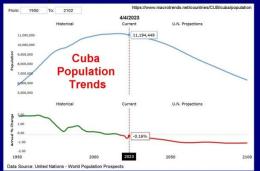
# Presentation by Paul Pacter www.PaulVisits.com Baker Senior Center Copyright © Paul Pacter

# Naples CUBA Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Republica de Cuba Republica de Cuba Sirvan Republica de Cuba Republica de Cuba

## Cuba population: 11,200,000 and declining



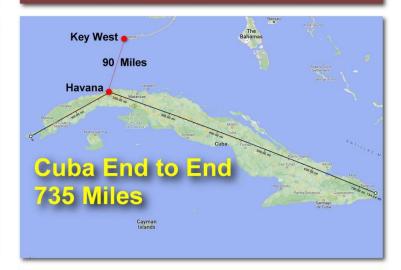
## **Cuba land area:**

41,097 sq. miles.
Slightly smaller than
Pennsylvania.

## Coastline:

2,321 miles.

## Cuba Background and History



Capital Havana La Habana Havana pop: 2.4 million. Havana Metro: 3.9 million.



**Land Use in Cuba** 

Agriculture: 60%.

Forest: 27%.

**Built-up Areas,** 

Roadways, Other: 13%.

**Climate:** Tropical moderated by trade winds. Average temps: January: High 80. Low 62. July: High 90. Low 73.

**Dry season: November to April.** Rainy season: May to October.

Time: UTC-5 (same US East

Coast).

**Daylight savings time: Yes.** 

Legislature

**Unicameral: National Assembly** 

of People's Power.

**Seats: 474 (effective 2023). Communist Party is the only** party. Nominates candidates, who run unopposed.

**Assembly elects President and** Prime Minister. No public vote.

**Cubans in USA** 

Est. 2 million, 60% in Florida. Cuban-born: Around 57%.

Politics: Heavily Republican.

**Strongly anti-Communist.** 

Successful: In establishing businesses and developing

political influence in US.

**Cuba Flag** Designed: 1849.

Adopted 1902.

Blue bands: Old divisions of island: Central, East, West.

White bands: Purity of

independence.

**Government: One-party** 

communist state.

**Head of State: President Miguel** 

Diaz-Canel.

**Head of Gov't:** 



Citizenship

Citizenship by birth only:

Birth in Cuba or to Cuban parents living abroad.

**Naturalization: Highly** 

restricted.

Dual citizenship: No.

States with largest Cuban-American populations US Census Estimate 2021

US Census Estimate 2021		
	<b>United States Total</b>	2,400,152
	Florida	1,589,455
	Texas	123,565
	California	103,500
	New Jersey	94,260
	New York	83,771
	Georgia	37,768
	Nevada	36,041
	North Carolina	33,258
	Pennsylvania	26,316
	Illinois	22,518



Don't confuse the Cuba flag (adopted 1902)

with the **Puerto Rico** flag (adopted 1895).——



Ethnic Groups (2012 self-identification in census)

White: 64.1%.

Mulatto or mixed: 26.6%.

Black: 9.3%.

Voting: 16 years of age.

Official Language: Spanish.

Cuban Money Cuban Peso: CUP. Symbol \$.

Units: \$1, \$3, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500 Some coins too.



Official Rate: Pegged with US dollar at 25 CUP = US\$1. BUT...

Cuba's Economy
State-run enterprises dominate.
72% of workers state employed.
Most others are self-employed.
Private property and foreign
direct investment are allowed.
But economic activity is tightly
controlled by the government.

Food rationing system since 1962. Family ration books. Must buy certain low-price items at Bodegas.

Typical monthly rations per person:

5 eggs 6 lbs white rice
1 liter cooking oil 20 oz beans
1 lb spaghetti 2 bags coffee
3 lb white sugar Dinner rolls
3 lb dark sugar 2 lbs chicken
Problems: Availability. Long lines.

Cuba Religions (2020 est.)

Christian: 59%.

Folk religion: 18%. No Religion: 23%.

Christianity is mainly Roman Catholic modified by African

folk customs.

But market rate is very different! 110 to 130 to US\$1. If you pay with US dollars cash in restaurants, hotels, stores, you will get this market rate.

US dollars cash accepted – preferred – by most merchants. But NO credit cards. NO ATMs.

**Cuba Gross Domestic Product** (GDP)

Per capita nominal (NOT PPP):

\$7,156 (2020 est).

