

María la Gorda, Pinar del Río, Cuba

One of the Caribbean's most pristine diving destinations, María la Gorda sits at the tip of Cuba's Guanahacabibes Peninsula — a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve where the reef begins just steps from the beach and the outside world feels very far away.

Tender port (anchor offshore)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

EUR/USD cash preferred

Spanish

World-class diving

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor in the Bay of Corrientes; tenders land at the dive-center jetty

Best For: Scuba diving, snorkeling, beach relaxation, sea-turtle nesting season (Jun–Sep)

Walk to center: Immediate — hotel, bar, restaurant, and beach are all within 5 min on foot

Don't Miss: A boat dive on the Yemayá wall or the Salón de María grotto, and a Cuban mojito at the beach bar

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ ~\$90–150 USD per car · 🚗 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Scuba Diving on the Yemayá Wall** — Massive coral walls dropping into the deep, crystal visibility up to 40 m, black-coral forests, and abundant Caribbean reef life.
- **Boat Snorkel Trip** — Short boat ride to shallow reef gardens teeming with parrotfish, stingrays, and sea fans.
- **Guanahacabibes National Park Hike** — A park ranger leads you into the UNESCO-protected forest to see limestone caves, land crabs, giant iguanas, and endemic birds including the world's...
- **Cabo San Antonio & Roncali Lighthouse** — Drive an hour to Cuba's westernmost tip to visit the 19th-century Roncali Lighthouse, looking out over the Yucatán Channel.
- **Beach Day at Playa María la Gorda** — White sand, calm turquoise water, swaying palms, and almost nobody else.

BEST WALKS

- **Jetty to the Wild Beach** 1–3 km | Flat sand | Easy — Head away from the hotel along the shoreline in either direction.
- **Dive Center to National Park Edge** ~1 km | Paved path | Easy — A short walk inland from the hotel brings you to the edge of Guanahacabibes National Park.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		83°	75°	6d
Jun		86°	79°	16d
Aug		88°	80°	14d
Sep		86°	79°	19d
Oct		84°	77°	17d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 7:18AM–7:57PM · Jun 6:55AM–8:22PM · Aug 7:16AM–8:08PM · Sep 7:25AM–7:40PM · Oct 7:34AM–7:12PM

EUR/USD cash preferred

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash only, EUR/USD preferred. There is no ATM and no working card terminal for foreign visitors. Bring small bills for drinks, tips, and any rentals.
- Pack serious insect repellent. Sandflies (no-see-ums) can be fierce on windless afternoons. DEET or Picaridin-based products work best.
- Book diving through your ship if available — the local state-run dive center has limited boats and equipment. Ship-booked excursions get priority slots.
- Bring reef-safe sunscreen. The coral here is pristine and marine-protected. Standard oxybenzone-based sunscreens are harmful; reef-safe formulas are strongly preferred.
- No Wi-Fi, no signal. Embrace the digital detox. Charge your devices on the ship before tendering ashore.
- June–September: Green sea turtles nest on these beaches. If you visit at dusk, local conservationists may be monitoring nests — ask to observe responsibly.

María la Gorda, Pinar del Río, Cuba — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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Guanahacabibes Peninsula National Park

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of semi-deciduous woodland and mangroves, home to sea turtles and Cuban crocodiles.
- P

Cruise port / terminal