Guide

Jardines del Rey

Ciego de Ávila

FREE
The Republic of Cuba is formed by around 4,195 cays and islets and occupies an area of 109,884 km² and 1,200 km of extension. Due to the warm climate, its sea is ideal for bathing and diving.

It is made up of 15 provinces, 168 municipalities and the special municipality Isla de la Juventud. It has a population of more than 11,120,000 inhabitants. Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, welcomes you to enjoy all its benefits in a special way.

**SIGNIFICANT DATES**
- May 1st: Workers Day
- July 26th: Day of National Rebelliousness
- October 10th: Beginning of the Independence Wars.

**NATIONAL SYMBOLS**
- Flag
- Shield
- Anthem
- National bird
- National flower
- National tree
Welcome to

JARDINES DEL REY

This archipelago takes up a 495 kilometers long strip toward the central-northern coast of Cuba and it’s the largest among the four ones surrounding the main island.

One of its special characteristics is the imposing coral barrier that protects it, with almost 400 kilometers long, regarded among the major in the Caribbean, behind the Australian Great Coral Wall.

It was Diego Velázquez —about 1513 and 1514— who christened the archipelago, located between the island of Cuba and the Old Channel of Bahamas, with this name, in honor of Fernando el Católico, king of Spain that time. Some chronicler asserted that he did such designating as a counterproposal of that of Christopher Columbus when he named the southern archipelago with the name of Jardines de la Reina, in honor of Her Majesty Queen Isabel of Castile.

According to certain stories, this stunning group of cays and little islands was chosen as a shelter by corsairs and pirates. Much more recently, It’s said that the notable American writer Ernest Hemingway loved to sail his boat El Pilar through its coasts chasing German submarines. In fact, the heavenly landscape of these places inspired him to write Islands in the Stream.

Today, it is possible to gain access to this Caribbean paradise by air or by causeways crossing the sea. Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo are its main attractions. These islets have magnificent preserved and virgin beaches and a scenery rarely seen. That’s why they are a good reason to come and see this wonderful world, blessed with almost 40 kilometers of transparent water and fine sand.
Here, all modern comforts have been carefully added to a four and five-star hotels net that allows guests to relax and have a good time in a natural environment. The archipelago also boasts natural parks, harbors, nautical bases, long beaches, diving, snorkeling and fishing sites, as well as lagoons and little lakes, and unexplored vegetation reserves.

It also has an international and national airport and cozy and cheap resorts. Its material conditions and human resources—which facilitate the leisure industry—show, year after year, an upward dynamics.

To ensure the guests’ welfare, the hotels offer all-inclusive services, with facilities close to the seaboard. At the cays, visitors can choose their own routes that allow them to move on foot or by car, as well as tours outside the cays in order to visit nearby cities: Ciego de Ávila, Morón and some others.

Likewise, the local flora shows species of high ornamental value and timber-yielding ones. On the other hand, fauna is abundant, especially birds, and there is one of the largest Caribbean pink flamingoes farms in this region. Jardines del Rey has the resources that are needed to be balanced with the natural environment and it has a huge potential for the specialized tourism. It’s the ideal place for families, due to its peaceful nature and warm shallow waters—which constitute a guarantee of safety—, and for charming landscapes lovers and adventurers who are eager to go hiking, swimming or diving, or just having fun and discovering.
CIEGO DE ÁVILA
Nature Jewel

As a tourist resort in the province of Ciego de Ávila, Jardines del Rey is a sun and sand resort par excellence, which is distinguished by valuable natural landscapes and exclusive elements that make it a true paradise. It is a chain of cays parallel to the main island northern coast, from Matanzas to Camagüey, and it’s made up of over 2,500 islands and islets.

Cayo Coco is 370 square kilometers long and it’s joined up to the mainland by a 17-kilometer-long causeway. It boasts 22 kilometers of turquoise-green water and white sand beaches. Cayo Guillermo, in turn, with 13 square kilometers, offers 6 kilometers of beaches; one of them, Playa Pilar, constitutes a natural jewel of the Caribbean.
unique elements of regional importance, among other factors, have led to declare areas with different protection categories: Buenavista Biosphere Reserve, Ecological Reserve, Wildlife Refuge, Managed Resources Protected Area, Managed Floral Reserve, Outstanding Natural Element, among others.

Though the entire resort scenery values are high due to the abundance of cays, little inland seas, and great biodiversity, the following spots highlight: Playa Pilar and Media Luna; the central rocky cliffs, in Cayo Guillermo; the zone of Los Perros; the central and western coasts of Cayo Coco, and Punta El Faro, in Cayo Paredón Grande. The heights of Florencia, with an important cave system —Tiriguanó and Loma de Cunagua—, stand out in the mainland.

