted with Cuban countryside manners. Lovers of rural environments, specifically rodeo and horsemanship fans, will find this a perfect choice. You can not only watch skillful riders performing but also show your own talent in guiding the reins of a horse. You can also visit a farmer's house and take a closer look at our traditional way of life. The finale includes a meal made up of delicious roast pork accompanied by a Cuban musical show.





CAMAGÜEY **COLONIAL**

Do not miss the chance to visit Camagüey City, the provincial capital. The **Camagüey Colonial** Tour is a guided trip to the heart of the old village, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you can admire its colonial atmosphere full of narrow streets, churches and squares; the Casino Campestre, the largest city park in Cuba; the ancient San Juan de Dios and El Carmen squares; visit a renowned local artist's workshop-gallery; enter the Iglesia de La Merced; and have lunch in one of the most distinguished restaurants in town. In the afternoon you will have time for sightseeing on your own and enjoy a traditional Cuban music show.

FULL NATURE

The presence of extensive flat lands in Camagüey has led to the development of agriculture as the main branch of its economy since colonial times, with the farming of crops, primarily sugar cane, being the main economic activity in the region almost since the arrival of the first Europeans.

The prevalence of these large plains does not prevent the area from having significant natural highlights. In fact it is quite the opposite: the rivers flowing through these endless prairies have formed a spectacular panorama of canyons, creeks, caves and natural pools carved in limestone, with the **Cangilones del Río Máximo** the most outstanding. Here, nearly 300 meters of slabs form a unique landscape in which the water current flows placidly across the polished rock surface.

At the mouth of the Máximo River, north of Camagüey; you can find the **Río Máximo Wildlife Refuge**, surrounded by coastal and marine ecosystems that shelter a rich biological diversity. The area is a resting place for many species of migratory birds and constitutes the largest pink flamingo nesting center in the Caribbean. Species such as the manatee can still be seen in this area as well as one of the largest American crocodile populations in the country; it was given the status of Ramsar Site.

Located in **Sierra de Cubitas**, not so far from the capital city, to the north, we find the ecological reserve **Limonos-Tuabaquey**, an important wildlife and vegetation shelter, considered the largest

and best preserved site of the two forest areas existing in the province. Among the most important natural spots in the zone is the **Hoyo de Bonet**, an 80 meter-deep sinkhole containing an evergreen forest made of more than 400 botanical species; more than 15 per cent of which are endemic to the region. There are also more than 75 bird species and valuable cultural sites as the Pichardo cave pictographs, some of the best preserved examples of Indigenous art of the Caribbean, and the deepest underground lake system in Cuba.

Another significant place of natural beauty is **Sierra del Chorrillo**, which can be reached by going eastwards from Camagüey City, 24 km along the Main Road, and then turning south, to Najasa municipality. Within this protected area is **Rancho La Belén**, a tourist farm famous for its stallion horse display, bird-watching trails and horseback-riding pathways through **Santa Gertrudis Path**. Here you will find comfortable rooms as well as some other facilities.

Also in this area you can see the **fossil wood deposits**; the only of its kind in Cuba, made up of tree remains which have been petrified for more than 3 million years spread over one hectare

DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATION

Santa Lucía Beach

Brisas Santa Lucía ★★★★★

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
[All inclusive]. Tel: (53 32) 33 6317
director@brisas.stl.tur.cu
aloja@brisas.stl.tur.cu

Club Amigo Mayanabo ★★★★★

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
[All inclusive]. Tel: (53 32) 33 6184 - 85
gerente@mayanabo.stl.tur.cu
ventas@mayanabo.stl.tur.cu

Club Bravo Caracol ★★★★★

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
[All inclusive]. Tel: (53 32) 33 6302 - 03
gerente@caracol.stl.tur.cu
jcarpeta@caracol.stl.tur.cu

Roc Santa Lucía ★★★★★

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
Todo incluido. Tel: (53 32) 33 6109
ventas@clubst.stl.tur.cu

Complejo Costa Blanca ★

Ave. Maternillo Casa 1, Residencial,
Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
Tel: (53 32) 33 6373
josefina@hcblanca.stl.tur.cu

