

## Cuba is running out of jet fuel: Airlines announce additional refueling stops



Airlines announced additional refueling stops for flights departing from Havana (source: [Happypepe/Commons/CC-BY-SA 4.0](#))

**Update (February 10):** The German Foreign Office has changed its [travel advice](#) and currently advises against “non-essential travel” to Cuba due to the “significant impact of the acute fuel shortage.” The Cuban airline Cubana has suspended its recently launched [direct flights](#) between Frankfurt and Havana until further notice.

The Cuban government has informed international airlines that kerosene will no longer be available at any of the country's airports as of February 10. This was [confirmed by](#) two sources familiar with the matter to the Spanish news agency *EFE*.

All of Cuba's international airports are affected: José Martí in Havana, Juan Gualberto Gómez in Varadero, Jaime González in Cienfuegos, Abel Santamaría in Santa Clara, Ignacio Agramonte in Camagüey, Jardines del Rey on Cayo Coco, Frank País in Holguín, Antonio Maceo in Santiago de Cuba, and Sierra Maestra in Manzanillo. The bottleneck was announced in a standardised aviation notice (NOTAM) until 11 March.

On Monday morning, most flights to Havana initially appeared to be running on schedule. An early Copa Airlines flight to Panama departed on time, and several American Airlines flights were scheduled to land during the day, airport staff [confirmed](#) to *Reuters*.

The situation is not entirely new to the industry. Back in the 1990s, during the so-called Special Period, as well as during more recent temporary bottlenecks, airlines solved the problem by making additional stops to refuel in Mexico or the Dominican Republic.

According to *El País*, Iberia was the first airline to officially [respond to](#) the crisis, offering affected passengers flexible rebooking options, but assuring them that regular flight operations between Madrid and Cuba will be maintained for the time being. Air Europa, on the other hand, announced specific changes: starting Tuesday, Madrid-Havana flights will stop in Santo Domingo to refuel, which will cause delays.

Air Canada [announced](#) that it intends to suspend all flights to Cuba. “In the coming days, the airline will operate empty flights south to pick up approximately 3,000 customers who are already at their destination and bring them home,” the airline announced.

According to information available to *Cuba Today*, the situation is similar at ports, where ships can no longer be refueled.

The shortages are a direct result of the US military intervention in Venezuela in early January, which disrupted Cuba's oil supply, as well as the subsequent [threat of punitive tariffs](#) against other potential suppliers by the US – prompting Mexico to also halt fuel deliveries to the island. Since the end of last week, [rationing measures](#) for fuel and other adjustments have been in effect in Cuba. ([Cubaheute](#))