It has valuable natural resources and a great variety of flora and fauna, with over 200 species of birds —some of them endemic ones— and 340 plants. The nature has blessed the area with pristine beauty and fanciful formations, such as reefs, virgin beaches, rich seabeds, coral barriers, marvelous coastal landscapes, and lagoons and little lakes, which turn it into a true paradise.

How the environment has been preserved, its biodiversity, endemism of some species,
Beaches

Beaches are the most important natural resource of Jardines del Rey, with extremely beautiful seabeds, unique bird species, singular natural formations and a whole colorful world.

Intimate and warm, the beaches of Cayo Coco, Cayo Guillermo, Antón Chico and Cayo Paredón show off their natural beauty. All of these heavenly and wild beaches together are 38 kilometers long; in Cayo Coco: Playa Flamencos, Playa Larga, Playa Coloradas, Playa La Jaula, and Playa Prohibida; in Cayo Guillermo: Playa El Pilar, Playa El Paso, and Playa del Medio. Other very nice scenarios are Playa Los Pinos and Playa del Norte, in Cayo Paredón Grande.

All these beaches share "alongside bathing areas of nearby hotels“ fine coral by origin sands, warm waters, with gently sloping underwater, gentle streams, and the gift of not harboring dangerous animals; That’s why families prefer this place.

All these beaches share fine coral sand, warm water with gently sloping underwater and gentle currents with the bathing areas of nearby hotels.

So well-gifted these beaches are that they don’t harbor dangerous animals; hence whole families prefer this place.

SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR BEACHES

El Paso Beach: the longest beach of Cayo Guillermo and the only one rewarded with the view of its four hotels. This beach is a unique natural treasure, not only because of its beautiful turquoise waters and fine sands, or its proximity to one of the most beautiful coral reef in the world, but also for its constant winds, which in the area range from 20 to 40 kph, which create perfect waves for nautical sports, like kite-surfing [the equipment must be brought]. Sun and sea lovers, as well as those who like to get excited, can find their own space here.

Playa Pilar: it is just few miles away from Cayo Guillermo hotels. This beach, with its warm turquoise waters and finest sands, it’s an idyllic outlook inviting to the enjoyment and relaxation. It is famous for its wild coastal areas and the singularity of its seabeds. It is guarded by huge dunes of up to 15 meters high, considered the highest ones in the Insular Caribbean. It provides the chance to taste its delicious Cuban food and refreshing cocktails. Its majesty is complemented by the options of practicing snorkeling, diving and other water sports on one of the most beautiful coral reefs worldwide, and thus enjoying a spectacular view of a marine wildlife. This beach is a symbol of Jardines del Rey natural wealth and its name is related to Hemingway’s boat and life.
Playa Flamencos: considered one of the most beautiful beaches in the cays due to its wild environment. Its three kilometers long are enough to admire its beautiful sandy coastline and enjoy its clear shallow waters. In this place water sports are combined with horseback riding and a full range of catering services. Located on the way to Cayo Guillermo.

Playa Prohibida: Located in a natural context which was formerly wished to remain inaccessible by reasons of preservations, it is currently a wonderful romantic place for visitors. It is accessed by a narrow road by the coast leading to a ranchon in the easternmost part of Playa Prohibida.
Dunes are small mountains of sand which in Cayo Guillermo and Cayo Coco reach the 12 and 15 meters high respectively. They help to protect the amazing beauty of landscapes in this area; that is why they are a symbol of this touristic resort.
Along the coastline of the northern Cuban cays stretches a fringing reef all around the outer edge of the platform in front of the cays. Here, there are sandbars and head-shaped little reefs, which are the main treasure of these formations. This site is part of one of the major coral reefs in the Caribbean.

There are nine diving sites in our tourist region such as Media Luna y Los Felipes, in front of Playa Flamencos; las Coloradas, the eastern part of Cayo Coco, as well as to the north of Paredón Grande and Antón Chico. There is an estimate of 20 kilometers of coral reefs strips with excellent conditions for watching, with 30 scuba-diving sites, where visitors can find a great deal of varied and colorful fishes. Vast areas of sand and sea grass are found within the coral reef, which is nearly 1 or 3 miles from the cays coasts.

These coral reefs are known by their extraordinary natural beauty.

They are very important, since they have the greatest biological diversity of sea ecosystems. Alongside, they contribute to coastal protection as well as to the formation and preservation of beaches. They also have valuable fishing resources, together with other economic and social values. Here, fishes, turtles, dolphins and sharks can be watched.
In the northern cays there are nearly 100 of them with about 700 square kilometers, such as Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo. Surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, they have an incredible aesthetic and recreational value enriched by beautiful beaches to enjoy and relax. They constitute a source of inspiration and wonderment and seduce with their deliciousness and special nature.

