



Guide

Camagüey

Free



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Camagüey



CAMAGÜEY

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Welcome

CAMAGÜEY

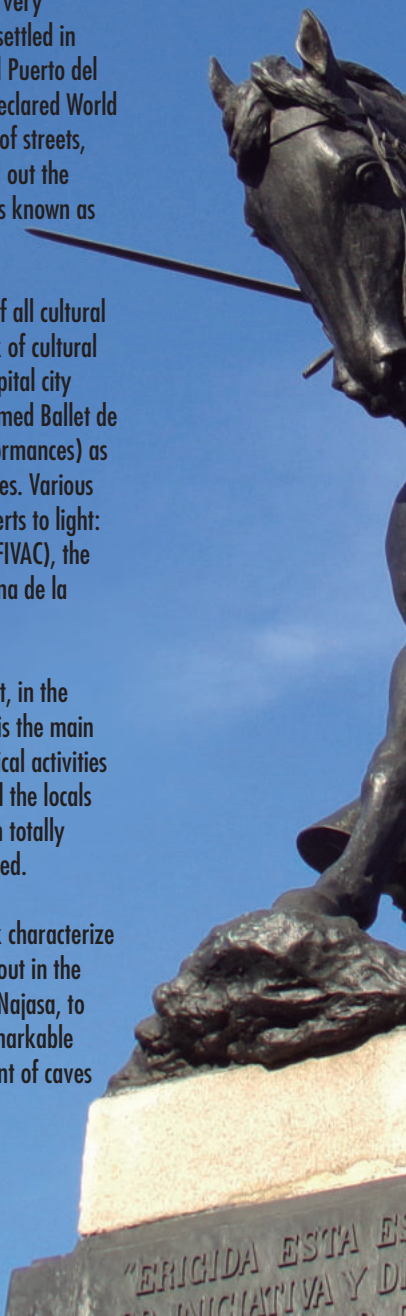
Between legends and corals

The province of Camagüey is one of the tourist destinations we really recommend you to visit during your trip to Cuba. Right in the very center locates Camagüey City, among the first seven villages settled in Cuba, founded in 1514 and originally named Santa María del Puerto del Príncipe. The city historic center has a section that has been declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO since 2008. It is a labyrinthine web of streets, alleys and squares unparalleled in the Caribbean where stand out the magnificent bell towers and the presence of big terracotta jars known as *tinajones*, which have become the symbol of the region.

Cradle of writers, virtuous musicians and leading exponents of all cultural expressions, Camagüey shows its potential through a network of cultural centers and events, museums and exhibition galleries. The capital city hosts the second classic ballet company in the country (the famed Ballet de Camagüey, internationally acclaimed for its outstanding performances) as well as prestigious contemporary and folklore dance companies. Various festivals and events bring the talent of artists, critics and experts to light: The Film Critics Workshop, the Camagüey Video Art Festival (FIVAC), the Fiesta del Tinajón, the San Juan Camagüeyano and the Semana de la Cultura are the best exponents of cultural events in town.

The beaches of Camagüey are concentrated on the north coast, in the municipalities of Nuevitas and Esmeralda. Santa Lucía Beach is the main destination of sun and beach, where family tourism and nautical activities are promoted among clients mainly from Canada, Europe and the locals themselves. The beaches of northern Esmeralda are located in totally virgin keys, where a large-scale tourist infrastructure is planned.

Vast plains ideal for the cultivation of sugarcane and livestock characterize the countryside scenery. Two clusters of low mountains stand out in the flat landscape: Sierra de Cubitas, to the North, and Sierra de Najasa, to the South. The basin of Máximo River is also notable. It is remarkable the presence of abundant palm trees as well as a great amount of caves highlighting as the main distinctive features of this zone.





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San José Church

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Old Champagnat
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The House of the
Caryatids

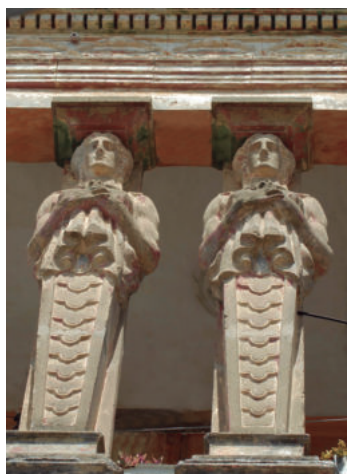
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Provincial Museum
Ignacio Agramonte

Beyond the railroad



San José Church



The House of the Caryatids



Hotel Islazul Puerto Príncipe

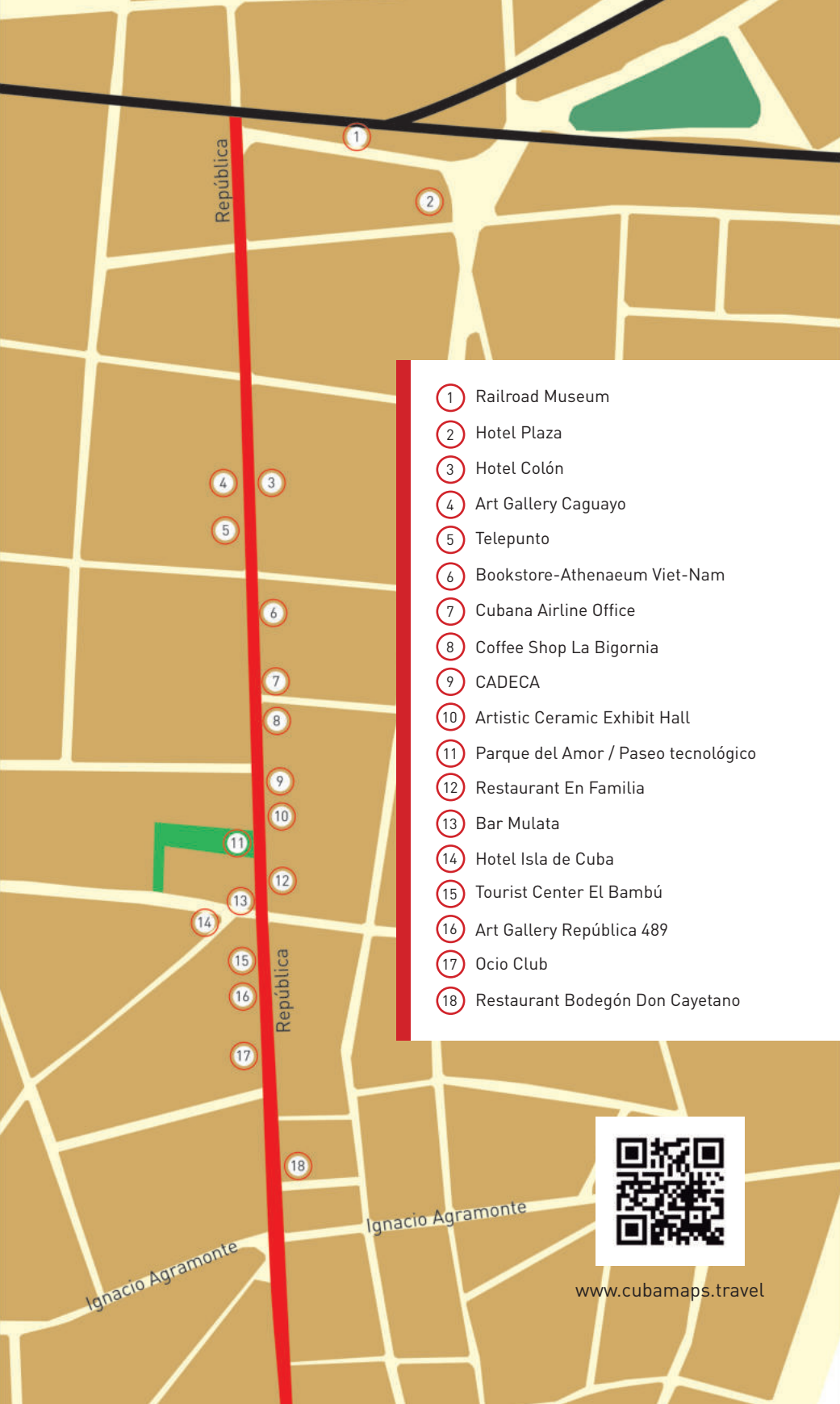
Discovering a city like Camagüey can be quite a challenge. A description of the routes leading to the city's main public spaces might prove helpful for living such an experience.

