



Camagüey Province

📍 32 / POP 782,500

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Casa Austria (p326)
- ➔ El Paso (p326)
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- ➔ El Bucanero (p334)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ El Marqués (p324)
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- ➔ The Point of Pilots (p334)

Why Go?

Neither Occidente nor Oriente, Camagüey is Cuba's provincial contrarian, a region that likes to go its own way in political and cultural matters – and usually does – defying expectations in Havana and Santiago. These seeds were sown in the colonial era, when Camagüey's preference for cattle ranching over sugarcane meant less reliance on slave labor and more enthusiasm to eliminate the whole system.

Today Cuba's largest province is a mostly pancake-flat pastoral landscape of grazing cattle, lazy old sugar mill towns and, in the south, a few low-but-lovely hill ranges. It's flanked by Cuba's two largest archipelagos: Sabana-Camagüey in the north and Jardines de la Reina in the south, both almost virgin in places, though development is already underway in the cays to the north.

With its alluring architecture, illustrious citizens of note and cosmopolitan airs, the staunchly Catholic capital of Camagüey is the star attraction.

When to Go

- ➔ In February, Camagüeyans celebrate the Jornada de la Cultura Camagüeyana (Days of Camagüeyan Culture) to mark the city's founding in 1514.
- ➔ For outdoor enthusiasts, March is prime time for viewing migratory birds passing through the little-developed northern keys.
- ➔ At Playa Santa Lucía, divers can watch the amazing underwater shark-feeding show held seasonally between the months of June and January, with the best beach weather from November on.
- ➔ Held the first week of October, Camagüey showcases some more of its cultural prowess with the Festival Nacional de Teatro (National Theater Festival).



Camagüey Province Highlights

- 1 Sierra del Chorrillo** (p330) Retreating into these verdant hills harboring rare birdlife and petrified forests.
- 2 Playa Los Cocos** (p333) Swimming off the white-sand beach and soaking up the culture of the tiny village of La Boca.
- 3 Reserva Ecológica Limones Tuabaquey** (p329) Checking out the caves, craters and natural gorge of one of Cuba's newest reserves.
- 4 Guáimaro** (p331) Making a history stop in the city of emancipation, where Cuba's first constitution was signed.
- 5 Cayo Cruz** (p334) Fly-fishing for tarpon and bonefish in the shallow flats off the key.
- 6 Camagüey heritage** (p318) Walking the winding streets of the city to visit artist studios, explore intricate churches and soak up vibrant local life.