

# TRAVEL

Edited by JANE MEMMLER ● [sundayexpress.co.uk/travel](http://sundayexpress.co.uk/travel)



## Take a Chevy to the beating heart of Cuba

**ADAM HELLIKER is immersed in the island's sultry capital before relaxing in Varadero, helped by music and rum**



**MY HEART IS IN HAVANA:** Vintage cars gleam in Cuba's capital, and El Floridita bar where writer Ernest Hemingway sipped his beloved Daiquiris

**T**HERE were two choices of transport to tour the sultry city of Havana, a horse-drawn carriage or a vintage Chevrolet. No contest; I eased into the back seat of the Chevy, one of thousands of the big luxury sedans with those huge tail fins which were imported when Cuba was a playground for wealthy Americans in the 1950s.

These lovingly-restored gas-guzzlers are the ideal way to throb through this louche, frenetic patchwork of a city, where a street of crumbling old houses can lead into an elegant piazza, restored to its colonial splendour. The whole place is like a veteran Hollywood diva, once glamorous, now with a faded patina, but constantly beguiling.

For around £80 an hour, a suitably laid-back guide will drive you around Havana's top spots, starting at the Malecón, a long, winding seaside promenade where wizened Cubans reminisce as they gaze over the Atlantic. But at night it is transformed into Flirtation Central, with couples spooning as they sway to the salsa of passing musicians, while clutching tiny cups of rum.

It's impossible not to be tempted to sample that rum as Rafael guides his vibrant red Chevy towards Havana's numerous bars, most of which claim to have been the "favourite" of Ernest Hemingway, who lived in Cuba on and off from the 1930s.

One bar, El Floridita, birthplace of Ernest's favourite Daiquiris, is a short way away from his first home in the city, the art deco Hotel Ambos

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March 23	Newquay	3	£549pp
March 26	Cardiff*	4	£629pp

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