

International Book Fair: Cuba celebrates art and diversity



Poster of the 33rd Havana Book Fair (source: [Filcuba](#))

The 33rd edition of the Havana International Book Fair opened on Thursday. The reading festival, considered the biggest event in Cuban cultural life, will take place until February 23 in the San Carlos de la Cabaña fortress on the outskirts of the old city, as well as in some 20 other locations in Havana.

According to the president of the Cuban Book Institute and head of the organizing committee, Juan Rodríguez Cabrera, more than 1,300 new publications will be presented this year, both in print and digitally. A total of 2.4 million books are available for visitors to the fair.

One special feature is the first-time publication of a selection of the best Cuban and international literature as part of the so-called People's Library, which is to be successively expanded. Cabrera emphasized the contribution of the book fair as part of the “creative resistance” against the adversities of the US economic blockade, which was recently tightened again under US President Donald Trump.

This year's guest country at the fair is South Africa, the third African country to be honored in this capacity after Angola and Algeria. To mark the occasion, a biography of Nelson Mandela will be presented during the reading festival.

In addition, the fair is dedicated to the historian and educator Francisca López Civeira and the poet and essayist Virgilio López Lemus, who have made their mark on the history of Cuban literature.

The official opening ceremony began on Thursday morning with the hoisting of the Cuban and South African flags. Authors, publishers and booksellers from over 40 countries and all continents are expected at the ten-day fair.

From February 24, the book fair will then tour through all Cuban provinces, where it will conclude in Santiago de Cuba on March 23. This year's motto is "An entire country in books". ([Cubaheute](#))