

 **OTHER CUBAN JOURNEYS**

Cuba U.S. Marine Industry Cultural journey

Dates - February 18th thru February 22nd 2015

(After the Miami 2015 Boat Show)



Join

Richard Graves and Associates

***For a first hand look at the Cuban marine industry
while emersing yourself in Cuban culture***



**The planned Marina Gaviota at Varadero, 90 miles from the Florida Keys
*We will visit this marina on our tour***

A world away ... in 90 short miles

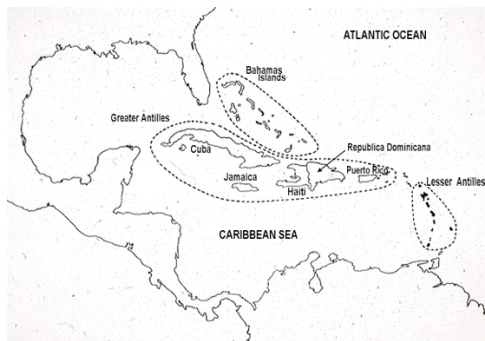
The Cuba of today will soon be the Cuba of tomorrow. Change is already taking place, and now is your once in a lifetime opportunity to make connections with others in the Cuban Marine Industry.

Visit Marinas and the Marine Industry

Meet with Cuban counterparts, marvel at the art, and explore the culture of Cuba. After the embargo this Island will become the premier destination for U.S. boaters.

Cuba Overview From A Boater's Perspective.

Normally when North Americans say they are going to sail to the Caribbean, they are generally referring to the Lesser Antilles, the long chain of smaller islands that border the eastern Caribbean. For many years, North Americans considered the Caribbean to be the Lesser Antilles; therefore, to go to the Caribbean meant to go to the Lesser Antilles. However, the Greater Antilles are the four largest islands in the northwestern portion of the Caribbean Sea. They are called the Greater Antilles because they are so much bigger than the rest of the Caribbean islands.



The Greater Antilles includes Cuba, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic). Moreover, in the case of Cuba, the island is so large and has so many cays and inlets that the shoreline can be measured in excess of 2,500 nautical miles, not including the cays. It is simply not possible to cruise through Cuba in a few weeks or for that matter, perhaps a few months.

Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean and the 16th largest island in the world.

For cruising boats, Cuba is a paradise. It is the safest country in the Caribbean beyond any measure. While petty theft is possible anywhere you go, there is no record to date of muggings and violence against cruising boaters or visitors to the island. (*Excerpts from "A Cruising Guide To Cuba", by Amaia Agrirre and Frank Vigintino.*)

Why a U.S. Marine Industry tour to Cuba?

- Anticipating the end of the travel ban, Cuban state enterprises responsible for marine infrastructure have begun an unprecedented push to ready the island nation for yacht tourism and U.S. boaters.
- According to one estimate, 60,000 U.S. vessels over 25 feet LOA will visit Cuba in the first year after the end of the travel ban. Though the number may seem high, the possibility is worrisome to business and government leaders in the Bahamas and throughout the Caribbean, who fear losing marine revenue to a revitalized Cuba
- Although there are only 15 marinas with 789 slips, plans are to add 23 additional marinas with more than 5,000 slips. The expansion of Marina Gaviota at Varadero, 90 miles from the Florida Keys, is intended to help augment facilities for big recreational vessels. Accompanying the marina will be a five-star villa hotel development. Plans show a marina complex more akin to Atlantis at Nassau in the Bahamas or St. Tropez in France, only larger. After extensive renovations and a massive expansion, Marina Gaviota Varadero will become Cuba's largest and most modern marina. When complete, it will accommodate about 1,200 boats. An official opening is planned for 2015 but vessels are using the marina now.

The above is only a brief view of what is happening in the pleasure boating industry in Cuba. Now is the time for the U.S. Boating and Marine Industry to develop contacts and relationships with the Cuban Marine Industry.

Don't miss this opportunity to get a foothold in Cuba's Pleasure Boating Marine Industry.

