



Trinidad & Sancti Spiritus Province

41 / POP 466,106

Includes →

Trinidad	275
Playa Ancón & Around	286
Valle de los Ingenios	288
Topes de Collantes ..	289
Sancti Spiritus	291
Northern Sancti Spiritus Province ...	298

Best Hikes

- Sendero 'Centinelas del Río Melodioso' (p290)
- La Sabina trail (p297)
- Huellas de la Historia (p278)
- Sendero La Batata (p290)

Best Natural Swimming Pools

- La Poza del Venado (p290)
- Salto del Caburní (p290)
- La Solapa de Genaro (p298)
- Cascada Bella (p297)

Why Go?

The year 2014 was a big one for Sancti Spiritus province. Its two main colonial towns both celebrated their 500th anniversaries amid much publicity, partying and cleaning up of important public buildings. It was proof that this small but well-endowed province guards what is arguably Cuba's most precious historical legacy. Trinidad, thanks to careful preservation efforts, is considered one of the most intact colonial towns in the Americas, while Sancti Spiritus (the city) has a more intangible, crumbling allure.

Complementing its historical depth, Sancti Spiritus province boasts beaches – Playa Ancón is a stunner, easily the best on Cuba's underwhelming south coast – and mountains. Within mirror-glinting distance of Trinidad 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 lightly trodden ecoparks, a seminal museum to guerrilla icon Camilo Cienfuegos, and the Unesco-protected 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 carnival where rum-fueled horsemen gallop through the streets. Take cover!

Trinidad & Sancti Spiritus Province Highlights

- 1 Visit museums and recline in colonial comfort in one of 90+ new restaurants in time-warped **Trinidad** (p282).
- 2 Climb the tower at the Manaca Iznaga for a killer view of the Unesco-listed **Valle de los Ingenios** (p288).
- 3 Stroll without an itinerary around the recently beautified streets of **Sancti Spiritus city** (p291).
- 4 Explore woodland, waterfalls and war history in the **Jobo Rosado Reserve** (p298).
- 5 Rent a house in La Boca and stroll the sands of **Playa Ancón** (p286).
- 6 Hike down to the **Salto del Caburní** (p290) and jump into a frigid natural bathing pool.
- 7 Go **horseback riding** (p280) in the cowboy-inhabited countryside around Trinidad.

