# Tourism Bad Disadvantage

# Tourism Bad DA – Table of Contents

[Summary](#_Toc363044422) 3

[Glossary](#_Toc363044423) 4

[Tourism Bad Disadvantage 1NC](#_Toc363044424) 5-6

Impact Extension

[Tourism Hurts the Environment](#_Toc363044426) 7

[Tourism Promotes Inequality in Cuba](#_Toc363044427) 8-9

[Tourism Hurts Public Health](#_Toc363044429) 10

[Tourism Increases Government Repression 11](#_Toc363044430)

Answers to Affirmative Responses

[Answers to: Cuba’s Environment is Already Exploited 12](#_Toc363044431)

[Answers to: Cuba Already Attracts Tourists 13](#_Toc363044432)

[Answers to: Americans Already Travel to Cuba 14](#_Toc363044433)

[Answers to: Lifting the Embargo Allows for Environmental Cooperation 15](#_Toc363044434)

[Answers to: Human Rights Come Before the Environment 16](#_Toc363044435)

### Summary

Right now the United States embargo on Cuba prevents US citizens from engaging in tourist activities in Cuba. Even though some Americans are given permission to go to Cuba, it is allowed sparingly, such as for educational purposes. The disadvantage argues that if the affirmative plan is implemented, there will be a significant increase in the number of US tourists that visit Cuba. This increase in tourism will ultimately lead to the rapid development of the tourist industry, which will inevitably destroy the environment of Cuba, which is home to many unique species and ecosystems.

### Glossary

**Consumerism** – a social and economic order that encourages the purchase of goods and services in ever-greater amounts

**Embargo** – the partial or complete prohibition of commerce and trade with a particular country

### Tourism Bad Disadvantage 1NC (1/2)

#### Uniqueness – the embargo prevents US citizens from travelling to Cuba.

Rep. Ron Paul, former Congressional representative, 2013

(Ron, “Why can’t we all travel to Cuba?,” *AntiWar.com*, April 16, Online: <http://original.antiwar.com/paul/2013/04/15/why-cant-we-all-travel-to-cuba/>)

The Obama administration has lifted some of the most onerous restrictions on travel to Cuba imposed under the previous Bush administration, but for the average American, travel to the island is still difficult if not impossible.¶ However, even those who are permitted to go to Cuba are not allowed to simply engage in tourist activities — to spend their money as they wish or relax on a beach.¶ The US government demands that the few Americans it allows to travel to Cuba only engage in what it deems “purposeful travel,” to “support civil society in Cuba; enhance the free flow of information to, from, and among the Cuban people; and help promote their independence from Cuban authorities.” They must prove that they maintain a full-time schedule of educational activities, according to Treasury guidelines for “people-to-people” travel.¶ Leave it to the federal government to make the prospect of visiting that sunny Caribbean island sound so miserable.¶ The reason the US so severely restricts and scripts the activities of the few Americans allowed to travel to Cuba is that it believes travel must promote the goal of taking “important steps in reaching the widely shared goal of a Cuba that respects the basic rights of all its citizens.”

#### Link – lifting the embargo would more than double the number of tourists in Cuba.

Dean, Lecturer in Environmental Studies at Brown University, 2007

(Cornelia, “Conserving Cuba, After the Embargo,” *New York Times*, December 25, Online: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&>)

But, he said in an interview, “an invasion of U.S. consumerism, a U.S.-dominated future, could roll over it like a bulldozer” when the embargo ends. By some estimates, tourism in Cuba is increasing 10 percent annually. At a minimum, Orlando Rey Santos, the Cuban lawyer who led the law-writing effort, said in an interview at the conference, “we can guess that tourism is going to increase in a very fast way” when the embargo ends. “It is estimated we could double tourism in one year,” said Mr. Rey, who heads environmental efforts at the Cuban ministry of science, technology and environment.

### Tourism Bad Disadvantage 1NC (2/2)

#### Impact - Lifting the embargo would turn Cuba into a target for tourists and business exploitation – this would destroy its environment.

