INTRODUCTION
The native Amerindian population of Cuba began to decline after the European discovery of the island by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1492 and following its development as a Spanish colony during the next several centuries. Fidel CASTRO led a rebel army to victory in 1959 and his authoritarian regime continues to rule.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Miguel DIAZ-CANEL Bermudez

Head of Government
Prime Minister Manuel MARRERO Cruz

Government Type
communist state

Capital
Havana

Legislature
unicameral National Assembly of People’s Power or Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular (605 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 110,860 sq km
Land: 109,820 sq km
Water: 1,040 sq km

Climate
tropical; moderated by trade winds; dry season (November to April); rainy season (May to October)

Natural Resources
cobalt, nickel, iron ore, chromium, copper, salt, timber, silica, petroleum, arable land

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
still largely state-run planned economy, although privatization increasing under new constitution; widespread protests due to lack of basic necessities and electricity; massive foreign investment increases recently; known tobacco exporter; unique oil-for-docs relationship with Venezuela; widespread corruption

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $137 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $12,300 (2017 est.)

Industries - petroleum, nickel, cobalt, pharmaceuticals, tobacco, construction, steel, cement, agricultural machinery, sugar

Agricultural products - sugarcane, cassava, vegetables, plantains, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, milk, pumpkins, mangoes/guavas, rice

Exports $2.63 billion (2017 est.)
cigars, raw sugar, nickel products, rum, zinc (2019)

partners: China 38%, Spain 11%, Netherlands 5%, Germany 5% (2019)

Imports $11.06 billion (2017 est.)
poultry meat, wheat, soybean products, corn, concentrated milk (2019)

partners: Spain 19%, China 15%, Italy 6%, Canada 5%, Russia 5%, US 5%, Brazil 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
11 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth
-0.23% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity
White 64.1%, Mulatto or mixed 26.6%, black 9.3% (2012 est.)
note: data represent racial self-identification from Cuba's 2012 national census

Language
Spanish (official)

Religion
Christian 58.9%, folk religion 17.6%, Buddhist <1%, Hindu <1%, Jewish <1%, Muslim <1%, other <1%, none 23.2% (2020 est.)

as of October 2021