

Isla de la Juventud, Cuba

Cuba's second-largest island moves at its own unhurried pace — a former pirate haven turned political prison island, now celebrated for pristine dive sites and marble-streaked black sand beaches found nowhere else in the Caribbean.

 Tender port (no cruise pier)  Typical call: 7–9 hrs  USD / EUR (cash only — US cards don't work)  Spanish  World-class diving

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor offshore; tenders land at Nueva Gerona or Siguanea Bay

Walk to center: 5–10 min from Nueva Gerona tender dock to Calle Real

Best For: Scuba diving, cold-war history, off-the-beaten-path Cuba

Don't Miss: Presidio Modelo (Castro's prison) and Playa Punta Francés

 Getting around:  Taxi  \$2–\$7 USD ·  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Presidio Modelo — Cuba's Panopticon Prison** — Tour the panopticon prison complex built 1926–1931 under President Gerardo Machado, designed for up to 5,000 inmates and most famous for holding...
- Cuevas de Punta del Este — Aboriginal Cave Art** — Known as the Sistine Chapel of Caribbean rock art, these caves on the island's southeastern tip hold over 230 pre-Columbian pictographs painted by...
- Scuba Diving at Punta Francés Marine Park** — World-renowned dive site on the island's southwest tip with crystal-clear Caribbean water, vibrant coral walls, and accessible wrecks.
- Nueva Gerona Walking Tour & Local Lunch** — Stroll Calle Real's pastel colonial buildings, browse the local art market, visit Parque Central and the Church of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores...
- Finca El Abra — José Martí Exile Site** — Visit the hacienda where Cuba's national hero José Martí spent 65 days in exile in 1870, recovering under the care of the Sardá family.

BEST WALKS

- Nueva Gerona Town Stroll** 1.5 km · Flat · 30–40 min — From the tender dock walk along the Las Casas riverfront to Parque Central, then south along pedestrian Calle Real (Calle 39) past local shops, galleries, and the pastel...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 7:11AM–7:51PM · Jun 6:48AM–8:15PM · Aug 7:09AM–8:01PM · Sep 7:18AM–7:33PM · Oct 7:27AM–7:05PM	
Apr	85°	75°	9d	 USD / EUR (cash only — US cards don't work)	
Jun	86°	79°	19d		
Aug	88°	80°	19d		
Sep	86°	79°	21d		
Oct	84°	77°	17d		