The city's northern section lies beyond the railroad. The Avenida de los Mártires is the key access to La Vigía neighborhood; the avenue is a large four-way street in which you can see important buildings showing different architectural styles dating from the early 20th Century: The San José Church, the House of the Caryatids, the former Champagnat College and Hotel Puerto Príncipe.

The Provincial Museum -Ignacio Agramonte- at Avenida de los Mártires No.2, is made of several exhibition halls like the Cuban painting collection, considered the second best in the country, and the so called alive room, a stunning courtyard that preserves architectural and decorative elements from the Colonial and Republican periods as well as beautiful specimens of Cuban flora.



Museum Ignacio Agramonte



- 1 Railroad Museum
- 2 Hotel Plaza
- 3 Hotel Colón
- 4 Art Gallery Caguayo
- 5 Telepunto
- 6 Bookstore-Athenaeum Viet-Nam
- 7 Cubana Airline Office
- 8 Coffee Shop La Bigornia
- 9 CADECA
- 10 Artistic Ceramic Exhibit Hall
- 11 Parque del Amor / Paseo tecnológico
- 12 Restaurant En Familia
- 13 Bar Mulata
- 14 Hotel Isla de Cuba
- 15 Tourist Center El Bambú
- 16 Art Gallery República 489
- 17 Ocio Club
- 18 Restaurant Bodegón Don Cayetano



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República Street



Railroad Museum

After leaving the museum, cross the railroad and continue straight ahead. República Street, the axis connecting the center of the city from North to South, will extend before you. It is an area where dozens of shops, cafés and cultural institutions are located.



Hotel Islazul Plaza

The first notable thing is the old railroad station, an aged building that is currently being renovated into a railroad museum. Across the street, in the opposite side of the station, stands the Hotel Plaza (1 Van Horne St.), the oldest in town. It was honored by the visit of Literature Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral in the early 20th Century; it is also the place where a curious historical fact took place: the inauguration of the first Cuban radio station broadcasting in a city other than Havana.



Hotel Colón by Meliá

Further down República Street, nearly 250 m from the railroad station, is the Hotel Colón by Meliá (472 República St.). Outstanding woodwork and beautiful stained glasses at the lobby as well as a picturesque yard in the rear characterize this eclectic building. There you can find the Sales and Booking Agency belonging to Islazul Hotel Group.

República Street



Telepunto



La Bigornia



Parque del amor and Paseo Tecnológico

Across the street there is the Galería- Fundación Caguayo, an exhibit room related to Design, Plastic and Monumental Arts. (475 República St.)

Not very far away is a telephone center –Telepunto- 453 República St., which provides Internet access, phone cards and accessories.

A fine book shop is just one block ahead – Bookstore Athenaeum Viet-Nam, 416 República St.- a space where books written by Cuban and international authors are sold and presented, besides the exhibition of works by local artists.

In the same direction, right on the corners of República and Correa, there are two buildings you may like to know about: the office of Cubana Airline and La Bigornia, a coffee shop plus a shop next door.

Getting cash should be no problem at all since CADECA; the currency exchange office is a little forward. (384 República St.). Very near to Cadeca is the Sala Internacional de Cerámica de Arte (382 República St.), a nice place where you can buy beautiful arts and crafts resulting from the several editions of the International Ceramic Workshops celebrated in town.

If you are attracted to video games, you need a wireless connection or you simply want to have a refreshing cocktail, you can satisfy your wishes in the Parque del Amor and the Paseo Tecnológico.

República Street

Exquisite Cuban, Chinese and Italian food flavors and scents are on offer at restaurant En Familia Impacto (358 República St.).

In the corner of República and San Esteban you will find a bar where Mulata rum and other products of the TecnoAzúcar company are marketed. If you turn your attention to the right, you will immediately see the Hotel Isla de Cuba (San Esteban and Popular).

Back on Calle República, at 295, there is the Complejo Turístico El Bambú, a place where you can find shops, a cafeteria and the sales bureaus of the Travel Agencies ECOTUR and Viajes Cubanacán.

On the same sidewalk, following the south direction, you will find Galería República 289, the most important exhibition hall in Camagüey and the headquarters of the biennial Salón de Artes Visuales Fidelio Ponce.

A nice leisure option is available only a few steps from the gallery: Ocio Club, a recreational complex made up of a swimming pool, a coffee shop, a bowling hall and electronic and table games.

Bodegón Don Cayetano Restaurant (256 Callejón de la Soledad and República St.) is a fine place to taste Spanish cuisine, including light meals called tapas, accompanied by a generous wine variety.



