

Cuba invites more tourists from Qatar

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27/03/2017



Tourism is a key area Cuba is seeking to promote in Qatar and attract more visitors soon, says Eumelio Caballero Rodriguez, Cuban ambassador. Cuba seeks to welcome more visitors from here as the Cuban tourism sector is growing fast and it has fascinating attractions to offer for tourists.

“With its favourable climate, beaches, colonial architecture and distinct cultural history, Cuba is an attractive destination for tourists. Cuba is one of the secured countries and many spend their holiday in Cuba,” said Rodriguez yesterday.

“We do receive visitors from Qatar. We hope more of our Qatari friends will plan their next holiday to Cuba,” he added during a presentation on the upcoming Cuban International Tourist Fair ‘FITCuba 2017.’

FITCuba 2017 is the most important professional event of the Cuban tourism industry, to be held in Holguin, Cuba, in May. Holguin, with its cultural plazas, excellent beaches, exotic environment and infrastructures facilities, is one of the most attractive sites in Cuba for hosting FITCuba 2017.

“It’s a professional gallery, but many tourists are also coming to the event and they do explore tourist attractions,” said Rodriguez.

“Beside the traditional offers and other new tourist modalities, special space will be devoted at FITCuba 2017 to the presentation of the updates business opportunities in Cuba in the tourism sector,” said Rodriguez.

The event was held at the Cuban ambassador’s residence in the presence of several officials including the ambassadors of Venezuela and Uruguay as well as representatives from the travel industry.

In the presentation, Rodriguez also highlighted attractions that Cuba has to offer to tourists and about the growth of the tourism industry in his country.

“Tourism in Cuba is growing very fast, it has grown by six percent compared to 2015. In 2016, 30 percent of the tourists were from Canada and we received 284,937 visitors from the US despite the blockade,” said Rodriguez.

Cuba has a rich mixture of various cultures of Europeans, Africans and natives. It is reflected in Cuban architecture, music, dance, food and handicrafts. Cuba is undertaking renovation programmes of its cultural heritage sites such as colonial buildings in Havana and Matanzas.

“There are 125 development tourism projects. Also, there is opportunity for foreign participation and business opportunities in building hotels, developing and expanding marinas,” said Rodriguez.

Cuba treasures 253 protected areas, 257 national monuments, seven Unesco World Heritage Sites, seven Natural Biosphere Reserves and 13 Fauna Refuge among other non-tourist zones.

“Every province in Cuba has something special to offer such as rich culture of dance, music and literature, important cultural and historic heritage, vintage cars as taxis, modern and contemporary architecture,” he added. Health Tourism is among one of the other enterprises Cuba has to offer for tourists.

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