Lovgren, winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, 2006

(Stefan, “Castro the Conservationist? By Default or Design, Cuba Largely Pristine,” *National Geographic*, August 4, Online: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/08/060804-castro-legacy.html>)

So what will happen if Castro's regime falls and a new, democratic government takes root? **Conservationists** and others **say** they are worried that the pressure to develop the island will increase and Cuba's rich biodiversity will suffer. Barborak said he is concerned that "environmental carpetbaggers and scalawags will come out of the woodwork in Cuba if there is turbulent regime change. "One could foresee a flood of extractive industries jockeying for access to mineral and oil leases," he said. "A huge wave of extraction of unique and endemic plants and animals could occur to feed the international wildlife market. And a speculative tourism and real estate boom could turn much of the coastline into a tacky wasteland in short order." "If foreign investments take a much firmer hold, more hotels will be built and more people will descend on the reefs," added Gebelein, the Florida International University professor. **"If the Cuban government does not have a** swift **policy** framework **to deal with the huge influx of** **tourists**, investors, and foreign government interests, a new exploitative paradigm will be the beginning of the end for some of the last pristine territories in the Caribbean."

### Tourism Hurts the Environment

#### [ ]

#### [ ] Cuba’s environment is very healthy – it’s been protected from pollution by the embargo.

Lovgren, winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, 2006

(Stefan, “Castro the Conservationist? By Default or Design, Cuba Largely Pristine,” *National Geographic*, August 4, Online: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/08/060804-castro-legacy.html>)

Isolated in part because of the U.S. trade embargo against the island, Cuba has been excluded from much of the economic globalization that has taken its toll on the environment in many other parts of the world. "The healthy status of much of the wetlands and forests of Cuba is due not to political influence as much as the lack of foreign exchange with which to make the investments to convert lands and introduce petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers," Pearl said. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many Cuban factories and agricultural fields have sat dormant. The island has had to become self-sufficient, turning to low-energy organic farming. It has had to scrap most of its fishing fleet because it can't afford to maintain the ships. Population pressure has also been a nonissue, with many Cubans fleeing the country for economic and political reasons.

### Tourism Promotes Inequality in Cuba

#### [ ] Cuba’s tourism industry caters to racial divisions and promotes ethnics tensions.

Sanchez and Adams, professors of political science and anthropology at Loyal University, 2008

(Peter and Kathleen, “Janus Faced Character of Tourism in Cuba,” *Annals of Tourism Research*, Volume 35 Number 1, Online – Free)

In the course of three trips to Cuba, spanning nine years, the¶ authors found that almost all workers at the front desks of Havana¶ and Varadero hotels oriented towards international tourists were predominantly¶ ‘‘white’’ (classification of race is different in Cuba and¶ the United States; many considering themselves as white would be perceived¶ as ‘‘black’’ by people in the United States). In a study of racism¶ on the island, De la Fuente quotes a black Cuban singer as saying,¶ ‘‘Tourism firms look like South African companies in the times of Peter¶ Botha. You go there, and they are all white. And I wonder: Where¶ am I, in Holland?’’ De la Fuente (1998:7). In keeping with the findings¶ of the authors of this paper, Cabezas also observes that ‘‘Afro-Cubans¶ are excluded from front line service positions with direct customer contact’’¶ Cabezas (2006:513). Certainly, there are Afro-Cubans in the tourism¶ industry and sometimes they occupy key positions, but overall,¶ while they represent a significant segment of the local population,¶ Afro-Cubans are underrepresented in the high-level and best-paying¶ positions in the industry. Racial preferences in tourism-related hiring¶ appear, then, to have exacerbated inequality and racism. This inequality,¶ within a socialist system, threatens to erode domestic support for¶ the Castro government. While they may fear the alternative and still¶ view Castro positively, many citizens interviewed were often quite critical¶ of the government’s policies, and also lamented their current paradoxical¶ experiences and hardships. Thus, tourism has also increased¶ ethnic divisions on the island. Rather than helping build and integrate¶ the nation and strengthening the state, it has done the opposite in¶ Cuba: yielding more social division and tension.