Per capita (PPP):

\$12,300 (2016 est).

Based on limited World Bank data.

**Exports:** \$2.6 bn (2017 est).

**China 38%, Spain 11%,** 

Netherlands 5%, Germany 5%.

**Imports:** \$11.1 bn (2017 est).

**Spain 19%, China 15%,** 

Italy 6%, Canada 5%, USA 5%,

Russia 5%, Brazil 5%.

## Cuba History – 1

1492 Navigator Christopher Columbus arrives. Claims Cuba for Spain.

1511 Spanish settlements.

**1526** Importing slaves from Africa.

1762 British capture Cuba.

1763 Cuba returned to Spain.

## Cuba History – 3

1898 Spain sinks USS Maine battleship in Havana harbor. US declares war on Spain.

1898 US defeats Spain. Spain cedes Cuba to the US.

1902 Cuba becomes independent. US ends military occupation.

## Cuba History – 5

1956 Castro lands in Cuba. Leads guerilla war against government.



1959 Castro army takes Havana. Batista flees. Castro becomes prime minister; brother, Raul, becomes his deputy.

## Cuba History – 7

**1961** US sponsors failed Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban exiles.

**1962** Cuban missile crisis.

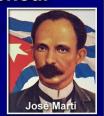
1991 USSR collapses. Their aid to Cuba ends.

1993 Cuba introduces some market reforms to stem the deterioration of its economy.

## Cuba History - 2

1868-1878 Ten-Years War of Independence. Spain won. Promised reforms and autonomy – never happened.

1886 Slavery abolished. 1895-98 José Martí leads a second war of independence.



## Cuba History - 4

1933 Government overthrown in coup led by Sergeant Fulgencio Batista. Batista led Cuba by dictatorship until overthrown by Fidel Castro in 1959.

1953 Fidel Castro leads an unsuccessful revolt against the Batista regime.

## Cuba History – 6

1960 All US businesses in Cuba nationalised. No compensation.
1960 US trade embargo (except medicine and food). All business with Cuba prohibited. Continues to today.

**1961** US breaks off all diplomatic relations with Havana.

## Cuba History – 8

2008 Fidel retires. Raul takes over as president.



2008 Bans end on people owning mobile phones and computers.

2009 US President Barack
Obama says he wants a new
beginning with Cuba. Relaxes
travel restrictions.

Cuba History – 9

2014-2016 Some US-Cuba trade and banking restrictions eased. **Embassies reopened. Travel** resumes. President Obama visits Cuba. Cuba allows small private businesses.

2016 Fidel Castro dies, age 90.

**Cuba History - 10** 2017-2020 President Trump overturns many Obama reforms. **Declares Cuba a state sponsor** 

of terrorism.

**2021** Anti-government demonstrations protest lack of food, fuel, medicine and freedom.

## Cuba History – 11



October 2022 US Customs and **Border Protection reports that** 224.607 unauthorized citizens of Cuba had been apprehended and/or expelled trying to enter the United States during fiscal year 2022 ending Sept 30, 2022.

Legal Travel to Cuba by Americans

Old "People to People" program ended 2019. Had required using government-owned tour companies, hotels, restaurants.

**New "Support for Cuban** People" program requires support for Cuban microentrepreneurs rather than government-run entities.

## This means:

- Stay in casas particulares (private homes).
- Eat in paladares (small, private restaurants).
- Use private quides.
- Participate full-time (8h/day) in small cultural activities that directly benefit people.

Best to use tour company. I used discovercorps.com.

Need Cuban visa. Buy online. \$85+ship.



Book flight with visa number and state purpose of visit is "Support for Cuban People".

Complete Traveler Info Form online. Proof of medical insurance.

Non-stop flights to Havana from US: JFK, Newark, Tampa, Miami,

Fort Lauderdale. 45 min flight MIA & FLL.

Vaccinations required? None.

US mobile phones: Won't work maybe just text messages only.

Cannot use: ATMs or credit cards. Can use: US\$ cash or Cuban Pesos.

Tips for guide/driver: US\$ cash best.





## Where to Go and What to Do in Havana





Catedral de San Cristóbal.