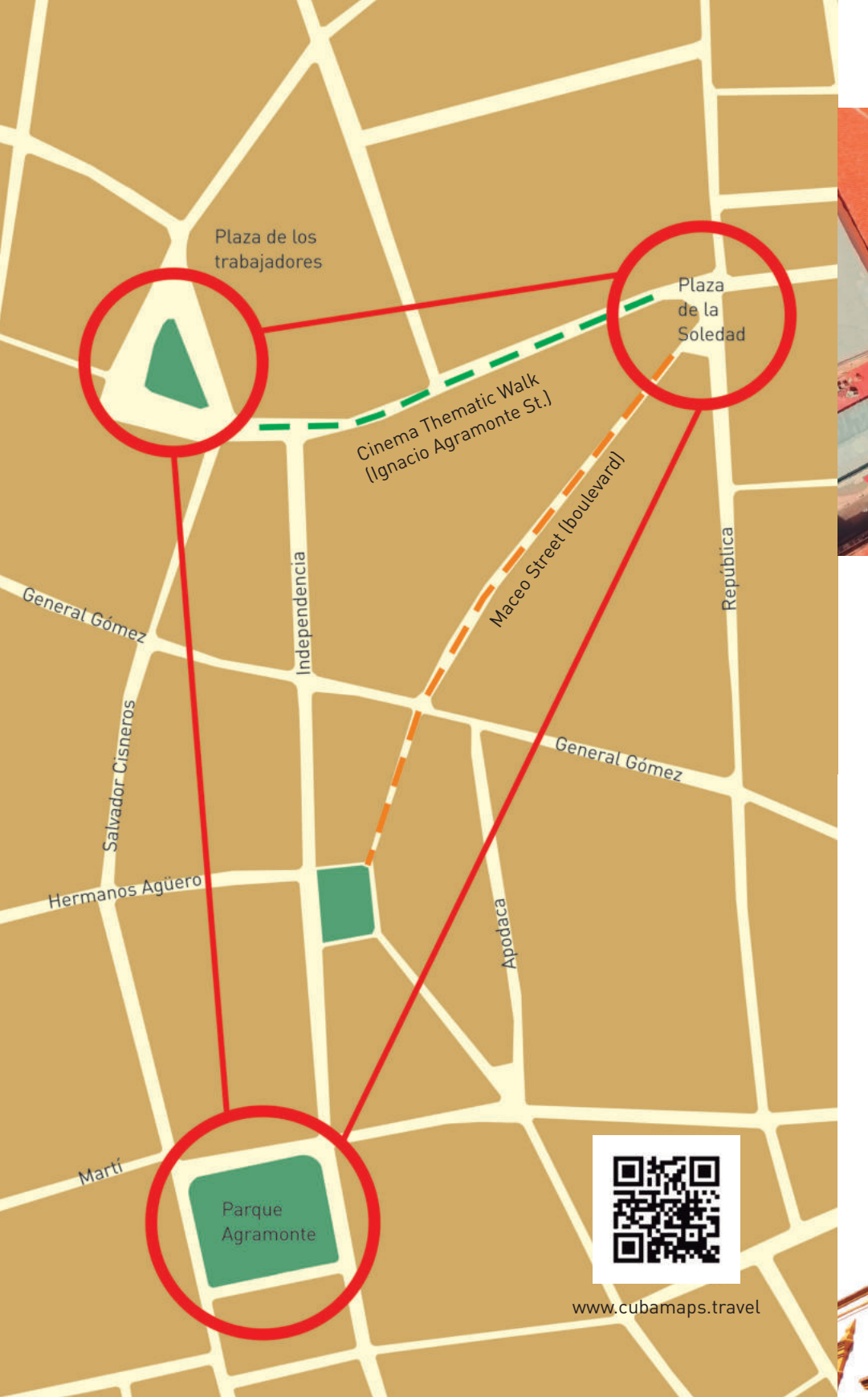
En familia Impacto



El Bambú



Ocio Club



Plaza de los
trabajadores

Plaza
de la
Soledad

Cinema Thematic Walk
(Ignacio Agramonte St.)

Maceo Street (boulevard)

General Gómez

Salvador Cisneros

Independencia

República

General Gómez

Hermanos Agüero

Apodaca

Martí

Parque
Agramonte



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The Golden Triangle



Plaza de la Soledad

The busiest tourist circuit in Camagüey is the one between Plaza de La Soledad, Plaza de los Trabajadores and Parque Agramonte.

Plaza de la Soledad (called Plaza del Gallo or Plaza de la Solidaridad as well), is the space where several important streets flow together. It was named after the La Soledad church (1777), the most prominent building in its surroundings.



Avellaneda Theater

The esplanade in front of the church has two important places for theatrical and musical performances: one indoors and the other outdoors: The Avellaneda Theater and the square amphitheater.

In the surroundings you will have different accommodation options at the hotels Santa María, El Colonial, Camino de Hierro and La Avellaneda,



The Golden Triangle



Hotel E La Avellaneda



Hotel E Camino de Hierro



The Cinema Street (Ignacio Agramonte)

this latter is further down República Street, at No. 226; next to the hotel there is the Bar Yesterday (222 República St.), where you can enjoy the music of The Beatles and of the 60's, accompanied by exquisite cocktails and tapas.

From Plaza de la Soledad our recommendation is to take down Ignacio Agramonte Street until Plaza de los Trabajadores, that section is known as Calle de los Cines, a thematic walk of approximately 250 meters dedicated to the Seventh Art where businesses have been named after movies made all over the world.

The cultural center Fotograma, (409 Ignacio Agramonte St.), offers an array of live music performances by Camagüey artists.

Across the street in Callejón de los Milagros, is Oficina de Información Turística (INFOTUR), where you can

The Golden Triangle

ask about all tourist services and destinations in the country. On the left side is Centro Nocturno Bar Casablanca, which specializes in cocktails and tapas.

On the same side of the street and about 80m forward, you can find Iris Art Gallery, a space for the exhibition and sale of works of art created by the artists Oscar Rodriguez Lasseria and Oscar Rodriguez Jr.

It will surely be useful to know that just two doors down from the Iris Art Gallery there is another sales office of the telephone company (Telepunto) and across the street (449 Ignacio Agramonte St.) there is a small health resort -SERVICIOS MÉDICOS CUBANOS- specialized in medical assistance for tourists.

La Isabella Restaurant is next door the medical practice (447 Ignacio Agramonte St.); the place is renowned for its unique decoration which pays homage to the film industry and also has a varied Italian menu.



Bar Casablanca



Restaurant La Isabella



Museum Casa Natal de Ignacio Agramonte

On the corner of Ignacio Agramonte and Independencia Streets stands the Museo Casa Natal de Ignacio Agramonte. It is the place where Major General Ignacio Agramonte y Loynaz, the leader of the independence movement in Camagüey was born. It was reopened as a museum in 1973. It exhibits documents, personal belongings, family furniture and objects typical of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Golden Triangle

Opposite that house stands the Iglesia de la Merced (Charles A. Dana No. 4), built in 1748. Below the altar, there is a museum which includes part of the former crypts as well as relics collected all around the province.

Both, the church and Agramonte's birthplace, are in Plaza de los Trabajadores, formerly called Plaza de la Merced, but in addition to these two constructions there are other important buildings: The Provincial Radio Station Radio Cadena Agramonte, Centro de Convenciones Santa Cecilia, the Oficina Central de Correos de Cuba and two Banco de Crédito y Comercio offices. At one of the ends of the square, next to the church, is the Asociación Cubana de Artesanos Artistas (ACAA), which hosts exhibitions, symposiums and workshops of the local artisans. On the corner where the bank and the post office are set is the start of a street named Cisneros to honor Salvador Cisneros Betancourt,



La Merced Church Altar



Plaza de los Trabajadores

The Golden Triangle

who was the President of the Republic in Arms during the Wars of Independence. His birthplace is located at No. 220.

Down Calle Cisneros there are two magnificent buildings facing each other; the first one (No. 253) hosts the Tribunal Popular Provincial, formerly the Real Audiencia Primada de Puerto Príncipe during the colonial period, the first court that ever existed in Cuba. The second building (No. 258) was, for a long time, a club for Hispanic descendants, the place where Iberian pilots Barberán and Collar were welcomed after completing a nonstop transatlantic flight from Seville to Camagüey; nowadays it is the headquarters of the Culture Clubs Organization in the province (ground floor) and the headquarters of Camagüey's Contemporary Dance Company (upstairs).

There are two other outstanding buildings on the corners of Cisneros and Hermanos Agüero: The Baptist Temple, founded in 1904, and, across the street, the



Hotel E El Marqués

Banco Popular de Ahorro. Next door are two other Hoteles E facilities, La Sevillana and El Marqués. (Cisneros No. 211 and 222).

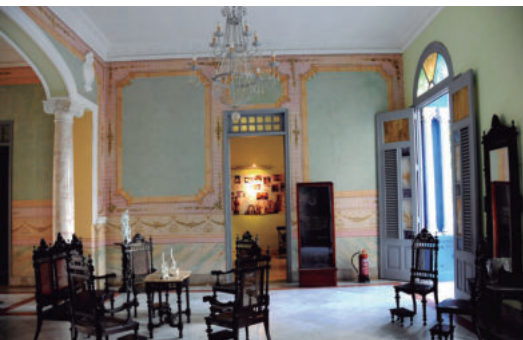
Continue along Cisneros Street and you will find the Parque Agramonte, regarded as the foundational site of town. It was the Arms Square during the colonial period. In the middle of the park stands the statue of Major General Ignacio Agramonte y Loynaz.

There are important buildings along the perimeter like Biblioteca Julio Antonio Mella, Casa de la Trova,



Hotel E La Sevillana

The Golden Triangle



Casa de la Diversidad Cultural.
Interior



City scale model. Interior

coffee shop Café Ciudad, Bar El Cambio, the Gobierno Municipal (city hall), La Volanta Restaurant, the Centro de Interpretación del Patrimonio, where the model of the historical center is located, the museum Casa de la Diversidad Cultural and The Basilica, known as La Catedral.

