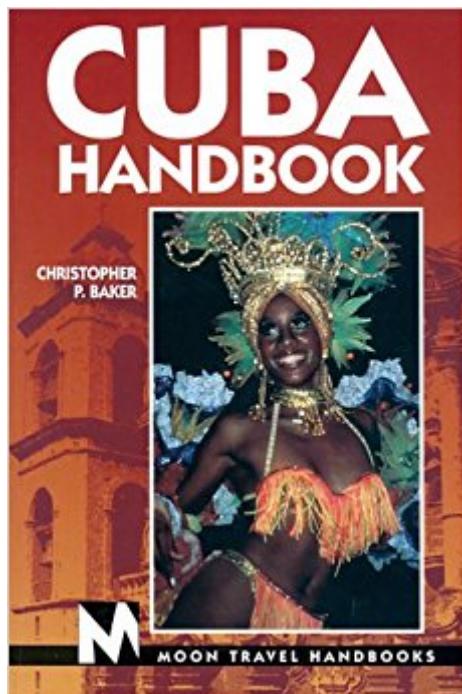


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Cuba Handbook (1st Ed)



Synopsis

Author Christopher P. Baker leapt onto a motorcycle and logged over 7,000 miles researching this book--the most comprehensive travel guide to Cuba ever written. "Cuba Handbook" ranges from Havana's colonial plazas and dynamic nightclubs to the diamond-dust beaches of Varadero, providing:

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The thought of Cuba conjures images and associations with Castro politics and contraband cigars, but a visit reveals more: vibrant hummingbirds, coral-colored flamingos, a profusion of insect life, and miles of sugarcane. The Cuba Handbook tells the oft-neglected details of Cuba's history, from slave trading to the U.S. embargo. But like the sidebar on Cuban cigars, the information is merely an aside, for this is a practical book: you'll find out how to gain entrance, where to stay, and what to eat, plus the scoop on all of the beaches, Hemingway memorials, and Revolution museums you could desire. There's sailing and golf, bird watching and scuba diving, and Cuban baseball. There's ballet, cabarets, and the ubiquitous beat of salsa throbbing in the night air. A vivid, engaging Cuba, peopled by Cubans justly renowned for their warmth, awaits.

The first of these works is a guidebook?and an excellent one at that. Baker, who has traveled extensively in Cuba and written other guidebooks and magazine articles, gives a general introduction to his subject, with tips on getting to Cuba, hotels, money, and all the usual things one expects from a guide. But his book has a special twist for Americans because of the embargo. After

introductory material on history, flora and fauna, the Helms-Burton bill, Castro, and many, many other topics, the book is organized by region, with maps, hotels, tips on getting there, etc. This excellent work is one of the most thorough guidebooks this reviewer has ever seen. Highly recommended. The author of two other works on Latin America, Schwartz has written not a guidebook but a well-researched description of tourism in Cuba, mainly from the Twenties to the Sixties. The emphasis is on American tourists, the most numerous until Castro, and the history is chronological, showing how World Wars I and II affected Cuban industry. Schwartz describes the Mafia influence and the state of tourism since Castro, and she also considers how tourism affects a country, any country, which makes interesting reading. An excellent history that should have broad appeal, this is scholarly but not dull. ?George M. Jenks, Bucknell Univ., Lewisburg, PA
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The book was published in 1997 and some things have changed. One significant thing is that Mr. Baker states that drinking water is good all over Cuba. This is no longer so. And some incidents referred to are not current. But for history, a broad view of the country and culture, and some good maps, it is still a very worthwhile read.

I've recently returned from a month-long working trip in Cuba. I read this book before going, while there and once again upon my return. Not only was the travel information accurate and thorough, I was well prepared for understanding the people and the culture. I am writing an article about my experiences there and find myself returning to the book for details that need reconfirming. It is much more than a travel guide....

Very details information and the maps are very useful, the one of the best book this kind and you much read before go to the island.

Reading Christopher Baker's book was one of the healthiest things I did before going to Cuba. The historical perspective Mr. Baker injects is not always objective but nonetheless very helpful. The maps were very accurate and helped me to discover some of the best out of the way places to enjoy music and good food such as the notorious 'paladares'. I would recommend this book to anyone that is contemplating a visit to this magnificent island. The book added a dimension of adventure I would not have completely experienced had I not read it.

Moon Travel Handbook's guide to Cuba is by far the best travel book on Cuba I found. I visited the island last year for 3 weeks and referred to it daily. It provides the most extensive overview of Cuban history of any travel book I've seen, beating Lonely Planet hands down. The schedules and pricing for museums and transportation are comprehensive and accurate (although expect prices to rise as more north americans visit Cuba). Even my Cuban family and friends were impressed with this book. If you are traveling to the island, and can only bring *one* book with you, this is it.

This guide was very useful in a recent trip to Cuba. I also took Fodor's and the Lonely Planet's guide to Cuba which turned out to be less comprehensive, and they were helpful in a general not so specific way, when reviewing this guide with some cuban friends they were impressed by the accuracy of the information. Especially by the restaurant and sightseeing reccomendations, paladares and nightclubs and nightspots should be re-checked since they vary all the time. Great guide, this is the one to buy

This was a terrific orientation to Cuba. Christopher Baker gave a thorough overview of the political and historical climate of the country, and his descriptions of the people and culture were always on target. He really demystified the labyrinth of getting into, around, and out of Cuba. We read the book as intently on our last day as we did before we arrived, always finding some new insight on every page. After looking at all of the other Cuba guidebooks, this is clearly the only one anyone could need.

In April, I toured Cuba on the Viazul bus system. Your book provided critical current and accurate info for me, an older woman traveling alone such as I was. Thanks. If anyone has questions, I am available for discussion. ljustice@cyberhighway.net

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