



Granma Province

23 / POP 836,400

Includes ➔

Bayamo	372
Gran Parque Nacional Sierra Maestra	381
Manzanillo	384
Media Luna	386
Niquero	386
Parque Nacional Desembarco del Granma	386
Pilón	388

Best Hikes

- ➔ Comandancia de la Plata (p382)
- ➔ El Salto (p389)
- ➔ Pico Turquino (p383)
- ➔ Morlotte-Fustete (p388)

Best Revolutionary Sites

- ➔ Alegria del Pio (p388)
- ➔ Comandancia de la Plata (p382)
- ➔ Casa Natal de Carlos Manuel de Céspedes (p373)
- ➔ Museo las Coloradas (p387)
- ➔ Museo Histórico la Demajagua (p384)

Why Go?

Few parts of the world get named after yachts, which helps explain why in Granma (christened for the boat in which Fidel Castro and his bedraggled revolutionaries clambered ashore to kick-start a guerrilla war in 1956), Cuba's *viva la Revolución* spirit burns most fiercely. This is the land where José Martí died and where Granma native Carlos Manuel de Céspedes freed his slaves and formally declared Cuban independence for the first time in 1868.

The alluringly isolated countryside helped the revolutionary cause. Road-scarce Granma is one of Cuba's remotest regions, with lofty tropical mountains dense enough to have harbored a fugitive Fidel Castro for over two years in the 1950s.

Its isolation has bred a special brand of Cuban identity. Granma's settlements are esoteric places enlivened with weekly street parties (with outdoor barbecues and archaic hand-operated street organs), and provincial capital Bayamo is among the most tranquil and clean places in the archipelago.

When to Go

- ➔ Pockets of Granma have a balmy climate and during January and February Marea del Portillo is the warmest place in Cuba.
- ➔ Bayamo's biggest celebration is the Incendio de Bayamo on January 12.
- ➔ In the far wetter Sierra Maestra mountains, March and April are the driest times for hiking, with bearable nighttime temperatures.
- ➔ December 2 is the anniversary of the Granma landing, which is celebrated with a ceremony at Los Coloradas.



Granma Province Highlights

- 1** Enjoy one of Cuba's balmiest microclimates in secluded **Marea del Portillo** (p389).
- 2** Trek up to Fidel's wartime headquarters at **Comandancia de la Plata** (p382) in Gran Parque Nacional Sierra Maestra.
- 3** Investigate marine terraces and archaeological remains in **Parque Nacional Desembarco del Granma** (p386).
- 4** Get a dose of mountain air and customs in **Santo Domingo** (p382) at Gran

- 5** Immerse yourself in the unique Bayamo party spirit with pork roast, street organs, and a chess game in the **Fiesta de la Cubanía** (p379).
- 6** Relax by the river with the *bayameses* (people from Bayamo) in **Parque Chapuzón** (p375).

- 7** Visit the site where the Cubans uttered their first cry of independence in **Museo Histórico la Demajagua** (p384).