The rest of them can be an additional natural attraction such as Cayo Media Luna. Located north of Cayo Guillermo, this islet is separated from Playa El Pilar by a channel less than a mile wide. With an area of 13 hectares, it is surrounded by one of the best preserved coral reefs in the Caribbean. An ideal place for snorkeling and water sports, it is also perfect for catamaran sailing and different tours available to customers.

They are a real attraction, mainly in Cayo Coco, Cayo Guillermo and Cayo Paredón Grande, due to their high state of preservation and endemism. In Cayo Coco there are more than 340 plant species and it is the place with more diversity of flowers. The most representative here are: mangroves, always green microphile forests, halophytic communities and rocky and sandy shores. Over 90% of the total area of cays is covered by vegetation. It is considered that the sites of higher value in flowers are: high dunes in Cayo Guillermo and Coco, Cayo Guillermo central terrace, indoor and coastline of the central part, Los Perros area, all in Cayo Coco, and the sandbar in Playa Los Pinos in Cayo Paredón Grande.

Birds, with 206 species found in Cayo Coco, are the best represented zoological group; mollusks and reptiles are also abundant. There are also several important charismatic species like dolphins, cheloniens —doggerhead turtles, hawksbills— and flamingos, which have formed one of the largest colonies in the south of Cayo Coco. In this area are also found white-crowned pigeons, the arriero santamaria, and others: Cuban bullfinch, cabrero (Spindalis zena petrei), black mockingbird, marbella, sparrowhawk, herons, hummingbird, crane and savannah bird.

The name of Cayo Coco comes from the presence of white ibis —popularly known as “coco” (coconut) birds—, which adorn the islet with their bright colors. Some fishes and other sea species such as snapper, grouper, marlin, dorado, turtles, lobsters and crabs are also found here.
There are two important lagoons in this region: Laguna de la Leche, with 67 square kilometers, is the largest in size in the country. It bears its name because of the high concentration of gypsum and limestone particles, which give a whitish appearance due to the impact of the wind on the water. It is only 3 kilometers from the city of Morón, and it’s considered the natural reservoir with the highest capacity (100 million cubic meters of water). The other one is La Redonda, with 4.5 square kilometers, and located 8 kilometers from Morón. It has an impressive channel system, which is excellent to fish and relax. These reservoirs have been considered of exceptional conditions for tourism development. Both have some facilities for this purpose.

Considered like this for being unique and unrepeatable nationally and regionally are: Playa Pilar dunes, in Cayo Guillermo, with 15 meters high; Punta la Loma del Puerto dunes, in Cayo Coco; Playa Los Pinos, in Cayo Paredón Grande, and the farm of flamingos, southern Cayo Coco. In mainland: the Jatibonico river underground section, in Boquerón; the Laguna de la Leche, and the Loma de Cunagua, due to its geological and morphological special characteristics.
It is an exceptional attraction in Jardines del Rey, and it allows the visitor to know an unexplored nature. Walking through its paths and routes is not tricky, and it shows up truly impressive sceneries.

Loma de Cunagua and Sierra de Jalibonico boast interpretative paths to penetrate into natural sanctuaries, among them Tocororo Path.
AGUACHALES DE FALLA

A reserve with abundant endemic and migratory ducks. It consists of a set of seven little lakes and lagoons surrounded by thick vegetation, with different platforms scattered among the forest.

BIRD WATCHING

Nature lovers, those who like to capture the natural wonders in images and videos, can discover all the natural exuberance of Jardines del Rey with specialized help. The outstanding landscape values and the richness of the flora and fauna, with over 230 species of birds (more than 60% of them registered in Cuba), make the visit to local ecosystems an exotic trip, intended to search endemic species and subspecies.

FLORENCIA

Florencia is a town and a municipality located northwest of Ciego de Ávila province, known for its landscape of valleys and mountains and artificial lakes (dams), which gives it special beauty and charm.

It has a 7500-meter path of average difficulty level. Among its attractions are wonderful views of the valley with tobacco crops; the village of Florencia itself; the valley of the northern Jatibonico River and finally a very peculiar phenomenon: the drain of the river into the mountains.

Those who visit Jardines del Rey can enjoy this beautiful region through a path especially created for their own enjoyment.

