

# **CUBA TRAVEL TIPS**

- **Canadian Citizens require a valid Canadian passport to travel to Cuba.** It must be valid for at least one month beyond the date of expected departure from that country. To ensure you have all the updated information on entry/exit requirements, we highly recommend visiting <http://travel.gc.ca/destinations/cuba>
- **Cuban Tourist Card** - You will also require a Cuban Tourist Card to enter and exit Cuba. The Cuban Tourist Card will be given to you on your flight. It is a simple 2-part form. The Cuban immigration officers will check your ID. Part of your Cuban Tourist card will be retained, the other part you will be required to submit when you leave Cuba. **DO NOT LOSE THIS FORM.**
- **Extended Medical Coverage** - It is mandatory to have medical insurance coverage when traveling to Cuba. You will be required to show proof. Please ensure that you have your travel card accessible.
- **Arrival in Cuba** - You will go through Customs. You must go to the counter one by one - not as a couple. Once you have cleared customs you go through the door and this will bring you to luggage screening. ALL luggage will be checked. Please note that you are restricted from bringing some items into Cuba such as GPS, walkie talkies, etc. A helpful website is [www.gocuba.ca](http://www.gocuba.ca) After exiting this area you will then look for your Sunwing Vacations representative. They will be dressed in uniform and holding a sign with their name. They will be directing you to your transfer bus.
- **Currency** - Take Canadian Currency and you can exchange at the Airport or at the Resort into Cuban Convertible Peso. They do not accept American dollars but will accept VISA (not in all places but some shops do accept visa). **IMPORTANT** Credit Cards are accepted **ONLY** from **CANADIAN BANKS**...they do not accept **AMERICAN** credit cards and/or **DEBIT** cards.
- **Electrical Current** - 110/220V converters may be required depending on the hotel you are staying at.
- **Tipping** - Tipping in Cuba is appreciated by cash or small gift items. Due to many years of Embargo - many items are hard for Cubans to obtain such as toiletries, pens, paper.
- **Departure Tax** - When you leave Cuba you are required to pay a departure tax. It is **\$25 CUC per person** and must be paid locally upon departure. **CASH is ONLY accepted.** Make sure to keep this money aside to pay at the airport.
- **Climate** - The temperature varies between 25 and 27C. Coral reefs create a barrier producing gentle waves and breezes. Sunny days and pleasant tropical climate allow the beach season to extend throughout the year.

## **In addition helpful tips:**

- **Face Cloth** - Many Caribbean resorts originally were meant for travelers from the European market who do not use face cloths. Many resorts now do not supply them. I suggest either taking your own or take along a package of disposable facial wipes.
- **Towel Service** - Most resorts do not have their own "laundry facilities" therefore, on occasion, the delivery truck that is carrying your "fresh" and "clean" towels may incur disrupted service. In case this happens, my recommendation: buy a *cheap* towel from your local department store and feel free to leave it in destination when you leave.
- **Travel Mug** - recommend taking your own travel mug as the drinking cups are very small.
- **Bug Spray** - many resorts in Varadero have left the natural Mangrove trees which adds protection from wind and rain however, the Mosquitoes love them too and tend to come out at night.

**Wishing you a wonderful time in Cuba! Have Fun!**