

Cuba

[music: *Son de la Loma* by *Havana Club*]

Hello and welcome to the *nomadamin* English podcast. I'm Amin Bahmani Yeganeh, an English teacher and the founder of *nomadamin*. Every episode, a fascinating subject is chosen to help you improve your English, and gain new perspectives on the world. I, the storyteller, will be using intermediate English with a **pinch of** higher-level language for you to learn. If you miss something, you can always skip back and listen again. Full transcripts are also offered at <http://nomadamin.com/podcast>.

[Introduction]

When it comes to Cuba, perhaps before anything else, you'd think about cigars, or maybe one of those colorful classic cars, but it has so much more to offer. Are you excited to know about it? Yeah? **Vámonos!**

[Geography]

Let's start with geography. Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean sea, south of Florida, and east of Mexico. The island is surrounded by beautiful beaches, **stunning** coastlines, and tropical forests. With a warm climate **all year round**, it gives visitors an opportunity to **soak up** the sun and enjoy the natural beauty of the island.

[History]

Cuba has a rich history too. The island was **inhabited** by **indigenous** people for hundreds of years before the arrival of Spanish explorers in 1492. After centuries of Spanish rule, Cuba became an independent nation in 1902. However, it wasn't until 1959 that the country **underwent** a radical transformation under the leadership of *Fidel Castro*. Since then, Cuba has been trying to offer an alternative to capitalism.

[music: *Hasta Siempre* by *Carlos Puebla*]

Another famous **figure** associated with the Cuban revolution is *Ernesto Che Guevara*, an Argentine **liberal** who played a key role in the revolution. He is an iconic figure in Cuban history, representing the revolutionary spirit.

[Architecture and Colors]

But enough politics! Cuba's architecture is a **fusion** of different styles that reflect its long and varied history. The city of Havana is famous for its colorful and energetic architecture. Its buildings **feature** a mix of Baroque, Neoclassical, and other styles, and the **vibrant** colors of the buildings add to the city's lively and cheerful atmosphere.

[Music and Dance]

Cuba is also well-known for its lively music and dance culture. *Salsa*, *Reggaeton*, *Rumba*, and *Cha-cha-chá* are some of the most popular styles of music and dance that **originated** in Cuba. The island has produced many legendary musicians, including *Benny More*, *Celia Cruz*, and *Tito Puente*, who have helped popularize Cuban music around the world. Visitors to Cuba can experience the rich musical **heritage** of the country by attending live performances in local clubs and **venues**.

[Food]

Let's move on to the delicious part. Cuba is known for its **mouth-watering** traditional dishes that reflect the country's mixed cultural heritage. Cuban **cuisine** is a **blend** of African, Spanish, and indigenous influences, resulting in a unique and **flavorful** cuisine. Some of the most popular dishes include *arroz con pollo* (chicken and rice), *ropa vieja* (shredded beef), and *lechón asado* (roasted pork). It is also famous for its black beans and rice, which is a **staple** dish in many households. It is also famous for its **rum**, which can be enjoyed on its own or as part of a **refreshing** mojito cocktail.

[Cigars]

Cigars are an important part of Cuban culture, with the country's famous *Cohiba* and *Montecristo* brands being highly **sought-after** by **aficionados**. Cuba's tobacco fields are grown in the central and western parts of the country, and a visit to a tobacco farm is a **must-do** for cigar enthusiasts.

[Ernest Hemingway]

Finally, if you know me at all, I cannot finish this episode without mentioning the great Ernest Hemingway. The **celebrated** American writer, also called Cuba his home for many years. He lived in Cuba from 1939 until 1960 and wrote some of his most famous works during that time, including *The Old Man and the Sea*. Visitors to Cuba can visit Hemingway's home, which has been turned into a museum, and explore the places that inspired his writing.

[Closing]

[music: *La Milonga De Ricardo En Cha Cha Cha* by *Ricardo Lemvo*]

And **that's a wrap!** [I] hope you enjoyed learning about Cuba today. You can also find the photos I've shot in Cuba on my Instagram account, [@nomadamin](https://www.instagram.com/nomadamin). From its beautiful geography and rich history to its tasty food and lively musical culture, Cuba is a country that offers something for everyone.

The *nomadamin* podcast is and will be free to make enjoyable education accessible to everyone. So, if you enjoy listening to this podcast, please make a donation using the button on the player or the link in the description to support the channel and play your part. I also invite you to keep exploring the world with

nomadamin, of course while improving your English, and **tune in** for another exciting episode. Until then, keep adventuring!



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Words List

a pinch of: a small amount of something
vámonos: Spanish term meaning let's go
stunning: extremely impressive or attractive
all year round: throughout the entire year
to soak up: to absorb
to inhabit: to live in
indigenous: native, local
to undergo: to experience, to go through
figure: a person
liberal: relating to a political and social philosophy that supports individual rights
fusion: combination
to feature: to have as a characteristic
vibrant: full of energy and life
to originate: to begin
heritage: valuable objects that have been passed down from previous generations
venue: the place where something happens, especially an organized event
mouth-watering: delicious
cuisine: a style or method of cooking
blend: combination
flavorful: full of flavor
staple: main or important
rum: an alcoholic drink extracted from sugarcane
refreshing: freshening
sought-after: much in demand, generally desired
aficionado: a person who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about something
must-do: something that someone should do
celebrated: admired
that's a wrap: used for showing that you have finished something
to tune in: to listen to a radio program or watch a television program

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