

Guanahacabibes Peninsula Biosphere Reserve



WAYNE NICHOLAS

MAGNOLIA WARBLER

Guanahacabibes Reserve is on a peninsula located on the southwestern tip of Cuba, in a critical path for birds migrating from Central and South America to the U.S. The Reserve is the closest point in Cuba to the mainland of Central America, and is only 130 miles from Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. This proximity makes the Reserve a logical "stepping-stone" for migrants that spend the winter in the eastern Caribbean. Guanahacabibes also is home to many resident and endemic Cuban species.

LOCATION: On a peninsula on the extreme southwestern tip of Cuba.

SIZE: 101,250 ha (250,000) acres

HABITAT: Guanahacabibes consists of dense tropical forest in the southern section, and mangroves along the northern coast. The Reserve is exceptionally diverse in plant species and habitat types. Over 665 plant species have been identified, and 20% of those are endemic to Cuba.

BIRDS: Cuba is uniquely located between the forests of Central and South America, and the southeast coast of the United States. At least 23 species of neotropical migrant warblers have been recorded on the Reserve, underscoring its importance to migrants. Over 191 total species of birds have been identified, including nine of Cuba's 22 endemics.

CONSERVATION: Due to the sensitive nature of the politics involved, funding for research and conservation is limited for this Reserve. The Cuban population is expanding, and, especially since Cuba is an island, this site will always be subject to pressure from settlers and development. Paradoxically, if U.S.-Cuba relations normalize, more funding would be available, but the pressure for development would increase dramatically.



Site Partner:

ECOVIDA

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