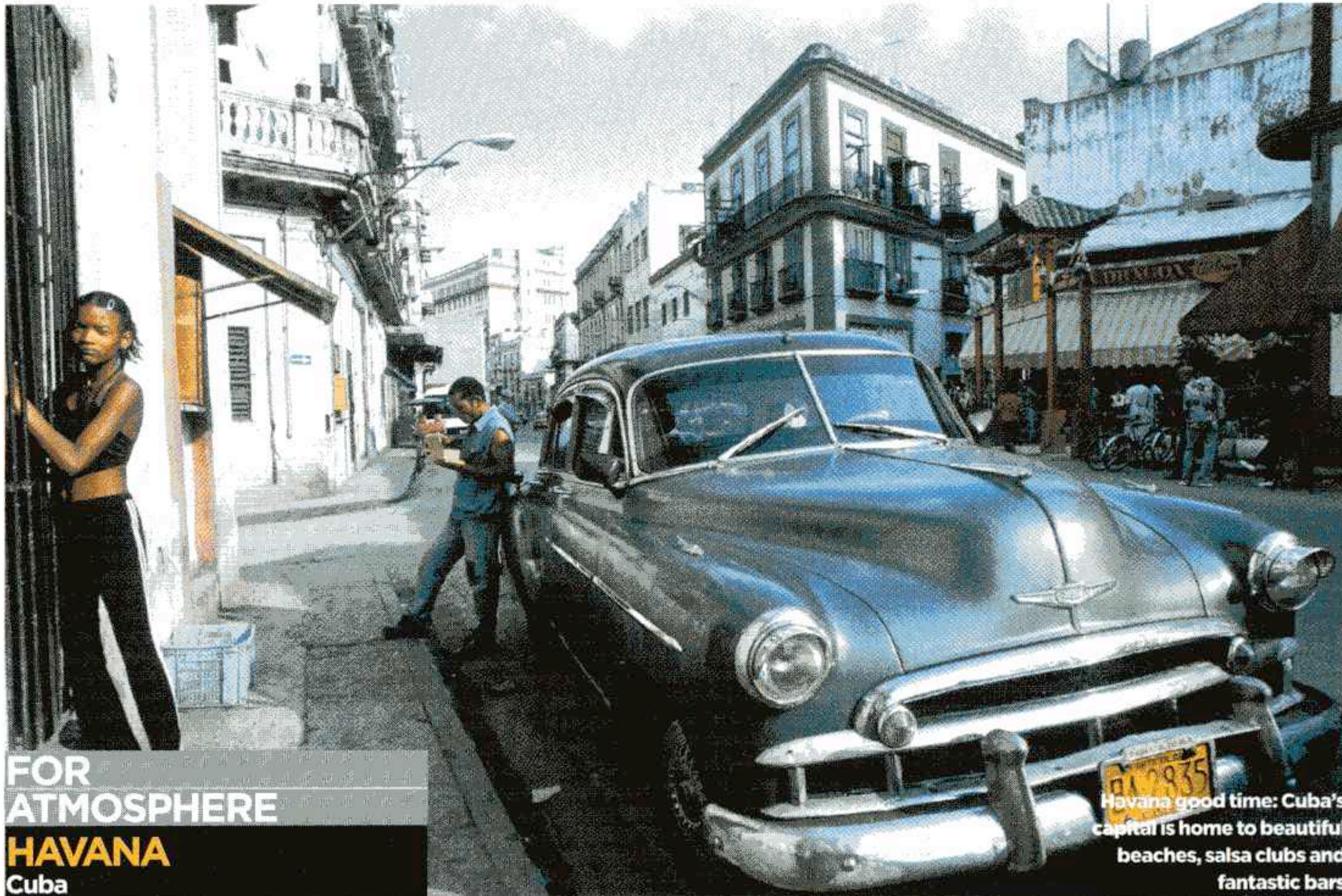




**FOR ACTION**  
**MOZAMBIQUE**

Long associated with civil wars and devastating floods, Mozambique is emerging as the latest laid-back holiday destination for carousing Westerners, even during its warmer and wetter season. There's more than 1,500 miles of beautiful coastline, island resorts and superb diving and big-game fishing. Try a luxury lodge such as Marlin on Benguerra island, or the newer eco-lodge Vamizi ([www.vamizi.com](http://www.vamizi.com)), an island that is part of the glorious, northern Quirimbas archipelago. When they tire of paradise, party people head to the capital, Maputo, a city of Mediterranean-style cafés and the grand, Twenties-style Polana Serena Hotel ([www.polana-hotel.com](http://www.polana-hotel.com)), with its casino and bar. At night, the Feira Popular, a riot of bars, clubs, strip joints, restaurants and fairground rides, provides the entertainment. From £3,400 per person for a 10-night trip to Vamizi and Maputo, including flights, transfers and most meals. Enquiries: Cazenove+Loyd (020 7384 2332; [www.cazloyd.com](http://www.cazloyd.com))