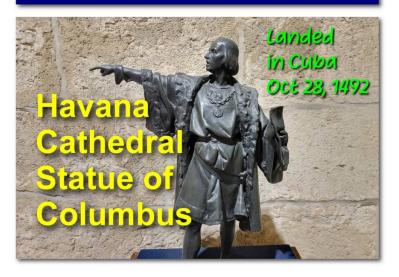
1777. Baroque style. Coral stone.

1 of 11 Catholic cathedrals in Cuba.

Built by Jesuits.

Christopher Columbus' remains were here 1796-1898. Moved to Seville after Cuban independence. Part of Old Havana UNESCO site.











Capitol - Capitolio. 1929.
Exact center of Havana.
Similar to US Capitol: 1 meter higher, 1 meter wider.
1959: Congress abolished.
Building fell into disrepair.
2019: Renovated. Now again home of National Assembly.



José Julián Martí Pérez 1853-1895.

Cuban writer, philosopher, political theorist, martyr.
National hero - inspired independence movement.
Died fighting Spain 1895.



Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, Cuban revolutionary hero.

Plantation owner who freed his slaves and declared Cuba independent in 1868. Started Ten Years' War (1868-1878). Killed by Spanish in 1874.



Castillo de la Real Fuerza - 1577.
Part of UNESCO Old Havana Site.
Built by slaves and prisoners.
Was residence of Spanish
governor of Cuba.

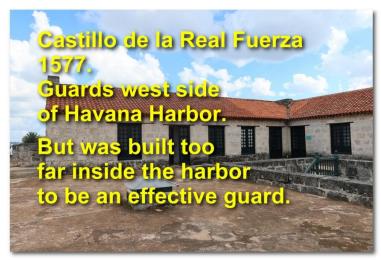
Inside: Maritime history museum.

Closed Mondays.

El Templete - 1827

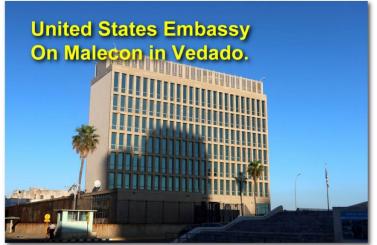
Celebrates the first
Catholic Mass said in
Havana Nov 16, 1519.
Walk 3 times around
sacred ceiba tree (kapok)
for good luck.











**US Embassy** 

1959-1977 Relations severed.

1977-2015 US office, not embassy.

2015 Embassy resumed.

**2017** Havana Syndrome. Pain, ears ringing, cognitive difficulties.

**2018** Only 10 American diplomats

remained. Cause still unknown.

**2022** Slowly reopening.



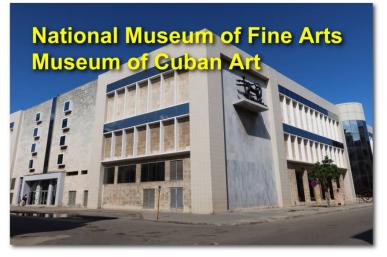






Municipal Palace - Palacio de los Capitanes Generales - 1776 Captains General were the Spanish governors of Cuba. Palacio was their residence. Cuban Baroque style. Today it is home to the Museum of the City of Havana (Museo de la Ciudad).

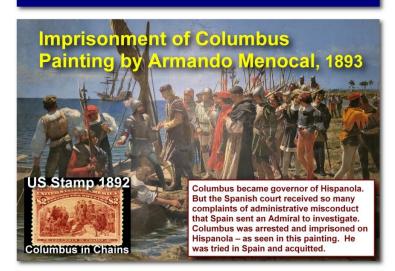


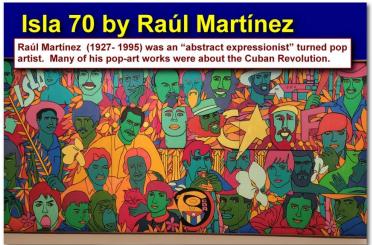


## National Museum of Fine Arts Founded 1913. Two buildings:

- Museo National de Bella Arte
   Universal foreign art, classical
   building.
- Museo National de Bella Arte
   Cubano Cuban art from the
   Colonial Period to the present.

I visited only the second one.



