

# Due South: A Journey to Cuba, Past and Present

Cuba is a country that has long fascinated travelers from around the world. It is a land of revolution, music, art, and culture. In recent years, Cuba has been undergoing a period of change, as it opens up to the world and embraces new opportunities. This article explores Cuba's past and present, and provides insights into its future.



## Due South; or, Cuba Past and Present by Maturin Murray Ballou

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## Cuba's Past

Cuba has a long and rich history. The island was first inhabited by the indigenous Taíno people. In the 16th century, Cuba was colonized by Spain. The Spanish ruled Cuba for over 300 years, and during this time, the island became a major center of sugar production. In the 19th century, Cuba became a battleground in the struggle for independence from Spain.

The Cuban War of Independence lasted for ten years, and finally ended in 1898 with the Spanish defeat.

After the Spanish-American War, Cuba became a protectorate of the United States. The United States had a significant influence on Cuba's political and economic development during this time. In 1959, Fidel Castro led a revolution that overthrew the US-backed government of Fulgencio Batista. Castro established a socialist government in Cuba, and the country has been ruled by the Communist Party ever since.

## **Cuba's Present**

In recent years, Cuba has been undergoing a period of change. The country has begun to open up to the world, and is embracing new opportunities. In 2015, the United States and Cuba restored diplomatic relations. This has led to an increase in tourism and trade between the two countries. Cuba is also becoming a more popular destination for travelers from around the world.

Despite the changes that are taking place, Cuba still faces a number of challenges. The country's economy is still struggling, and many Cubans live in poverty. The Cuban government also continues to suppress freedom of speech and assembly.

## **Cuba's Future**

The future of Cuba is uncertain. The country is facing a number of challenges, but it is also full of hope. The Cuban people are resilient and determined to build a better future for themselves. The future of Cuba will depend on the decisions that the Cuban government makes, and on the support that the international community provides.

Cuba is a country that is full of contradictions. It is a land of revolution and progress, but it is also a land of poverty and oppression. The future of Cuba is uncertain, but the Cuban people are determined to build a better future for themselves.



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