



Guantánamo Province

21 / POP 511,100

Includes →

Guantánamo	438
Around Guantánamo	
US Naval Base	444
South Coast	444
Punta de Maisí	445
Boca de Yumurí	
& Around	445
Baracoa	445
Northwest of	
Baracoa	452
Parque Nacional	
Alejandro de	
Humboldt	453

Best Places to Eat

- Restaurante 1870 (p441)
- Bar-Restaurante La Terraza (p450)
- La Rosa Nautica (p450)
- Rancho Toa (p452)

Best Wildlife Excursions

- El Yunque (p453)
- Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt (p453)
- Río Toa (p452)
- Boca de Yumurí (p445)

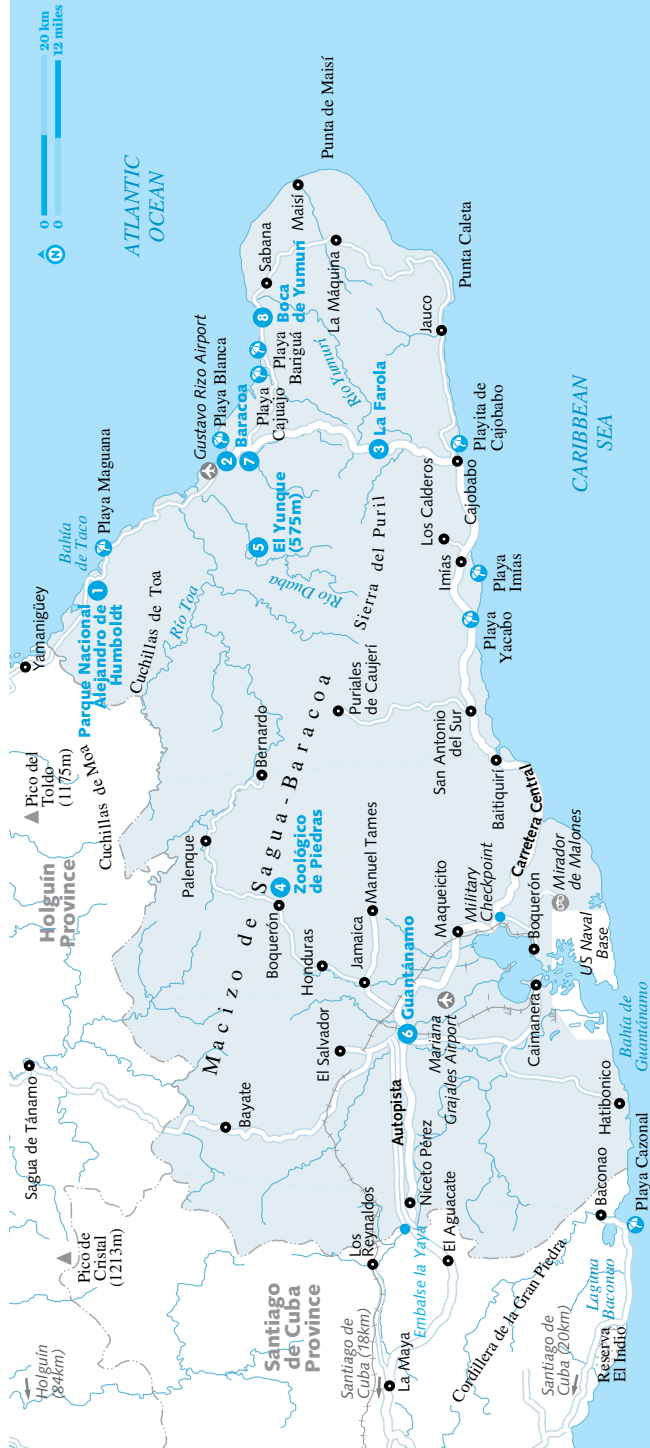
Why Go?

To many people, Guantánamo conjures up pictures of nameless prisoners in orange jumpsuits. But Cuba's wettest, driest, hottest, oldest and most mountainous province isn't just an anachronistic US Naval Base. Cuba in the modern sense started here in 1511, when Diego Velázquez and his band of colonizers landed uninvited on the rain-lashed eastern coastline. Today it lives on in Baracoa, the city Velázquez founded, one of the country's most isolated settlements and beautifully unique as a consequence.

The province's rugged transport artery is La Farola, one of the seven engineering marvels of modern Cuba, a weaving roller coaster that travels from the dry cacti-littered southern coast up into the humid Cuchillas Toa mountains. Overlaid by the fecund Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt, this heavily protected zone is one of the last, and most biologically diverse, swaths of virgin rainforest left in the Caribbean.

When to Go

- Baracoa's biggest festival, the Semana de la Cultura (p448) Baracoesa, is in late March/early April.
- The city of Guantánamo gets animated in mid-December for the Festival Nacional de Changüí.
- Avoid the worst of Baracoa's heavy storms by staying away in September and October. Guantánamo's climate varies hugely, but it's dependent more on geography than season.



Guantánamo Province Highlights

- 1 Find the world's smallest frog in **Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt**, the Caribbean's most diverse national park. (p453).
- 2 Sample the culinary smorgasbord of exotic **Baracoa** (p445).
- 3 Cycle **La Farola**, the lighthouse road from Cajobabo to Baracoa (p452).
- 4 Get an eye-full of the stony statues at the **Zoológico de Piedras** (p444).
- 5 Hike through the tropical jungle up to Baracoa's mysterious flat-topped mountain, **El Yunque** (p453).
- 6 Uncover the mysteries of **changüí** music in the city of **Guantánamo** (p442).
- 7 Imagine Taino life pre-Columbus at Baracoa's **Museo Arqueológico 'La Cueva del Paraiso'** (p446).
- 8 Jump on board a local boat upstream from the **Boca de Yumuri** through the jaws of a mysterious river gorge (p445).