

## SAN MIGUEL DE LOS BAÑOS

Come to this somnolent town to see the magnificent ruins of an abandoned hotel and bathhouse, and climb a steep hill marked by the stations of the cross.

## SAGUA LA GRANDE

A sleepy former sugar town in rural Villa Clara province that's in the process of reviving its withered early 20th-century architecture to something approaching its former glory.

## SIERRA DEL CHORRILLO

Reconnoiter Camagüey Province's surprise swath of serene upland with a stay in a sumptuous old hacienda, a ride on one of Cuba's finest steeds and an excursion to find rare birds or rarer-yet petrified trees.

## GIBARA BEACH-BAGGING

Starting in colorful, off-the-radar Gibara, things only get more wild as you voyage via boat or bumpy track to desolate beaches with names such as Playa Blanca or Playa Caletones, where there are also cave systems to explore.

## PLAYA LAS TUMBAS

Cuba's most isolated and beautiful beach is set at the Isla Grande's western tip encased in the Parque Nacional Península de Guanahacabibes and a Unesco Biosphere Reserve.

## THE SOUTHERN ISLA

Cave paintings, crocodiles, deserted beaches and vast swamps characterize the southern half of La Isla de la Juventud, which is both a military zone and a national park.

## JOBO ROSADO RESERVE

This little-explored reserve in northern Sancti Spiritus Province is accessible from the town of Yaguajay. There are paths and guided treks led by Ecotur among rivers, semi-deciduous forest and unusual karst topography.

## BARACOA TO HOLGUÍN – THE BACK ROAD

Ever wondered what Cuba's most pristine and biodiverse protected area (Parque Nacional Alejandro de Humboldt) would look like were it juxtaposed with its ugliest industrial sight (Moa)? Hit this rarely traversed, pothole-ravaged back road to find out.