### Tourism Promotes Inequality in Cuba

[ ] Tourism in Cuba promotes economic inequality, ethnic tensions, and corruption.

Sanchez and Adams, professors of political science and anthropology at Loyal University, 2008

(Peter and Kathleen, “Janus Faced Character of Tourism in Cuba,” *Annals of Tourism Research*, Volume 35 Number 1, Online – Free)

Tourism in Cuba has, to some extent, helped to ‘‘save’’ the economy¶ by providing much needed hard currency. The Castro government in¶ the early 90s experienced a serious crisis that had grave political repercussions.¶ It introduced major economic changes in order to survive¶ but, despite such efforts, in fall 1994 alone, roughly 30,000 fled the island¶ and clashes with the police occurred near the Maleco´n. The government,¶ nevertheless, survived that crisis. The economy has grown¶ and, while life is still challenging, some degree of normalcy has¶ emerged, as hard currency continues to enter the economy via tourism.¶ On the other hand, the industry has created serious contradictions that¶ have not been ameliorated and threaten to undermine the government’s¶ most important national goals, mainly the preservation of¶ socialism. Continuing inequality, racism, prostitution, and corruption¶ threaten the survival of the Castro government. The government has¶ attempted to deal with the contradictions by using tourism as a vehicle¶ for support. But its attempts to lasso the industry to highlight the values¶ of the revolution and to foster international support may be nothing¶ more than window-dressing when compared with the deleterious effects¶ of tourism on the government, national goals, and socialist¶ ideology.¶ More broadly, the Cuban case illustrates some of the potential contradictions¶ that can arise in the uneasy marriage between tourism¶ and nation-building for developing countries and socialist societies¶ in transition. While it can certainly contribute to a country’s coffers¶ and enhance pride in citizenship, tourism can also fuel or regenerate¶ ethnic divisions, prostitution, economic inequalities, and corruption,¶ all of which may undermine the authority of the state. Under such a¶ scenario, the Janus-faced character of tourism may well prevent many¶ states from achieving their nation-building goals. Further, nation-states¶ that pursue social justice as one of their chief goals may want to more¶ carefully weigh the decision to embrace tourism as a vehicle for fueling¶ development, fostering international sympathy, and fomenting a loyal¶ citizenry.

### Tourism Hurts Public Health

#### [ ]

#### [ ] Lifting the embargo would allow medical tourism – this would overstretch Cuba’s healthcare resources.

Garrett, Senior Fellow for Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations, 2010

(Laurie, “Castrocare in Crisis,” *Foreign Affairs*, 89:4, July/August, EBSCOhost)

But a lot may change if the United States alters its policies toward Cuba. In 2009, a group of 30 physicians from Florida toured Cira García and concluded that once the U.S. embargo is lifted, the facility will be overwhelmed by its foreign patients. It takes little imagination to envision chains of private clinics, located near five-star hotels and beach resorts, catering to the elective needs of North Americans and Europeans. Such a trend might bode well for Canadians seeking to avoid queues in Ottawa for hip replacements or for U.S. health insurance companies looking to cut costs on cataract surgery and pacemakers. But providing health care to wealthy foreigners would drain physicians, technicians, and nurses from Cuba's public system.¶ And any such brain drain within Cuba might be dwarfed by a brain drain out into the rest of the world, as Cuban doctors and nurses leave the country to seek incomes that cannot be matched at home. Countries facing gross deficits in skilled medical talent are already scrambling to lure doctors, nurses, lab technicians, dentists, pharmacists, and health administrators from other nations. In 2006, the WHO estimated that the global deficit of medical professionals was roughly 4.3 million, and the figure can only have grown since then. As the world's population ages and average life expectancies rise from the United States to China, millions more patients will need complex, labor-intensive medical attention. And in countries with falling life expectancies and high rates of HIV/AIDS, donor resources aimed at combating the disease often have the unintended consequence of further straining meager supplies of human medical resources by drawing talent away from less well-funded areas of medicine, such as basic children's health care.

