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**Bicycles around the World...**

**Cuba**

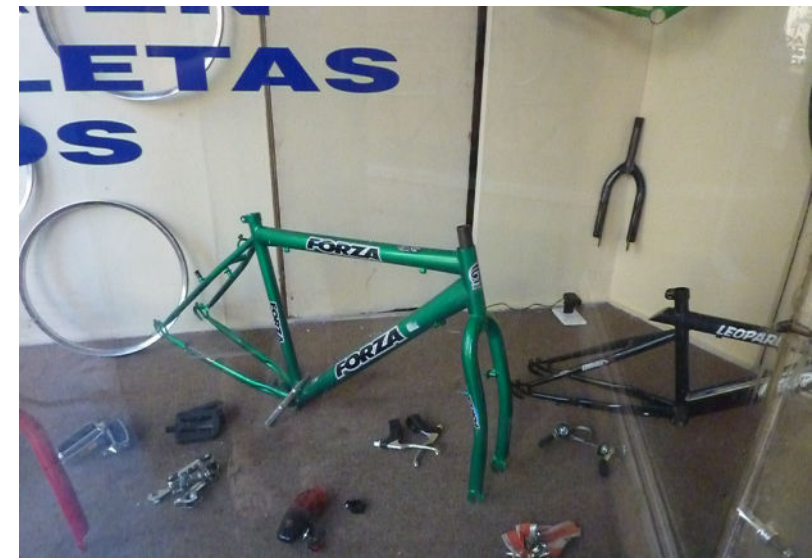


- Bicycles became the most important mode of transport for Cubans during the early 1990s when the island nation suffered a massive economic collapse (called the 'Special Period' by Fidel Castro).
- China donated about a million bikes to Cuba as a way to ease the difficulties created by the lack of transportation and fuel embargo.
- After a decade, Cubans' love affair with the bicycle ended with many considering it a symbol of the failure of the political system and a reminder of the hardest years of the Special Period.
- Recently Cuba has seen a resurgence in cycling and bicycle tourism.



## Bicycles in parts

- Full, new bikes are difficult to come by, in fact you can buy every little piece of your bike and put it together yourself!
- People get their relatives visiting from the USA to bring parts for their bikes and often bring suitcases of parts to trade.





Cubans still love their bicycles and cycling remains the most popular and efficient mode of transport in the country.





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