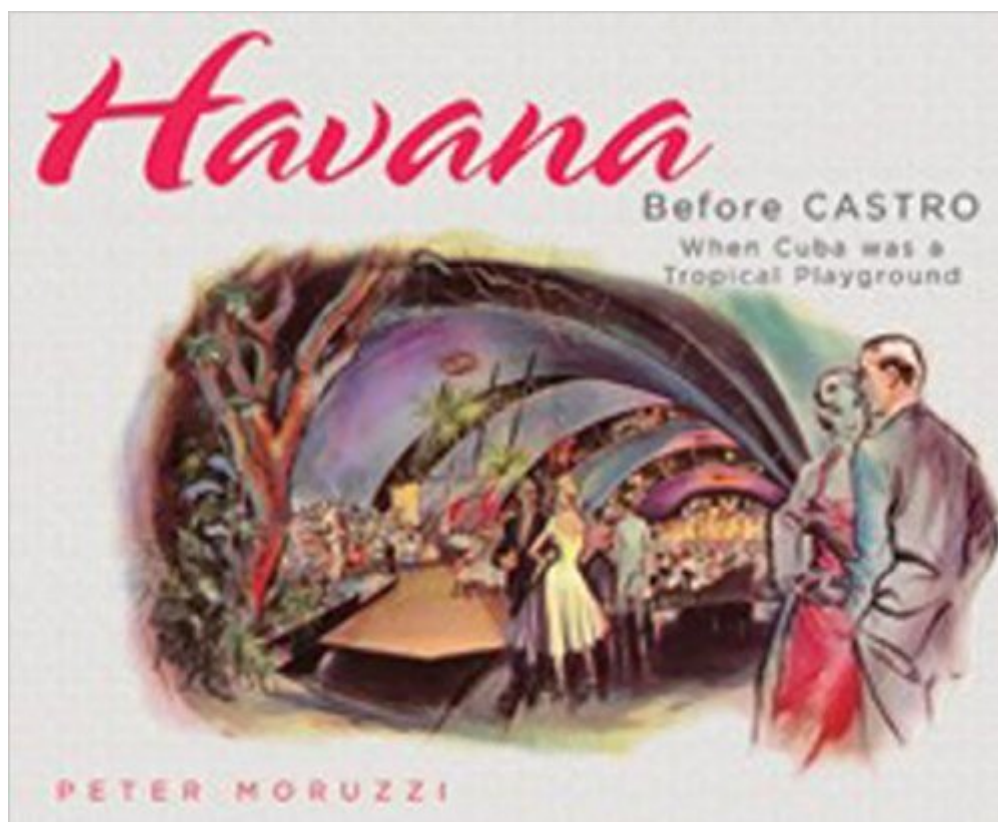


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# Havana Before Castro: When Cuba Was A Tropical Playground



## Synopsis

Featuring hundreds of vintage photographs, postcards, brochures, and other materials evocative of time and place, *Havana Before Castro: When Cuba Was a Tropical Playground* documents how the city of Havana evolved from Prohibition haven and rich man's playground to a heady blend of glittering nightclubs, outrageous cabarets, all-night bars, and backstreet brothels. Here, captured in one amazing book, is the drama, passion, intrigue, and opulence of a legendary city during its heyday-before the Castro dictatorship re-imagined the country and Americans were banned from travel to this tropical paradise. An architectural historian by profession, Peter Moruzzi is an acknowledged expert on mid-century Modern architecture and design. He is the founder of the Palm Springs Modern Committee, an internationally recognized historic preservation organization, and the writer/director of *Desert Holiday*, a documentary film chronicling the history of Palm Springs as seen through vintage postcards. He resides in the Silver Lake district of Los Angeles and in Palm Springs.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (47 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

My wife and I escaped Cuba during the early sixties. Almost certain that we might be returning within a month or two (50 years ago) we did not bring along photographs, memories, or keepsakes of any kind. "Havana Before Castro" is the best collection of memorabilia ever to touch my hands. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You've made my day! Andrew J. Rodriguez Award-winning author: "Adios, Havana," a Memoir

With a profusion of exquisite illustrations, "Havana Before Castro" is also a surprisingly well-balanced, perceptively written historical work. While one good picture is certainly worth a thousand words, this book goes beyond the typical illustrated book genre to recapture also in text a Havana which vividly lives in the memory of those of us lucky enough to have experienced it first hand and, now, in the memory of those who read this book.

Very informative with wonderful before and after photos, I am Cuban and remember some of the places in the photos. Would highly recommend it to my friends.

Color and vintage black and white photos abound in HAVANA BEFORE CASTRO: WHEN CUBA WAS A TROPICAL PLAYGROUND. It re-creates an era when the city was a popular destination for Americans between World War I and Castro's revolution, packing over 500 color and black and white images into a 'then and now' recreation contrasting past and present. Any library strong in Cuban history and culture must have this.

This is a wonderful book that describes Havana in the same way that my parents have always told me they remember. I lived in Cuba until the age of thirteen and in many parts of Havana i could see remains of what once was a grandiose city. This city is now converted into a total ruin. With regards to the writer "formoso" , he believes all the comunist propaganda written by the so called revolution. I imagine he believes that today's cuba is a paradise where everybody lives better.....how come all cubans want to leave that paradise?.....

great, easy read yet interesting history of Havana. Wonderful photos and fun highlights of the who's who of that era. The author did a good job of combining the two to make for a brilliant fun read

As someone who was born in Cuba in early 1940s and lived under Castro until 1964 I'm thoroughly enjoying this book - learning things I either had forgotten or never knew - it's bringing back very fond memories of the Cuba I grew up in.

The pictures in the Havana Before Castro: When Cuba was a Tropical....reading it, I couldn't put it down. I kept running to my husband showing him all the neat pictures I was looking at. I finally gave up and sat next to him and we read together. It's a beautiful book, with beautiful pictures in in and the people are so colorful. I loved the book right away and I plan to purchase more of them. It's such

a thrilling book, I love it! Thank you, !

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