If you take northward through Calle Independencia, one of the streets bordering Parque Agramonte, you will soon arrive in Plaza Maceo, a city space named after Lieutenant General Antonio Maceo. A bust was erected there in his honor in 1947. Glancing downward at the street, you can see the old tramway rails as well as the early 20th Century symmetrical cobblestone paving which is characteristic of the old town.



Parque Agramonte

The Golden Triangle

The Banco Financiero Internacional (BFI), in front of the square, provides a range of banking services that you may require.

Las Ruinas cafeteria, an outdoor space next to the bank, offers a wide variety of light meals, drinks and occasional live music.

From the square leads one of the most populated pathways in the city: Calle Maceo, a pedestrianized street where visitors will find most of the city's biggest stores and commercial facilities. Camagüey inhabitants are very familiar to El Encanto Department Store, the largest of its kind in the city, and the Gran Hotel. At the end of the street and of our walking tour you will find the familiar Plaza de la Soledad.



Plaza Maceo



Gran Hotel. Interior



Maceo Street



Parque Martí

Martí

Antonio Luaces

Padre Olallo (Pobres)

Independencia

Independencia

Salvador Cisneros

Martí

Lugareño

Cristó

Hermanos Agüero

Martí

San Juan de Dios (Hurtado)



Plaza
San Juan
de Dios



Plaza
del Carmen



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The colonial plazas



Plaza San Juan de Dios

Two squares of Camagüey conserve almost intact the colonial architecture that characterized them fundamentally in the 18th and 19th centuries; these are the squares of Carmen and San Juan de Dios, both mandatory stops if you really want to take the pulse of city life.

Plaza del Carmen, dating from the 19th Century, is located a bit further away from downtown; it was a settlement mainly of black and mulatto families. The houses keep their original colonial style, separated from the street by steps. One of the shortest streets in the historical center, popularly known as Callejón de la Miseria, joins the square with Calle Martí. A group of real-size sculptures made of bronze recreates the life and traditions of the community and has provided international reputation to its creator: Martha Jiménez, whose workshop is located in this very

square. Other outstanding artists also have their exhibition places here, such as Osmar Yero and Liuba Del Toro. Next to Martha's workshop there is El Ovejito Restaurant, specializing in mutton dishes, and just across the street there is El Paso Restaurant, specializing in Cuban and International food. At the bottom of the plaza is the Iglesia del Carmen, a sample of the sober Cuban



Plaza del Carmen

The colonial plazas

Baroque, its two symmetrical towers differentiate it from the city's other religious buildings. On the far right of the temple, the former Convent of the Ursuline Sisters is today occupied by the Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad de Camagüey (Camagüey City Historian Office) and the University of Arts.



Historian Office Inner Patio

On Plaza de San Juan de Dios, on the other hand, the colonial architectural environment has been acknowledged as a National Monument, one of the best preserved of its kind in the entire country.

The Saint John of God Church and Hospital were open in the 18th Century thanks to public support; its architecture is well-preserved in the Moorish-influenced Baroque Style. Inside the old hospital, the corpse of Major General Ignacio Agramonte was put on display by Spanish troops after he was killed in action. Father José Olallo Valdés was in charge of cleaning the body and paying the respect his venerable figure deserved. This Father was beatified in November 2008 and his ashes are kept within the church. The building occupied by the old hospital is currently the Museo San Juan de Dios, which is dedicated to the town's foundation. The museum preserves the architectural style of the city and recreates the time when it served as a pediatric hospital. The edifice was declared a National Monument in 1978.



Saint John of God Church
Inner Patio

The colonial plazas



The house of the balcony

Another important construction in this square is the house of the balcony where the second-floor room and its balcony, above the entrance, recalls the typical Andalusia building style. The house is painter Joel Jover's Workshop and Art Gallery.

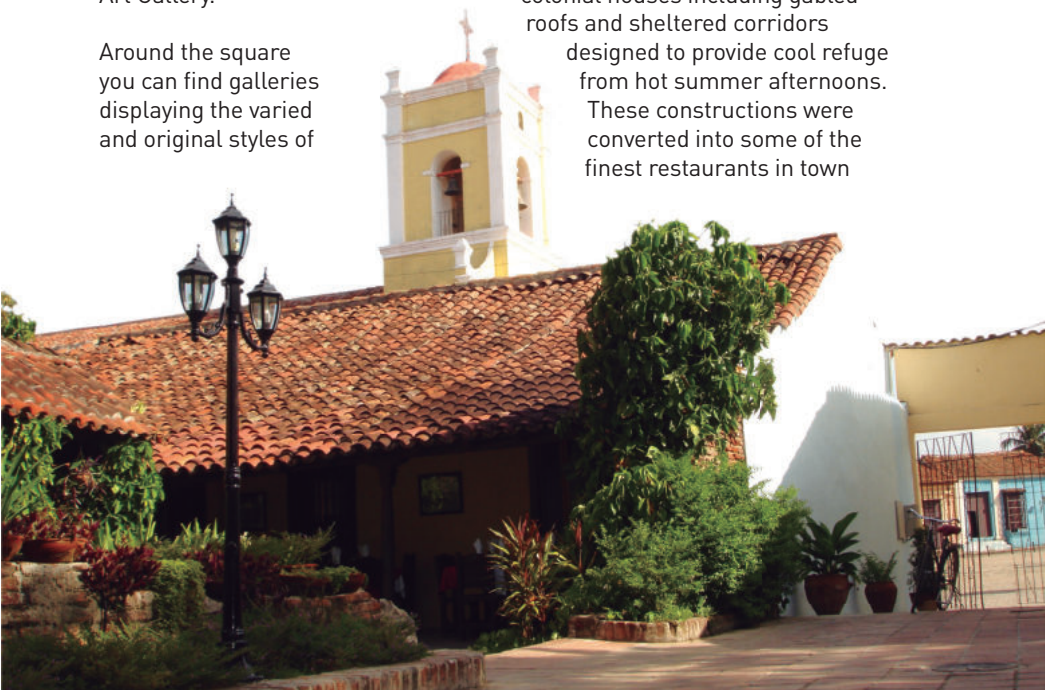
Around the square you can find galleries displaying the varied and original styles of

recognized artists like Ileana Sánchez, Eduardo Rosales, Magdiel García, José Gutiérrez and Yanel Hernández.

La Campana de Toledo and Parador de los Tres Reyes restaurants are classic examples of Camagüey colonial houses including gabled roofs and sheltered corridors

designed to provide cool refuge from hot summer afternoons.

These constructions were converted into some of the finest restaurants in town



The colonial plazas



Sacred Heart of Jesus Church's bell tower

where Cuban food is served.

Across the street sits the attractive Restaurante 1800 which serves a range of Camagüey, Cuban and international cuisine.

A third place, somewhat more modified than the previous ones, is part of the set of founding places in the city: The Parque José Martí, formerly the Plaza de San Francisco. Completed between the 17th and 18th centuries, this square used to be the city's portal to the path leading towards the Eastern side of the country. A common stop for religious processions at that time is marked by a wooden cross which still remains in front of one of the houses. The plaza features a collection of buildings from different periods and architectural styles: colonial Baroque, Neoclassical and



Jose Martí Park

The colonial plazas



Eclectic. The Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón, a Neo-Gothic building, is the most impressive in the entire area. Next to it stands the old Colegio de las Escuelas Pías, a monumental building of the neoclassical style built in 1862 which currently houses the educational complex Inés Luaces. The community health clinic Policlínico José Martí is located in a two-story Eclectic building where one of the most influential families in the city, the Cisneros-Betancourt family, lived from the 17th Century through 1921. Tomás Pío Betancourt, the first city historian, was one of its distinguished members.



