

Despite decline in tourism: Air Europa is increasing its flights to Havana



An Air Europa Boeing 737 (Source: [Bene Riobó/Commons](#)/CC BY-SA 4.0)

While other European airlines such as Condor and Edelweiss have scrapped their Cuba services (as [reported by Cuba Today](#)), there is good news again for the first time with regard to connections to the island from mainland Europe: the Spanish airline Air Europa has announced that it will fill the gap and expand its connections to Havana – at least a little.

As the company [announced](#), the Madrid-Havana connection is to be served daily again from June this year. So far, the route has been served six days a week, with no flights on Sundays. The airline, which belongs to the Spanish [Iberia-IAG group](#), said that the increase to seven weekly connections is in response to “increasing demand”.

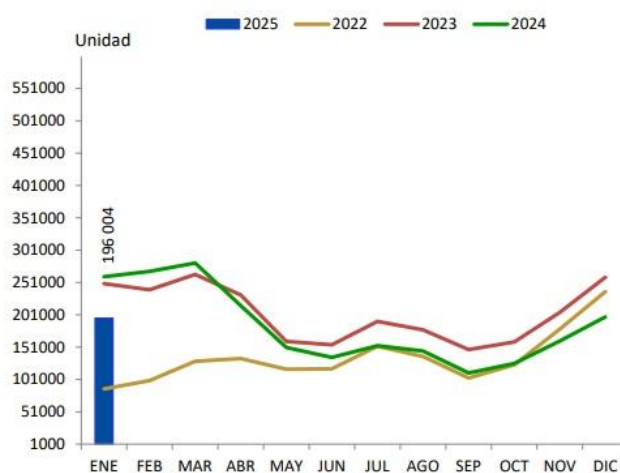


Figure: Number of tourist arrivals in Cuba 2022-25 (Source: [ONE](#))

To enable the additional flights and to increase comfort on board, Air Europa will put three new Boeing 787 Dreamliners into operation this year. Overall, the airline plans to offer 3.5 million seats on its long-haul flights in 2025. The aircraft utilization rate is expected to be over 84 percent on average.

The slight increase in flight frequency between Madrid and Havana is the

first piece of good news to come out of Cuba with regard to European tourism this year. This comes after Swiss airline Edelweiss announced in January that it would be discontinuing its flights to Cuba [from 27 February](#). A few weeks later, [Condor announced](#) that it would be flying to Varadero and Havana for the last time on April 29 and May 2, 2025, respectively.

Tourism in Cuba got off to an unexpectedly poor start this year, following a weak 2024. According to the [latest figures](#) from the statistics agency ONEI, only 196,004 tourists visited the island in January, a decline of 24.6 percent compared to January 2024. The largest decline was among Russian visitors (-47 percent), followed by Canadians (-30 percent). There were also severe double-digit declines in visitors from European countries. The only exception was Germany, which saw a slight increase of three percent. The goal of welcoming 2.6 million foreign guests thus seems out of reach at the beginning of the year. ([Cubaheute](#))