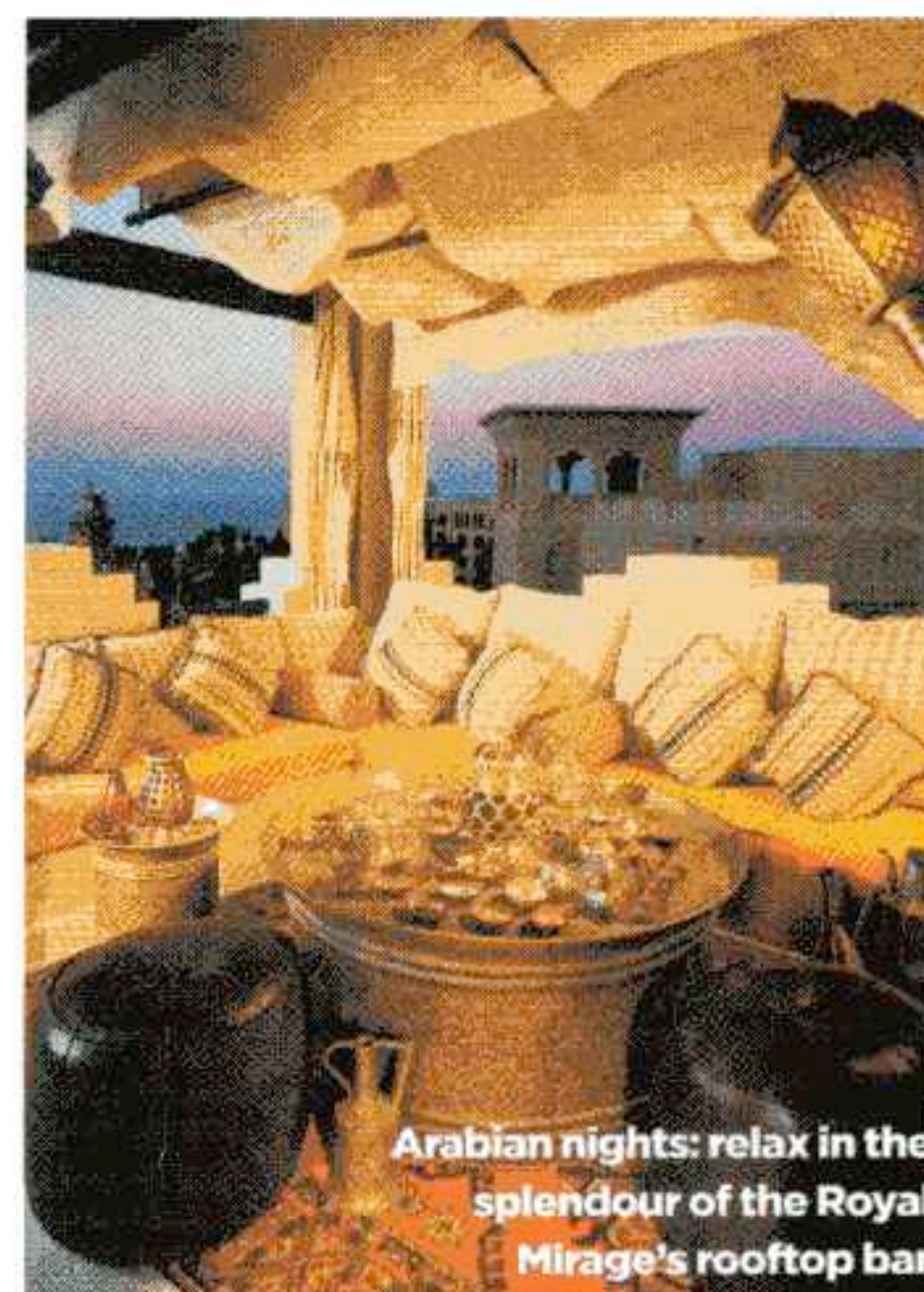


**FOR ATMOSPHERE**  
**HAVANA**  
Cuba

Havana good time: Cuba's capital is home to beautiful beaches, salsa clubs and fantastic bars

In Havana, grand (if crumbling) Spanish-colonial architecture, salsa music, Mojitos and cigars vie for your attention. Stay in the Saratoga ([www.hotel-saratoga.com](http://www.hotel-saratoga.com)), a luxury hotel with rooftop pool and bar. Head to the white-sand beaches of Playas del Este in the day, before cocktails on the terrace of El Patio in the Plaza de la Catedral, or at the Fifties-style bar at Hotel Nacional. La Guardia is the most famous *paladar* (private restaurant), where you're likely to bump into renegade Hollywood stars. For live music and dancing, head to Café Cantante and Casa de la Musica.

From £1,092 for seven days at the Saratoga, including flights, transfers, breakfast and two tours. Enquiries: Toby Brocklehurst (0870 242 4036; [www.tobybrocklehurst.com](http://www.tobybrocklehurst.com))



Arabian nights: relax in the splendour of the Royal Mirage's rooftop bar

**FOR GLITZ**  
**DUBAI**

The fascinating and futuristic city-state has guaranteed sunshine, an average winter temperature of 24°C, "seven-star" hotels, superb beaches, fine restaurants and vibrant nightlife. Best place to stay is the vast One & Only Royal Mirage ([www.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://www.oneandonlyresorts.com)), a resort beside the wide sandy beaches of Jumeirah that's styled like an Arabian fort. For nightlife, head to the 360° outdoor bar at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel or Trilogy, a club spread over three floors at the Souk Madinat Jumeirah. From £1,265 per person for seven nights at the Royal Mirage, including flights and transfers. Enquiries: Elite Vacations (01707 371 000; [www.elitevacations.com](http://www.elitevacations.com))



Into the Blue: spacious and cool, Blue is the perfect way to unwind after New Year

**FOR NEW YEAR**  
**SYDNEY**  
Australia

Australia's party city is always an easy place to have fun, especially at New Year, when it stages its famous fireworks and a rave on Bondi beach. Check into Blue ([www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)), a funky hotel on a converted wharf. The hippest beach is Tamarama (aka "Glamarama"), while drinks are best at Iceberg's, overlooking Bondi. Clubbers head to King Street Wharf for The Cargo, Bungalow 8 and The Loft. From £1,514 per person for seven nights at Blue, including flights and transfers. Enquiries: Virgin Holidays (0871 222 2464; [www.virginholidays.co.uk](http://www.virginholidays.co.uk))

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