Hotel Tararaco ★

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
Tel: (53 32) 33 6310 / 33 6410
liliam@htararaco.stl.tur.cu

Hotel Club Santa Lucía

Hotel Club Santa Lucía

Hotel Brisas Santa Lucía

Hotel Brisas Santa Lucía

Camagüey City

Hotel E Camino de Hierro

Plaza de la Solidaridad 76

Tel: (53 32) 28 4264

ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E El Marqués

Cisneros 222 e/ Hermanos Agüero y Martí

Tel. (53 32) 24 4937 - 39

ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E La Avellaneda

República 226 e/ Ignacio Agramonte y Calle-
jón del Castellano

Tel. (53 32) 24 4959

ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E La Sevillana

Cisneros 211 e/ Hermanos Agüero y Martí

Tel. (53 32) 28 2816

ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E Santa María -El Colonial

República esq. Ignacio Agramonte

Tel. (53 32) 24 4944 - 47

ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Gran Hotel ★★ ★

Maceo 67, e/ General Gómez e Ignacio Agra-
monte

Tel: (53 32) 29 2093 - 94 / 29 2314

reserva@granhotel.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel Camagüey ★★

Carretera Central Este, Km 4 1/2

Tel: (53 32) 28 7267 - 70 / 28 7182

comercial@hotelcamaguey.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel Colón ★★

República 472, e/ San José y San Martín

Tel: (53 32) 25 1520

elena@hcolon.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel Plaza ★★

Van Horne 1, e/ República y Avellaneda

Tel: (53 32) 28 2413 / 28 2457 /

28 2435

salvador@hplaza.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel Puerto Príncipe ★★

Avenida de los Mártires 60, e/ Rotario y
Andrés Sánchez

Tel: (53 32) 28 2469 / 28 2490 /

w28 2403

director@hpp.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel Isla de Cuba ★

San Esteban 453, esq. Popular

Tel: (53 32) 29 1515 / 29 5704

arecio@hisla.cmg.tur.cu

WHERE TO LISTEN TO MUSIC?

Bar Casablanca

Humor and musical shows
Open daily / 9.00 p.m. – 2.00 a.m.
Callejón de los Milagros
(Ignacio Agramonte)

Bar Esperanza

Musical shows
Friday to Saturday / 10.00 p.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Ignacio Agramonte 448 e/ Lope Recio y
Charles A. Dana
Tel. (53 32) 29 8947

Bar Yesterday

Music of the 60s and 80s
Open daily / 10.00 p.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Friday to Sunday /
12.00pm – 2.00am
República 222 e/ Ignacio Agramonte y
Callejón del Castellano
Tel. (53 32) 24 4943

Casa de la Trova Patricio Ballagas

Cuban Traditional Music
Open daily / 3.00 p.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Cisneros 171 e/ Cristo y Martí
Tel: (53 32) 29 1357

Centro Cultural Caribe

Humor and musical shows
Tuesday to Saturday / 10.00 p.m. - 2.00 a.m.
Domingo: 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Javier de la Vega 18 esq. Freyre, Rpto.
Alturas del Casino
Tel: (53 32) 29 8112

Centro Cultural Fotograma

Musical shows
Open daily / 3.00 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.
Ignacio Agramonte No. 409
Tel. (53 32) 29 7440

Centro Cultural MarVerde

Musical shows
Open daily / 10.00 p.m.- 3.00 a.m.
Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía,
Nuevitas
Tel: (53 32) 33 6205

La Bigornia

Jazz Club
Saturday / 9.00 p.m. - 12.00 a.m.
República 394 esq. Correa
Tel: (53 32) 28 4784

Sala de Fiesta Copacabana

Recorded music and musical videos
Open daily / 10.00 p.m. – 2.00 a.m.
Carretera Central Este, e/ Padre
Felipe y María del Rosario
Tel: (53 32) 25 3858

Sport Bar

Bar with entertainment
Thursday to Sunday / 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 a.m.
República 471 e/ San José y
San Martín
Tel. (53 32) 28 2903

WHERE TO EAT?

