



# Granma Province

023 / POP 835,675

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## Why Go?

Barring some of the more obscure parts of Guantánamo, Granma is Cuba's most remote province with a road network reminiscent of the African bush and a jungle of lofty tropical mountains dense enough to have harbored a fugitive Fidel Castro for more than two years in the 1950s. Yet, despite its out-on-a-limb apartness, Granma is where Cuban patriotism burns the brightest. This is the land where José Martí died, where Fidel Castro clambered ashore with his bedraggled band of shipwrecked revolutionaries, and where Granma native Carlos Manuel de Céspedes freed his slaves and formally declared Cuban independence for the first time in 1868.

The isolation has bred a special kind of Cuban identity. Granma's towns and villages are esoteric places enlivened with weekly street parties characterized by their outdoor barbecues and archaic hand-operated street organs. Its two cities – Bayamo and Manzanillo – are among the most tranquil and cleanest settlements in the archipelago.

## When to Go

Parts of Granma have a balmy climate and during January and February Marea del Portillo is the warmest place in Cuba. The mountains are traditionally wetter. If you're planning on hiking in the Sierra Maestra, March and April are the driest months when nighttime temperatures are bearable. December 2 is the anniversary of the Granma landing and it is celebrated with a ceremony at Los Coloradas.

