



## Recommended Reading and More

We have compiled this selection of books especially for your trip. Please visit your local library, bookstore or favorite online bookseller to obtain any of these titles.

### Recommended

**Christopher P. Baker.** “*Moon Cuba*” **Avalon Publishing, 2018.** This Moon travel guide is packed not only with travel necessities, but also with a good overview of history and destinations throughout Cuba.

**Ilse Rubio Longin, Shannon Cottin Bizonne.** “*Cuban Spanish Phrasebook.*” **Assimil, 2017.** This phrasebook, published by the French company Assimil, helps English speakers pick up the Cuban dialect of Spanish.

**Borch Maps.** “*Cuba.*” **Borch Maps, 2018.** This detailed, laminated map is set at a scale of 1:1,000,000 and features an inset map of Havana, major attractions, climate and precipitation charts, and other additional information.

### History

**Julia E. Sweig.** “*Cuba: What Everyone Needs to Know.*” **Oxford University Press, 2016.** Director for Latin America Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, Julia Sweig traces the geography, history and identity of Cuba in this admirably succinct portrait of the island nation and its role in world affairs.

**Aviva Chomsky, (Editor), Barry Carr, (Editor), Pamela Maria Smorkaloff, (Editor).** “*The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics.*” **Duke University Press, 2004.** Organized chronologically, this multifaceted portrait of a nation, with most of the selections by Cuban writers, includes not only history, journalism and literature, but also songs, paintings, poems, cartoons and speeches.

**Clifford L. Staten.** “*The History of Cuba.*” **St. Martin’s Press, 2005.** Clifford L. Staten covers the sweep of Cuba’s history from its earliest days as a Spanish colony through the 20th century — all in under 200 pages. Highlights include the Cold War and the Special Period, when Cuba fell into crisis after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

**T.J. English.** “*Havana Nocturne: How the Mob Owned Cuba and Then Lost It to the Revolution.*” **HarperCollins Publishers, 2009.** With the blessing of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, U.S. mobsters Meyer Lansky and Lucky Luciano created their gambling empires on the tiny Caribbean island in the 1940s. For nearly a decade, they brought glitz, decadence and celebrity with their luxury hotels and casinos until the Cuban revolution dashed their dreams.

### Culture

**Francois Missen, Pierre Hausherr (Photographer).** “*Cuba.*” **Hachette Books, 2018.** With full-page photographs, introductory essays on history, architecture, music, food and more, this oversized, illustrated paperback by Pulitzer Prize

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## AHI Travel — Recommended Reading and More Cuba and its People featuring Trinidad and Havana

winning journalist Francois Missen and photographer Pierre Hausherr captures the spirit of Cuba, its people, nature and culture.

**Tom Gjelten. “Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba.” Penguin Publishing Group, 2009.** NPR reporter Tom Gjelten chronicles the rich intersection of power and politics, community and exile in contemporary Cuba through the saga of the Bacardi family. A fixture in making 1920s’ Havana a playground for the rich and famous in the Prohibition era, Bacardi famously left Cuba for Puerto Rico during the revolution.

**Lorne Resnick (Photographer). “Cuba, This Moment, Exactly So.” Simon & Schuster, 2016.** This deluxe coffee table book organizes 250 black-and-white photographs around stories that immerse readers in the heat and culture of Cuba.

**Louis A. Perez. “On Becoming Cuban.” University of North Carolina Press, 2008.** A masterful scholarly history of Cubanidad and the love-hate relationship with the United States.

### Art and Architecture

**Michael Connors, Nestor Marti (Photographer). “Havana Modern: Twentieth-Century Architecture and Interiors.” Rizzoli International, 2014.** In vivid, original photographs, Michael Connors ushers us through 100 examples of Havana’s best-preserved nouveau and art deco architecture, built between the early 1900s and 1965.

**Julio Cesar Perez Hernandez. “Inside Havana.” Taschen America, LLC, 2011.** This handsome book showcases the diverse architecture of Havana, from modernist masterpieces to splendid baroque palaces and traditional businesses such as the Partagas cigar factory, one of Havana’s oldest and finest.

**Antonio Eligio Fernandez, Keith Wallace, Cecilia Andersson. “The Spaces Between: Contemporary Art in Havana.” Aa Balkema, 2014.** This study of shared, communal spaces for Havana artists examines the context of contemporary Cuban art. Including major contemporary figures, the work discusses artists’ techniques, their major themes and the environments in which they create.

