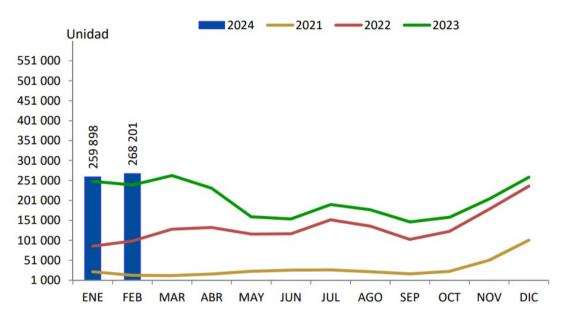
Tourism: Canadians remain loyal to Cuba



Tourists by month and year in Cuba (2021-24) (Source: ONEI)

The Cuban statistics office ONEI has published <u>new figures</u> on tourism on the island. According to the figures, Cuba received 528,099 tourists by the end of February, an increase of eight percent compared to the same period last year. The largest group of visitors this year were once again Canadians with 261,016 visitors (+3.2 percent), followed by Cubans from abroad (-10 percent). In third place were tourists from the Russian Federation with 43,864 visitors (+213 percent). Their numbers have more than doubled since last year as a result of new economic and tourism agreements.

Only then come family visitors and other travelers from the United States with 28,288 visitors (+116 percent), followed by 13,414 German tourists, whose numbers declined slightly (-1.3 percent). Spain, which has always been one of the top countries of origin in the past, only took ninth place this year with 8,710 visitors, a decline of a good 20% compared to 2023. Visitor numbers from England (-11.3%) and Italy (-23.2%) were also down, while there was hardly any change among the French (-0.1%). Overall, European tourism is at a much lower level than before the pandemic, while arrivals from Russia, the United States and Mexico have increased significantly.

Last year, Cuba counted 2.43 million international travelers, around a third less than the 3.5 million planned tourists. Cuba's Ministry of Tourism is aiming for 3.2 million guests in 2024. (Cubaheute)