Cuban and International **Cuisine**

1800

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
9.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Plaza San Juan de Dios
Tel: (53 32) 283619

Bucanero

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Playa Los Cocos,
Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
Tel: (53 32) 36 5226

Carmen

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Maceo 6
Tel. (53 32) 28 7902

Chronos

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.
Ave. Finlay No. 462
Tel. (53 32) 26 1144

Complejo Campana de Toledo Parador de los Tres Reyes

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Plaza de San Juan de Dios 16
Tel: (53 32) 28 6812

Cuba Like

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Carretera Central Este 500, Rpto. El Diamante
Tel: (53 32) 273435

El Ovejito

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Hermanos Agüero 280,
Plaza del Carmen
Tel: (53 32) 25 4706

El Paso

Open daily /
8.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Hermanos Agüero 261
e/ Carmen y Honda
(Plaza del Carmen)
Tel: (53 32) 25 4706

El Pollito

Restaurant, grill and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Avenida Finlay, km 5½
Tel: (53 32) 26 1384

Mesón del Príncipe

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
12.00 m.- 12.00 a.m.
Astilleros No. 7 e/ San Ramón y Luga-
reño
Tel: (53 32) 27 4210

Italian cuisine

Dinos Pizza Casino

Restaurant and home delivery
Open daily / 24 hours
Humbolt 3 e/ Avenida de la Libertad
y San Joaquín
Tel: (53 32) 29 0693

La Isabela

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Ignacio Agramonte 447,
e/ Maceo e Independencia
Tel: (53 32) 24 29250

Spanish Food

Bodegón Don Cayetano Callejón de la Soledad

Restaurant, cafeteria and bar
Open daily /
12.00 m. – 11.00 p.m.
Callejón de La Soledad 256 esq. República
Tel: (53 32) 29 1961

Complejo Recreativo El Tabla'o

Restaurant and bar
Tuesday to Sunday /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Lago de los Sueños
Tel. (53 32) 27 2079

Seafood

Dimar Casino

Restaurant, cafeteria and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Carretera Central Este e/ Puente de La Cari-
dad y Puente Caballero Rojo
Tel: (53 32) 25 6674

LunaMar

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Centro Comercial, Playa Santa Lucía,
Nuevitas
Tel: (53 32) 33 6146

Chinese Food

Impacto En Familia

Cafeteria including food and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m.– 10.00 p.m.
República 256 e/ Correa y San Esteban
Tel: (53 32) 28 6339

Fusion Food

Restaurante – Cava

Restaurant and cava
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Café Ciudad, Cisneros esq. Martí
Tel: (53 32) 25 8412

ART GALLERIES

Galería Centro Provincial de Artes Plásticas

República 289, e/ Finlay y San Esteban
Tel: (53 32) 29 1363

Estudio Jover

Ramón Pintó 109, e/ González Hurtado y Matías Varona, Plaza de San Juan de Dios
Tel: (53 32) 24 3646 / 29 2305

Taller - Galería Larios

Independencia 301 esq. General Gómez
Tel: (53 32) 24 1318

Taller - Galería Martha Jiménez

Hermanos Agüero 282 e/ Honda y Carmen
Tel: (53 32) 25 7559 / 24 1914

Estudio El Gato Azul

San Juan de Dios e/ Ángel y Plaza San Juan de Dios
Tel: (53 32) 28 5821 / 29 2305

Galería Iris

Ignacio Agramonte esq. Lope Recio
Tel: (53 32) 28 1400

Estudio Galería Pepe

San Juan de Dios 9 e/ Ángel y Plaza de San Juan de Dios
Tel: (53 32) 29 8592

Galería Deltoro

Hermanos Agüero 266 e/ Honda y Carmen
Tel: (53) 53 652999

Galería Osmar Yero

Hermanos Agüero 253-A e/ Honda y Carmen
Tel: (53) 54 772324

Estudio Taller Yanel

San Juan de Dios 11-A e/ Ángel y Plaza de San Juan de Dios
Tel: (53) 53 527532

Estudio Galería ERosales

San Juan de Dios 24-A
Tel: (53 32) 24 4662 e/ Ángel y Plaza de San Juan de Dios

Estudio Galería Magdiel

San Juan de Dios 26B e/ Ángel y Plaza de San Juan de Dios
Tel: (53 32) 28 6842 / 29 3454