José Martí Polyclinic

Plaza de la
Revolución

Avenida 26 de Julio

Ave. Javier de la Vega

Casino
Campestre

Carretera Central Este

Avenida de la Libertad

Carretera Central Este

Cuba

General Javier de la Vega (Arrieta)

La Caridad
Church



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Across the bridge



Parque de las Leyendas

The place where most tours of Camagüey begin is the Parque de las Leyendas, located in the intersection of Rosario and República Streets, just before the Hatibonico River bridge. The bridge divides the old part of the city from other areas founded more recently; it is popularly known as Puente de La Caridad as it is near the church and plaza bearing the same name. You can reach the church after taking along Avenida de la Libertad for approximately one kilometer straight ahead.



If instead of following a straight line you decide to turn left, after crossing the bridge, you will have arrived at the Casino Campestre grounds: the largest urban park in Cuba.

The Camagüey people commissioned a majestic statue to honor the memory of the two intrepid Spanish pilots: Barberán and Collar, the protagonists of the first transatlantic Seville-Camagüey flight, trasatlántico Sevilla-Camagüey, accomplished in 1933. In the Cuatro

Casino Campestre



Across the bridge



Casino Campestre



Gazebo

Vientos ('Four Winds') aircraft they flew nonstop on a previously unexplored path.

Across from this section of the park, there is the former Instituto de Segunda Enseñanza (High School) a building dating from the early 20th Century which housed. It is a neoclassical construction that reflects one of the several new architectural styles that were introduced in the city during that period. Many young people who studied here later went on to join the Cuban revolutionary struggle.

Crossing the road, we enter the largest area of the park. It was founded in the 19th Century and served as an exhibition center for livestock and a site of agricultural fairs. Striking sculptures honor martyrs, patriots and personalities from history, the most outstanding of which are the Mausoleo al Soldado Desconocido and the Salvador Cisneros Betancourt statue. Right in the park's tranquil center, a band stand provides a former musical space well remembered by the Camagüey people. Very close to it, an artificial grotto built in the 1920's is hard to miss. The park's small zoo and playground will undoubtedly be the favorites for any children.

The bridge over the Juan del Toro River, a tributary of the Hatibonico River, marks the boundary between the park's center and an area occupied by great sports facilities: The Ciudad Deportiva Patricio Lumumba (sports center), the Estadio Cándido González (baseball field) and the Sala Polivalente Rafael Fortún (arena), the second largest indoor stadium in Cuba.

Across the bridge

The last place to visit on this route is the Plaza de la Revolución Mayor General Ignacio Agramonte, near the border of the Casino Campestre. This area has witnessed great political, social and cultural events: July 26 rallies in 1989 and 2007 led by Fidel and Raúl Castro respectively; May Day parades; the performance of well-known Cuban bands and the Holy Mass offered by Pope John Paul II, on January 23, 1998. Each has seen the gathering of thousands of Camagüey citizens.

On one of the sides of the Plaza de la Revolución stands the headquarters of the Asamblea Provincial del Poder Popular– the People’s Power Assembly. This building was founded in the 19th Century by the Catalan merchant Zenón Carbó and later owned by the world-famous engineer Sir William Van Horne. Afterward, it hosted the Escuela Normal para Maestros and it was remodeled to play its current role in 1998.



The Provincial People's Power Assembly Headquarters



Plaza de la Revolución Ignacio Agramonte

Other places of interest



Teatro Principal

Padre Valencia No.64 e/ Tatán Méndez y
Lugareño

It is the place where the most important theater, dance and music groups, either local or from other parts of the country usually performs. Founded in the first half of the 19th century is an iconic building in town.

Ballet de Camagüey

Carretera Central Este No. 331

Since its foundation in 1967 by Vincentina de la Torre, the Ballet de Camaguey has continued to grow and attract an ever-expanding international audience. In 1975, Fernando Alonso, founder of the Cuban School of Ballet, the Ballet Nacional de Cuba and a world-renowned teacher, was appointed as the company's director. Regina Sánchez Balaguer currently oversees the company. The Ballet de Camagüey's repertoire includes 250 different choreographies, 120 of which are modern or contemporary in style.



Lago de los sueños

Ave. Mónaco Sur s/n

It is a recreational area outside the city with many gastronomic and sports facilities as well as a dance floor.



Other places of interest



Parque de Diversiones Camilo Cienfuegos

Carretera Santa Cruz del Sur

Founded in the mid-1970's, it is one of the local's favorite family-friendly attractions. Next to the park, a site that hosts cattle fairs was recently built.

Feria Internacional de Camagüey (FICAM)

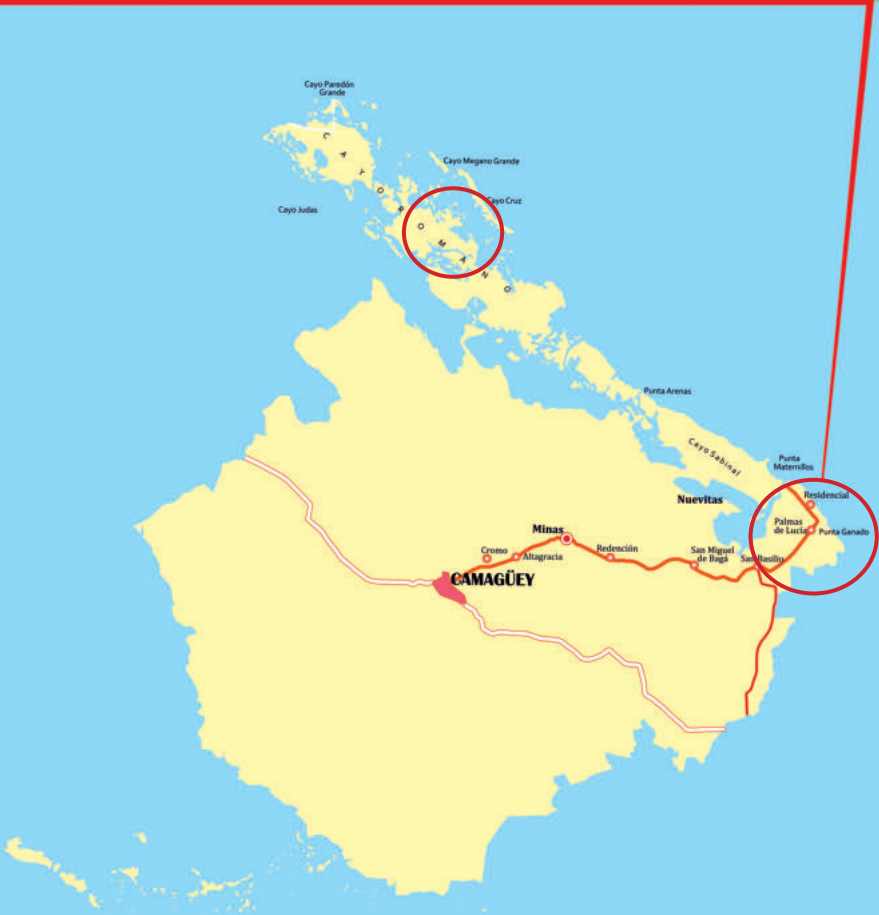
On the banks of the Hatibonico River stands the fairgrounds of the city, where exhibition, cultural and commercial events take place; It is the headquarters of Expo-Camagüey, craft fairs and concerts by leading local and national artists.



