Travel To Cuba, A Whole-Year Paradise

by Thais Guillen Otero

There is something about the Caribbean: the weather, the beaches, the food, the people... something always makes us return for more. And, certainly, we deserve to go to the perfect place, in the perfect way, and at the perfect time.



Choose Espiritu Travel, we are ready to show you why traveling to Cuba will change your life.

Travel to Cuba: Uncovering Hearths

More than five hundred years of history, political movements, music, and traditions have turned Cuba into a sui generis place. But only if you look closely...Cuba is not the typical Caribbean Island: there is much more than sunshine, rum, and cigars. From the heterogeneity and beauty of Havana to the remarkable greens and blues of Baracoa, it is an opportunity to discover new friends, renovate your heart, and expand your mind.

Do you think it is for you? Then, contact Espiritu Travel's services and start planning your trip to the major island of The Antilles. Our people-to-people tours with amazing guides and lovely hosts are an immersion into the Real Cuba.

But...how to choose the best period to visit the island? Follow this unique guide through Cuba's notable moments of the year.

Four Imagined Seasons

It is not a metaphor. **Cuba is a never-ending summer.** The island's temperatures oscillate from 22 °C to 32 °C for 365 days. Meteorologists identify only two seasons: dry (from November to April) when the temperature descends a little and there is less probability of being surprised by a tropical shower; wet (from May to October), the period of warmth and moisture.

That's what specialists say... however, they ignore the locals' joyful spirit. Come with us and experience our four imagined seasons like an authentic Cuban.

Cuba's Spring: A Simple Delight

May arrives and many countries start breathing spring's renaissance. Cuba, the evergreen island, expects anxiously the rainfalls that will trigger the sweetest mangoes and hugest avocados. Spring rain on the island can last from a few minutes to hours before the sun starts shining again. **Those refreshing drops are the fee to pay for a rainbow picture.**



Traveling to Cuba in spring is a delight. There are not many visitors, and you receive personalized attention at every establishment. *Paladares* release their new seasonal salad and fruity adventures. It is not only the best weather for hiking and nature walks, but also a particular occasion to find artistic exhibitions in every corner of Havana. Festivals like *Havana Biennial* and *Dances in Motion* transform the old city into a colorful and lively collage.

Travel to Cuba in the spring and...

- Grab a wonderful mojito at the top of the Old Square, while kids play after school.
- Visit the Callejón de Hamel, where visual symbols, dances, and sounds from different Afro-Cuban religions combine in a polychrome open-air gallery.
- Listen to some of the best musicians of Cuba at the Basilica Concert Hall, in the ancient San Francis Monastery.
- Breathe the season surrounded by hundreds of autochthonous orchids at Soroa Orchids' Park in Pinar del Rio.
- Visit Las Terrazas Community, an example of ecotourism and sustainable development in Cuba. The area is famous for its coffee and bird-watching opportunities.
- Finish the afternoon with your loved ones at the Malecon.

Taking our <u>Hello Cuba</u> tour in spring is the perfect decision to appreciate our culture and nature.

Summer Is Cuba

Cubans love summer and their natural happiness glows especially at that time of the year. Most people are on vacation, and you can feel it: There are many cultural activities, families exploring Havana, and big lines at the Ice Cream Cathedral (Coppelia)... Summer means holidays and salsa and beaches. Mercury increases to 32 °C and even 38 °C in the easternmost regions of the country. You can't help ordering frappe lemonades, local beers, mojitos, piña coladas, and daiquiris everywhere you go.

Whereas some prefer treasuring the finest spots in Varadero or Cayo Coco, which offer some of the best white sand beaches in the world, **Espiritu Travel has a different proposal:**

Travel to Cuba in summer and ...

- Dive into Maria La Gorda's crystal waters and discover the **well-conserved coral barrier and the marine turtle populations** blossoming in this wonderful site of the Peninsula de Guanahacabibes, Pinar del Río.
- Get immersed in the inspirational landscape of Viñales Valley: enjoy a delicious typical dinner between mogotes (rocky outcrops) and caves.
- Take a stroll within one of the most famous scenarios of the conflict between the United States and Cuba: the renowned Bay of Pigs; and afterward, nothing like a nature walk in the Ciénaga de Zapata, the Caribbean's largest wetland ecosystem.
- And...Only if you dare, take a deep breath and submerge yourself within the beauties of Santiago de Cuba with our Santiago and Eastern Cuba tour. Once the 5th village founded by the Spaniards in Cuba, today is an amazing interlaced of French, African, Spanish, and aboriginal roots. There is sonority in the language, the architecture and the steps of every woman. Despite how hot Santiago becomes in summer, there isn't a better place to be. Take some dancing lessons and show your salsa and conga moves during the vibrant Carnival and the famous Fiesta del Fuego (Fire Fest) held in July.

Travel to Cuba in summer and hold the sensuality of its Caribbean ancestry.

Autumn's Light: Havana

From August to October begins the real hurricane season in Cuba and autumn combines the summer heat with new winds and moisture. While there is a chance of encountering those, there is no need to be concerned. Cuba's Early Alert System is well structured to minimize the impact on tourism, population, and goods. In the improbable case that your getaway coincides with the arrival of a hurricane, you will be well protected against its strength and feel like never before the warmth of Cuban people.

Meanwhile, the sky continues to be blue and the water clear, like in the best of the summer. Many visitors arrive on the island every day. Why? Because traveling to Cuba in autumn is the perfect opportunity to uncover Havana.



Heterogeneous and magical, the old city founded in November of 1519 is a unique experience for every person: colorful clothes dangling from the balconies, drums, and salsa at each door, fortresses, galleries and museums beautifully preserved, and dozens of new bars and *paladares*.

Travel to Cuba in autumn and ...

- Choose our <u>Long weekend in Havana</u> and discover the oldest neighborhoods with one of our professional guides: the authentic Jesus Maria, the neoclassical Cerro, and the picturesque boulevard of San Rafael.
- Learn about Havana's bodegas de alimentos, local markets and classical squares.
- Let yourself go in antique American Cars, while the tropical breeze caresses your face, and a sympathetic driver explains everything about customs and places.
- And, next November be prepared for an unprecedented event: the city
 dresses with the most genuine outfits to celebrate her 500th birthday.
 Concerts, street performances, and the Habaneras Festival (romantic songs
 dedicated to Havana) will enrich the World Heritage's majesty.

Travel to Cuba this autumn with Espiritu Travel and follow the ancient tradition of November 16th: **Turn around our foundational tree -the ceiba- at the Arms Square and wish for an unforgettable vacation.** You will definitely have it!

Winter Fantasy In Cuba

Ah, the winter fantasy at the pearl of the Antilles, where temperatures of 15°C made locals tremble and bring out their jackets from the closets! It is warm but not so much, it is humid but pleasant...you would not resist. It is time to prepare the luggage and take the next *Explore Cuba* tour with Espiritu Travel.

Travel to Cuba in winter and ...

- Encounter Cienfuegos. The romantic and graceful city has a marked French influence. This jewel in the Caribbean's crown is the best place for some relaxing cocktails.
- Open yourself to **Trinidad, the colonial "postcard" village.** Founded in 1514, her glories, blood history, and affections are related by every cobblestone and every remain of the Valle the Los Ingenios (The Valley of the Sugar Mills).
- Visit Ernesto Che Guevara's Memorial in Santa Clara. Learn about **Cuba's** revolutionary movement in that city of narrow streets and wonderful musicians.
- And then, return to Havana and participate in the unique and famous Latin-American International Movies Festival.

What about Christmas? A trip to Cuba in winter is a very different way to enjoy family time. Cubans feel the season and decorate the roads with new colors. There are reunions, parties, and *bembés* (Afro-uban religious celebrations): locals prepare to receive the New Year together with optimism and love. Without a single doubt, **it is a wonderful location to celebrate Christmas.**

Each year the Cathedral of Havana decorates its baroque façade to represent Jesus's birth. People gather their loved ones for a simple and delicious dinner, a tradition you will experience in the *casas particulares* chosen for you: homemade desserts, typical main dishes, Havana Club rum, and lots of happiness will dress your table in "Nochebuena" (Christmas's Eve).

Travel to Cuba at Christmas and be enchanted by the sweetness of its people.

Let's go further

Book the *New Year's Eve in Havana* and you will have a tour like no other. Las Terrazas' relaxation, Vedado's mysteries, and a magnificent dinner with the finest Cuban musicians at the Buena Vista Social Club are just some of the surprises. A Cuban tradition demands burning a doll made with old clothes to receive the New Year: travel to Cuba and burn the "old year" to receive the bliss of new Caribbean adventures.



Whether you prefer hiking or dancing salsa, or the wonderful lights of Havana in autumn, Cuba is always a great place to visit. Plan your next getaway with Espiritu Travel and be thrilled until the last fiber of your soul: smiling and resilient people, stunning views, vibrant festivals, vintage cars... **The best time to travel to Cuba is right now.**