### Tourism Increases Government Repression

#### [ ]

#### [ ] Tourism provides the Castro regime with more money to dominate Cuban citizens.

Suchlicki, Direcotr of the Institute for Cuban Studies at the University of Miami, 2013

(Jaime, “What If…the U.S. Ended the Cuba Travel Ban and the Embargo?,” Feb 26, Online: http://interamericansecuritywatch.com/what-if-the-u-s-ended-the-cuba-travel-ban-and-the-embargo/)

Lifting the ban for U.S. tourists to travel to Cuba would be a major concession totally out of proportion to recent changes in the island. If the U.S. were to lift the travel ban without major reforms in Cuba, there would be significant implications: Money from American tourists would flow into businesses owned by the Castro government thus strengthening state enterprises. The tourist industry is controlled by the military and General Raul Castro, Fidel’s brother. American tourists will have limited contact with Cubans. Most Cuban resorts are built in isolated areas, are off limits to the average Cuban, and are controlled by Cuba’s efficient security apparatus. Most Americans don’t speak Spanish, have but limited contact with ordinary Cubans, and are not interested in visiting the island to subvert its regime. Law 88 enacted in 1999 prohibits Cubans from receiving publications from tourists. Penalties include jail terms. While providing the Castro government with much needed dollars, the economic impact of tourism on the Cuban population would be limited. Dollars will trickle down to the Cuban poor in only small quantities, while state and foreign enterprises will benefit most. Tourist dollars would be spent on products, i.e., rum, tobacco, etc., produced by state enterprises, and tourists would stay in hotels owned partially or wholly by the Cuban government. The principal airline shuffling tourists around the island, Gaviota, is owned and operated by the Cuban military. The assumption that the Cuban leadership would allow U.S. tourists or businesses to subvert the revolution and influence internal developments is at best naïve. As we have seen in other circumstances, U.S. travelers to Cuba could be subject to harassment and imprisonment. Over the past decades hundred of thousands of Canadian, European and Latin American tourists have visited the island. Cuba is not more democratic today. If anything, Cuba is more totalitarian, with the state and its control apparatus having been strengthened as a result of the influx of tourist dollars.

### Answers to: Cuba’s Environment is Already Exploited

#### [ ]

#### [ ] Cuba is home to one of the most protected environments in the world.

Lovgren, winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, 2006

(Stefan, “Castro the Conservationist? By Default or Design, Cuba Largely Pristine,” *National Geographic*, August 4, Online: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/08/060804-castro-legacy.html>)

Though Cuba is economically destitute, it has the richest biodiversity in the Caribbean. Resorts blanket many of its neighbors, but Cuba remains largely undeveloped, with large tracts of untouched rain forest and unspoiled reefs. The country has signed numerous international conservation treaties and set aside vast areas of land for government protection. But others say Cuba's economic underdevelopment has played just as large a role. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union—its main financial benefactor—Cuba has had to rely mostly on its own limited resources. It has embraced organic farming and low-energy agriculture because it can't afford to do anything else. And once Castro is gone, the experts say, a boom in tourism and foreign investment could destroy Cuba's pristine landscapes.

### Answers to: Cuba Already Attracts Tourists

#### [ ]

#### [ ] The current number of tourists would increase substantially if the embargo was lifted.

Global Travel Industry News, 2009

(“Is Cuba Ready for US Tourists?,” *Global Travel Industry News*, Sep 18, Online: <http://www.eturbonews.com/11774/cuba-ready-us-tourists>)

If the U.S. government dropped its travel restrictions entirely, rather than just for Cuban Americans -- and Cuba proved as big a draw for American tourists as Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, or Cancun, Mexico -- the island could expect more than one million additional visitors a year.¶ Mere curiosity -- seeing '58 Oldsmobiles and giant Che portraits on buildings -- could lure many, said Damian Fernandez, a longtime Cuban policy expert and provost of Purchase College State University of New York.¶ "Post-embargo, the biggest, fastest impact would be in tourism," he said.