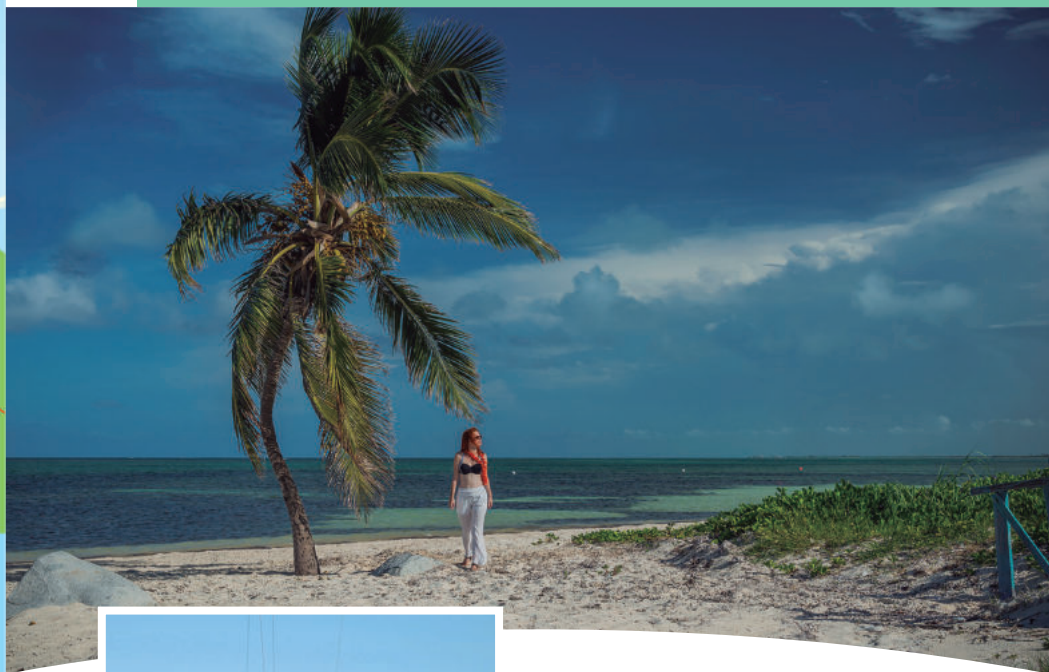


SANTA LUCÍA BEACH

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The beaches of Camagüey



Santa Lucía Beach



Santa Lucía Beach, located some 110 km from the capital city of Camaguey comprises 22 kilometers from Punta de Ganado to Los Cocos Beach. The crystalline greenish color of its waters and its proximity to one of the largest coral reef formations in the world makes it different from other beaches on the north coast of Cuba.

Its shallow waters are ideal for all types of nautical activities, including fishing or catamaran boating across the coral reef. Santa Lucía Beach is also known as one of the finest diving destinations in Cuba: there are about 35 dive sites where you can find 19th and 20th century shipwrecks as well as numerous marine species. The diving center's instructors present a unique and exhilarating show at the entrance of the Nuevitas Bay channel where

The beaches of Camagüey



Diving center



they feed formidable bull sharks underwater with their bare hands.

The entrance of Nuevitas Bay is the space separating Santa Lucía Beach from one of the most interesting places in the surroundings: Key Sabinal. Up to Bonita Beach, in the key, comes one of the excursions that originate in Santa Lucía Beach. Also on the key there is the Colón lighthouse, located at one of its ends.

Another of the excursions that depart from Santa Lucía Beach has as its destination Key Ballenato del Medio, an island within the bay where you can spot many Cuban rodents, birds, trees and, of course, iguanas, which are not afraid of gently posing for the cameras. While sailing you can take photos of the rests of an old Spanish fortress: Fuerte San Hilario.



Bonita Beach

The beaches of Camagüey



Cayo Cruz

Cayo Cruz, is a developing sun-and-beach tourist space reachable from Cayo Coco international airport as well as from Esmeralda municipality. Currently there are two hotels already open: The first of them, Valentin Cayo Cruz, is situated in the area called Quebrada 17, it is a comfortable five-stars resort operating as an all-inclusive facility. The other, La Marina Plaza & SPA, is a 60 rooms hotel newly built. Besides the rooms area it is composed of a bowling, cigar shop, restaurants, shopping center, ice cream parlor, spa and a disco. Several hotels and an international marina are to be built on this zone.

The 22.5 kilometers of white sand beaches are of high quality and are therefore expected to be among the great tourist attractions of the province. The width of the strip of sand fluctuates between 5 and 20 meters. Rocky cliffs appear once in a while which contributes to prevent the monotony of the landscape. Fishing should be soon become one of the greatest attractions of the tourist enclave because in its surroundings there are many swordfish and other valuable species.

The natural attractions



Cangilones del río Máximo

The prevalence of large plains does not prevent the area from having significant natural highlights. In fact, it is quite the opposite: the rivers flowing through these endless prairies have formed a spectacular panorama of canyons, creeks, caves and natural pools carved in limestone, with the Cangilones del Río Máximo the most outstanding. Here, nearly 300 meters of slabs form a unique landscape in which the water current flows placidly across the polished rock surface.

Located in Sierra de Cubitas, not so far up to the north, approximately at one hour ride distance, we find the ecological reserve Limones-Tuabaquey, considered the largest and best preserved site of the two forest areas existing in the province. Among the most important natural spots in the zone is the Hoyo de Bonet, an 80-meter-deep sinkhole containing an evergreen forest made of more than 400 botanical species; more than 15 per cent of which are endemic to the region. There are also more than 75 bird species.

In the northern municipality of Minas, less than an hour's journey from Camagüey is the Crocodile Breeding Center, a place where you can see these reptiles grow: from a few inches when they are newborns, to more than two meters in adulthood. Go throughout the facility accompanied by expert guides and try feeding them yourself standing in the hut in the middle of the dam. In addition to a detailed explanation of the characteristics of these imposing animals, you can take a boat trip down the Máximo River followed by a typical Cuban countryside meal if that is your wish.

Rancho King tourist farm, just half an hour away from Santa Lucía



Limones-Tuabaquey
Natural Reserve



The natural attractions



Crocodile breeding farm

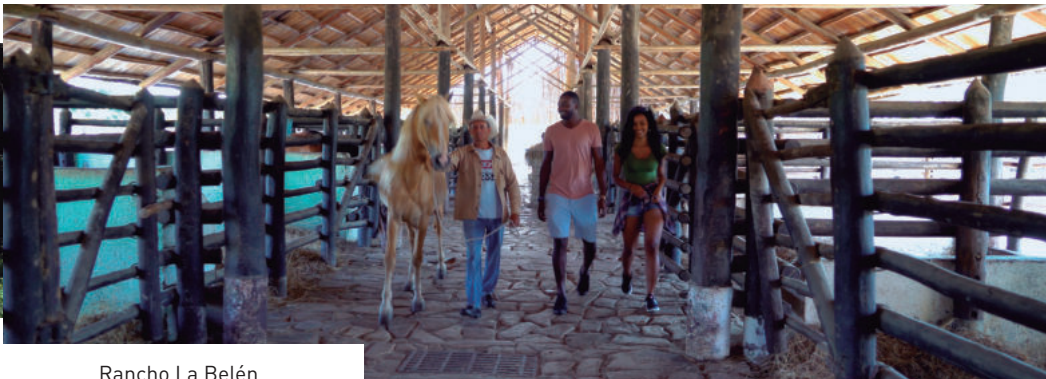
Beach, is the ideal opportunity to enjoy Cuba's countryside. Rural ambient lovers, especially those liking rodeo and horse riding will find this place a really nice recreation option. Once there you can closely watch the horsemen skills, take a ride, visit the home of a local farmer and get to know about their way of living. In the end, an animated country party known as guateque will provide company to the essential meal in Cuba's countryside celebrations: the tasty roast pork.