**Gary R. Libby. “Cuba, A History in Art.” University Press of Florida, 2015.** This slim, yet comprehensive survey of Cuban art between 1725 and 1959 explains the development of artists’ styles and how developments in Cuba (and especially Havana) changed their work.

**Maria Luisa Lobo Montalvo, Lorna S. Fox (Translator). “Havana, History and Architecture of a Romantic City.” Monacelli Press, 2009.** This magnificent history of Havana, featuring 480 color illustrations, shows the city and its growth from its founding as a Spanish colony to independence.

### Travel, Biography & Memoir

**Marc Frank. “Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana.” University Press of Florida, 2015.** Travelogue, ode to Cuban soul and report on the economic reforms that are sweeping the island nation, Marc Frank’s colorful chronicle shows daily life in Cuba from the inside. He weaves his own story and the stories of his many friends and acquaintances into an indispensable field report.

**Mark Kurlansky. “Havana: A Subtropical Delirium.” Bloomsbury USA, 2018.** Award-winning author Mark Kurlansky provides an electrifying portrait of the Cuban capital. His insider’s view mixes history, travelogue, music, baseball, literature, cuisine and features Kurlansky’s own hand-drawn illustrations.

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### Cuba and its People featuring Trinidad and Havana

**Tom Miller. “Trading With the Enemy: A Yankee Travels Through Castro’s Cuba.” Basic Books, 2008.** Tom Miller captures the openness, sensuality and pride of Cuba and the Cubans in this eloquent account of traveling in Fidel Castro’s Cuba.

**Julia Cooke. “The Other Side of Paradise: Life in the New Cuba.” Da Capo Press, 2014.** Julia Cooke’s narrative glimmers with jazz musicians and run-down clubs as she taps into the youth culture of Havana. Through a wealth of personal experience, she brings to light recent cultural shifts in the island nation as well as pieces of history and economics.

**John Paul Rathbone. “The Sugar King of Havana: The Rise and Fall of Julio Lobo, Cuba’s Last Tycoon.” Penguin Publishing Group, 2011.** John Paul Rathbone recounts “elegant, decadent and whirligig years” of pre-revolutionary Havana and the dramatic life of Julio Lobo, the richest man in Cuba.

#### Literature

**Graham Greene. “Our Man in Havana.” Penguin Publishing Group, 2007.** Graham Greene’s classic is a story of a British vacuum cleaner salesman who gets accidentally drawn into Cold War espionage with disastrous results.

**Cristina García. “Dreaming in Cuban.” Random House Publishing Group, 1993.** This short, poetic novel tells the story of three generations of Cuban women, their reactions to the revolution and the complex relations between those who remained in Cuba and those who settled in the United States.

**Rachel Kushner. “Telex from Cuba.” Scribner, 2009.** Rachel Kushner re-imagines the world of her mother in this astonishingly wise first novel set in the American enclave in 1950s Cuba.

**Cristina Garcia. “King of Cuba.” Scribner, 2013.** Christina Garcia's richly satisfying tale revolves around a fictionalized Fidel Castro and an octogenarian Cuban exile obsessed with revenge.

#### Music

**Buena Vista Social Club. “Buena Vista Social Club.” World Circuit, 2006.** Named after a members-only club in pre-Castro Havana, this album contains treasures that are sung and played with obvious love for the materials. These songs were all recorded live in different venues, including the musicians’ small apartments, and the sound is rich and deep. If you only purchase one album of Cuban music, this should be the one.

**Ned Sublette. “Cuba and Its Music, From the First Drums to the Mambo.” Chicago Review Press, 2007.** Journey thorough an entertaining history of Cuba and its music by the popular radio producer, music historian and cofounder of Cuban record label QbaDisc.

#### Movies and TV

**“Cuba.” Directed by Richard Lester, KI Studio Classics, 2016.** Sent to Havana during the last days of the Batista regime, British soldier Robert Dapes is supposed to train Batista’s soldiers for the upcoming confrontations with Castro’s followers. However, Dapes becomes increasingly sympathetic towards the rebel cause and takes time away from training to renew his romance with the married Alexandra Pulido.

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**Cuba and its People featuring Trinidad and Havana**

**Guidebooks, Language and Maps**

**Mandy Macdonald. “Culture Smart! Cuba.” Kuperard, 2006.** A concise, well-illustrated and practical guide to local customs, etiquette and culture.