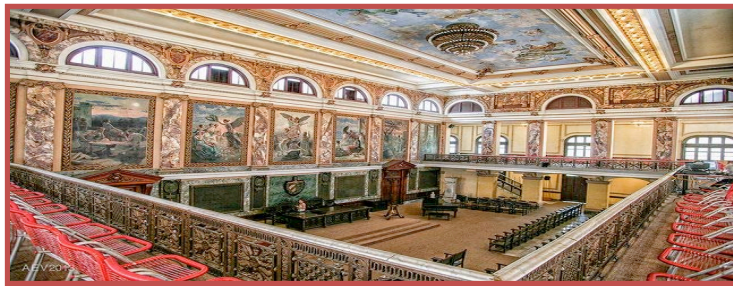
DAY 1 – Wednesday/ HAVANA / HELLO CUBA (Lunch and Dinner included)

Depart Miami for a brief 1-hour flight to an island that is so close yet years away. After clearing customs and meeting our guide, we will begin our journey of this island that Christopher Columbus proclaimed to be “the most beautiful land human eyes have ever seen”.



Enjoy an orientation tour of the city; visit to Plaza de la Revolution, the largest square in Cuba and it is the 31st largest city square in the world, measuring 72,000 square meters. The square is notable as being where many political rallies take place and Fidel Castro and other political figures address Cubans. Fidel Castro has addressed more than a million Cubans on many important occasions, such as 1 May and 26 July each year.

Lunch (INCLUDED) at one of the newest and most successful paladars in Havana, El Litoral. This privately owned restaurant, set on the Malecon, is in the childhood home and mansion of the owner. We will meet with him to discuss one of his passions – boating and fishing. Fittingly, the interior of the restaurant is nautical and his staff catches the fish that is served.



Continuing on, we meet with a Marine specialist from the University of Havana (CIM) to discuss conservation efforts that are currently taking place in Cuban waters. Independent research has shown that Cuba’s corals are doing much better than others both in the Caribbean and around the world.

Check into our hotel, time to freshen up and relax before dinner.

Welcome dinner at the historic Hotel Nacional (INCLUDED). Constructed in 1930’s, it is the sister property to the Breakers in Palm Beach built by the same architects, McKim, Mead and White. We will visit this iconic hotel perched above the seawall and learn about the role it played during the days of the Mafia in Cuba. After dinner you may want to stay and enjoy the hall of fame bar or sit in the gardens and enjoy a cigar.



DAY 2 – Thursday /HAVANA/INTRO TO CITY & ITS HISTORY (Breakfast and Lunch included)

After an included breakfast we will have a morning discussion with Carlos Alzugaray, former Cuban diplomat and expert on U.S. – Cuba relations, to learn about the bilateral relationship and Cuban foreign policy. Step back in time with a walking tour of the UNESCO Heritage Site, Old Havana. Exploring the restored plazas, which date back to the 16th century, you will witness the greatest wealth of Spanish colonial architecture in the western hemisphere. Many of the old residences, government buildings and churches are actively being restored; we will learn how this renaissance is impacting old Havana.





Next, let's see the Bay of Havana up close! We will take a ferryboat across the bay to the town of Regla. Travel with locals on the "Lancha de Regla", local ferry and pay with Cuban pesos, the currency used by most Cubans. On board, we will learn about the dual Cuban currencies, pesos and Cuc's. A visit to the Morro Fortress is also planned.

Continue your day of discovery with a visit to the Museo de la Revolución. We will learn about Cuban's history in modern times and how the revolution came about. This fascinating museum houses the most complete exhibit of revolutionary history including the Granma Memorial, the vessel that brought Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other revolutionaries from Mexico to Cuba in 1956.



Dinner is NOT included tonight. This is a good time to try a paladar on your own. Paladars are privately owned restaurants; many of which have opened since the new economic reforms have been adopted in Cuba. After dinner, feel free to visit one of the many of the music venues that Havana offers. Cuba has wonderful jazz musicians...visit La Zorra y el Cuervo or Jazz Café for live Latin Jazz. Or, maybe you are into a little salsa; Club Salseando Chévere is the only professional salsa place in Cuba. Here you can enjoy the art of professional dancers performing the best salsa. You don't need to bring a dance partner; their interactive show will take you to the dance floor. If you don't dance salsa, they will teach you...

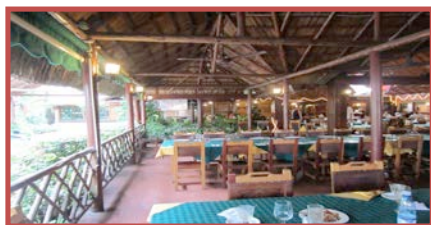
DAY 3 - Friday / HAVANA / (Breakfast and Lunch included)

After breakfast at our hotel, drive through the neighborhood of Miramar, home to beautiful mansions owned by private individuals before the revolution as we make our way to Marina Hemingway.

