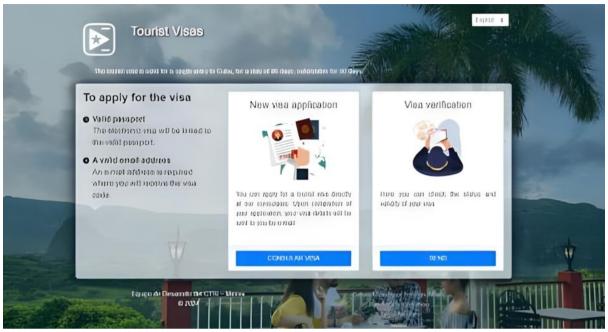
Cuba replaces tourist card with new e-visa



Upscaled draft of the new e-visa website (Source: Granma)

According to plans by the Cuban government, the classic tourist card will soon be obsolete. As the party newspaper "Granma" reports, Cuba will switch to a new electronic visa ("Evisa") in the coming weeks. This should "enable tour operators and end users to easily manage their requests from any device connected to the internet".

The previously required tourist card ("Tarjeta del Turista"), which can be purchased from the Cuban consulate, third-party providers and in some cases from the respective airlines, will no longer be necessary. With the electronic system, Cuba wants to make applying for 90-day tourist visas easier and faster. By doing away with paper, the process should also be more environmentally friendly; all that is required is an e-mail address. Prices and payment methods are not yet known; the tourist card currently costs 25 euros.

By switching to a digital tourist visa, Cuba is following the example of other countries that have now switched to electronic visas. As <u>announced</u> by "Granma", the introduction of the evisa is set to take part from May 6 to June 30. Further details are not yet known. (<u>Cubaheute</u>)