Galería-Taller Larios

Independencia 301, esq. General Gómez
Tel: (53 32) 24 1318

MALLS AND STORES

Centro Comercial Calle Cuba

Carretera Central Oeste esq. Calle Cuba,
Rpto. La Caridad
Tel: (53 32) 29 3280

Centro Comercial Santa Lucía

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía,
Nuevitas
Tel: (53 32) 33 6204

El Encanto

Department Store
Maceo 54 esq. General Gómez
Tel: (53 32) 24 1919

Gran Hotel

Sports products and equipments
Maceo 69, e/ Ignacio Agramonte y
General Gómez
Tel: (53 32) 28 2574

Aeropuerto Internacional Ignacio Agramonte

Duty Free
Ave. Finlay, Km 7 1/2
Tel: (53 32) 26 6846

Futurama Modas

Boutique
Maceo 55, e/ Ignacio Agramonte y
General Gómez
Tel: (53 32) 25 3055

SPORT CENTERS

Estadio Cándido González

Baseball Park
Cornelio Porro y Javier de la Vega
Tel: (53 32) 29 8256

Sala Polivalente Rafael Fortún Chacón

(Arena)
Cornelio Porro, Rpto. Garrido
Tel: (53 32) 29 4793 / 29 8670

Ocio Club

Recreational Complex
Swimming pool, billiard, electronic
games, bowling
República 277 e/ San Esteban y
Callejón Finlay
Tel: (53 32) 28 7384



MUSEUMS

Museo Casa Natal de

Ignacio Agramonte

Ave. Ignacio Agramonte 459

Tel: (53 32) 29 7116

Museo Provincial Ignacio Agramonte

Avenida de los Mártires 2, e/ Rotario e

Ignacio Sánchez

Tel: (53 32) 28 2425 / 28 8520

Museo Quinta Simoni

General Gómez 608, Plaza de

La Habana

Tel: (53 32) 29 1534

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Catedral Metropolitana

Catholic Church
Independencia 54 e/ Martí y Luaces
Tel: (53 32) 29 4965

Nuestra Señora de la Caridad

Catholic Church
Ave. de la Libertad y Sociedad Patriótica
Tel: (53 32) 29 5208

Nuestra Señora de la Merced

Catholic Church
Charles A. Dana 4
Tel: (53 32) 29 2740

Nuestra Señora de la Soledad

Catholic Church
República 254 e/ Callejón de la Soledad e
Ignacio Agramonte
Tel: (53 32) 29 2392

Nuestra Señora del Carmen

Catholic Church
Plaza del Carmen

Primera Iglesia Bautista

Evangelical Church
Cisneros 53 e/ Hermanos Agüero y Martí
Tel: (53 32) 29 4359

Sagrado Corazón de Jesús

Catholic Church
Plaza José Martí

San Juan de Dios

Catholic Church
Plaza de San Juan de Dios

Santo Cristo del Buen Viaje

Catholic Church
Plaza del Cristo
Tel: (53 32) 29 5565

Sinagoga Tefereth Israel

Hebrew Community
Andrés Sánchez 365 e/ Capdevila y Joaquín de Agüero, Rpto. La Vigía



THEATERS AND MOVIES

Teatro Principal

Padre Valencia 64, e/ Tatán Méndez y
Lugareño
Tel: (53 32) 29 3048 / 29 2472

Multicine Casablanca

Ignacio Agramonte 424
Tel: (53 32) 29 2244

Complejo Audiovisual Nuevo Mundo

Ignacio Agramonte 422
Tel: (53 32) 25 7996 / 25 8189

El Circuito (Sala 3D)

Ignacio Agramonte 410
Tel: (53 32) 256651

LIBRARIES

Julio Antonio Mella

General Library
Cisneros 177 e/ Martí y Cristo
Tel: (53 32) 29 3793

BOOKSTORES

Antonio Suárez

Maceo 7 e/ General Gómez y Plaza
Maceo
Tel: (53 32) 29 3740

Librería Ateneo Viet-Nam

República 416 e/ San Martín y Correa
Tel: (53 32) 29 2187

Mariana Grajales

República 300 e/ San Esteban y
Callejón de Magdalena
Tel: (53 32) 29 2390

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

Car Rental

CUBACAR and HAVANAUTOS

These two brands belong to Transtur Business Group and have a wide range of car rental services along the province. They offer direct rental, long-term rental, luxury cars and car rental through travel agencies and tour operators.

