

# The Lost Cuban

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## *Authentic Cuban Cuisine*



Amongst the many pubs and eateries in downtown Cedar Rapids is The Lost Cuban, an intimate restaurant with a unique allure that reels in people from all walks of life for the same thing: authentic Cuban cuisine. Located at 209 3rd St SE, Cedar Rapids, The Lost Cuban features a small but satisfying menu lined with delicious options from traditional hot Cuban sandwiches to fresh Cuban salads.

The Hot Cuban Sandwich is a zesty, tangy, and savory assortment of flavors that sucker-punching the tongue with a one-of-a-kind flavor. It has roasted pork, sweet sliced ham, melted swiss cheese, pickles, and mustard all pressed together between two mouthwatering slices of Cuban bread. Having never indulged in Cuban cuisine, the first bite was a cruise ship of flavors that took me straight through the Cuban embargo and into a land of sweet decadence. The Cuban bread had a crisp outside which made a satisfying crunch. This paired with the savory sweet taste of ham, the awkward and mild flavor of swiss cheese, and hints of mustard creates an instant classic. Pickles crunched alongside the bread and exploded with sour goodness like firecrackers. On the side were two parallel lines; one of excellent fried rice and the other fresh black beans. In between bites, scoops of rice and beans provided a perfect simplicity which contrasted to the exotic flavor of the sandwich. Bite after bite the hot Cuban sandwich leaked with flavor as steam wafted out from the gooey layers. It surely lived up to the "hot" part of its name.

I highly recommend asking for their sauce with your meal. They have an array available including; sweet, spicy, a tangy blend of ketchup and mayo (pink sauce), cilantro, and pineapple. Combining the hot Cuban sandwich with the pink sauce was a dream. The pink sauce's tanginess combined perfectly with the crisp Cuban bread and ham, it was my favorite out of all the sauces. Although it masked the taste of the mustard, it created a flavor fiesta that cha-cha'd all over my taste buds.

The Lost Cuban has a humble and welcoming atmosphere, and superb food to go along with it. Inside, the walls are decorated with paintings, posters, and all sorts of little mementos of Cuban culture. There is limited seating available, almost all of it being stools and tables. However the relatively small size of The Lost Cuban only makes it cozier and more intimate of a place to be. If you are looking to expand your taste buds and try something more exotic than the typical sandwich joint, I highly recommend The Lost Cuban for your next lunch date or night out.

Photos by Seth Keppler



The Hot Cuban Sandwich