Cuevas de Boquerón (caves) is also an interesting place, with unusual structures of stalagmites and stalactites, where the aboriginal peoples left their paintings to posterity. Horseback riding and tasting of different country foods are other offers in Cuevas de Boquerón.
located 90 km from the Cuban Island southern coast, there is one of the most important sea sanctuaries in the Caribbean: Jardines de la Reina, one of the most important diving sites in the Caribbean. It reflects the unusual beauty of the seabeds of cays. One of its main attractions is the large diverse wildlife living in its reefs, especially sharks, hence you can enjoy one of the most exciting underwater experiences: diving with sharks. In this southern archipelago, the classic shipboard Villa Tortuga Floating Hotel offers its services. The Marina de Júcaro also provides facilities for shipboard tours, diving and contemplative sport fishing.

A coral reef protects Jardines del Rey with more than 30 points for immersion and ideal preservation conditions for diving, snorkeling, fishing and water sports. Then, a wonderful combination of sun, adventure and sea create spectacular opportunities for the exchange with the endemic flora and fauna of the Cuban cays.

BOAT ADVENTURE
All people sale their own boat through Cayo Guillermo mangrove channels and have the chance to practice snorkeling in an attractive natural area.
SEAFARI JARDINES DEL REY

Departure from all hotels to the International Marina of Cayo Guillermo. This trip includes a visit to the coral reef with time to take a bath in Playa Pilar. Lunch includes lobster, chicken and shrimp. Free bar, entertainment and a souvenir snorkel.

SNORKELING IN THE CORAL REEF

It is aboard a glass-bottom catamaran intended to allow the observation of the rich marine flora and reef species. Departure is from the beaches of all hotels and it includes specialized crew, snorkeling equipment and natural water.

SUNSET

From all hotels to the International Marina of Cayo Guillermo. Catamaran Sailing to enjoy an unforgettable sunset. It includes a romantic sea dinner with fine menu and wine.

PRIVATE CHARTER

To go snorkeling to the coral reef, visit the coastal beaches, fishing and other activities.

Visitors can enjoy a delicious seafood and traditional food. The schedule is a customer’s decision.

LIFE ON BOARD

For fishing, diving and other recreational options accompanied by a knowledgeable crew, fishing guides and diving instructors, Jardines del Rey Martin proposes a vessel with facilities to offer an free bar, food, two cabins, hot and cold water, air conditioning, central music, TV and VCR, dining room and kitchen. These activities are included: diving, fishing, seabed watching, and snorkeling.

UNIQUE SEAFARI

Visit to the coral reef and a stay at the beach, including lunch consisting of rice, vegetable, lobster, shrimp, and chicken. Also tour up to the Cayo Guillermo dolphinarium, with a bathing with dolphins.

Contemplative diving is one of the major attractions of the area due to the proximity to the coral reefs. With a variety of corals and marine life, ecosystems have a high degree of conservation and excellent conditions for all water sports.

Jardines del Rey has 3 specialized diving centers: the Coco Diving Center and Blue Diving Center, in Cayo Coco, and Green Moray, in Cayo Guillermo. All of them have staff and equipment which are quite necessary for the development of hiking, scuba diving lessons for beginners, seafaris and beach recreational sports.

Visitors can enjoy the beautiful sea of the cays in more than 30 diving sites to appreciate the flora and fauna. Courses for beginners are delivered, in which they are taught to dive according to ACU Cinnternational and SNIS standards.

There is a beautiful coral reef hidden in the sea half mile from the archipelago, with an average depth of 5-40 meters. It becomes a natural aquarium with a coral formation 10-30 meters deep.

LA Jaula

With colonies of corals, big gorgonians and sponges at a depth of 15 to 30 meters, it has stunning visits of reef sharks.

LAS COLORADAS

Up to 12 meters deep, reef fishes sale between its crevices, tunnels and caves. Submarine lovers have their realm here.
Jardines del Rey Marlin has fully conditioned boats for fishing. The tourists can choose to spend extra days fishing. The seasonal catch of tuna fish, swordfish, and dorados represent a challenge to their skills. They can also practice fly fishing, through channels in boats of lesser draft. People can capture bonefish, brackets, tarpon, barracuda and other species that inhabit in the shallow waters of the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago.

**FISHING TOURNAMENT**
The Jardines del Rey Fishing Tournament [Big Game Trolling] is a new practice but full of originality and gives the chance for fishing lovers to test their skills. It is an opportunity to access the natural resources offered by this tourist destination, especially for nature lovers, who carry on the catch and release method. It takes place in the Cayo Guillermo International Marina. Professional and amateur men and women, staff related to fishing and lovers of this magical world, club members or not, can participate in the tournament. This event calls for the support of specialized crew with more than 15 years of experience aboard yachts of 33 or 42 feet, equipped with up to four [4] simultaneous rods with lines up to 60 pounds appropriate for the capture of the species included in the event. The fishing area covers up to 3 miles to the northeast between Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo. It is a rich fishing area in the Old Channel of Bahamas, where there is a high variety of species such as: the swordfish, blue marlin, white marlin, and dorado. It takes part during the season when those marine species (mainly the marlin) come past near the cays.

