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Main Highway and Speedways

The Central Highway is the most important communication axis of the country. It joins the main urban centers all along and to the center of the Isle and it is connected with other main ways such as the National Freeway, the Monumental, Via Blanca, La Farola, etc. It is a narrow way with two lanes and it was built in the thirties

The national Highway, even more modern, connects the western part of the country, all along the Isle to Ciego de Avila, located in the center of the country and near the eastern part of the country. It is most rapid, modern and wide way, provided with several lanes. However, it doesn't get to the eastern provinces of the country. It extends all through the south center of the island. It is a wide way, with 6 and 8 lanes and it was built in the seventies

HAVANA - PINAR DEL RIO

Taking the Freeway

From Havana to Pinar del Rio

Taking the new freeway Havana - Pinar del Rio it is possible to avoid the old Central Highway and to reduce the necessary time to cover the distance between both points. In less than two hours you arrive to the city of Pinar del Rio.

There are approximately 180 km of distance.

The trip is very pleasant. You can find florid fields, abundant vegetation, valleys and some mountain chains, as the Sierra de Rosario, one of the most beautiful places of the Isle. It is one of the reservation of the Biosphere of the country.

This route doesn't cross towns or cities. It starts in Havana and it ends up in the city of Pinar del Rio, capital of the province with the same name, and the westernmost of the country. It is located in the western end of the Isle.

All Through this route, you will find in both sides of the freeway landscapes and cultivated fields. Nevertheless, you can choose certain deviations to get to small towns, cities and very attractive touristic centers.

The deviation could be:

In the km 50, you can move away from the freeway and 4 km far you will find the San Juan River, a place of wild nature, cascades and small lakes, ideal to take a bath and enjoy a camping day.

2 km far through the same highway you will get to La Moka Hotel. This touristic center, located among big trees and surrounded by pure, wild nature, is probably one of the nicest and most pleasant places of the country.

Soroa. A national park with a hotel, a magnificent orchid garden, diverse nature and the most amazing Cuban flora. It also counts on an observatory that, to get there you will have to climb stones and mountains, and finally, a great valley to your feet.

There are some of the towns you will find if you cross the city of Pinar del Rio 5 to 20 km far: Artemisa, Candelaria, San Critóbal, Los Palacios, Paso Real de San Diego, Herraduras, Consolación del Sur, Viñales, La Coloma, San Luis, San Juan y Martínez, Guane, Sandino and Mantua.

You can also, all along the itinerary, visit some touristic places of interest like Los Portales Cave, La Güira, which is a National Park, the Santino Tomás Cave, the Mines of

Matahambre, Cayo Levisa, Cayo Paraiso and Maria La Gorda. All these places are located a few km far from the city of Pinar del Rio.

Cape San Antonio is the westernmost point of the country

Just before you arrive to the city of Pinar del Rio, you can turn to the right and there you will find a group of touristic places of great value.

Among them it stands out the Viñales Valley, a prominent height, in which you it is located the Hotel Los Jazmines. This is the most spectacular touristic scenario in Cuba. It is a group of hummocks that surround a great valley where you will find the famous Cuban tobacco plantations.

Near the valley you can find interesting places such as The Indian Cave, the San Vicente Motel and Hotel la Ermita.

Going straight through the highway you will find the City of Pinar del Rio, the westernmost province of Cuba, the province of the valleys, the mountains, the hummocks, the caves, the underground rivers and the medicinal waters.

HAVANA - PINAR DEL RIO - MARIA LA GORDA

Taking the Central Highway

From Pinar del Rio to Maria La Gorda

If your coming from Havana, after traveling the 180 km that separate it from the City of Pinar del Rio you can get to Maria La Gorda, a lost point in the map located in the Corrientes Bay, by the end of the Isle. You get there by crossing the intricate southern geography of Pinar del Rio, among overgrowths, valleys, humid soils, pine groves and forests. That is the most distant point toward the western area of the Isle, within the Peninsula de Guanahacabibes National Park.

During the trip, you will find a number of important towns of the province like San Luis or Isabel Rubio, and you could even visit Guane and San Juan y Martinez, heading to the North but connected to the same highway.

Maria La Gorda, a famous place for its nature splendor, is located in the Corrientes Bay and very near the cape with the same name, 140 km far from the City of Pinar del Rio.

