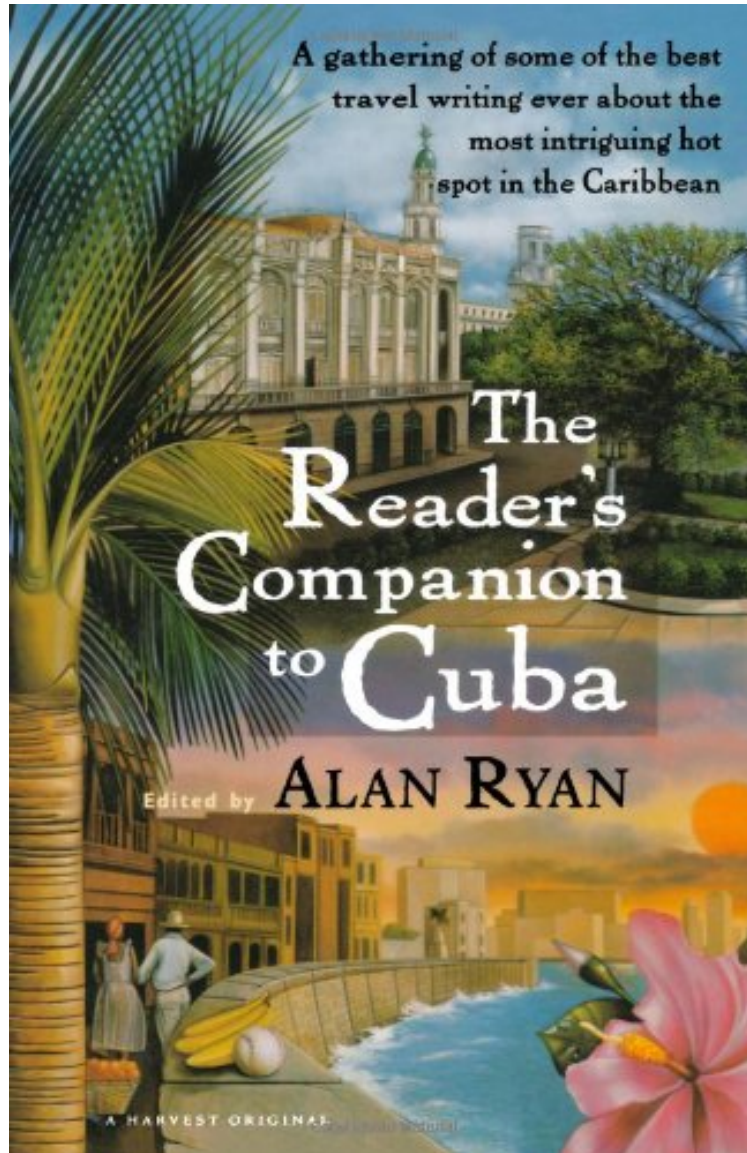


## The Reader's Companion to Cuba

Alan Ryan

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**Alan Ryan : The Reader's Companion to Cuba** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reader's Companion to Cuba:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By glance Needed more info on current situation in Cuba.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wide Variety of Views on Cuba By Susan After reading a couple of

history books, I wanted something else to give me a flavor of this island, and this book did it. From the early historical accounts by travelers who came by ship and horse cart, to recent (ends in about the 80's) accounts from those who flew in, the writers present their own personal views of this very special place. Some accounts are longer than others; all are interesting. A good introduction is provided to each vignette, placing it in history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Karen Louis Good read if you are interested in Cuba's history of tourism.

A gathering of some of the best travel writing ever about the most intriguing hot spot in the Caribbean, this book includes work by Hemingway, Langston Hughes, Thomas Merton, Anais Nn, Frederic Remington, James Michener, Tommy Lasorda, and others. The Readers Companion to Cuba offers an infinitely more revealing and personal time-lapse tour of this complex country than could possibly be offered by any standard guidebook. Map.

From Library Journal Journalist Ryan (Reader's Companion to Mexico, Harcourt, 1993) has brought together articles excerpted from the works of 23 authors, ranging from Anthony Trollope to Pico Iyer, who give us a portrait of Cuba as seen through travelers' eyes. The pieces are arranged chronologically, starting in 1859 and ending in 1992. Richard Henry Dana and Anthony Trollope visited the island at the same time and had very different views. Dana loved it, but Trollope found few attractions in Havana. He thought that the United States should take it over, as indeed the United States wanted to do. Langston Hughes, in his 1930 visit, found the color bar worked against him, mostly because of American influence. While this is not a political book, most of the recent authors find the American embargo and policies to be wrong-headed, though many find flaws in the policies of the Cuban government. This is an excellent book for anyone, but if a trip to Cuba is anticipated, it would be a profitable reading experience. ?George M. Jenks, Bucknell Univ., Lewisburg, Pa. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. Journalist Ryan (Reader's Companion to Mexico, Harcourt, 1993) has brought together articles excerpted from the works of 23 authors, ranging from Anthony Trollope to Pico Iyer, who give us a portrait of Cuba as seen through travelers' eyes. The pieces are arranged chronologically, starting in 1859 and ending in 1992. Richard Henry Dana and Anthony Trollope visited the island at the same time and had very different views. Dana loved it, but Trollope found few attractions in Havana. He thought that the United States should take it over, as indeed the United States wanted to do. Langston Hughes, in his 1930 visit, found the color bar worked against him, mostly because of American influence. While this is not a political book, most of the recent authors find the American embargo and policies to be wrong-headed, though many find flaws in the policies of the Cuban government. This is an excellent book for anyone, but if a trip to Cuba is anticipated, it would be a profitable reading experience. George M. Jenks, Bucknell Univ., Lewisburg, Pa. (Library Journal) About the Author Alan Ryan is a contributing editor for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt with titles including: The Readers Companion to Alaska.