



Current Policy for Travel to Cuba

1/20/15

CHAI Missions is very excited about the changes announced recently and new regulations being executed through our government. Among the normalization of diplomatic relations will be the reopening of the U.S. Embassy, ability for tourists to use credit and debit cards, flow of information, ease of tourism and Cuban travel restrictions.

Some updated information effective January 16, 2015 includes:

- The Cuba embargo remains in place
- Travel to Cuba for tourist activities is not permitted
- OFAC has issued general licenses within the 12 categories of authorized travel, of which 'religious activities' is one. Traveling with CHAI Missions falls under this category.
- If you have booked, or are in the process of booking a trip to Cuba, you are among the fortunate travelers being able to witness history in the making

What else do I need to know?

- Mission participants still need to carry cash when visiting Cuba
- Tourists still need to participate in a category-specific program
- Persons authorized to travel to Cuba may now bring back to the U.S. alcohol or tobacco product of up to \$100 in value

Due to these changes and increased interest in Cuban travel, we are busy adding new travel programs, including more enhanced Jewish Missions to Cuba. We are hoping this relaxation of restrictions will permit us to offer wider programming including participating in some of Cuba's unique festivals and events.

See the Authentic Cuba while you can

If you are anxious to see "authentic" Cuba, do it now! In a short amount of time, the island's 1950's time bubble may burst. While it will always be a fascinating, colorful and wonderful experience to visit Cuba, banking, high speed Internet and other changes that may take place will bring Cuba into the 21st Century. We anticipate many will want to see "Classic Cuba" before any changes occur, and CHAI Missions looks forward to sharing this experience with you.