It is the perfect place for aquatic activities, scuba diving, yachting, fishing and nautical sports. Its warm, calm and transparent waters, and the abundant vegetation and submarine fauna turn this place into a spectacular area to contemplate nature in the sea.

HAVANA - MATANZAS - VARADERO

Taking the Central Highway

From Havana to Matanzas

You can get to Matanzas through the Central Highway in a trip of 120 km, and then, taking a new freeway, to the city of Varadero.

If you take the old highway the trip will be less quick but more pleasant and charming. You cross Cuba towns and landscapes. You leave the capital and then enter the last small towns of Havana province such as Jaruco, located towards the southern area of the Isle. Then you go to the city of Matanzas, the beautiful hanging city. It is called like this because the city is full of bridges. The sights of the Bay of Matanzas is beautiful and tempting.

Between the National Capitol, in Havana City and Matanzas are 120 km

Taking the Northern Freeway

There are 120 km from Havana to Matanzas. The best way to get to Matanzas, if you depart from Havana City, is to cross the tunnel of the Bay of Havana and take the northern freeway. It travels parallel to the sea and, all through the coast and beaches. In the road you will find only one town, Santa Cruz del Norte. You will be able to contemplate the green nature, valleys, small elevations, rivers, abundant vegetation and henequen fields (preferably used to manufacture ropes and other derived products). Going straight you arrive to the City of Matanzas, the capital of the province with the same name.

From Matanzas to Varadero

There is only one way to get to Varadero Beach if you are in Matanzas. A quick freeway, very well built, parallel to the sea, that covers a distance of 50 km approximately.

All the way through this freeway you won't find towns, but you could visit beautiful places if you deviate a little

Varadero Beach is a splendid spa. 20 km of sand and crystal and calm waters.

In the sixties it was considered the most beautiful beach of the world, and today it still classifies among the most limpid and warm of the planet put into touristic exploitation.

About 30 hotels from 2 until 5 stars along the peninsula, allow the visitors to lodge comfortably. The most outstanding are the ones of the Sol Melia Company.

VARADERO - SANTA CLARA - SANCTI SPIRITUS - CIEGO DE AVILA

Taking de Central Highway

From Varadero to Santa Clara

Leaving Varadero and going through the Central Highway you arrive to Santa Clara, just in the middle of the Isl, a city full with fame, history and hospitality.

The Central Highway is ideal mean to know the atmospheres of the Cuban towns in the countryside. There is a chain of small cities and towns all along the highway. Some of them are fleeting because they are so small that you just see them as you pass. Anyway, the journey continues a pleasant and loosened vision. You will find no noises, stridencies or rackets. It is a calm traffic and you will see in your trip towns like Jovellanos, Colon Los Arabos. If you want to deviate a little you will get to know Cárdenas, in the northern coast. This city is called the City of Flags, because it was the place where the Cuban flag first appeared. Cárdenas is also the city of Elián González lives and studies.

A deviation point could be toward the Zapata March (Cienaga de Zapata) and especially Guamá, Playa Larga and Playa Giron which are touristic and historical places. The famous Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, organised by the CIA took place there and they were defeated in 68 hours. You can arrive there by crossing the highway and heading south. There are highways that connect the different cities, or you could take the southern freeway.

About 400 km separate Varadero from Santa Clara, capital of the province of Villa Clara.

In Santa Clara you can stay at Spa Hotel Elegua or Hotel Los Caneyes, a beautiful place located in the entrance of the city, pastoral, calm and pleasant. Another choice could be Santa Clara Libre Hotel, in the very center of the city.

From Santa Clara to Sancti Spiritus

The journey continues through the center of the Isle and you will find the same view of the towns of the Cuban countryside. Taking this route, you can visit Placetás and Cabaiguán, two interesting towns of the Sierra Escambray.

Then you arrive to Sancti Spiritus, a city that still preserves its colonial architecture style. The city covers about 100 km

You can stay in Hotel Zaza, located outside the city, a comfortable and interesting place.

From Sancti Spiritus to Ciego de Avila

Continuing through the Central Highway you will get to the cities of Jatibonico, Majagua and Jocotea located in both sides of the highway.

There are also savannas all around

In the city of Ciego de Avila you can stay in Ciego de Avila Hotel or a nice Casa Particular

HAVANA - CIENFUEGOS

Taking the Freeway

This is a fast freeway, without cities or towns to its sides. It counts on two small deviations of 2 and 4 km that will lead you to the towns of Nueva Paz, Vegas, Jagüey Grande, Aguada de Pasajeros, among others. You will cover through this fast freeway about 400 km.

