

## More flights to Cuba again



Symbolic image: An airplane of the Swiss airline Edelweiss (Source: [Kambui/Commons](#))

The island is better connected again: In recent weeks, the number of flights to Cuba has continued to increase. Last Thursday (July 6), the Swiss airline Edelweiss opened a new direct flight between Zurich and Havana, which departs from the largest Swiss city every Thursday at 12:35h and lasts ten and a half hours. An Airbus A343 will be used for the route. As [reported](#) by the Cuban news agency ACN, Switzerland is among the top 25 countries of origin of tourists in Cuba.

Since July 1, there is also a new direct flight connection between Havana and Moscow, which is operated by a Boeing-777 of Rossiya Airlines. Rossiya is a subsidiary of Russia's state-owned airline Aeroflot, which operated a direct flight service with the Caribbean island back in Soviet times, then using Soviet-made Tupolev Tu-144 aircraft. Direct flights between the two countries were suspended in 2022 as a result of the Ukraine war, and have now been resumed as part of increased economic cooperation between Cuba and Russia.

According to a Rossiya spokesman, demand for tickets has been "enormous" and the first flight was almost fully booked. Part of the agreements includes an expansion of Russian tourism to Cuba, with at least 500,000 visitors a year and own resorts for Russian tourists. Initially, there will be two flights a week to Varadero on Mondays and Saturdays, with the frequency expected to increase to three flights from September.

Earlier, on June 3, the Spanish low-cost airline World2Fly announced the launch of a new weekly direct flight between Varadero and Lisbon. From Germany, Lufthansa, Condor, Air France, Iberia and KLM, among others, offer flights to Cuba with stopovers in Madrid, Paris

and Amsterdam, or in Condor's case as a direct flight. The new Edelweiss line with a stopover in Zurich has recently become another option for German travelers.

By the end of May, the island had counted a total of 1.4 million foreign visitors, still well short of its self-imposed target of 3.5 million guests by the end of the year. The most important countries of origin are currently Canada, family visits from the United States, Russia, Germany, and Spain. To boost tourism, the Cuban government last year extended the validity of the tourist visa from 30 to 90 days. ([Cubaheute](#))