**DOLPHINARIUM**
This resort it is owned by the group Palmares and it’s one of the most demanded options by clients.
The dolphins are always preferred by the tourist because of their charm. Interacting programs on platform or in the water are included, as well as thrust and towing bathing, dancing, singing, jumps, and photo service with the dolphins, which provide a lot of joy to the visitors, since they find the animals in similar conditions to those of their natural habitat. Traditional Cuban cocktails and bar service are included.

This aquatic complex —harmoniously fallen within the environment— gives emphasis on natural proposals, and allows the tourist’s delight of the seabed through the crystalline waters of Cayo Guillermo.
The province of Ciego de Ávila, whose capital city was founded in 1840, is located to the eastern-central region of Cuba. It is bounded by the Old Channel of Bahamas to the north, the province of Camagüey to the east, the Gulf of Ana María to the south, and the province of Sancti Spíritus to the west. It is the seventh largest province in Cuba and the thirteenth in population with over 422,000 inhabitants. It has extensive plains where pineapples are grown, a distinctive symbol of the territory, among many other important crops, thanks to its fertile soils.

The predominance of the vernacular architecture go together with the free interpretation of the classicism of the eclectic period, as well as specific examples of Arab, Andalusian, baroque and art deco styles.

The presence of paired portals and neoclassical columns, with different designs, and native red tiles mark the image of the city. Buildings such as the Teatro Principal, the Catholic Cathedral, the Rueda Hotel, a neo-morisco-style house on Independencia Street, among others, are of architectural and historical importance.

Near Ciego de Ávila, also known as the “city of the portals and pineapple”, is one of the most important Spanish military monuments of the New World in the 19th century: the Trocha. This fort was built between 1869 and 1872 and was 68 kilometers long, from Morón, to the north, to Jucarо, to the south, with small forts, moats, wire fences, and casemates, strongly guarded by hundreds of soldiers and a parallel railroad track. This wall was constructed in order to block the Cuban fighters’ way.

Known as the “city of the rooster”, Morón was founded in 1543. A rooster sculpture, at the gate of the town, shows a defiant attitude and has a funny story. The name of Morón is due to the fact that it was built on a gentle elevation, since the word means “small hill located on the edge of a forest”.

Center of railroad traditions, Morón has a beautiful train station, which links this small town with the rest of the country. It is a long and narrow city surrounded by El Roble and Cimarrones channels. Regarding its architecture, it has big French-tiled houses, paired portals, which are currently painted in beautiful colors and mixed with modern buildings.

It still has remnants of colonial architecture, but there are also eclectic and neoclassical constructions. Buildings like the Colonia Española, the train station, the culture house, among others, give a relevant value to the center of the city. A great deal of bicycles and horse-drawn carriages are ridden by tourists from different countries through its colorful streets.

OTHER TOWNS

Some small towns in the province are of interest, due to their socio-economic activity. They are called “bateyes azucareros” (sugar small villages), with their rationalist town planning, as an expression of the social class stratification in different places like Bolivia, Primero de Enero, and Venezuela. Others colorful villages—for their landscape and architecture—are: Florencia, Violeta, Tamarindo and Poblado Holandés. Others like Baraguá, Chambas, and Punta Alegre are quite visited for their festivals, full of traditions and Cuban rhythms.
CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
Located on Independencia Street, in front of José Martí Park, it was built in 1947 and opened in 1952. On its façade, at the top, is the huge statue of San Eugenio de la Palm, patron saint of the city, whose commemoration day is held on November 15th. It became a cathedral in 1996.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Located at the north of the town and near the vernacular Teatro Reguero, Morón has a very peculiar catholic church. It is the oldest construction still standing and the only all over the country with a crenelated tower and loopholes in the walls. It was used as a military barrack during the independence war, in the so-called
chambelona war and in the last war of national liberation.

**José Martí Park**

Located downtown, it was built in 1877 as Plaza Alfonso XII and in the 20th century its name was changed by José Martí Park. It is surrounded by Independencia, Libertad, Honorato del Castillo, and Marcial Gómez streets. In 1925, a bust of the notable Cuban patriot was placed. Today, this statue marks the center of the park and receives the offerings of those who pay tribute to the Cuba National Hero.

**El Vaquerito Monumental Complex**

This is the historical symbol of the city, called after Roberto Rodríguez Fernández (El Vaquerito), who fell in combat while the famous Santa Clara battle, which led to the revolutionary triumph in 1959. As the helm of the suicide squad of the Column 8 led by Che, in turn, he became famous in Morón.