Rancho King

At the protected area Sierra del Chorrillo, to the south of Najasa municipality, is located the Rancho La Belén, a tourist farm famous for its stallion horse display, bird-watching trails and horseback-riding pathways through Santa Gertrudis Path. Here you will find comfortable rooms as well as some other facilities.

Also in this area you can see the fossil wood deposits; the only of its kind in Cuba, made up of tree remains which have been petrified for more than 3 million years spread over one hectare.



Rancho La Belén

Main events



**Semana de la cultura
(week of cultural celebrations)**
Festivities to celebrate Camagüey City
anniversary - **February**

Festival Santa Lucía
Competition between clients and
entertainment teams of Santa
Lucía Beach hotels - **February**



Fiesta del Tinajón
A broad display of all cultural
manifestations - **March.**



**Camagüey International Video
Art Festival (FIVAC)**
Biennial - **April**

Main events

Almacén de la Imagen
Sample of young filmmakers – **October**



Provincial Visual Arts Contest
Fidelio Ponce
Biennial – **September**



San Juan Camagüeyano
Carnival – **June**

National Film Critics Workshop
May



National Theater Festival
Biennial – **May**



www.eventosencuba.com

Handy information



Aeropuerto de Camagüey

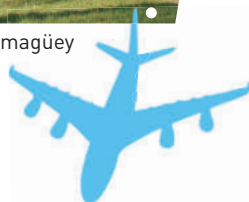
How to get to Camagüey

You can reach Camagüey by plain through the Ignacio Agramonte International Airport. The facility receives flights from the cities of Toronto (Canada), Cancún (México), Port-au-Prince (Haiti), Moscow (Russia), Paramaribo (Surinam) and Georgetown (Guyana).

Getting to Camagüey by land is possible through the national road network.

You can go to Santa Lucía Beach from the capital city through Nuevitas road and then take the turn that leads to the beach.

To the northern keys it is planned to arrive from the Jardines del Rey International Airport (Ciego de Ávila) and then through a road along the coast. From Camagüey the best way is by taking the north circuit, which goes through the town of Jaronú (Brasil).



Communications

To dial Camaguey from outside you must press the digits 53 and then the desired number. If you are in Cuba, simply dial the number in question. The numbering in Camaguey always starts at 32 accompanied by another six digits.

In the offices of the telephone company (ETECSA), you can access the Internet and buy cards for wireless access. The places enabled with wireless access (wi-fi) in the historic center of Camagüey are the squares of La Soledad and Los Trabajadores as well as Agramonte and Parque del Amor parks. It can also be accessed from the place called Callejón de los Milagros, on Ignacio Agramonte street.

Handy information

Medical care

Tourist health services are located at 449 Ignacio Agramonte Street. Servicios Médicos Cubanos (Cuban Medical Services) is the company responsible of providing them. At the building there is a medical practice, pharmacy and dental chair. Medical staff is available 24 hours a day. In Santa Lucía Beach you can go to the International Clinic, in the area known as Residencial.



Currency

In Cuba, the official currency is the Cuban Peso (CUP). However, the currency system used in almost all of the country's tourist sites is the Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC). The exchange rate is fixed at 24 CUP for each CUC purchased and 25 CUP for each CUC that is sold. Currency exchange can be done in airports, hotels, banks and Currency Exchange Offices (CADECA).



Cuban Convertible Pesos have the following values: bills of 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 pesos as well as coins of different values.

For security reasons, bank notes include: security thread only visible against the light, embossed printing, the main elements in the front can be felt while touched, watermark visible against the light, it shows the bill's value and José Martí's silhouette.

Financial transactions are possible in Euros, Canadian Dollars, British Pounds and Swiss Francs. Travel checks are welcome as well as VISA, MASTERCARD, TRANSCARD, CABAL and AMIGO TRAVEL if they have not been issued by US Banks or their overseas offices. Additionally, visitors can pay in Euros in Santa Lucía Beach and Cayo Cruz.



Directory

ACCOMMODATION

Cayo Cruz

Valentín Cayo Cruz ★★★★★

Vial Secundario 1, Cayo Cruz, Esmeralda
Tel: (53) 32652400
All inclusive

Hotel La Marina Plaza & SPA ★★★★★

Vial Secundario 1, Cayo Cruz, Esmeralda
Tel: (53) 32652500
esp.comercial@plazacayocruz.gaviota.cu

Santa Lucía Beach

Planta Real Santa Lucía ★★★★★

Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
All inclusive

Brisas Santa Lucía ★★★★★

Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
All inclusive
Tel: (53) 32336317
director@brisas.stl.tur.cu
aloja@brisas.stl.tur.cu

Club Amigo Mayanabo ★★★

Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
All inclusive
Tel: (53) 32336184 - 85
gerente@mayanabo.stl.tur.cu
ventas@mayanabo.stl.tur.cu

Club Amigo Caracol ★★★

Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
All inclusive
Tel: (53) 32336302 - 03
gerente@caracol.stl.tur.cu
jcarpeta@caracol.stl.tur.cu

Gran Club Santa Lucía ★★★

Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
All inclusive
Tel: (53) 32336109
ventas@clubstl.stl.tur.cu

Complejo Costa Blanca ★★

Ave. Maternillo Casa No. 1, Residencial,
Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
Tel: (53) 32336373
repcion@costablanca.stl.tur.cu

Hotel Tararaco ★★

Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
Tel: (53) 32336310 / 32336410

Camagüey City

Hotel E Camino de Hierro ★★★★★

Plaza de la Solidaridad No.76
Tel: (53) 32284264
ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E El Colonial ★★★★★

Ignacio Agramonte No.406 e/ República y
Lope Recio
Tel: (53) 32244944 - 47
ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E El Marqués ★★★★★

Cisneros No.222 e/ Hermanos Agüero y
Martí
Tel: (53) 32244937 - 39
ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E La Avellaneda ★★★★★

República No.226 e/ Ignacio Agramonte y
Callejón del Castellano
Tel: (53) 32244959
ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E La Sevillana ★★★★★

Cisneros No.211 e/ Hermanos Agüero y
Martí
Tel: (53) 32282816
ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel E Santa María ★★★★★

República e Ignacio Agramonte
Tel: (53) 32244944 - 47
ventas@ehoteles.cmg.tur.cu

Gran Hotel by Meliá ★★★

Maceo No.67 e/ General Gómez e Ignacio
Agramonte
Tel: (53) 32292093 - 94 / 32292314
reserva@granhotel.cmg.tur.cu



Directory

Hotel Camagüey ★★

Carretera Central Este Km 4 ½
Tel: (53) 32287267 - 70 / 32287182
comercial@hotelcamaguey.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel Colón by Meliá ★★

República No.472 e/ San José y San Martín
Tel: (53) 32251520

Hotel Plaza ★★

Van Horne No.1 e/ República y Avellaneda
Tel: (53) 32282413 / 32282457 / 32282435

Hotel Puerto Príncipe ★★

Avenida de los Mártires No.60 e/ Rotario y Andrés Sánchez
Tel: (53) 32282469 / 32282490 / 32282403
director@hpp.cmg.tur.cu

Hotel Isla de Cuba ★★

San Esteban y Popular No.453
Tel: (53) 32291515 / 32295704

Other locations

Hotel Florida ★★

Carretera Central, Km. 536, Florida
Tel: (53) 32514670

Hotel Caonaba ★★

Albaisa y Martí, Nuevitas
Tel: (53) 32414803
director@caonaba.islazul.tur.cu

BOOKING THROUGH THE WEB SITE
www.camaguey.travel

RESTAURANTS

Cuban and international cuisine

1800

Restaurant and bar
Open daily / 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Plaza San Juan de Dios
Tel: (53) 32283619

Bucanero

Restaurant and bar
Open daily / 10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Playa Los Cocos, Playa Santa Lucía, Nuevitas
Tel: (53) 32365226

