

Iberia suspends flights to Havana: Tourism at an all-time low



Iberia is following Air France's lead and suspending its direct flights to Havana (Source: [Barcex/Commons/CC-BY-SA 2.5](#))

The Spanish airline Iberia is suspending its direct service between Madrid and Havana [from June 1 to October 24, 2026](#). The reason is the ongoing crisis on the island, which has caused a sharp drop in demand for flights to Cuba.

Iberia will already be reducing its weekly service from three to two flights in May. Starting in June, affected passengers can, according to Iberia, reschedule their booking to a date through October 2027, switch to a different destination—including Miami, Mexico City, Panama City, or Santo Domingo—or request a refund.

Travel via Panama with partner airline Copa Airlines, with which Iberia has a codeshare agreement, remains an option. The airline's offices in Havana will remain open.

"This temporary suspension affects only Cuba due to the exceptional situation there," Iberia stated on April 13. Since February 9, Iberia aircraft have been required to make a refueling stop in Santo Domingo on their return flight to Madrid—due to a fuel shortage on the island.

Iberia is not the only airline pulling out. Air Canada postponed the resumption of its Cuba flights to November 1, 2026, while the Canadian charter carrier Air Transat delayed its return to June 20, 2026, with reduced capacity. Air Europa continues to fly to Havana but must also schedule a refueling stop in Santo Domingo until at least May 1. Air France [suspended](#) its direct flights on March 29 until at least June and, just like Iberia, offers the option of reaching Cuba via Copa Airlines from Panama.

Since the kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on January 3, the U.S. government has blocked oil shipments to Cuba and is threatening countries that supply the

island with tariffs. Since then, the island has been under a de facto energy blockade, which is also being enforced militarily with the help of the U.S. Coast Guard. [It wasn't until March 31](#) that a Russian tanker managed to resupply the island for the first time—it remains unclear whether and to what extent further shipments will get through.

Visitor numbers reflect the crisis. According to the Cuban statistics agency ONEI, only 262,496 international visitors traveled to the island in the first two months of 2026—30 percent fewer than in the same period the previous year. By 2025, the total number of visitors had already fallen to 1.8 million, the lowest level in more than two decades. ([Cubaheute](#))