Car Rental Offices

TRANSTUR

Aeropuerto Internacional Ignacio

Agramonte

Tel: (53 32) 28 7067

Casino Campestre

Tel: (53 32) 29 7472

Agencia Central CUBACAR

Tel: (53 32) 36 5216

Hotel Club Santa Lucía

Tel: (53 32) 33 6109

Oficina Jayamá

Tel: (53 32) 27 2439

Martí y Carretera

Tel: (53 32) 25 7538

Hotel Brisas

Tel: (53 32) 33 6368

REX

Aeropuerto Internacional Ignacio

Agramonte

Tel: (53 32) 26 2444

Hotel Camagüey

Céspedes esq. Carretera Central

Tel: (53 32) 27 2744

VÍA

Aeropuerto Internacional Ignacio

Agramonte

Tel: (53 32) 24 1806

Carretera Central y Javier de la Vega

Tel: (53 32) 29 2024

Motorbike rental

Horario: 9.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.

Oficina Jayamá

Hotel Brisas Santa Lucía

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía,

Nuevitas

Hotel Club Amigo Mayanabo

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía,
Nuevitas

Hotel Club Bravo Caracol

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía,
Nuevitas

Hotel Roc Santa Lucía

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía,
Nuevitas

Taxis

Cubataxi

Ave. de los Mártires 120, Rpto. La Vigía

Tel: (53 32) 28 1247

Playa Santa Lucía

Tel: (53 32) 33 6196

Getting around

Airplane tickets

Oficina de Cubana de Aviación

República esq. Correa

Tel: (53 32) 29 1338 / 29 2156

Trenes

Train tickets

Booking office

Francisquito 301 e/ Avellaneda y

Rosario

Tel: (53 32) 25 4730 / 28 4766

Bus Tickets

Viazul

Carretera Central Este y Perú, Rpto. El
Retiro

Tel: (53 32) 27 0396

Conectando Cuba

At Cubanacán Travel Agency Sales
Bureaus.

INFORMATION

IF YOU WANT TO ENJOY EXCURSIONS AND OTHER TOURIST OFFERS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT THE BUREAUS LOCATED IN HOTELS.

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Cubatur

Ave. Turística, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas

Tel: (53 32) 33 6291

rolando@cubatur.stl.tur.cu

- **Representación en Camagüey**
Ignacio Agramonte No. 421 e/ Maceo e Independencia, Camagüey

Tel: (53 32) 25 4785

paula@cubatur.stl.tur.cu

Ecotur

Centro Turístico El Bambú, República 295

Tel: (53 32) 24 4957 / 24 3693

comercial@cmg.ecotur.tur.cu

- **Representación en Santa Lucía**

Hotel Club Santa Lucía

Tel: (53 32) 33 6655

Havanatur

República No.271 e/ San Esteban y Finlay

Tel: (53 32) 29 3009 / 28 7056

luisvp@havanatur.cu

- **Representación en Santa Lucía**

Avenida Turística, Santa Lucía, Nuevitas, Camagüey.

Tel: (53 32) 36 5332

santalucia@havanatur.cu

Paradiso

(Cultural Tourism)

Ignacio Agramonte 413, e/ Maceo e Independencia, Camagüey

Tel: (53 32) 28 6059

paradscm@artex.cu

Gaviota Tour

Tienda Casa Casildo, Maceo No. 56

Tel: (53 32) 25 3570

Viajes Cubanacán

Avenida Turística, Santa Lucía, Nuevitas, Camagüey.

Tel: (53 32) 33 6449 / 33 6406

tuexcursionconmigo@avc.cmg.tur.cu

- **Representación en Camagüey**
Complejo Turístico El Bambú, República

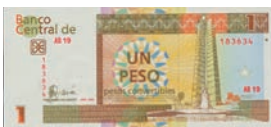
Tel: (53 32) 29 7374

cord.cmg@avc.hog.tur.cu



CUBAN CURRENCY

In Cuba, the official currency is the Cuban Peso (CUP). However, the currency system used in almost all of the country's tourist sites is the Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC). Currency exchange can be done in airports, hotels, banks and **Currency Exchange Offices (CADECA, S.A.)**.



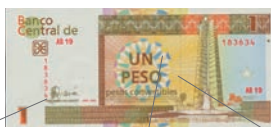
Cuban Convertible Pesos circulate with the following values:

Bills of 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 pesos CUC

- Coins of different values

The national currency bills show the following values:

Billetes de 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 pesos MN



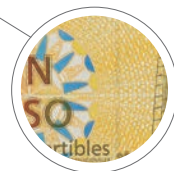
For security reasons, bank notes include:



1. Relief printing. The main elements in the front can be felt while touched.



2. Watermark. Visible against the light, it shows the bill's value and José Martí's silhouette



3. Security thread only visible against the light.

GETTING CASH

Financial transactions are possible in Euros, Canadian Dollars, British Pounds and Swiss Francs. Travel checks are welcome as well as VISA, MASTERCARD, TRANSCARD, CABAL and AMIGO TRAVEL if they have not been issued by US Banks or their overseas offices. Additionally, visitors can pay in Euros in: Varadero, Cayo Largo, Cayo Coco, Santa Lucía Beach, Covarrubias Beach and in Holguín beaches (Guardalavaca, Don Lino, Esmeralda and Pesquero).



Banco Financiero Internacional

Independencia 221 e/ Martí y Hermanos Agüero
Tel. (53 32) 29 4846 / 29 3343

Western Union

Maceo 54 esq. General Gómez (Tienda El Encanto, 2do. Piso)
Tel. (53 32) 28 7264
Servicentro Libertad, Carretera Central y Vía Blanca
Tel. (53 32) 29 4730

CADECA (Casas de cambio)

Dirección Provincial de Camagüey

República 384 e/ San Esteban y Correa
Tel. (53 32) 29 5220

Mercado La Caridad

Carretera Central Este, esq. Calle Cuba
Tel. (53 32) 28 6840

Maceo

Maceo 10 e/ General Gómez y Plaza Maceo
Tel. (53 32) 24 3237

Sucursal Aeropuerto Internacional

Ignacio Agramonte
Ave. Finlay km. 71/2
Tel. (53 32) 24 4160

Automatic Cashiers/ ATM

Ave. de la Libertad 33, La Caridad
Ave. de los Mártires 27, La Vigía
Ave. Finlay, Edificio 12 plantas
Ave. Principal, Rpto. Lenin
Calle A s/n, Julio Antonio Mella
Calle A s/n, esq. 16, Previsora Cisneros No. 224
Plaza de los Trabajadores
República 261
República 294
República 577



CULTURAL EVENTS

Fiesta de Barro y Fuego

Camagüey artisans demonstrate their skills in working with a material that has defined the character and shape of the city since the 16th Century: Clay. This event takes place every two years in the central Plaza de los Trabajadores.

Fiesta del Tinajón

It was first held in November, 2007. It brings together all cultural expressions and is sponsored by the famous Cuban musician Adalberto Álvarez.

Salón Provincial de Artes Plásticas Fidelio Ponce

This event, celebrated every two years, promotes the province's visual arts. It supports the exchange of experiences among local creators by means of multiple exhibitions organized by the Provincial Visual Arts Council. Some provincial and municipal cultural institutions award prizes to the best works. The event also includes the Theoretical and Critical Workshop of the Visual Arts.

San Juan Camagüeyano

This traditional festivity originated in the 18th Century and is considered the most popular in the region. The celebration starts each June 24 and runs for a week with performances of dancing and colorful parades performed by folk music bands from the different neighborhoods of the city which evoke the festival's African roots.

Semana de la Cultura

It takes place in the first week of February to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the provincial capital. It is one of the most outstanding cultural events in Camagüey.

Taller Nacional de la Crítica Cinematográfica

The most outstanding cinema critics of the country examine both Cuban and International Contemporary Cinema through conferences, workshops, seminars and the presentation of an extensive selection of films across different countries and genres.

