

# Cuba

## Geography

Location: Caribbean, island between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, south of Florida

Map references: Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total area: 110,860 sq km

land area: 110,860 sq km

comparative area: slightly smaller than Pennsylvania

Land boundaries: total 29 km, US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay  
29 km

Coastline: 3,735 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical; moderated by trade winds; dry season (November to April); rainy season (May to October)

Terrain: mostly flat to rolling plains with rugged hills and mountains in the southeast

Natural resources: cobalt, nickel, iron ore, copper, manganese, salt, timber, silica, petroleum

Land use:

arable land: 23%

permanent crops: 6%

meadows and pastures: 23%

forest and woodland: 17%

other: 31%

Irrigated land: 8,960 sq km (1989)

Environment:

current issues: pollution of Havana Bay; overhunting threatens wildlife populations; deforestation

natural hazards: the east coast is subject to hurricanes from August to October (in general, the country averages about one hurricane every other year); droughts are common

Note: largest country in Caribbean

## People

Population: 10,937,635 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 22% (female 1,191,320; male 1,256,928)

15-64 years: 68% (female 3,732,434; male 3,751,464)

65 years and over: 10% (female 528,104; male 477,385) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.65% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 14.54 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 6.53 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -1.55 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 8.1 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
total population: 77.05 years  
male: 74.86 years  
female: 79.37 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.63 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Cuban(s)  
adjective: Cuban

Ethnic divisions: mulatto 51%, white 37%, black 11%, Chinese 1%

Religions: nominally Roman Catholic 85% prior to Castro assuming power

Languages: Spanish

Literacy: age 15-49 and over can read and write (1981)  
total population: 98%

Labor force: 4,620,800 economically active population (1988);  
3,578,800 in state sector

by occupation: services and government 30%, industry 22%, agriculture 20%, commerce 11%, construction 10%, transportation and communications 7% (June 1990)

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Cuba

conventional short form: Cuba

local long form: Republica de Cuba

local short form: Cuba

Capital: Havana

Administrative divisions: 14 provinces (provincias, singular - provincia) and 1 special municipality\* (municipio especial); Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Ciudad de La Habana, Granma, Guantanamo, Holguin, Isla de la Juventud\*, La Habana, Las Tunas, Matanzas, Pinar del Rio, Sancti Spiritus, Santiago de Cuba, Villa Clara

Independence: 20 May 1902 (from Spain 10 December 1898; administered by the US from 1898 to 1902)

National holiday: Rebellion Day, 26 July (1953)

Constitution: 24 February 1976

Legal system: based on Spanish and American law, with large elements of Communist legal theory; does not accept compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

Suffrage: 16 years of age; universal

Flag: five equal horizontal bands of blue (top and bottom) alternating with white; a red equilateral triangle based on the hoist side bears a white five-pointed star in the center

## Economy

Industries: sugar milling and refining, petroleum refining, food and tobacco processing, textiles, chemicals, paper and wood products,

metals (particularly nickel), cement, fertilizers, consumer goods, agricultural machinery

Agriculture: key commercial crops - sugarcane, tobacco, and citrus fruits; other products - coffee, rice, potatoes, meat, beans; world's largest sugar exporter; not self-sufficient in food (excluding sugar); sector hurt by persistent shortages of fuels and parts

## Transportation

### Railroads:

total: 12,623 km

### Highways:

total: 26,477 km

Inland waterways: 240 km

Ports: Cienfuegos, La Habana, Manzanillo, Mariel, Matanzas, Nuevitas, Santiago de Cuba

### Airports:

total: 181

## Defence Forces

Branches: Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) includes ground forces, Revolutionary Navy (MGR), Air and Air Defense Force (DAAFAR), Territorial Militia Troops (MTT), and Youth Labor Army (EJT); Interior Ministry Border Guards (TGF