Carmen

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Maceo No.6
Tel: (53) 32287902

Chronos

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Ave. Finlay No.462
Tel: (53) 32261144

Complejo Campana de Toledo- Parador de los Tres Reyes

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Plaza de San Juan de Dios No.16
Tel: (53) 32286812

El Ovejito

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Hermanos Agüero No.280, Plaza del Carmen
Tel: (53) 32254706

El Paso

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
8.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Hermanos Agüero No.261, Plaza del Carmen
Tel: (53) 32254706

El Pollito

Restaurant, grill and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Avenida Finlay, km 5½
Tel: (53) 32261384

Mesón del Príncipe

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
12.00 m. – 12.00 a.m.
Astilleros No.7 e/ San Ramón y Lugareño
Tel: (53) 32274210



Directory

Italian cuisine

Dinos Pizza Casino

Restaurant and home delivery
Open daily / 24 hours
Humboldt No.3 e/ Avenida de la Libertad y
San Joaquín
Tel: (53) 32290693

La Isabella

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Ignacio Agramonte No.447, e/ Maceo e
Independencia
Tel: (53) 322429250

Spanish cuisine

Bodegón Don Cayetano - Callejón de la Soledad

Restaurant, cafeteria and bar
Open daily /
12.00 m. – 11.00 p.m.
Callejón de La Soledad No.256 esq.
República
Tel: (53) 32291961

Complejo Recreativo El Tabla'o

Restaurant and bar
Tuesday to Sunday /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Lago de los Sueños
Tel. (53) 32272079

Seafood

Dimar Casino

Restaurant, cafeteria and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Carretera Central Este e/ Puente de La
Caridad y Puente Caballero Rojo
Tel: (53) 32256674

Luna Mar

Restaurant and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
Centro Comercial, Playa Santa Lucía,
Nuevitás
Tel: (53) 32336146

Chinese food

Impacto En Familia

Cafeteria and bar
Open daily /
10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.
República No.358 e/ Correa y San Esteban
Tel: (53) 32286339

Fusion cuisine

Restaurante – Cava

Restaurant and cellar
Open daily /
11.00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
Café Ciudad, Cisneros y Martí
Tel: (53) 32258412

NIGHTCLUBBING

Bar Casablanca

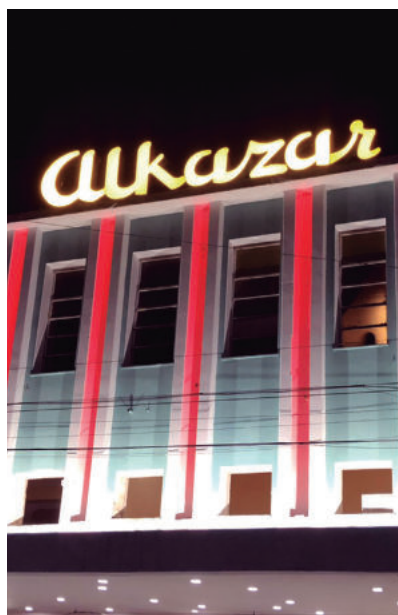
Humor and musical shows
Open daily /
9.00 p.m. – 2.00 a.m.
Callejón de los Milagros (Ignacio
Agramonte)

Bar Yesterday

Music of the 60s and 80s
Open daily / 10.00 p.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Friday to Sunday / 12.00 m. – 12.00 a.m.
República No.222 e/ Ignacio Agramonte y
Callejón del Castellano
Tel. (53) 32244943

Casa de la Trova Patricio Ballagas

Cuban Traditional Music
Open daily / 3.00 p.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Cisneros No.171 e/ Cristo y Martí
Tel: (53) 32291357



Centro Cultural Alkázar

Humor and musical shows
Tuesday to Saturday /
10.00 p.m. – 2.00 a.m.
Sunday: 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Avenida de la Caridad No.74 e/ Sifontes y
Alonso Fruto
Tel: [53] 32298512

Centro Cultural Caribe

Humor and musical shows
Tuesday to Saturday /
10.00 p.m. – 2.00 a.m.
Sunday: 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Javier de la Vega No.18 esq. Freyre, Rpto.
Alturas del Casino
Tel: [53] 32298112

Centro Cultural Fotograma

Musical shows
Open daily / 3.00 p.m. – 1.00 a.m.
Ignacio Agramonte No.409
Tel: [53] 32297440

Centro Cultural MarVerde

Musical shows
Open daily / 1
0.00 p.m. – 3.00 a.m.
Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
Tel: [53] 32336205

Directory

La Bigornia

Saturday / 9.00 p.m. – 12.00 a.m.
República No. 394 esq. Correa
Tel: [53] 32284784

Sala de Fiesta Copacabana

Recorded music and musical videos
Open daily / 10.00 p.m. – 2.00 a.m.
Carretera Central Este, e/ Padre Felipe y
María del Rosario
Tel: [53] 32253858

Sport Bar

Bar with entertainment
Thursday to Sunday / 10.00 a.m. – 4.00
a.m.
República No.471 e/ San José y San
Martín
Tel: [53] 32282903

Disco Coral

Open daily / 10.00 p. m. – 5.00 a. m.
Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
Tel: [53] 32365191



Sala de Fiestas
Copacabana

Directory

SHOPPING AROUND

Aeropuerto Internacional Ignacio Agramonte

Duty Free
Ave. Finlay, Km 7 ½
Tel: (53) 32266846

Brisas

Rum, tobacco and coffee
Hotel Brisas Santa Lucía. Avenida
Turística, Santa Lucía Beach

Centro Comercial Calle Cuba

Carretera Central Oeste esq. Calle Cuba,
Rpto. La Caridad
Tel: (53) 32293280

Centro Comercial Santa Lucía

Ave. Turística, Santa Lucía Beach,
Nuevitas
Tel: (53) 32336204

Duty Free

Rum, tobacco and coffee
Aeropuerto Internacional Ignacio
Agramonte, Ave. Finlay, Km 7 ½

El Encanto

Department Store
Maceo No. 54 esq. General Gómez
Tel: (53) 32241919

La Estrella

Rum, tobacco and coffee
Ignacio Agramonte No.435 e/ Maceo e
Independencia

La Vitola

Rum, tobacco and coffee
Ignacio Agramonte No.406 e/ República y
Lope Recio

Mustique

Boutique
Maceo No.55, e/ Ignacio Agramonte y
General Gómez
Tel: (53) 32253055



Rock Tabaco

Rum, tobacco and coffee
Hotel Gran Club Santa Lucía. Avenida
Turística, Santa Lucía Beach

HEALTH CARE CENTERS

Santa Lucia International Clinic

Medical, dental, nursing and
pharmaceutical services. 24 hours.
Residencial No.14, Santa Lucía Beach
(53) 32336370

International Pharmacy La Elegante

Maceo No.8 e/ General Gómez y Plaza
Maceo
9.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. Monday to Friday,
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Saturday and
Sunday
(53) 32280896

International PharmacyMall Calle Cuba

Mall Calle Cuba,
Cuba y Carretera Central
9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday,
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Saturday
(53) 32251952

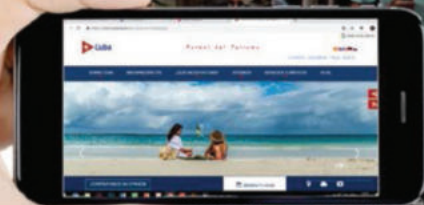
Cuban Medical Services

Medical, dental, nursing and
pharmaceutical services; sales of
programs at medical institutions.
Ignacio Agramonte No.449
(53) 32251952



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Infotur at International Airport Ignacio Agramonte

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zona 4
(+53) 32265807



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