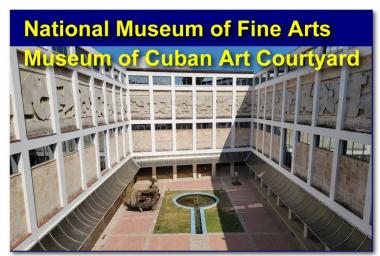


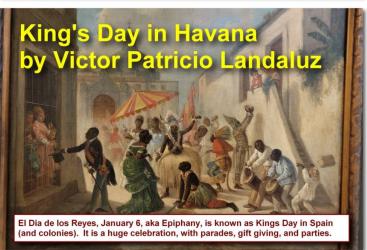
## National Theatre - 1915 Gran Teatro de La Habana Home to the Cuban National Ballet. Theatres, concert hall, rehearsal rooms, art gallery.

Renovated 2015.

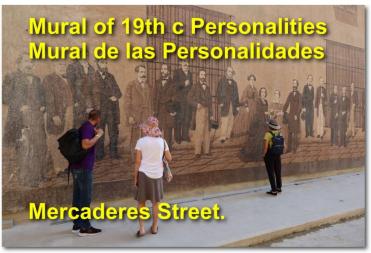
Main hall seats 1500.





















Sloppy Joes Bar
Zulueta & Animas Sts.
Opened in 1920s.
90% customers American.
Magnet for American celebs and tourists wanting to mingle with them.
LA Times called it "almost a shrine".
Business nosedived after Revolution.
Closed in 1965. Reopened in 2013.

Museum of the Revolution
Museo de la Revolucion
Story of the 1959 Cuban Revolution.
Vivid exhibits like blood-stained and bullet-riddled uniforms.

Building was Presidential Palace of all Cuban presidents from Mario García Menocal (Pres 1913-1921) to Fulgencio Batista (until 1959).



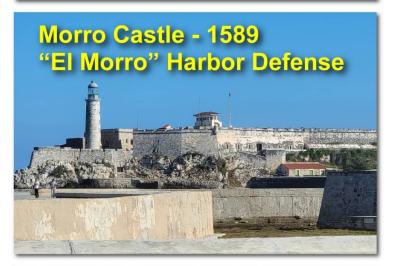
## **Two Havana Club Rums!**

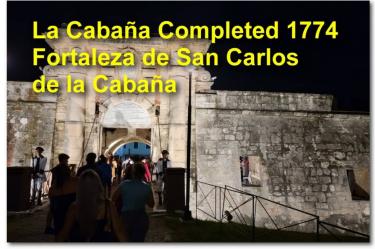
Original. Moved to Puerto Rico after Castro.

therealhavanaclub com

Havana Club Rum now made in Cuba. havana-club.com







In 1959, Castro seized La Cabaña. Cuban Army surrendered. Che Guevara used the fortress as headquarters and



military prison. 176 documented executions there of people who opposed the communist revolution.



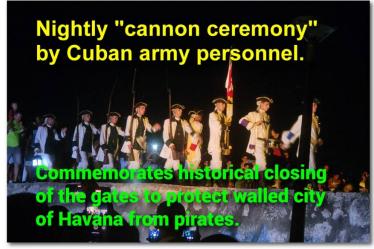
Morro Castle - "El Morro" 1589

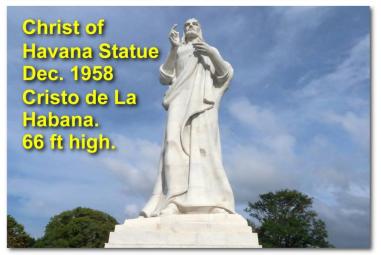
Not to be confused with San Felipe del Morro Fort (aka El Morro) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bay.

**Built by Spain.** 

Main defense in Havana harbor until La Cabaña was built next door 1774.

Part of Old Havana UNESCO Heritage site.



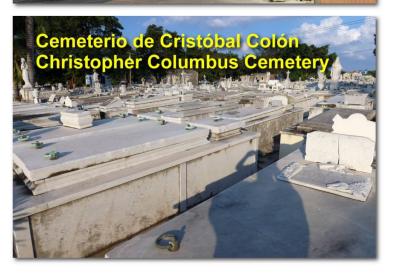


Cristo de La Habana. 66 ft high.
On a hill overlooking Havana Harbor.
Commissioned by Batista's wife to celebrate survival of 1957 coup attempt.
15 days after the statue was unveiled,
Castro entered Havana. Batista fled.
Castro made religion illegal. Statue abandoned to vegetation until mid1990s, when cleaned and reopened.