The City of Cienfuegos is the most beautiful of the southern coast. It is called La Perla del Sur (The Pearl of the South). The Jagua Hotel is besides Hotel la Union the best place to stay. The city was built with the eclectic style of the fifties. Its balconies open up toward the Bay of Cienfuegos, of calm and clean waters. There is also another hotel very near the city, the Rancho Luna Hotel, close to the sea.

HAVANA - GUAMÁ - PLAYA GIRON - CIENFUEGOS - TRINIDAD - SANCTI SPIRITUS

From Havana to Guamá

Departing from Havana you can take the highway about 200 km and arrive to Zapata March.

Taking the highway heading Playa Girón near the Central Australia, you will find Guamá, which is the name of an original Taino village, as those belonging to the Cuban ancient inhabitants when the Spanish came to colonize the Isle.

Guamá is a very special touristic center. It is the reproduction of a Taino village on the water.

Beautiful indigenous style cabins are built on pivots in the water. Hanging bridges link the residences to the central point where there are a quay of yachts and boats, a restaurant and a balcony.

About 30 km forward is located Playa Girón, a place full history. There, the invasion organized by the CIA in April 1961 took place.

There are still remains of the infernal combat, which happened about half a century ago. But now, there is also a village, a school, a museum, a restaurant and Hotel Playa Girón. A few kilometers before is Hotel Playa Larga, another historical invasion point.

From Playa Girón to Cienfuegos

Less than 100 km separate Playa Girón from Cienfuegos, taking the southern coast and skirting the swamps. It is a journey amid abundant vegetation very near to the coast, small villages and scare cities.

The Jagua Hotel is a great place to lodge in Cienfuegos.

From Cienfuegos to Trinidad

Skirting approximately 50 km of coast you can get to Trinidad, in a journey where very dense vegetation, valleys, plantations of sugar and small towns are found.

Trinidad city is like anyone would say "A city detained in time", where large houses, churches and buildings of the XVII, XVIII and XIX can be admired just the way they used to be at that time. It is a beautiful, kind of an alive historical relic, because their new residents have taken charge of conserving it. It is not a "dull city", but it is vivacious, loquacious, picturesque and really nice.

You can lodge in several casa particulares and hotels: Las Cuevas, Brisas del Mar, Ancón, Costa Sur, the luxury Gran Iberostar Trinidad or the idyllic Finca Maria Dolores. In the outskirts of the city you can stay in Topes de Collantes.

CIENFUEGOS - SANTA CLARA - SANCTI SPIRITUS CIEGO DE AVILA

From Cienfuegos to Santa Clara

Crossing the towns of Palmira, Cruces and Ranchuelo, you arrive to Santa Clara City. It is about 50 km for the freeway, avoiding Central Highway and most of the dispersed populations of that country area.

In Santa Clara we recommend two hotels: Caneyes in the outskirts of the city and Hotel Santa Clara Libre. located in the very center of the city.

Among the most outstanding Places, there is the Ernesto Che Guevara Memorial that keeps the Heroic Guerilla fighter's remains and his guerilla men who died in Bolivia in 1967.

From Santa Clara to Sancti Spiritus

For about 100 km of highway there is a quick route amid nature to both sides.

In Sancti Spiritus, capital of the province with the same name, you can lodge in the Zaza Hotel and in the outskirts in Topes de Collantes.

From Sancti Spiritus to Ciego de Avila

Continuing for the Central Highway you can find the cities of Jatibonico, Majagua and Jicotea. About 100 km of distance, with beautiful places to both sides, you can see flat territories.

In Ciego de Avila there is a modern hotel of the same name.

CIEGO DE AVILA - MORÓN - CAYO COCO

From Ciego de Avila to Morón

Driving the highway from Ciego de Avila to Morón, for a deviation of the Central Highway you arrive to an important city of the Ciego de Avila province, Morón.

The Morón Hotel is the best in the city.

From Morón to Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo

The city of Morón has gained greater significance due to the construction of the highway to Cayo Coco, about 60 km outside the largest island. You can get there either by plane or car.

