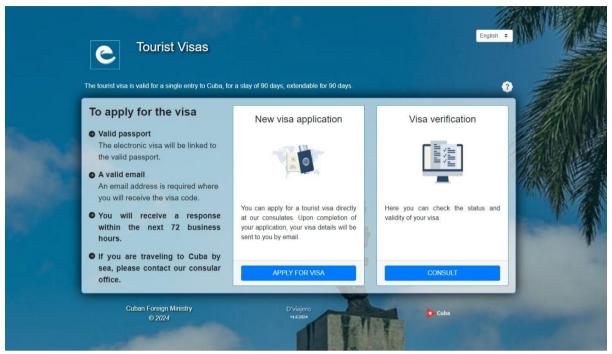
Cuba announces final deadline for tourist cards



Website of the Cuban Evisa portal (source: Evisa/Mincex)

The changeover is already underway: since August last year, travelers to Cuba have been able to apply for an electronic visa for their visit to the island instead of the paper-based tourist card (*Tarjeta del Turista*) (<u>Cubaheute reported</u>).

Now, the Cuban Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR) has announced the end of the paper cards. These are still valid until **June 30, 2025**, after which the e-visa will be the only way to enter the country, at least for tourists, as <u>explained</u> by Giana Galindo Enríquez, the ministry's trade director, to the ACN news agency.

Travelers can apply for an electronic tourist visa via the website https://evisacuba.cu/es/inicio. In Germany and Austria, the E-Visa costs 22 euros and can be paid by bank transfer or by bank card at the consulates in Berlin or Bonn. In Switzerland, the price is 42 CHF.

The E-Visa process is designed to make applying for a tourist visa, <u>valid for 90 days</u>, easier and faster. "With this development, Cuba is taking a further step towards modernizing its consular system, adapting to the current needs of tourists, and strengthening its digital infrastructure," the ministry explained when it was introduced.

There is also news regarding the "Cubacel Tur" tourist SIM card. As Galindo Enríquez explained, "in response to frequent requests from travelers", a version with a one-week term will also be offered in the future in addition to the 30-day version – which will then presumably be correspondingly cheaper. The offer is intended for short-term visitors who do not need the full 30 days.

Cuba plans to receive 2.6 million foreign visitors this year. Last year, tourism fell well short of expectations. Final figures are not yet available, but arrivals through November were just over two million, down 7.9 percent from the same period in 2023. (<u>Cubaheute</u>)