**Jesus Christ Statue - Dec. 1958** 



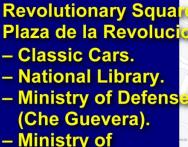






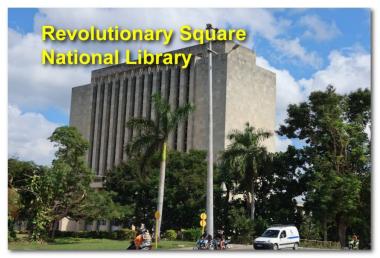


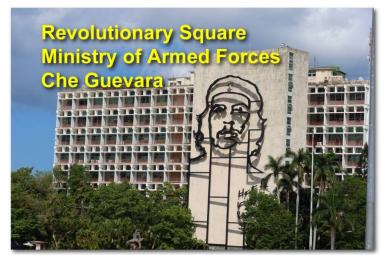


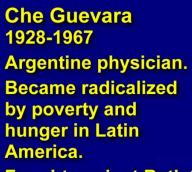


Communications
(Camilo Cienfuegos).

– Jose Marti Monument.









Fought against Batista with Castro. Countercultural symbol of rebellion.

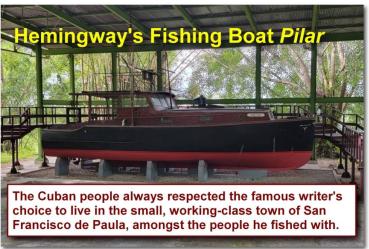


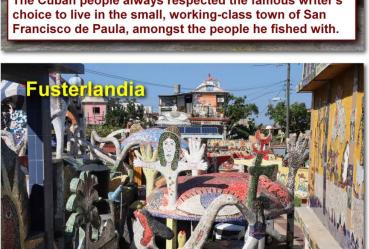


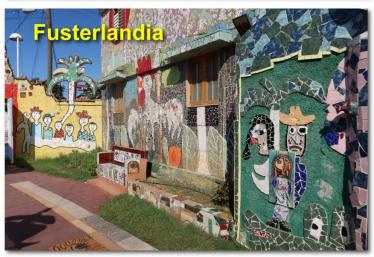










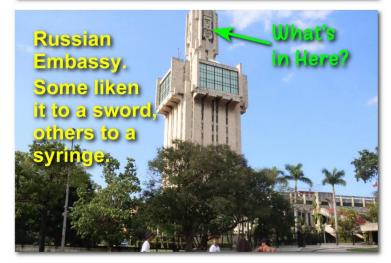














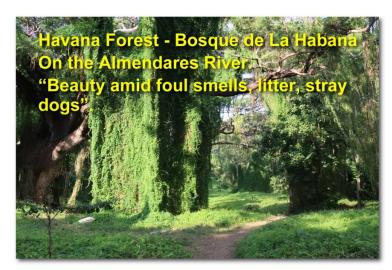




Bello Vedado
Owner Jorge lives
nearby. Cooks hot
breakfast each
morning.



Jorge makes internet hotspot. Can arrange taxi. Free land line phone. Front porch. Sit and watch neighbors. 2 miles walk to Old Havana. \$5 taxi.



## Santería

African diasporic religion.

Widely practiced in Cuba.

Developed by slaves late 19th century. Mix of traditional Yoruba religion of West Africa and Roman Catholic.

No strict orthodoxy. No key sacred text. No central authority in control. Practice animal sacrifices, for example, chickens in Hayana Forest.

Bello Vedado Casa Particular Very clean.

One bedroom has

2 beds, the other one double bed. Both private bath with good hot water.

Both have built in air conditioners, safe, fridge.









Batista overthrowing the Cuban government and one opposed – fought a bloody battle. 40 dead. Extensive damage to hotel.

More fighting in streets outside.

### **People Who Stayed at the National Hotel**

Winston Churchill, Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Jimmy Carter, Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth, Mickey Mantle, Johnny Weissmuller, Buster Keaton, Walt Disney, Fred Astaire, Rocky Marciano, Tyrone Power, Errol Flynn, John Wayne, Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Marlon Brando, Ernest Hemingway, Yuri Gagarin, Jesse Ventura, many Heads of State and monarchs, Jean-Paul Sartre, Steven Spielberg, Leonardo DiCaprio, Danny Glover, Francis Ford Coppola, Michael Keaton, Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Chinese President Xi Jinping, John Kerry, Stan Musial, Tennessee Williams, etc etc.