By earth, a long way on the sea takes you to one of the most beautiful islands in Cuba. It possesses marvelous beaches, typical vegetation, wild fauna like flamingos and a quiet sea.

Cayo Coco and the neighbour island Cayo Guillermo have several luxury resorts to stay: Melia Cayo Coco, Sol Club Cayo Coco, Melia Cayo Guillermo, Sol Cayo Guillermo, Iberostar Daiquirí, The Gaviota Hotel Playa Coco and more ... Unfortunately you won't find casa particulares on the islands of Jardines del Rey

CIEGO DE AVILA - CAMAGÜEY - LAS TUNAS - HOLGUIN

From Ciego de Avila to Camagüey

Taking the Central Highway it is a 150 km trip crossing the center of the island and passing by small and distant towns. Here you will be able to see sugar cane fields to both sides, cattle and fruit-bearing territories.

Following this route you will find the small cities of Colorado, Gaspar, Piedrecita, Alganabo, "Carlos Manuel of Cespedes" and a bigger one Florida.

Then you get to Camagüey, one of Cuba's historical cities, among the first ones been founded by Spaniards in the Isle. It is a city with many old buildings, churches, parks and squares. It is very well conserved that's why people can appreciate the typical city that the Spaniards used to settled down in their colonies.

The best hotel is Camagüey Hotel, two kilometers far from downtown. From this place you can enjoy two quite different types of distraction.

One is Santa Lucia, a beach 60 km far from the city. It is a beautiful coast of sand and sea.

Four comfortable and modern hotels allow the visitor to lodge and enjoy the charms of the place. In Santa Lucia, besides taking a bath in its calm waters it is also possible either the aquatic activity, yatismo, diving, and fishing or driving to Cayo Sabinal. This is a magnificent territory with beautiful beaches and cabins to lodge.

From Camagüey to Las Tunas

About 250 km separated both cities, which are capitals of the provinces with the same names.

Driving for the Central Highway you can pass by nice and small towns such as Sibanicú and Cascorro, until getting to Las Tunas. Some kilometers before arriving to the city, the visitor can lodge in El Cornito, a typical country facility very appropriate to the place.

From Las Tunas to Holguin

About 220 km separate both cities. Following the Central Highway you arrive to Holguin, one of the bigger cities in Cuba. On the way you will find little towns and one bigger: Buenaventura. In this province you can lodge in hotels such as: Pernik, El Bosque or El Mirador de Mayabe

Already in Holguin you can arrange a journey to charming places. To the north, there are approximately 70 km of beautiful beaches, among them: Guardalavaca, Esmeralda, Don Lino and Pesquero Nuevo. The cemetery, the Taino village, the Bahía del Naranjo, all are spectacular places not far from the city.

HOLGUIN - GUARDALAVACA

78 km far from the city of Holguin, capital of the province with the same name, and also called The City of Parks, there is one of the most famous beaches of Cuba: Guardalavaca. Several hotels and bungalows group assure the lodging at the beautiful beach. Although

it has only a few kilometers, this beach has an unusual quality, since it has not only sand and sea, but is rather surrounded by vegetation, hills, bays, caves and mountains.

The Guardalavaca Atlantic, Las Brisas and other hotels allow a comfortable stay.

Near to the beach there are other points of great interest, which are: Esmeralda, Don Lino and Pesquero Nuevo Beaches, the indigenous cemetery, the Aldea Taina, El Chorro de Maita, and the Bahía del Naranjo.

You can also go to Bariay, the point where Christopher Columbus disembarked in 1492

HOLGUIN - MAYARÍ - MOA - BARACOA

From Guardalavaca to Mayari

About 100 km separate both places. Mayarí is a small city at the foot of the mountains, but a beautiful place to contemplate nature. Its biggest attractiveness is Pinares de Mayarí, with about 700 meters high, and where there is the highest waterfall in the island, The guayabo. In the heights there is a restaurant, a balcony and a dozen of Dutch style cabins.

It is a perfect place to enjoy the Cuban nature, its fauna and flora.

From Mayarí to Moa

It is an intricate trip going into the thick and sometimes inhospitable nature of the area. About 100 km separate one point from the other. Moa is an industrial city subordinated to a famous plant that produces nickel and the best cobalt in the world. All its inhabitants are somehow associated to that powerful industry.

Hotel Miraflores allows to lodge in the city.

