

CORAZÓN CUBA

LEARN SPANISH, CULTURE & VOLUNTEER



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please take some time to read information on our website – including Useful Information;

<https://corazoncuba.com/useful-info/>

However, we include some answers to Frequently Asked Questions below;

Q. Isn't Cuba a dangerous country?

Actually, Cuba has the lowest crime rate in the Western Hemisphere! You will be surprised by the visible police presence in Cuba. They are there specifically to protect and help tourists.

Foreign currency and/or convertible pesos (CUC) are vital to their economy, they bend over backwards to make sure everyone has a safe and pleasant stay.

Although, be aware of your belongings in cities like Havana and Santiago de Cuba just like in every capital city.

Q. Do they have Internet & E-mail access in Cuba?

It is rare for ordinary Cubans to have internet access. Almost all hotels have at least 1 or 2 computers to go on the internet for foreigners. In the touristic areas there also are internet "cafés" from Etecsa the Cuban telephone/internet provider. Forget about uploading pictures because the Cuban internet is very slow, about 56 Kbs if you are lucky. Also using USB sticks is 99% not possible.

Q. The Caribbean is so expensive ... how much will it cost?

First of all, in comparison with other Caribbean islands Cuba isn't expensive. You can not compare Cuba with the mainland of any country in specific not with prices in Asia.

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For the price of a hotel room on most other islands in the caribbean, all of your daily expenses will be covered in Cuba. Your airfare will be your most expensive single item.

I find that CUC 75 - 100 is typically more than enough for a casa, food, transportation and "incidentals".

Low budget travelers can do with 50 cuc per day.

Q. What is the best time to go to Cuba, and what is the cheapest period?

March, April October and November are the months with the nicest weather and less rain.

The high season in Cuba is July / August

Peak Season is December / January/ February

Hurricane season is from June 1 till November 30

Q. Do I need a Visa and a passport?

Yes and yes!

Cuba will give you a visa / tourist card, however, you must acquire the visa before you arrive. You can accomplish this by contacting the nearest Cuban Embassy or Consulate in your country, except for citizens of the USA, whom will be issued a visa onboard their flights to Cuba. For assistance email info@jakeracom

Passports Ensure that your passport has at least 6 months left till it expires, calculated from your departure date ...

Q. Yikes!! I don't speak Spanish... !!!

Some Spanish is a definite plus. I suggest you learn a few simple phrases.

However, many Cubans speak English and many of the people we will be in contact with speak English very well also. Cubans are very patient, don't worry, they will wait for you to find the right word.

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Q. What about electricity?

Cuba has 110 volt, some more luxury hotels also 220.

Q. What about money? and can I use my credit card?

Sure ... as long as it's not drawn on an American bank. Unfortunately, it's part of the US embargo restrictions on Cuba. No US travelers cheques either. Americans have to carry cash. For more details , see 'Preparing for your Trip'.

Q. I hear many prescription drugs are not available in Cuba ... what if I get sick?

Cuban doctors are known throughout Latin America as the best trained doctors in the region. However, they do lack many of the bare necessities that we expect. "Tourist Pharmacies" DO stock many prescription drugs. Nevertheless, I suggest bringing with you antibiotics, aspirin, band-aids, anything you may need for personal hygiene, etc. just in case. Besides, they make great gifts for the Cubans when you leave.

Q. Can I travel on my own or do I have to make a tour reservation?

You can travel through Cuba on your own, however, sometimes it can be a bit of an adventure but that's why we travel for right? ;).

You can rent a car, grab a by bus, train, domestic flight, arrange a transfer or taxi on location, or just hitch hike.

Q. I'm a woman traveling alone. Is Cuba a safe place to travel for me?

Yes! No problem ... but don't fall in love :) And don't go down dark streets at night, the same streets you wouldn't go in in your own hometown, and just be careful while hitch hiking which should be considered as a last resort. In the bigger cities like Havana take a taxi when you go out at night – they are safe and reliable but remember to ask for the fare before you set off! Smaller towns like Trinidad or Vinales are safe at night time for female travelers, you can just walk home.

Use you female instinct!

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Q. Where can I have a cheap and decent dinner?

The best dinners you will have at the Casa Particular you are staying or at a Paladar – for a list see ‘What to Do’.

Q. What's the best way to travel around Cuba?

Rent a car, take the Viazul Bus, and by domestic flight. You can negotiate a rate with your local taxi driver!

Q. Can my girlfriend / boyfriend / family and friends visit?

Of course.

Q. Will I get much time for myself?

Yes, plenty. Enjoy!