**Train Station**

Built in 1923 and opened a year later. It follows the eclecticism codes, with strong neocolonial influence, that makes it similar to those buildings built in the early Republic. It could be attributed the U.S. influence due to the use of wood and French-tiled roofs with big slopes, but it became a local architectural monument due to the excellent convergence of its huge stained glass window in the roof and the use of Italian marble.

**The Morón Rooster**

Considered the main symbol of Morón, the rooster welcomes all arriving to this Cuban city traveling to Jardines del Rey. This sculpture, performed by the famous Cuban sculptor Rita Longa, is a replica of the rooster located at Morón de la Frontera, Spain, with the only difference that the Cuban one has feathers. It is said that in the 16th century the people from the Spanish city
were mistreated by an official that used to say: “There is no braver rooster than me here” (referring to “rooster” in a macho connotation) or “where this rooster sings no other can” and the people called him the “rooster of Morón”. One day the people got tired and beat him in such way that he ended up naked. Later a sculpture of a plucked rooster was made in town. Spanish immigrants brought this legend to the Cuban Morón and also made a monument there with the only difference that this rooster has feathers. The sculpture has become the symbol of the city, also called the “city of the rooster”. The rooster is certainly a testimony to the rebellion and courage of these inhabitants. It was the place where two peoples have joined together like brothers and sisters: Morón, in Ciego de Ávila, and Morón de la Frontera, Andalusia.
OTHER INTERESTING PLACES

THE CAUSEWAY

This road, linking the mainland to Cayo Coco, was the first one built oversees in Cuba. With 17 kilometers, it communicates Jardines del Rey tourist resort with the province of Ciego de Ávila. It was built in 16 months and 3 millions of cubic meters of rock and stone were needed. Throughout the tour you can enjoy the quietness of the Caribbean Sea and the flocks of migratory birds crossing it. It is possible to see flocks of flamingos, pelicans, frigate birds, herons, migratory ducks and occasional flocks of white ibis or Coco (coconut) birds.

THE DIEGO VELÁZQUEZ LIGHTHOUSE

Located on a rock north of Cayo Paredón Grande, it is accessed by a 40-kilometer road from Cayo Coco. It dates back to the first half of the nineteenth century, in 1848, when Conde Cañongo proposed to the Royal Development Board a motion for its construction. It was named after the first Cuban governor, but its history is full of hurricanes and the persecution of German submarines during World War II.

The lighthouse mechanism has developed: firstly, oil was used, then fuel and now, electricity. Its light reaches up to 18.9 miles away. With its 159.7 feet high and defying time, it stands as a sentinel protecting the navigation on the stream Old Channel of Bahamas. Blessed with one of the most beautiful beaches in the cays, it is special for swimming and nature observation.
LA SILLA ROADSIDE

Located at the entrance of the causeway, from this rustic place you can admire the attractive landscape of the region as well as a nearby flamingo farm. The site also offers a broad variety of light meals.

LA GÜIRA SITE

This place shows an ancient settlement of coal workers early in the 20th century; it is located toward the cays’ center. Several activities are offered here, such as horseback riding, animal shows, Cuban guateques (country festivities), accommodation at reasonable prices and typical Cuban food.

CUÉVA DEL JABALÍ

Located in Cayo Coco, the cave was a refuge for wild boars to shelter from bad weather and predators. Sculpted by nature itself, it gives an intimate and friendly atmosphere, where, at moonrise, rhythm, color, flavor and Cuban identity are mixed. There you can enjoy the best of Cuban music in colorful live shows and cocktails. It is a privileged and popular option, and will help visitors spend a wonderful time in the cay.

BOWLING OF CAYO GUILLERMO

Conveniently located between Iberostar Daiquirí and Meliá Cayo Guillermo hotels, it is the multi-purpose center La Bolera [a bowling center], the right choice to share with the family. With funny bowling, billiards, mini-golf, video games, mini-football and mini-jockey, it ensures safety and enjoyment for children. With bar-cafeteria offerings, it provides excellent Cuban food and the best of national and international cocktails.

IN CIEGO DE ÁVILA

HISTORICAL CENTER OF CIEGO DE ÁVILA

It covers 57 blocks where important exponents of the eclectic architecture are found. The presence of neoclassical columns with varied designs, tiled roofs and portals mark the city image and make it different from the others in the country, thus justifying its nickname: “ciudad de los portales” (City of Portals).

EL BOULEVARD

Independencia Street, former San Eugenio
Road, is the commercial artery of Ciego de Ávila, comprising the 70 percent of the most important buildings. The Boulevard, built between Honorato del Castillo and Fernando Callejas streets, was the first construction work resulting from the efforts to change the city image and, undoubtedly, one of projects with greatest social impact in the province along with the Parque de la Ciudad.

