

Spanish airlines reduce Cuba offer



Aircraft of the Iberia subsidiary Iberia Express (Source: [Commons](#))

The number of travelers to Cuba from Western and Central Europe is growing only slowly and remains below the expectations of many travel providers. The first of the airlines have already adjusted their plans. The Spanish airline Iberia, for example, has only been flying to Havana three times a week since October 28, while the frequency for other destinations in the Caribbean has been increased. Its competitor Iberojet announced that it would be withdrawing completely from the Cuban market from January.

Prior to this, the Madrid-Santiago de Cuba connection had already been discontinued on September 29. The [reasons given](#) for discontinuing the connection to Santiago were the low number of customers, the lack of hotel infrastructure, and "the lack of activities for visitors" in the eastern metropole. After the opening of direct flights between Madrid and Santiago de Cuba in November 2022, Iberojet was the only Spanish airline to offer a non-stop connection to the country's second largest city. On January 15, 2024, the connection to Havana will for the time being also be operated by Iberojet for the last time. However, it is currently considering offering a new connection to Santa Clara next summer.

US airlines such as JetBlue, Delta, and United Airlines have also reduced their connections, but for different reasons. The companies announced that they are waiting for approval from the US Department of Transportation for a temporary waiver to offer commercial flights to Cuba due to "changing regulations and restrictions". American Airlines has had more success and will be allowed to expand its connections between Miami and several provincial capitals in the coming winter season.

By the end of September, 1.8 million foreign visitors had been counted in Cuba, 68 percent more than in the same period in 2022 but still only 55 percent of the 2019 level. The biggest increases were in visitors from Canada, Cubans abroad, and Russia. ([Cubaheute](#))