Festival Nacional de Teatro

The most prestigious theater groups on the island come to compete and perform excellent plays on this stage every two years to the delight of Camagüey audiences.

Festival de la Carcoma

One of the most attractive events held in the city: expert artisans exhibit their wood pieces and methods. Competitions displaying manufacturing skills, educational events and exhibitions make up this special festival that alternates every two years with the Fiesta de Barro y Fuego.

Video Arte

A space aimed at attracting to Camagüey the most up-to-date trends of abstract contemporary production both on the island and abroad.

Festival Santa Lucía

A great party in which Cuban cultural traditions is fully displayed through a number of sailing, gastronomic and sport activities; it aims to foster friendship between participants and highlight the main tourist attractions at Santa Lucía Beach.

Festival Náutico Santa Lucía

A competitive event held twice a year, in summer and winter, which is ideal for water sports lovers. A marine parade, contests, fashion shows, sand figure-modeling and a fabulous closing party are some of the great features of this exciting festival.

HEALTH CARE

Clínica Internacional Santa Lucía
Medical, dental, nursing and pharmaceutical services. 24 hours.
Residencial 14, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
Tel: (53 32) 33 6370

Servicios Médicos Cubanos
Medical, dental, nursing and pharmaceutical services; sales of programs at medical institutions.
Ignacio Agramonte 449
Tel: (53 32) 25 1952

Tienda de efectos médicos
Store selling medical supplies
Maceo 8 e/ General Gómez y Plaza Maceo
Tel: (53 32) 28 0896

Clínica Estomatológica "Ismael Clark"
Calle 4ta. s/n e/ Carretera Central y Río
Tel: (53 32) 24 1662



INFOTUR SERVICES

INFOTUR provides all the most updated tourist information on Cuba through a network of information centers spread all across the country.

Printed and digital materials are available to help you to choose the best tourist offerings.

BOOKING

Accommodation, tickets and tours.

ON SALE

Tour guides, maps, souvenirs, phone cards are for sale.

Visit us, get informed

INFOTUR OFFICES CAMAGÜEY

Infotur Aeropuerto Camagüey
Oficina 4, Zona 4
Aeropuerto Internacional Ignacio Agramonte
Ave. Finlay Km. 7^{1/2}
Tel: (53 32) 265807

Infotur Ciudad
Ave. Ignacio Agramonte 426 e/
República y Lope Recio
Tel: (53 32) 25 6794



PINAR DEL RÍO

www.pinardelrio.travel
Hotel Vueltabajo. Martí # 103
 esq. Rafael Morales, Pinar del Río.
 Tel.: (53 48) 72 8616.
Viñales. Calle Salvador Cisneros.
 Viñales. Tel.: (53 48) 796263
Las Barrigonas. km.120 Autopista Nacional,
 Consolación del Sur.
 Tel.: (53 48) 77 8027.

LA HABANA

www.lahabana.travel
Habana Vieja.
 - Obispo # 524 e/ Bernaza y Villagas.
 Tel.: (53) 7 866 3333.
 - Obispo esq. San Ignacio.
 Tel.: (53) 7 863 6884.
 Terminal de Cruceros
Plaza. Hotel Habana Libre, Vedado
 Tel.: (53) 7 832 9288.
Playa. Ave. 5ta y 112, Miramar.
 Tel.: (53) 7 204 7036.
Playas del Este.
 -Ave 5ta e/ 468 y 470, Guanabo.
 Tel.: (53) 7 796 6868.
 -Ave. Las Terrazas y calle 10, Santa María.
 Tel.: (53) 7 796 1111
Aeropuerto Internacional "Jose Martí".
 Tel.: (53) 7 642 6101. Terminal 2 y 3.
Expocuba. Pabellón de Turismo
 Tel.: (53) 7 697 4396 / 697 4397

MATANZAS

www.varadero.travel
Varadero.
 -Ave. 1ra y calle 13.
 Tel.: (53 45) 66 2961/ 66 2966.
Plaza América.
Aeropuerto Internacional "Juan G. Gómez".
 Tel.: (53 45) 24 7015 ext. 2564
Matanzas. Milanés esq. Sta Teresa
 Tel.: (53 45) 25 3162
Península de Zapata. Boca de Guamá