TEATRO PRINCIPAL
Located on Joaquin Agüero Street, on the corner of Honorato del Castillo Street, it is the most important eclectic building in Ciego de Ávila. Opened on March 2nd, 1927, it is a work by Italian sculptor Giovanni de Marcos, his son Giacomo, and Cuban architect Francisco Rodríguez. Outstanding figures such as Jorge Negrete performed in there and it has made great contributions to the national and local culture.

CITY PARK
Located on the northwestern outskirts of Ciego de Ávila, on the banks of the artificial lake La Turbina, it displays the legendary steam locomotives, which have come to be a valuable museum piece for this nearly two centuries of existence and its excellent conservation and good technical condition. The park has, among its large green areas, roads that make it easier for visitors to take some walks for each different specialized restaurant.

PLAN-MURAL OF THE 19TH CENTURY CIEGO DE ÁVILA
Birthplace of the city. Located on the corner of Marcial Gómez and Joaquin Aguero streets, it covers the first 25 blocks making up the city of Ciego de Ávila at that time. There, you can find the Spanish headquarters, some of the forts belonging to the Júcaro-Morón Trail and other places of historical and cultural interest.

THE CITY HALL
It is located on Honorato del Castillo Street, on the corner of Libertad Street. In 1865, Mr. Ramón Cortez Pimentel decided to live with his family in this building. Later, Cortez Pimentel was named head captain and used part of the building to carry out his work, so it became the first “Cabildo” (City Hall) of the town until 1877. In 1999, this facility was restored and the original colonial codes were preserved in its façade. One of its premises is used as a cafeteria.
IN MORÓN
LAGUNA DE LA LECHE TOURIST RESORT

The Laguna de La Leche became a symbol of the city as it is the cradle of many legends. Numerous events such as fairs, festivals, cultural events and water sports, which make the visit to this city a very pleasant stay, are held there. Places with a great variety of traditional services are found there such as La Cueva dancing club, La Atarraya, a restaurant specialized in Cuban food and seafood, as well as El Faro, La Boca, and country options.

TURIGUANÓ DUTCH-STYLE VILLAGE

On the way to Jardines del Rey lies this small but picturesque town. Inspired after authentic Dutch-style houses, it gives harbor to lots of families from the region, who have been traditionally devoted to cattle ranching. It was an idea conceived by the Cuban revolution heroine Celia Sánchez, to improve the life conditions of its inhabitants. Built in the early sixties, this community is recognized by its red roofs and its success in raising Santa Gertrudis race cattle.
CAONABO MUSEUM

Located in the heart of the "city of the rooster", the museum is in a beautiful pink salmon eclectic-style building heavily influenced by neoclassicism. The museum has two floors. Upstairs, there is an excellent collection of Indo-Cuban and Mesoamerican Archaeology, especially highlighted its "dujos" (a kind of aboriginal seat), stone axes, wood made objects from Los Buchillones archaeological site, as well as the ceramic "caratona", which has become symbol of this institution. It shows the cultural history of this city from the Conquest up to now. It also treasures personal objects of those who fought in the region of the Trail. There are objects belonging to the leader Enrique Varona González, El Vaquerito, and to Vivian Díaz Diegues, a famous dancer of the 30’s and 40’s of the past century. A beautiful view of the nearest places completes the scenario.

LA GAVIOTA COMMERCIAL CENTER

Those who visit the Jardines del Rey tourist destination will find "a little piece of Cuba" in La Gaviota commercial center, a modern facility fitted out in order to fulfill the most discerning likes. Exhibition galleries, craft sales, and a wide range of Caracol store network offers are at the tourist’s disposal, who will be always pleased.
TRANSPORTE

TREN BUS
Un atractivo y ligero tren cito le da la oportunidad de conocer los cayos por dentro, trasladándolo desde los hoteles hacia centros recreativos y culturales, entre otros muchos lugares de interés. Puede con ello observar la naturaleza más de cerca, acceder a lo mejor de la culinaria nacional mediante la modalidad Todo Incluido y deleitarse en las playas exquisitas, como Playa Pilar, todo esto en diferentes horarios para su comodidad y siempre con precios económicos.

TOUR BUS
El Bus local Jardines del Rey Tour le garantiza un día lleno de esparcimiento, al encuentro con la excepcional belleza de los cayos. Es ideal para conocer todos los hoteles y sitios de su preferencia. Con un itinerario de diferentes horarios y a precios económicos, presenta un recorrido Cayo Coco-Cayo Guillermo y hasta la joya natural del Caribe, Playa Pilar.

