The Cuban Ministry of Tourism is reporting the destination received 4,035,000 visitors in 2016, up 14.5% over the 2015 total of 3,524,779.

In the first 63 days of 2017 the Ministry is reporting this strong growth continued with arrivals up 15% over the same period of 2016 and is forecasting receiving a total of 4,200,000 visitors in 2017.

It reports the island offers 66,547 hotel rooms and added 2,316 rooms in 2016 and will add a further 4,210 rooms in 2017. The target is to add 20,000 rooms by 2020 and to reach a total of 104,000 hotel rooms by 2030.

<http://www.hosteltur.com.do/115180_cuba-recibe-millon-turistas-lo-va-2017.html>

 ***Google Translate.***

The island expects to surpass 4 million in this year.

**Cuba receives one million tourists in 2017**

05 MARCH, 2017

Cuba has received its first million tourists this year (2017) in just 63 days, as reported by the island's tourism ministry.

The entity also said that in 2017 North America continues to be the region with the highest number of visitors to Cuba, followed by traditional markets in Europe such as Germany, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and Spain. Latin America also maintains an important growth rate.

The figure reached in these first months of the year is encouraging for the Cuban tourist industry, which intends to surpass this year its extraordinary results of 2016, when the country received four million 35 thousand international visitors.

At the end of February Cuba reportedly achieved a 15% cumulative increase, a rate that, if maintained, could help the island to exceed the results of the first quarter of the previous year, when it received one million 300 thousand visitors.

In that period of 2016, passenger flows to Cuba also maintained a 15% growth, with significant increases in the number of travelers from the United States (94.2%), Spain (88.7%), Italy (72.6% ), Germany (43%), France (41.3%) and the United Kingdom (20.3%).

For this year, Cuba expects to receive four million 200 thousand visitors, 164,400 more than those accounted for in 2016, when it experienced a 14.5% increase compared to what was achieved in 2015 and a nine percent increase over expectations.

The Caribbean nation is committed to increasing the role of the tourism industry in national development and has undertaken an intense hotel development plan, which in 2016 meant adding 2,316 new rooms to complete a total availability of 66,547. During this year it intends to add another four thousand 20 rooms and another 20 thousand during the period up to 2020, with a view to reaching the 104,000 rooms that the country needs by the year 2030.