



Cuban Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Cuba Current Travel Advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Cuba. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour. You could face problems accessing funds in Cuba. Credit cards, debit cards and travellers cheques aren't accepted if they're issued by US banks or Australian banks affiliated with US banks. This includes all American Express and Westpac Bank cards and some Visa and MasterCard cards. Have a variety of ways to access your money. Take an emergency supply of cash, including enough to leave Cuba if your bank cards don't work. See [Entry and exit](#).

Driving in Cuba can be dangerous. If you're involved in an accident, you're likely to be detained, regardless of who is at fault. You could be prevented from leaving Cuba until the case is resolved. See [Local travel](#). Hurricane season is June to November. Landslides, mudslides, flooding and disruptions to essential services can occur. See [Natural disasters](#). Access to the internet and email is restricted by government regulations. Speak to your service provider about phone access as many Australian phones, even with global roaming, don't work in Cuba.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Cuba at www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions Vaccinations and Health Precautions

Australian ordinary passport holders travelling as a tourist are required to have a visa to enter Cuba, which should be applied for before departing Australia unless entering Cuba from the US. A Cuban tourist card (visa) allows entry for up to 30 days, and generally takes up to two working days to issue. To apply for a visa via email, travellers should send a completed application form and digital copies of their passport information page and itinerary to the Cuban Embassy. For further instructions, a copy of the visa application form and payment details, please visit the consular services page on the Cuban Embassy [website](#) listed below. Passports are recommended to have at least six months validity beyond the intended stay in Cuba.

When entering Cuba, travellers should be able to prove their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay. Proof of travel insurance and entry documents for their next destination may also be required. All persons subject to US jurisdiction are prohibited from tourist or unlicensed travel to Cuba. Those considering entering Cuba from the US should first read the [US State Department](#) advice on entry and exit, and cannot apply for a tourist visa from the Embassy in Canberra. Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Cuban mission on the details below for further information on applying for a visa or entering Cuba relative to their specific circumstances.

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Cuba. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. As there is a risk of dengue fever and the zika virus in Cuba, insect avoidance measures may be necessary depending on your itinerary. Cuba is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/. Travellers are advised to drink bottled water and avoid ice cubes and raw/undercooked food. Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to Cuba should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Cuban Representation in Australia

Embassy of Cuba, Canberra

17 Terrigal Crescent
O'MALLEY, ACT 2606

PO Box 4433
MANUKA, ACT, 2603

Tel: (02) 6290 2151
Fax: (02) 6286 9354

Web: <http://misiones.minrex.gob.cu/australia>



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Time Differences between Cuba and Australia

Cuba is Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours (-4 during daylight saving). Daylight saving is usually observed from the first Sunday in April to the second Sunday in November, but this can change at short notice. The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in Cuba, for instance if it's 12 noon on a Sunday in Cuba, it's Monday in Australia.

Cuba, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 1am; Darwin 2:30am; Brisbane 3am; Adelaide 3:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4am.
 Cuba, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 12am; Darwin, Adelaide 1:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Cuba: +53

To Dial Australia Call: 001 61 <City> <Number>.

Travelex Card Services:
 Call the US on 001 (1 954) 838 8294.

Visa Global Assistance:
 Call the US on 001 (1 303) 967 1090.

MasterCard:
 Call the US on 001 (1 636) 722 7111.

AMEX Travellers Cheques and Cards:
 1 801 964 6665

Emergency Services:
 Police - 106
 Ambulance - 104
 Fire - 105

These emergency services numbers are only valid for certain regions. They will not generally have English speaking staff. In this case, you should have a local call on your behalf or contact the Canadian Embassy.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Cuba

Australian Embassy, Mexico

Ruben Dario 55
 Col. Polanco
 MEXICO CITY 11580

Tel: (+52 55) 1101 2200
 Fax: (+52 55) 5203 8431

Web: www.mexico.embassy.gov.au

Canadian Embassy, Havana

Calle 30, No 518 between 5a y 7a
 Miramar
 HAVANA

Tel: (+53 7) 204 2516
 Fax: (+53 7) 204 2044

Web: www.cuba.gc.ca

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in Cuba. The Australian Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico is accredited to this country. Australian citizens may obtain limited consular assistance from the Canadian Embassy in Havana. Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australians are encouraged to register their presence in Cuba with the Canadian Embassy as well as The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade via the on-line registration service, accessible at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering Cuba:

Alcohol: 2 bottles of wine or other alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 250 g of loose tobacco.
 Total Tax Free Goods: Up to US\$50.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Cuba & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further details on Cuban customs go to www.aduana.co.cu, or for information on Australian customs visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Plug: Japanese

Voltage: 110-120 AND 220-240 volts
 Special Tip: As Cuba uses two different voltages you should always check what power is available at each socket and its compatibility to your device before use.
 Source: Korjo Travel Products. Please view the adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au for further information.



Spanish Words and Phrases

Yes	Sí	No	No
Thank you	Gracias	Please	Por favor
Hello	Hola	Goodbye	Adiós
Where is..?	Dónde está ...?	Airport	el aeropuerto
Train	el tren	Bus	el autobús
Police	el policía	Hospital	el hospital
Chemist	la farmacia	Cheers	Salud
Coffee	el café	Tea	el té
Juice	el jugo, el zumo	Water	el agua
Beer	la cerveza	Wine	el vino

Tourist Information

Do you speak English?
 Where is the bathroom?
 Please bring the bill
 Do you accept credit cards?
 How much does this cost?

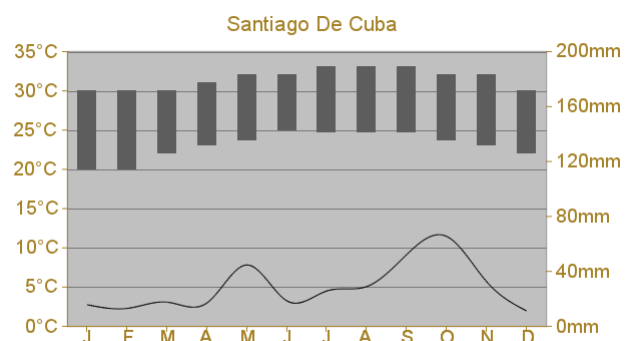
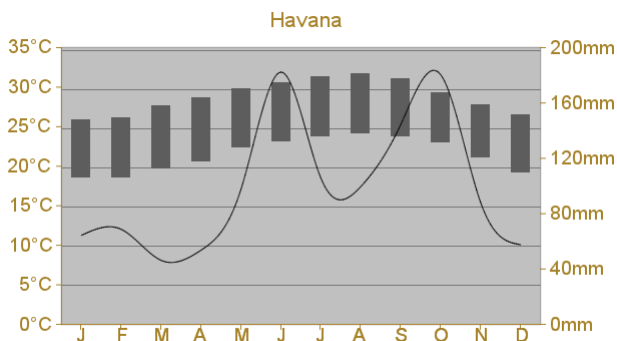
Información turística

Habla usted inglés?
 Dónde está el baño?
 Me trae la cuenta por favor?
 Aceptan tarjetas de crédito?
 Cuál es el precio?

Cuban National Holidays 2018

01 – 02 Jan:	Liberation Day. Anniversary of the Revolution.
30 Mar:	Good Friday.
01 May:	International Workers' Day.
25 – 27 Jul:	Festivities for the Day of National Rebellion.
10 Oct:	Anniversary of the start of the Independence Wars.
25 Dec:	Christmas Day.

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Cuba



Source: Cuban Institute of Meteorology. For local forecasts please go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.72 Cuban Convertible Pesos
 1 Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC) = 1.39 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 0.69 Cuban Convertible Pesos
 1 Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC) will cost 1.45 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Money in Cuba

Cuba operates a dual currency system, with both the Cuban Peso (CUP, aka "national peso") and Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC, aka "dollar") used. The CUP is used by Cuban citizens. Tourists will find that most of their transactions will take place in CUC's. While the CUC is usually pegged to the US Dollar at a rate of 1:1, the CUP is generally worth around 25 times less.

Travellers are advised to bring Canadian Dollars, Euros or UK Pounds when traveling to Cuba. There is a 10% surcharge when changing US\$ into CUC. Australian Dollars are generally not accepted. Travellers are advised to contact their bank to enquire if their debit/credit cards will work in Cuba, ensure they have a number of ways to access their money and an emergency supply of cash. CUC's can only be bought or sold in Cuba.

Currency Cheat Sheet

Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC)	Australian Dollars (AUD)
0.50 CUC	= \$0.72 AUD
1 CUC	= \$1.45 AUD
2 CUC	= \$2.89 AUD
3 CUC	= \$4.34 AUD
4 CUC	= \$5.78 AUD
5 CUC	= \$7.23 AUD
6 CUC	= \$8.68 AUD
7 CUC	= \$10.12 AUD
8 CUC	= \$11.57 AUD
9 CUC	= \$13.02 AUD
10 CUC	= \$14.46 AUD
20 CUC	= \$28.92 AUD
30 CUC	= \$43.39 AUD
40 CUC	= \$57.85 AUD
50 CUC	= \$72.31 AUD
60 CUC	= \$86.77 AUD
70 CUC	= \$101.23 AUD
80 CUC	= \$115.69 AUD
90 CUC	= \$130.16 AUD
100 CUC	= \$144.62 AUD
200 CUC	= \$289.23 AUD
300 CUC	= \$433.85 AUD
400 CUC	= \$578.47 AUD
500 CUC	= \$723.09 AUD
600 CUC	= \$867.70 AUD
700 CUC	= \$1,012.32 AUD
800 CUC	= \$1,156.94 AUD
900 CUC	= \$1,301.55 AUD
1,000 CUC	= \$1,446.17 AUD

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

Notes and Coins

The following images are of Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC). These are usually abbreviated with the symbols "\$", "CUC" or "CUC\$". The subunit of the CUC is the convertible cent, of which there are 100 in every CUC. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. For images of Cuban Peso banknotes and coins, please go to www.bc.gob.cu/English/bill_issue.asp. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised not to take the below images with them when travelling.





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About Cuba

Full Name:	Republic of Cuba (Republica de Cuba).	Significant Dates:	
Independence:	1898 (from Spain, US occupation until 1902).	1000 BC	- Indigenous Guanajatabey and later Arawak peoples inhabit the island of Cuba.
Size:	110,860 sq km (1/2 the size of Victoria).	1492 AD	- Columbus visits Cuba on his first voyage.
Population:	11 million (1/2 the size of Australia). Havana 2.2 mil; Santiago 424,000; Camaguey 302,000; Holguín 270,000.	1511 AD	- Spanish conquest under Diego de Velazquez.
Religion:	Catholic (officially atheist from 1962-91).	1526 AD	- Slave trade to Cuba begins.
Language:	Spanish.	1868-1878	- War of independence ends in a truce.
GDP Per Capita:	US\$9,900 (Australia US\$40,800).	1886	- Slavery abolished.
		1898	- Spanish-American War, Cuba ceded to the US.
		1902	- Cuba becomes an independent nation.
		1959	- Fidel Castro leads the communist revolution.
		1961	- Bay of Pigs invasion, US trade embargo begins.
		1962	- Naval blockade and Cuban Missile Crisis.
		2008	- Castro cedes Presidency to his brother Raul Castro.

