

Santiago de Cuba, Oriente, Cuba

Havana's passionate rival, Santiago de Cuba pulses with revolutionary spirit, Afro-Caribbean music, and centuries of colonial history spilling onto its hilly streets.

Docked — city-center pier

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Cuban Peso (CUP); USD sometimes accepted

Spanish

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships berth at the Sierra Maestra Terminal, a 10–15 min walk from Parque Céspedes

Best For: History, Cuban music, rum, revolutionary sites

Walk to center: 15 min on foot; city center hills are steep in some districts

Don't Miss: Castillo de San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro) — UNESCO World Heritage fortress

Getting around: Taxi \$3–\$5 USD · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Castillo de San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro)** — This 17th-century UNESCO fortress guards the mouth of Santiago Bay from a dramatic clifftop.
- Colonial Old Town & Parque Céspedes** — Stroll the cobblestoned heart of the city: the Casa de Diego Velázquez (Cuba's oldest surviving house, 1522), the...
- Cuartel Moncada & Revolution Museum** — Stand at the site of Fidel Castro's audacious 1953 attack that sparked the Cuban Revolution.
- El Cobre Basilica & Sierra Maestra Foothills** — Drive 20 km into the Sierra Maestra mountains to Cuba's most venerated shrine — the Basílica de Nuestra Señora del...
- La Gran Piedra & Baconao Biosphere** — Hike to a massive volcanic boulder perched about 1,225 m above sea level in the UNESCO-listed Baconao biosphere reserve...

BEST WALKS

- Waterfront to Parque Céspedes Loop** 2–3 hrs | 3 km | Easy–Moderate (hilly in Tivoli) — From the pier, follow Avenida Jesús Menéndez along the bay, passing cigar shops and the Rum Museum.
- Tivoli Quarter & Santa Ifigenia Cemetery** 2 hrs | 2.5 km | Moderate (steep slopes) — Climb into the Tivoli neighborhood — once a French-Haitian enclave — for ironwork balconies and hilltop views, then continue to the...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		85°	72°	15d
Jun		87°	75°	16d
Aug		89°	76°	18d
Sep		88°	75°	21d
Oct		86°	75°	20d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:45AM–7:21PM · Jun 6:23AM–7:43PM · Aug 6:43AM–7:31PM · Sep 6:50AM–7:05PM · Oct 6:58AM–6:39PM

Cuban Peso (CUP); USD sometimes accepted

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Currency confusion:** The CUC (convertible peso) was abolished in 2021 — Cuba now uses CUP only. Bring euros or Canadian dollars; USD carries a 10% exchange penalty. Carry small...

Santiago de Cuba, Oriente, 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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|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Castillo del Morro | Historic Spanish colonial fortress guarding Santiago Bay. | 2 Casa de Diego Velazquez | Cuba's oldest house, now a colonial history museum. |
| 3 Plaza de Marte | Lively public square, often hosting cultural events and gatherings. | 4 Plaza de Dolores | Charming square with a church, known for live music. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |