

Beryl lets Cuba escape



Wind intensity of Beryl on Wednesday evening (Source: [US National Hurricane Center](#))

Hurricane Beryl is still moving through the Caribbean. With wind speeds of over 260 kilometers per hour at times, it was classified as the strongest category 5 on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale. While Beryl left a [trail of devastation](#) in Jamaica, claiming the lives of at least two people, Cuba was spared this time.

Even though Cuba will not be directly affected this time, Beryl is being closely monitored by the island's meteorologists. As the Cuban National Meteorological Service (INSMET) [reported](#) in its latest report on Beryl on Thursday evening, the storm "continues to move rapidly towards the west-northwest at a speed of 31 kilometers per hour, moving across the northwestern Caribbean." Only tentacles of the storm will reach Cuba. Intermittent showers and rainfall as well as thunderstorms are expected in the west of the country, especially on the Isle of Youth and at the western end of Pinar del Río. Occasional heavy rain may occur. Light to moderate flooding is also possible on the southern coasts, although wind speeds are not expected to exceed 55 kilometers per hour. The Cuban weather service expects Beryl to [weaken](#) to a category 4 storm in the near future.

The fact that a strong hurricane has already formed in the Caribbean in July is unusual. Beryl is the strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded in July. The Caribbean hurricane season normally begins in September. The storm is expected to reach the Mexican peninsula of Yucatán on Friday before moving into the southern Gulf of Mexico early Saturday. ([Cubaheute](#))