SPA
El Centro de talasoterapia Acuavida es una instalación dotada de tecnología de punta para la integración del Turismo y la Salud, a partir del aprovechamiento de los recursos que puede brindar el entorno. Una filosofía sostenible que promueve la interacción limpia de los vacacionistas con la naturaleza. La relación con sus clientes ha sido construida a partir del mejoramiento de la calidad de vida. Con más de 20 productos exclusivos y tratamientos especiales de higiene facial, hidroterapia equilibrante, masajes aromáticos, y chocoterapia.
In many towns of this province like Baraguá, Chambas, and Majagua, the cultural heritage of pre-Columbian inhabitants is shown, but what characterizes the Cuban nationality is the mixture of Catholic and Afro-Cuban traditions instead. The rise in sugar production in the region during the 20th century called for a large number of labor force, so many Caribbean and Spanish immigrants moved in. Then, humble workers brought their dances, music, crafts and painting, culinary traditions and vernacular humor. Thanks to this, we have many celebrations nowadays, full of music and colors, in order to embellish the cities of this province. Visiting the Jamaican neighborhood of Baraguá during the festivities of La Cinta, the “parrandas” of Chambas and Florencia—or the “bandos” of Majagua—is getting a successful encounter with the most authentic and traditional local art. The Fest of the Morón Rooster and the city Popular Art Fair are distinguished.

LA CINTA

Traditional celebrations on August 1st in the Jamaican neighborhood called Baraguá, at the east of Ciego de Ávila, have gathered for years lovers of Afro-Cuban roots and general festivities. Inspired by the slave emancipation in the British West Indies islands, such celebrations date back from 1917. There, the visitors can buy typical food and sweets of the Caribbean cuisine and enjoy songs, dances and games, also inherited. La Cinta folk group mix games and dances of Anglophone Caribbean descendants, to create a world-class spectacle. With floats, feasts and creative costumes.
THE MUSICAL GROUP OKAY

The Haitian tradition took root in the descendants of working immigrants, settled in Venezuela, a few miles south of Ciego de Ávila, to enrich the folk culture with the OKAY group. This group celebrates its feasts with wedge drums, and invites to sing and dance with carnival and religious rhythms, congas and meringues. These celebrations include Haitian dishes and drinks. OKAY group has participated in the Caribbean and the Azucarte Festivals, in that of the Francophone Culture and in the National Fair of Folk Art, showing why it is a worthy exponent of its roots and pride of its land.

THE BANDOS OF MAJAGUA

The Cuban “montuno” (a country rhythm), of deep popular and Hispanic roots, finds its place in the Majagua week of culture. This is the time of the “Fiesta Guajira” (country Feast) of the red and blue Bandos, in which both participants face each other with different repertoires to show their skills in the Cuban dance. The routines are preserved with the utmost secrecy, to finally perform dances with rural elements, fill the streets with rural music.

THE PARRANDAS OF CHAMBAS

The parrandas of Chambas (parades), a town north of Ciego de Ávila, is a century-old tradition inherited from the Catholic parents in the village, annually celebrated. It is currently a virtual sample of jokes and mockery between two neighborhoods represented by a rooster and a sparrowhawk. Its distinctive features are the work in squares and caravans rescuing legends and historical, mythological, or biblical characters. They are true artworks, embellished with dramatic lighting. It is said that the light bulbs decorations have reached 10 to 12 feet meters high. People attend massively the venues where the pyrotechnic tablets are hidden. These enlighten the dark sky spectacularly. Then the conga comes, together with the joy of the villagers to spread an authentic big Cuban party.
EVENTS

JARDINES DEL REY

BIG GAME TROLLING

Cada año en el mes de octubre se realiza una nueva edición del Torneo Internacional de Pesca “Jardines del Rey Big Game Trolling”.

Durante la jornada del evento se pueden apreciar las potencialidades de Cayo Guillermo para el desarrollo de la pesca deportiva. El torneo siempre se rige por las reglas de la IGFA (The International Game Fish Association).

KITE SURF INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Kite Surf Festival will develop as part of the International Tourism Fair FITCuba 2015, to be developed in Jardines del Rey and devoted to seamanship. It is expected to gather important celebrities of this sport. A polygon has been conditioned for this activity in the beach area of the Gran Caribe Club Cayo Guillermo hotel, in Cayo Guillermo.
EVENTS

PIÑA COLADA FESTIVAL

The Piña Colada Festival, taking place in Ciego de Ávila in the early April, is an event with artistic proposals for all tastes and ages. It is specifically devoted to the youth and aims at the promotion of the Cuban traditional and popular culture through all art expressions.

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JARDINES DEL REY

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