

Cuba Saw Slight Increase in Tourism Arrivals in 2013



Havana, February 3 (RHC) -- Cuba saw a 0.5 percent increase in tourism arrivals in 2013, according to recently-released data from the National Statistics Office.

Cuba received a total of 2,852,572 foreign arrivals in 2013, up 0.5 percent from its total of 2,838,607 in 2012.

Those numbers did not include United States tourists, however. While U.S. nationals are heading to the island, they are only licensed to do so for certain kinds of people-to-people and education travel, and not traditional tourism visitation. Cuba also does not consider Cuban-American travelers as tourists, but rather as nationals.

Cuba saw the biggest jump in Chilean tourists, who saw their numbers swell by 30.5 percent in 2013, rising to 35,952 from 27,551.

Tourists from Venezuela were the next-largest group, with an increase to 45,943 from 36,373, a 26.3 percent jump.

Tourism from Russia, traditionally a strong point for Cuba's tourist sector, dropped sharply, with a 19 percent reduction to 70,401.

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