

## CUBA

### Important Information: entry, stay and payment methods

#### Entry and stay

##### Tourist card / Stay:

The tourist card entitles you, together with a hotel booking, to visit Cuba for up to 30 days. A one-time extension of the stay, for a further 30 days, is possible in Cuba.

##### Arrival:

If you arrive in Cuba, you must show the tourist card in addition to your passport. The immigration officer will stamp and remove half of the card. The other half you get. This half must be presented, stamped and delivered upon departure. Please store your tourist card safely.

You will also receive a stamp in your passport. If you prefer not to have an entry in the passport, you can ask the immigration officer not to stamp it.

#### Customs and import regulations

Please note the following laws of Cuba regarding the import and export of goods:

##### What may be imported duty-free:

- Alcohol: 2.5 liters
- 400 cigarettes or 500 grams tobacco, or 50 cigars
- Electronic equipment like video or photo cameras, radio/CD player, tablet/laptop are allowed.
- Equipment up to 10 kg for sports activities is allowed  
Please note: These devices are for private use, but not as a gift, since these are also 100% subject to customs duties at a value of 50 to 250 CUC.
- Entering Cuba is easy and straightforward for tourists. Cubans, who usually iron with lots of luggage to Cuba, are consistently checked, as many Cubans bring expensive gifts, etc., which are subject to high import duties in Cuba.

##### What is prohibited in Cuba:

- Pornography, drugs and counterrevolutionary literature and weapons
- Food of any kind. This is confiscated upon entry
- Cuban pesos (CUC) – these may neither be imported nor exported.

##### What may be exported:

- **Up to 50 cigars** (unopened & without any receipt in the original packaging)  
Please note: **From 50 cigars** applies: Export only in closed original packaging with a valid quality seal and the official hologram (without receipt).
- Small paintings (small format pictures)  
Please note: larger image formats can only be carried out free of charge with the valid ID of the seller. Without evidence of paperwork, problems and delays with customs may be experienced.

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##### Office Bern

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## Kreditkarten/Bankkarten, Währung und Geld auf Kuba

### Currency:

Cuba has two currencies. These are:

- The **convertible Peso** (CUC=Peso convertible)
- The **Cuban Peso** (Moneda Nacional or Peso cubano)
  - The Cuban Peso cannot be imported or exported
  - Cuba has no restrictions on **foreign exchange**
  - Any import of foreign currency totaling more than 50,000 in the respective foreign currency must be declared upon entry.

### Convertible pesos / CUC

The CUC currency is linked to the US dollar at a fixed exchange rate. This is the currency with which most foreign guests buy their services and products.

### Cuban pesos

The Cuban peso (Moneda Nacional or Peso cubano) is the one for Cubans, which is subsidized by the state.

### Both currencies have advantages

As many Cubans are supported by their families abroad, CUC are also in frequent circulation among the locals themselves. This allows them to purchase goods and services that can only be paid in CUC.

The locals can buy goods subsidized by the state (food and other products) with the Peso cubano and their personal food card. However, foreign guests are also welcome to pay with Moneda Nacional, for example at markets, in restaurants and bars. So it may be useful to have a few CUC in Peso cubano as well, as goods priced in Peso cubano do not have to be paid with CUC. This way a conversion procedure common in Cuba can be bypassed.

### Traveling with US dollars

Please note that in Cuba only a few banks are licensed to exchange dollars. The banks charge a 10% surcharge on the daily exchange rate when exchanging US dollars.

### Other currencies

The most important foreign currencies can be easily exchanged.  
The Euro is approved as an official form of payment in various tourist centers.

### Cards / Checks

Most hotels and paying agencies accept Eurochecks  
Cash withdrawals with a Mastercard at ATMs are often not possible

### PostFinance / Maestro cards

Withdrawing money with a **PostFinance or Maestro card** is not possible in Cuba.

### Credit cards

The most widely accepted are **Visa and Mastercard**.

Please note that credit cards and checks that pass through American banks are not accepted in Cuba (American Express or even a Credit Suisse Mastercard).

**Any transaction on a credit card that passes through a US bank is generally blocked (biling in Switzerland visa the US bank).  
In any case, please inquire with your bank beforehand if they are processing credit card transactions via a US bank.**

Cards in US dollar currency are not yet accepted.

**All of the above information is subject to change without notice. No legal claim can be made.**

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