Sancti Spíritus Province

Why Go?
Sancti Spíritus is the province of good fortune: there’s more of everything here, and it’s all squeezed into an area half the size of Camagüey or Pinar del Río.

The cities are a perennial highlight. In the east is the understated provincial capital, a soporific mix of weather-beaten buildings and bruised Ladas. South, and within sight of the coast, is ethereal Trinidad, Cuba’s time-warped colonial jewel.

Unlike other colonial belles, Trinidad has beaches – nearby Ancón is a stunner, easily the best on Cuba’s southern coast – and mountains. Within mirror-glinting distance of the city’s colonial core lies the haunting Escambray, which, with a network of decent trails, is Cuba’s best hiking area.

The rest of the province hides a surprisingly varied cache of oft-overlooked curiosities, including fishing at Embalse Zaza, a seminal museum to Cuba’s guerrilla icon Camilo Cienfuegos in Yaguajay, and the beautiful Bahía de Buenavista.

When to Go
- Trinidadians don’t wait long after Christmas to rediscover their celebratory style. The Semana de la Cultura Trinitaria (Trinidad Culture Week) takes place during the second week of January and coincides with the city’s anniversary.
- The quiet month of May is a good time to visit this province, as you can avoid both crowds and bad weather during the off-season.
- Stick around until June and you’ll witness Trinidad’s second big annual shindig, the Fiestas Sanjuaneras, a local Carnaval where rum-fueled horsemen gallop through the streets. Take cover!

Includes ➪
Sancti Spíritus .......... 282
Southwest Sancti Spíritus Province ......................... 288
Trinidad ...................... 288
Playa Ancón & Around ....................... 301
Valle de los Ingenios .. 302
Topes de Banao (p289)
Northern Sancti Spíritus ............ 305

Best Off-the-Beaten-Track
- Parque Nacional Caguamas (p306)
- La Boca (p301)
- Alturas de Banao (p289)
- Jobo Rosado Reserve (p306)

Best Waterfalls
- El Rocio (p304)
- Salto del Caburni (p304)
- La Solapa de Genaro (p306)
- Cascada Bella (p289)
Sancti Spíritus Province Highlights

1. Sway to the hypnotic rumba drums in Trinidad’s Palenque de los Congos Reales (p298).
2. Climb the tower at the Manaca Iznaga for a killer view of the Unesco-listed Valle de los Ingenios (p302).
3. Enjoy a less-visited alternative to Trinidad in the historic city of Sancti Spíritus (p282).
5. Rent a house in La Boca and stroll the sands of Playa Ancón (p301).
6. Hike down to the Salto del Caburní (p304) and jump into a frigid natural bathing pool.
7. Commission a boat to take you snorkeling off Cayo Blanco (p301).
8. Visit one of half a dozen museums in time-warped Trinidad (p288).