

Chapter 1 : New PDF release: Frommer's Australia (Frommer's Complete) - Library

What draws people to the Caribbean island of Cuba is much more than beaches and sun, though there are plenty of both. Soothing timba beats, ChÃ© Guevara posters and s-era Chevrolets pervade the crumbling capital Havana, where life happens outside, in the streets. Juggle the Communist country's.

Until the s, Cuba was besieged by political corruption and violence. Though Batista retired in , he staged a military coup and returned to power in . Havana was effectively ruled by a group of millionaires more powerful than anywhere else in Latin America, a distortion that allowed Cuban officials to claim that Cuba had the second-highest per capita income in the region. The capital was overrun by brothels, casinos, and gangsters, with high rollers in zoot suits transforming the city into their personal playground. Meanwhile, most of the country was mired in poverty, and more than half of all Cubans were undernourished in . The effort failed miserably, and many of the rebels were killed or later captured and tortured by the military. But the attack gave its young leader, a lawyer named Fidel Castro Ruz, the bully pulpit he needed. Castro was imprisoned offshore on the Isla de la Juventud until May , when Batista granted an amnesty to political prisoners. Castro fled to Mexico, where he spent a year in exile planning his return to Cuba and the resumption of his plans to overthrow the government. Only 15 rebels reached their planned destination, the Sierra Maestra mountains. From such unlikely beginnings, the rebel forces evolved into a formidable guerrilla army, largely through the assistance of peasants who were promised land reforms in exchange for their support. Batista saw the end in sight and on January 1, , he fled the country for the Dominican Republic. The combat-weary but triumphant rebels, known as the barbudos the bearded ones , declared victory in Santiago de Cuba and then entered Havana a week later. It reduced rents, instituted agrarian reform, and limited estates to hectares 1, acres. As part of a comprehensive nationalization program, the government expropriated utilities, factories, and private lands. The fledgling government also embarked upon wide-ranging programs designed to eradicate illiteracy and provide universal healthcare and free schooling. The transition to a centralized, all-powerful state antagonized many Cubans, mostly elites. Castro placed the media under state control, as it remains today, and he promised elections that were never held. In just 3 years after the triumph of the Revolution, nearly a quarter of a million Cubans -- mostly professionals and wealthy landowners -- fled the country. They settled in nearby Florida and established a colony of conservative Cuban Americans, which, in the coming decades, achieved not only economic success, but also a level of political clout that was disproportionate to its size. Just 1 year after Castro took power, in , the U. The trade embargo, which Cuba terms a blockade, and travel restrictions later imposed on most U. The Bay of Pigs mission was an utter fiasco and a severe black mark against the Kennedy administration. Castro had not revealed any Communist leanings in the decade since coming to power, but soon after the Bay of Pigs, Castro declared himself a Marxist-Leninist. Some historians have argued that the aggressive ploys of the U. The USSR was only too eager to develop a strategic relationship with an ideological opponent of Washington in the backyard of the United States. In the fall of , the Soviet Union under Nikita Khrushchev installed 42 medium-range nuclear missiles in Cuba. A tense standoff ensued when President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade on the island and demanded that the existing missiles be dismantled. The world waited anxiously for 6 days until Khrushchev finally caved to U. The possibility of a nuclear war was averted in return for a U. Another , people abandoned Cuba as part of the Freedom Flights Program between and . In , Castro lifted travel restrictions and opened the port of Mariel west of Havana ; during the Mariel Boatlift, at least , Cubans -- many of whom Washington charged were criminals and drug addicts -- made it to U. But the fall of the Berlin Wall and dismantling of the Soviet Union suddenly left Cuba in an untenable position, as supplies of food, oil, and hard currency were cut off while the U. The Cuban government initiated a "Special Period" in -- a euphemism for harsh new austerity measures and hardship to be borne by the large majority of Cubans. During the Special Period and years since, most Cubans found it virtually impossible to subsist on rations alone. Complicating the delicate situation was the Cuba Democracy Act, which broadened the U. Meanwhile, Castro held onto power and made few concessions, even using the U. With the economy in shambles, the Cuban government has been forced to

