

# General Orientation Info About Travel to Cuba



## About Traveling in Cuba

- Be sure your **U.S. Passport** is current and valid for 6 months beyond your return from Cuba.
- **IMPORTANT:** Guests **born in Cuba** must obtain a Cuban Visa before traveling.
- Please consult your doctor for recommendations on vaccinations for Cuba. (none required)
- Please make a **photocopy of your passport** or take a picture of it on your phone. After clearing customs in Cuba, you can leave your passport and visa in the vessel or hotel safe. You will not need it until departing Cuba.
- You will be issued a Cuban Tourist Card with your travel documents. Please keep the Cuban Tourist Card as you will be required to present it when you arrive at the marina as well as when you depart.
- It is strongly recommended that you drink only bottled water while traveling in Cuba. Bottled drinks are safe, as well. The water used in the ice at the hotel and the restaurants on this program is safe to drink.
- Cuba is very safe but keep an eye on your communication devices.

## Document Requirements

Each passenger will receive a travel affidavit that they are authorized to travel under the United States Department of Treasury license under one of the 12 approved categories. Please sign, date and keep for U.S. Customs.

**Medications** -We recommend that you bring an adequate supply of the prescription medicines you use regularly to last throughout the program.

**Inoculations-** No immunizations are required, although some health authorities do recommend a low dose IG inoculation for Hepatitis A. We strongly suggest that you contact your personal physician for recommendations regarding your individual health requirements.

**Medical Services-** Cuban Medical Insurance is included in this program. This policy covers major medical emergencies. The policy is in effect throughout the country. We will provide you with your medical policy in your documents.

**Cuba's Climate & Weather** -Cuba is subtropical with a mean temperature of 87 degrees with very little seasonal fluctuation. The wet season runs from May to October, and the dry season from November through April. The average high temperature in Cuba's hottest month of July is 93 degrees Fahrenheit. Be prepared for hot weather and a chance for brief periods of rain with temperatures averaging 75-85F. You may want to take sunscreen, definitely sunglasses. Havana weather forecasts are available on the Internet at all news bureaus sites such as CNN.com.

**Clothing and Packing Tips** -During your daytime excursions, dress is casual with casual slacks, jeans, shorts and skirts being acceptable. Remember to bring comfortable, well-broken-in walking shoes.

**Deviations** - Deviations from the program could be possible and will be handled on an individual basis.

**Time**-Cuba is on the same time as the East Coast of the United States. EST

**Currency & Credit Cards** -The U.S. dollar is not accepted in Cuba, you will have to exchange dollars into Cuban Convertible Pesos (a.k.a. the CUC – “kook”). We will take you by your private driver and guide to exchange money. 100.00 USD = 87 CUC. 13% exchange rate.

Your unused CUCs can be exchanged for U.S. Dollars at face value (without a fee) upon departure. We recommend that you do not exchange all your U.S. Dollars at once. Please exchange as you need throughout the program. Credit cards issued by U.S. banks are NOT accepted in Cuba unless you have a Stonegate account and traveler’s checks cannot be used. **BRING MORE CASH THAN WHAT YOU THINK YOU WILL NEED.**

**Tipping** -For this program, please budget \$75.00 per person for gratuities to your guide and driver. You will be asked to leave a 1-2 CUC gratuity after each meal in private restaurant.

**Shopping and What Can Be Brought Back to the U.S.** - Cigars, rum in personal consumption amounts and artwork are now allowed to be brought back into the U.S. You must have a receipt for ALL MAJOR ARTWORK.

**Communications**- It is now possible to use cellular phones for calls from Cuba to the U.S. if you have Verizon, Sprint or AT&T as your carrier. Cuba does NOT have an international package for Cuba on either Verizon, Sprint or AT&T (regardless of what they may tell you). Best to keep your phone on “airplane mode” while not using it so that you do not incur roaming charges.

**Marina Hemingway**- Marina Hemingway is not really equipped to serve breakfast. There are several restaurants within walking distance and a Chinese restaurant on-site plus a sundries store.

Restaurants Near Marina Hemingway:

1. Casa Grande 0.1 miles from marina 4+ stars
2. Ajiaco Café 0.4 miles from marina 5 stars
3. La Terraza de Cojimar 0.2 miles from marina 3+ stars (local cuisine)
4. El Cojimero 0.2 miles from marina 4+ stars

**Captains!! Marina Hemingway**- The Marina Hemingway, where all foreign boats are cleared in, is nine miles west of Havana. Do not attempt to enter Havana harbor. The Marina Hemingway is west of Barlovento Harbor at the mouth of the river Jaimanitas, and east of the low-roofed houses of Santa Fe. Landmarks are a large hotel block topped by a harbor light and manned radio post, then a distinctive water tower, east of the marina. Round the outer red and white marker and then follow the channel into the marina. You must clear in at the Guard dock before entering the marina. Once docked, water and electricity comes from standard US currets with 30 amp or 50 amp connectors.

Membership to Hemingway International Yacht Club is not required for access, but is included in this package. You will receive a discount with the marina with your membership purchase.

Satellite phones are not allowed but DeLorme device can be used. Your Satellite phone will be taken and stored and returned to you upon your departure.

Please make sure that you **declare cash and firearms with Carlson Maritime Travel** for customs clearance.

We will add to this information sheet as the rally progresses.