

## Ciego de Ávila Province



Cayo Coco (Coco Key) is an island in central Cuba, well known for its luxury resorts. It lies within the Ciego de Ávila Province and is part of a chain of islands called Jardines del Rey ("King's Gardens"). The cay is administered by the Morón municipality. It is named for the white ibis, locally called Coco (coconut) birds.

The cay is linked to the mainland by an artificial causeway some 27km long. The construction caused concern among environmentalists as it disturbed the tidal flow and thus life-cycle of water life. Despite fears, the wild flamingos still live in the shallow waters and can often be seen from the causeway although not as often as before the construction. A number of gaps were subsequently created in the causeway to restore water flow.

From my own experience I would say that in one day I saw 3 different groups of flamingos with about 20 or 30 in each group, either walking around in the choppy sea water or in the tranquil water ways on the island, all seemed to be feeding well and very relaxed in their surroundings. However at 'Flamingo Beach' there was once a place that served food and drinks with a toilet, now all that's left was rubble from the buildings and an empty car park and no sign of flamingos.

The sunsets here on Cayo Coco were just jaw dropping, with the changes of colours every minute and the dramatic looking cloud formations.