introduce a limited number of capitalist measures. Foreign investment, which has taken the form of joint ventures primarily in the fields of tourism and mineral and oil exploration, has been openly encouraged. Castro, with inescapable irony, legalized the U. While these capitalist initiatives have benefited some Cubans, giving them access to hard currency through jobs in tourism or relatives sending remittances from abroad, the dual economy has ultimately turned many other Cubans into have-nots, unequal in a socialist society. In August, in a frantic safety-valve measure designed to alleviate some of the economic pressure on the state, Castro lifted restrictions on those wishing to leave. More than 30,000 Cubans accepted the invitation and set out across dangerous waters to Florida on balsa homemade rafts. Faced with the political embarrassment of an influx of poor Cubans, President Clinton abolished the standing U. The normally quiet U. Carter met with dissidents and gave an uncensored and at times harshly critical speech in front of Castro that was broadcast on Cuban television. In 1980, Castro jailed some 75 prominent dissidents and government critics, imposing stiff sentences following abbreviated trials. In early 1981 and again in 1982, the Bush administration tightened the screws on U. In July 1982, Fidel Castro fell ill and withdrew from public life. This was followed by a move to decentralize the state-run agricultural economy, including allowing farmers to till fallow land and to buy their own equipment. This move was aimed at boosting agricultural production and reducing the amount of food that Cuba imports. However, freedom to travel abroad is still restricted and access to the Internet is also heavily restricted. Like much of the world, Cuba suffered from the effects of the global recession: At the same time, Cuba was still reeling from spending millions of dollars that were needed to restore parts of the country battered by three hurricanes in autumn. On January 1, 1999, Cuba celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Revolution, and after this low-key celebration, government officials announced that Cubans with the financial means could build their own homes -- a huge advance. Later that year, Castro leased millions of acres of uncultivated fertile state land to private farmers; this was followed, in April 2000, with news that barber shops and beauty salons could trade privately, joining private restaurants paladares and bed and breakfasts casas particulares as means of self-employment. Also in fall 2000, the Cuban government announced it would lay off more than a million state workers in the next few years. Some Cubans hoped that these unemployed state workers would be allowed to run small, private businesses -- and indeed, the government soon after announced proposals to allow forms of self-employment *cuenta propia*, including *casa particulares*, paladares, some forms of transportation, and guiding services. As of November 2000, only the punitive tax codes had been issued; licenses to launch the new forms of self-employment were expected soon after. Unfortunately, infrastructure issues, like electricity blackouts, transportation problems, food shortages, and rationing of air-conditioning and supplies still persist. However, it remains to be seen how these workers, who have only ever known state employment under the Castros, will manage and survive in private and self-employment. This information was accurate when it was published, but can change without notice. Please be sure to confirm all rates and details directly with the companies in question before planning your trip.

Chapter 2 : Frommer's South Korea (Frommer's Complete) - PDF Free Download

The Frommer's Cuba Guide seemed to have all the information one requires to travel to Cuba and as it turned out the information provided as far as prices and most other information was concerned seemed to be correct, but that is probably all the good things one can say about this guide.

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Baracoa: Cuba's first settlement, overlooking a beautiful oyster-shaped bay, remains a natural paradise, with thick tropical vegetation, 10 rivers, and a distinctive flat-topped mountain called El Yunque, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Travelers into rafting, beaches, and boating will also find ample opportunities to explore this isolated area.

Chapter 4 : Things to See in Santiago de Cuba | Frommer's

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History in Cuba advertisement In the first half of the 20th century, the United States, the primary purchaser of Cuba's sugar, dominated the island's economy and to a considerable extent controlled its political processes.

Chapter 5 : Frommer's Cuba (Frommer's Complete Guides): calendrierdelascience.com: Claire Boobbyer

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Frommer's Cuba provides frank information for American travelers, covering: The charms of Havana's Spanish colonial architecture and sizzling nightlife Cuba's sugar-white beaches, including Varadero, the largest resort in the Caribbean.