From Moa to Baracoa

This is a great route. About 350 km separate both points. A journey is for the oriental center of the island, rather descending towards the South until getting to the lengthened tip of Cuba. At the same time it becomes a magnificent route to travel by the oriental area of the country until arriving to Baracoa City, where there is La Rusa Hotel for lodging.

HOLGUIN - BAYAMO - SANTIAGO DE CUBA

From Holguin to Bayamo

About 150 km of highway passing by Cacocum city leads you to the historical city of Bayamo, where the insurrection against Spain began two centuries ago.

It is a typical city of the East of Cuba. Its best hotel is the Sierra Maestra, located in the city center. Or contact Pototo for a reservation in a nice casa particular

From Bayamo to Santiago de Cuba

Going from Bayamo to Santiago de Cuba, there is Santiago de Cuba City, the capital of the province with the same name, the second city in importance with a great historical tradition, you travel following a route with small oriental populations at both sides of the highway.

Jiguani, Maffo, Contramaestra, Palma Soriano and San Luis. They sum 400 km in total.

Santiago de Cuba is located in the Southern part of the country, in the coast and it possesses a splendid bay.

Its most known hotels are Casa Granda, Meliá Santiago de Cuba, Versalles and San Juan. For a stay at the beach you might choose for Hotel Bucanero

Of course Santiago de Cuba has many casa particulares to choose from.

In Santiago de Cuba city and its province you can enjoy numerous tourists places of great interest.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA - GUÁNTANAMO - BARACOA

From Santiago de Cuba to Guántanamo

Taking de highway that joins Santiago de Cuba and Guántanamo, you can find towns such as: Al Caney, El Cristo, La Maya. The traveler goes skirting the oriental mountains surrounded by thick vegetation, sugar cane fields and other cultivations. About 150 km there is Guántanamo, capital of the province with the same name, where you can lodge in modest hotels.

From Guántanamo to Baracoa

You are moving towards the oriental end of the Island. For 250 km you will cross mountains, slopes, forests, deep rivers, fences, springs of water, coast and beach. A very exiting nature along a great journey.

In the city of Baracoa, located at the Caribbean Sea, we recommend the visitor to lodge at Hotel La Rusa, however, Baracoa also has many nice casa particulares to stay

It is important not to miss to climb the mountain El Yunque which is one of the most spectacular places in Cuba.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA - MAREA DEL PORTILLO Y MANZANILLO

From Santiago de Cuba to Marea del Portillo

It is an enviable journey skirting the highest mountain range in Cuba, The Sierra Maestra, full of history and indelible memories for the Cubans. Scenery of liberating actions since the XIX century. Its geography has no comparison in Cuba. Formidable fruit bearing trees, enormous and very green plants and a non-aggressive fauna. Different species of birds invade the place along the highway.

There are 300 km traveling the southern oast of the Cuban east, just at the feet of the mountain range. When arriving to Marea del Portillo you will find an incredible place. It is the unusual perfect combination of beach and mountains.

A hotel at the foot of the beach will allow you to lodge and to enjoy the place and its charms

From Marea del Portillo to Manzanillo

About 100 km separate both places. Departing from the beach you will get Manzanillo City, a compulsory place to go in the oriental journey.

It is a typical Cuban city. The hotel Guacanayabo is the only very basic hotel in the area and Manzanillo has one casa particular.

LAS TUNAS - MANZANILLO - CABO CRUZ

From Las Tunas to Manzanillo

About 100 km separate these oriental cities. It is a traveling passing by dispersed, small, and very peculiar towns from the oriental area. You go descending towards the South of Cuba.

From Manzanillo to Cabo Cruz

You are traveling to the south of Cuba in its oriental part. Descending towards the coast close to the Caribbean seas you will be already be able to enjoy a colossal landscape: birds, plants, mountains, beaches, coast, distant from the indigenous shacks that founded the Cuban settlers. Now they have a very similar structure, but are wider and

more comfortable with electric light. They are with no doubt magnificent refugees against the heat and the winds of the East part of the Island. Both places are separate by about 50 km.

From Bayamo to Manzanillo

About 100 km separate these two cities from Cuba. They are among the three biggest cities of the Cuba East and among the largest of the island.

Leaving Bayamo going to the South you get to Manzanillo City. You can lodge in the very basic Hotel Guacanayabo, located in the center. Manzanillo has only one casa particular ... as far as we are informed.

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