



Pensacola a la Habana

April 30, 2017

A Satori Foundation Event

Presented by

Dr. Jim Andrews • Jerry Pate Company • The Pace Family • Community Foundation of NW FL



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. What forms are necessary for entry into Cuba?

A. None, everything is done at Hemingway check-in. Each person needs a valid passport [check the date now] and cash (it was \$35 per person but may have increased).

Q. What forms are required by USA?

A. Currently, there is a “self-certification” needed to indicate that the boat qualifies under the provisions of the OFAC General Permit. We qualify as an international sporting event. Also need a USCG Permit to Enter Cuban Territorial Seas (USCG 3300). The recommended way of satisfying both of these is to apply for the permit and transmit to USCG with a cover letter indicating how you satisfy the OFAC General Permit. This is outlined on the article on the website titled, *“Things to Think About”* and we can provide forms and a sample letter if needed.

Q. What information is needed about my crew – my crew list may change.

A. Name, address, and date of birth. Unfortunately, if you add a crew member, the application has to be re-submitted and re-processed. Deleting a crew member can typically be done with an email. So include all potential crew members in the application to avoid delays.

Q. Where are the USCG forms posted?

A. On the web for easy access.

<https://www.uscg.mil/d7/docs/Cuban%20permitCG3300.pdf>

Q. Is anyone organizing group travel for spectators, family and supporters?

A. If there is sufficient interest, we are hoping to arrange for group travel for non-sailors. If you are interested, please make contact directly with the following PYC Race Committee members:

- Joaquin A. Lubkowitz, email: JLubkowitz@separationsystems.com
- Cynthia Cannon, email: cannonwilliams99@yahoo.com

Q. What hotels, B&B's are nearby and how do people book them?

A. There is a hotel (basic) at Marina Hemingway and there are several Casas and Apartments on Airbnb.com. We are not sure about payment. Corporate travel agent, Williamsburg Travel, is looking into putting a package together, with options including commercial flights (American or Delta). Contact:

- Judi Tarpley (Williamsburg Travel) 678-383-2424 email: judit@willtrav.com

Q. How do people pay since US credit cards are not accepted?

A. In Cuba – Cash is King. But we have heard that Visa/Mastercard may be accepted at some locations. We have researched this recently but have not found reliable sources indicating that US-issued cards can be used. Non-US credit cards are accepted at some locations.

Q How much do things cost so sailors can figure out how much cash money to take?

A. My recommendation is to assume US prices. If you shop around particularly on accommodation and avoid the big restaurants in Havana, it can be much cheaper. Budgeting based on US prices would generally be safe and conservative.

Q. Can we get cash exchanged in Cuba?

A. Yes, not a problem either legally at banks or under the table at slightly better rates. There is a guy at the hotel near the marina that will exchange money. Rate is typically 1CUC = \$1.15. There is a 15% American tax at the banks. The 15% is not charged on UK pounds, euro, or Canadian dollars. So you can get a better deal taking these currencies. Of course you will have to pay currency exchange fees to get these currencies in advance.

Q. What local transportation is available?

A. Taxis are no problem. There are official taxis and anyone with a car is typically a "taxi".

Q. Do US cell phones work in Cuba?

A. Older GSM phones seem to work. AT&T recently announced coverage in Cuba. In summer 2016, we purchased a SIM card in advance from OneSimCard.com and this worked for phone service only. There was wifi internet available at the Hotel at Marina Hemingway.

Q. How secure is Marina Hemingway?

A. Our experience is that the marina is very safe and has security guards present. We are not aware of any issues but recommend the normal measures such as locking valuables away or removing items from view.

Q. How easy is the check-in process?

A. Check-in occurs after entering Marina Hemingway. You will be directed to tie up on the seawall and you will be visited by officials including: Guarda fronteras, Immigration, Department of Agriculture (including a sniffer dog), and a medical doctor. The boat is typically inspected, the doctor will take each crew member's temperature, and there will be some forms to complete. All officials we have encountered were very courteous and polite. You will need the boat's documentation and passports. Fees seem to change frequently, so check for information on the internet. ActiveCaptain is a good source of current information. In June 2016, we checked in at Los Morros and the fee was \$35 per person plus \$50 for the boat. These fees are **not** included in your race entry.