CIENFUEGOS

www.cienfuegos.travel
Delegación del MINTUR.
 Calle 37 / 14 y 16,
 Tel.: (53 43) 55 1631 ext. 106
Buró San Carlos. Ave 56 entre 33 y 31
 Tel.: (53 43) 51 4653
Portales de la Casa del Fundador.
 Calle 29 Esquina Ave. 54
Aeropuerto Internacional "Jaime González".
 Carretera a Caonao Km 3.

Sancti Spiritus

www.trinidaddecuba.travel
Trinidad. Gustavo Izquierdo (Gloria), e/ Piro
 Ginart (Boca) y Simón Bolívar (Desengaño).
 Tel.: (53 41) 99 82 58.

VILLA CLARA

www.villaclara.travel
Santa Clara. Calle Cuba #66
 /Candelaria y San Cristóbal.
 Tel.: (53 42) 20 1352 / 22 7557
**Aeropuerto Internacional "Abel
 Santamaría".**
 Carretera a Maleza km 11 Sta Clara.
 Llegada Tel.: (53 42) 21 0386
 Salida Tel.: (53 42) 21 0361

CIEGO DE ÁVILA

www.jardinesdelrey.travel
Ciego. Honorato del Castillo,
 Edificio 12 Plantas
 Tel.: (53 33) 20 9109.
Centro Comercial "La Gaviota".
 Cayo Coco, Jardines del Rey.
 Tel.: (53 33) 30 1001
**Aeropuerto Internacional "Jardines
 del Rey".** Cayo Coco.
 Tel.: (53 33) 30 9109

CAMAGÜEY

www.camaguey.travel
Bulevar. Ignacio Agramonte, Galería
 e/ los cines Encanto y Casa Blanca
 Tel.: (53 32) 25 6794
**Aeropuerto Internacional "Ignacio
 Agramonte".**
 Ave. Finlay Km 7 1/2.
 Tel.: (53 32) 26 5807 / 26 5805

LAS TUNAS

www.tunas.travel
Parque Vicente García.
 Francisco Varona 298
 Tel.: (53 31) 37 2717/ 37 1512
Ranchón La Rotonda.
 Circunvalación Sur. Salida a Holguín.
 Tel.: (53 31) 37 4600

HOLGUÍN

www.holguin.travel
Pico Cristal. Calle Libertad.
 Esq. Martí 2da Planta. Edificio Pico Cristal.
 Tel.: (53 24) 42 5013.
Guardalavaca. Lobby de la Sección Bungalow
 del Hotel Club Amigo Atlántico.
Aeropuerto Internacional "Frank País".
 Carretera Central Vía Bayamo Km.11 1/2.
 Tel.: (53 24) 47 2026

GRANMA

www.granma.travel
Bayamo. Plaza del Hímnico,
 e/ José Joaquín Palma y Padre Batista.
 Tel.: (53 23) 423468
Manzanillo. Calle Maceo, # 75
 e/ Merchán y José Miguel Gómez,
 Teléfono: (53) 23 574412
Aeropuerto Internacional "Sierra Maestra".
 Tel.: (53 23) 57 4434

SANTIAGO DE CUBA

www.santiagodecuba.travel
Parque Céspedes.
 Aguilera esq. Felix Peña
 (Santo Tomás). No. 562
 Tel.: (53 22) 68 6068.
Aeropuerto Internacional "Antonio Maceo".
 Tel.: (53 22) 69 2099/69 8864.

GUANTÁNAMO

www.baracoa.travel
Calle Calixto García
 e/ Flor Crombet y Emilio Giró,
 Tel.: (53 21) 35 1993
Baracoa. Calle Maceo #129 A,
 entre Frank País y Maraví
 Tel.: (53 21) 64 1781 / 82

CUBA, AN UNIQUE DESTINATION TO DISCOVER COME AND LIVE THE EXPERIENCE



www.cubatransel.cu / #CubaTravel

Mintur
MINISTERIO DE TURISMO, CUBA

