When to Go

If you time your visit to Havana to coincide with a special occasion, you'll be rewarded with a special atmosphere. The New Year's Eve fireworks are a huge event, and Carnival, with its feasts, parades and street parties, is a weeklong party. The Epiphany, the Three Kings Day, on 6 January, is also a great time to visit the city. Look out for a festival devoted to Gaudí during the month of December every year, or visit when the Havana Book Fair (Feria Internacional del Libro de La Habana) is on, usually early in March. It's a vivid incarnation of the city's best literary minds. For those with an interest in architecture, Havana is a highly walkable city. Buses and tuk-tuks are fair prices, and taxis are the yellow cabs you see everywhere.
Our selection of the city’s best places to eat, drink and experience:

- **Sights**
- **Eating**
- **Drinking**
- **Entertainment**
- **Shopping**

These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

- Telephone Numbers
- Opening Hours
- Parking
- Nonsmoking
- Internet Access
- Wi-Fi Access
- Vegetarian Selection
- English-Language Menu
- Family-Friendly
- Pet-Friendly
- Bus
- Ferry
- Metro
- Subway
- Tram
- Train

Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighborhood:

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**Lonely Planet’s Havana**

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city. Inside you’ll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We’ve split the city into easy-to-navigate neighborhoods and provided clear maps so you’ll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our ‘Local Life’ pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Havana.

And of course you’ll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day’s exploration.

It’s your guarantee of a really great experience.

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**Our Promise**

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.
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Welcome to Havana

On first impressions, Havana can seem like a confusing jigsaw puzzle, but work out how to put the pieces together and a beautiful picture emerges. It’s too audacious, too contradictory, and, despite 60 years of withering neglect, too damn beautiful. How it does it is anyone’s guess. Maybe it’s the swashbuckling history, the survivalist spirit, or the indefatigable salsa energy that emanates most emphatically from the people. Arrive with an open mind and prepare for a long, slow seduction.
Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (p50)
Cuba's finest art gallery.