### Answers to: Americans Already Travel to Cuba

#### Embargo restricts tourism

Luxner, news editor of the Washington Diplomat, 2012

(Larry, “Cuba Welcomes Pope, As U.S. Slams Door on Easing Embargo)

*The Washington Diplomat*, Feb 29, Online: <http://www.washdiplomat.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8222:cuba-welcomes-pope-as-us-slams-door-on-easing-embargo&catid=1484:march-2012&Itemid=497>)

Fifty years ago, on Feb. 7, 1962, President John F. Kennedy expanded the partial embargo that had been imposed more than a year earlier by his predecessor, Dwight D. Eisenhower, into a total economic embargo against Cuba that endures to this day.¶ That embargo, aimed at depriving the Castro regime of badly needed dollars, makes it impossible for average American tourists to frolic on the beaches of Varadero, only 90 miles due south of Key West, Fla. — even though U.S. law permits them to visit every other nation on Earth, including Syria, North Korea and Iran.

### Answers to: Lifting the Embargo Allows for Environmental Cooperation

#### [ ]

#### [ ] Lifting the embargo would subject Cuba to a wave of environmental exploitation by American businesses.

Dean, Lecturer in Environmental Studies at Brown University, 2007

(Cornelia, “Conserving Cuba, After the Embargo,” *New York Times*, December 25, Online: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/25/science/25cuba.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&>)

Through accidents of geography and history, Cuba is a priceless ecological resource. That is why many scientists are so worried about what will become of it after Fidel Castro and his associates leave power and, as is widely anticipated, the American government relaxes or ends its trade embargo. Cuba, by far the region’s largest island, sits at the confluence of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Its mountains, forests, swamps, coasts and marine areas are rich in plants and animals, some seen nowhere else. And since the imposition of the embargo in 1962, and especially with the collapse in 1991 of the Soviet Union, its major economic patron, Cuba’s economy has stagnated. Cuba has not been free of development, including Soviet-style top-down agricultural and mining operations and, in recent years, an expansion of tourism. But it also has an abundance of landscapes that elsewhere in the region have been ripped up, paved over, poisoned or otherwise destroyed in the decades since the Cuban revolution, when development has been most intense. Once the embargo ends, the island could face a flood of investors from the United States and elsewhere, eager to exploit those landscapes.

### Answers to: Human Rights Come Before the Environment

#### [ ]

#### [ ] In the context of Cuba, the environmental costs are too high to ignore – even when compared to human rights.

Kozloff, writer for the Huffington Post and PhD in Latin American History from Oxford, 2010

(Nikolas, “Left Must Fine Tune its Position on Cuba Embargo in Light of Oil Spill,” *Monga Bay*, May 26, Online: <http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0526-kozloff_cuba.html>)

Hopefully, the BP disaster will put a break on the oil lobby and its supporters on Capitol Hill. Yet, other important players have been broadly supportive of offshore oil. For its part, Havana has said it would welcome U.S. investment. Recently, a U.S.-Cuba Energy Summit attracted Exxon officials and others to a meeting in Mexico City. Participants viewed PowerPoint presentations from Cuban government ministries including state-owned oil company Cupet which sought to involve U.S. companies in the exploitation of oil and gas fields. "U.S. oil companies would love to do business there as soon as this thing opens up," remarked Ron Harper, an energy analyst in Houston. "They're looking at it quietly. They'd be short-sighted not to." The debate over Cuban offshore oil puts the political left in a quandary. For years, it’s been an article of faith amongst progressives that the U.S. ought to scrap the embargo. To be sure, economic sanctions have resulted in horrible economic distress for ordinary Cubans. Yet, does the left want to lift sanctions and open the door to yet more destructive offshore petroleum, thereby adding to environmental woes already unleashed by the BP spill? In light of our dire ecological straits, I believe the left must rethink its position on this vital issue and articulate a more broad-based vision for the Gulf which would realistically address both economic and environmental concerns.