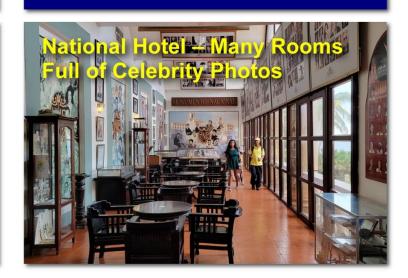


Hotel Nacional's former casino was the setting for the Havana Conference – meeting of the US and Sicilian Mafias in 1946.



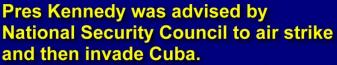
This meeting is depicted in the film *The Godfather Part II*, though the actual scenes were filmed in the Dominican Republic.

Fidel Castro nationalized the hotel in 1960.









He declined. Instead imposed a naval blockade. Russia withdrew missiles and planes from Cuba. US withdrew missiles from Turkey.

Considered the closest the Cold War came to escalating into a full-scale nuclear war.





## **Cuban Missile Crisis Museum**

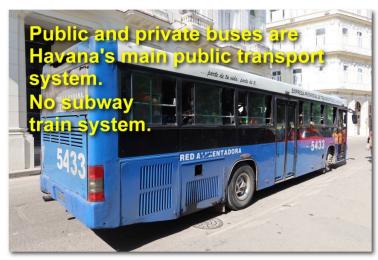
1962: Castro allowed USSR secretly to station nuclear missiles on the island.

In retaliation for US stationing missiles in Turkey and Italy.
35-day confrontation.
US U-2 spy plane clearly photographed the missiles.



Habana Compas Dance Troupe.
Merges Cuban music, Spanish
dance, and African percussion.
Classes for 400 children and young
people between 5 and 18 years old.

Example: The US "Support for Cuban People" visa requires participation with private sector entrepreneurial groups like this.

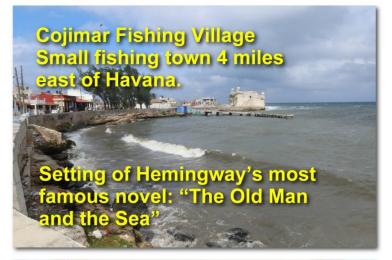




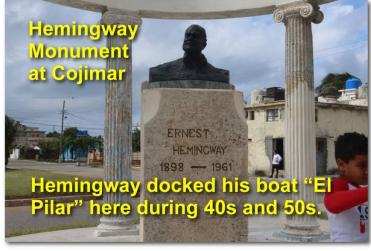


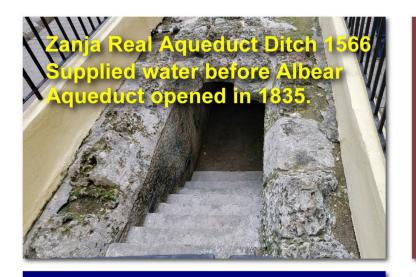












## Classic American Cars in Cuba

## **Classic Cars**

1959 US trade embargo halted export of American vehicles and parts to Cuba.

**Cubans rejected Russian cars.** 

Scrounged or made parts to keep their American cars running.

60,000 pre-revolution cars now on roads.

Total number of cars in:

- Cuba 500,000.

A few of my photos

- USA 295,000,000.







## Cuban Food

### **Cuban Cuisine**

Based on Spanish cuisine with influence from African and other Caribbean cuisines.

An island - much seafood.

Tropical climate – many fruits and root vegetables.

Meals often include rice and beans. Next few slides are examples of what I tried.















## **Under development...** A second Cuba presentation. Areas outside of Havana, including: Ciénaga de Zapata National Park - Bay of Pigs

- Cienfuegos\*
- Trinidad\* – Las Terra

  Zas Las Térrazas - Viñales\* \*UNESCO

Trinidad •

## I highly recommend this Netflix documentary

Cuba and the Cameraman
For 45 years, Director Jon

Alpert followed Fidel Castro and three Cuban families affected by his policies.
"Because of Alpert's unique access to the island, and the trust and friendships earned over decades, this film is a candid and revealing neverbefore-seen portrait of Cuba."





## Next at Baker Center

All About Alligators and Where to See Them (Safely) in the Naples Area



Mon Jun 5, 2023, 3-4pm

Taiwan: Taipei, the Capital City

Mon Jul 3, 2023, 3-4pm