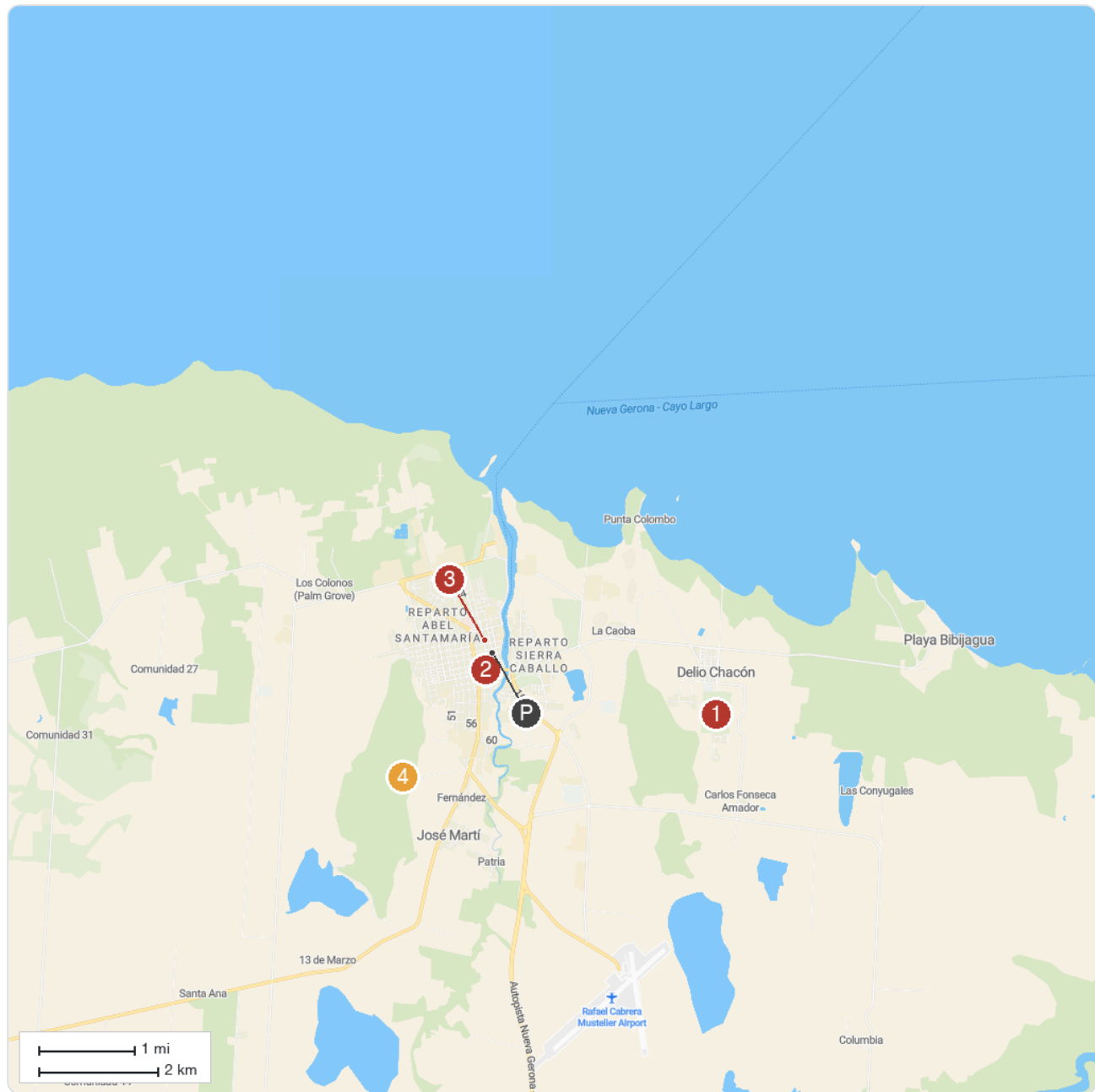
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is essential. US credit and debit cards do not work anywhere in Cuba. Bring enough USD or EUR in small denominations (\$1, \$5, \$10) before leaving the ship — there is no fallback.
- Negotiate transport before you commit. Classic American car taxis and bicitaxis quote in USD for tourists. Agree on the full price — not 'per person' — before boarding. A half-day private car tour runs ~\$40–60 USD.
- Expect to go offline. Internet is restricted and very slow on the island. Treat it as a full digital detox day and download offline maps before you leave the ship.
- Eat at a paladar. Private family-run restaurants (paladares) serve far better food than state restaurants — fresh lobster, red snapper, and ropa vieja at prices well below anywhere else in the Caribbean.
- Factor in tender time. With infrequent service to a remote island, grab your return tender ticket early and give yourself a 30-min buffer before last tender departure.
- Black sand at Playa Bibijagua is a unique sight — formed by eroding marble hills — but it's 6–8 km east of Nueva Gerona. Share a taxi with other passengers to make it worthwhile.

Isla de la Juventud, 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 Presidio Modelo | Panopticon-style former prison built 1926-1931 that once held Fidel Castro; now a museum with circular cell blocks. | 2 Museo de Historia Natural | Natural history museum with a planetarium and exhibits on the island's endemic geology and wildlife. |
| 3 Parque José Martí | Central town square of Nueva Gerona with colonial-era buildings and a shaded gathering spot. | 4 Finca El Abra | Historic 19th-century farmstead where national hero Jose Marti was held under house arrest, now a museum. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |