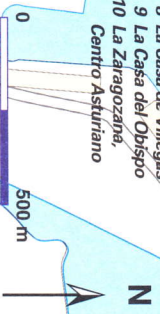


Cajeta de San Lázaro



- 1 Palacio de los Capitanes Generales
- 2 Casa de Simón Bolívar
- 3 Palacio de los Matrimonios
- 4 Anfiteatro del Puerto
- 5 El Palacio de Pedroso
- 6 Palacio del Segundo Cabo
- 7 Palacio del Conde Lombillo
- 8 La Casa de Villegas
- 9 La Casa del Obispo
- 10 La Zaragozana, Centro Asturiano

Old and Central Havana



## Port information

### Currency

Cuban Convertible Peso (Tourist Money) is the currency that you will need. Cuban Peso (Local Cubans use only). This is a closed currency and can only be purchased when we arrive in Havana.

There is a money changing facility inside the terminal building. Normally open from 9.00. It is pegged to the U.S. dollar, but note when you exchange it at the official exchange bureau, Cadeca, they will take a 10% commission. Euros and British Pounds are exchangeable but only in cash.

**US Dollars may be refused in some areas. Credit cards and traveler's checks issued by U.S. banks are NOT accepted in Cuba.**

### Language

Spanish is the main language of Cuba. English is not widely spoken.

## Getting around

### Distance to town centre

Havana town centre is a 5-minute walk from where we dock. Come out of the terminal and go straight ahead to the town centre or turn right to walk along the El Malecón Habanero (promenade).

### Taxis

Different types of taxis cruise the streets, including tourist taxis, two-seater bici-taxis, colectivos (classic vintage cars) and the yellow scooter coco-taxis. Most tourist taxis are air-conditioned and charge in Convertible Pesos. If taxis are not metered, ensure you agree a price beforehand. There are **horse & carts** in town also, that offer a memorable narrated tour of the old city. Most destinations have pre-set rates or you may negotiate rates with operators.

### Main highlights

**Revolution Square** is one of the world's largest city squares measuring 72,000 square metres.

**The Museo de la Revolution** is housed in the former palace of dictator Fulgencio Batista, leader of Cuba in the years immediately preceding Fidel Castro's rise to power and one of the most reviled figures in Cuban history. Displays are in English. Approximately \$8Peso entrance fee. There is a small camera charge of \$2Peso if you wish to use. Open daily 9.30 - 16.00.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century **Fortaleza San Carlos de la Cabaña** was built between 1763 and 1774 on the East side of Havana harbor wall to fill a weakness in the city's defenses.

### Main highlights

**El Capitolio Nacional** was built in 1929 as the Senate and House of Representatives. This colossal building is recognizable by its dome, which dominates the city's skyline.

**El Malecón Habanero** is the avenue that runs beside the seawall along the north shore of Havana, from Habana Vieja to the Almendares River. It forms the northern boundary of Old Havana, Centro Habana and Vedado.

Head to the beautiful **Old Havana** where you can wander around the fortress. Around a 20-minute, walk away.

**La Bodeguita del Medio** (Calle Empedrado 207; open daily 11.00 - midnight), has long been known as a wonderful gathering place for cocktails, cigars, and the local cuisine and is a Hemingway haunt. It's regarded as a temple to the mojito and is probably Havana's most famous restaurant. Its walls are covered with photographs, graffiti, drawings and people's signatures (you can add yours if you find space). It's usually crowded and touristy, but it's great fun and definitely worth a visit.

Hemingway, who made Cuba his home for a time, has created mystique around numerous island bars. At one end of La Calle Obispo is **El Floridita** (Avenida de Belgica esq. Obispo 557; open 11.00 - midnight). He developed quite the taste for daiquiris there, and there is an oft-photographed statue of the American author at one end of the bar. Definitely a must!

## Essential information

### Tourist information

An information booth is located on the lower level as you exit the terminal. They may have a small desk on the upper level but this is not always in use.

### Nearest beaches

The nearest tourist beach to where we dock is Las Playas del Este (the Eastern beaches). Starting approximately 20 minutes away by taxi are Las Playas del Este, a series of beaches and beach towns that stretch for nearly 30 miles. From Havana, the first one you arrive at is Bacuranao, a quiet and family-friendly spot. The most popular for tourists is Playa Santa Maria del Mar, with its pine and palm-lined beaches, on the beach area however there are no toilets. Sometimes it is advised not to swim in the sea due to the number of jellyfish. To Playa Santa Maria catch a bus outside Central Park for a cheaper option, which is approximately 3Peso per journey.

### Shopping

The easiest place to shop in Havana is the beautiful covered market, next to the train station, which is a 15-minute walk from where we are docked. Come out of the Cruise Ship terminal & turn left.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
You will need to take Passports ashore with you. Please keep these safe and out of view.

Cuba's best buys include Cigars, Rum, Wood Carvings, Music, Antique Books and Art. If you are buying Art there is an export tax, also whenever you buy any items over £50 it is always best to get a receipt to allow you to take the items out of Cuba.

As with all tourist destinations, please keep a close eye on valuables

**Your Destination Services team would like to wish you an enjoyable day in Havana.**

There can be last minute changes. Please check *Cruise News* for the latest information before you go ashore.