A visit to Club Nautico Nacional Hemingway Marina awaits. At the marina we will meet with Commodore Jose Escrich who founded the Hemingway International Yacht Club over 20 years ago. Commodore Escrich has embarked on a mission to restore the Nautical Traditions of Cuba and develop the nautical recreational industry in his country. We will learn about the corporate structure of the Maritime system, learn about marinas in Cuba, and plans for expansions.



Visit Jose Fuster, known as the Picasso of the Caribbean. Fuster's art is exhibited in major museums and collections throughout the world. He is considered the best ceramist and one of the most acclaimed painters in Cuba. We will meet with the artist or one of his protégés to learn about his community project in his neighborhood of Jaiminitas.



Lunch included at Aljibe - This famous Cuban institution is visited by locals and tourists. US celebrities like Danny Glover, Jimmy Carter, and Jack Nicholson have dined here. El Aljibe is well known for its secret chicken sauce, and its legendary black beans and rice that Anthony Bourdain says are the best he has ever tasted!

End our day in Cerro with a visit to a cigar factory to learn why Cuban cigars are world famous. You will be transfixed as you watch the making of these premium Cuban cigars. Did you know there is a difference between the leaves that are used for rolling, wrapping, and stuffing cigars? There will be opportunity for interactions with the workers. Even though most other countries produce classic cigars, Cuban cigars without a doubt rank the highest on any list. A Cuban Cohiba Benike cigar sells in London for the equivalent of \$470.00 U.S dollars.



Tonight take time to explore Havana, as dinner is on your own. You may want to visit Tropicana, the famous Cuban cabaret that has remained open since 1939. In the decadent jet-set heaven of 1950s Havana, the only place to be was Tropicana, a pleasure dome where the shows (and showgirls) were dazzling, the gambling was high-stakes, and the revelers included Marlon Brando, Ernest Hemingway, Rita Hayworth, and J.F.K., to name a few.

DAY 4 - Saturday (Breakfast and Dinner included)

Breakfast at hotel

Day trip to the peninsula of Varadero (about a 2 hour drive east)

On our way we will visit Marina Tarara; this is an ideal marina for super yacht size boats and has mooring for boats with a maximum length of 60 meters and a maximum draught of 9 meters.

We will invite a retired marine engineer and Capitan of Cuba's Merchant Marines to join us today. We will have time to interact with him and talk in depth about the history, present and future of the Marine Industry in Cuba and how it impacts its neighbors.

We will make People to People stops along the way including Cuba's longest bridge, the Bacunayagua, overlooking the amazing Yurumi Valley. We will visit a small hand-made book workshop when we arrive in Matanzas also known as the Venice of Cuba. The art of handmaking books is a craft that is lost throughout the world with print books and now eBooks!



Over lunch on the property of Marina Gaviota, the largest planned marina in Cuba, you will be one of the first visitors to witness the development of this new mega-marina.

Before our return to Havana, we will have a chance to meet with Cuban artists to discuss where and how they procure materials for their art; Cubans are well known for their resourcefulness, artists will amaze you!

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Farewell Dinner, We will stop at the hotel to ready for our farewell dinner. The farewell dinner will be a perfect time to reflect on the things we have seen, people we have met, and how we all can help with future relations between the United States and Cuba. Of course, a toast will be in order to our Cuban hosts and newfound friends, wishing them "Fair Winds and Following Seas" on their new course in developing boating tourism to Cuba.

Day 5 - Sunday - Departure (Breakfast included at the hotel)

Check out of our hotel and transfer to airport. Your flight home may be only 45 minutes but your newly formed friendships and memories of this incredible trip will last a lifetime. You should plan to book your flight home from Miami on the latest connecting flight possible, as we do not know the departure time from Havana until closer to travel dates.



Adiós y vuelve pronto

Marine Industry Tour Reservation Details.

***** Trip Itineraries are subject to change due to factors outside our control, but if any changes need to take place, we will substitute with something just as interesting! Trip licensed by "Other Cuban Journeys, LLC", License No. CT-2014-306910-1 by the Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) which authorizes registered guests of our programs to legally travel to Cuba, to participate and engage in a full time schedule of authorized exchange activities in Cuba, which will involve meaning interaction between travelers and the people of Cuba*

PRICES:

Per person double.....\$3399
Single supplement.....\$400

Your trip includes:

- Five days in Cuba, 4 nights
- Round Trip Air from Miami – Havana
- Hotel accommodations in Cuba
- Meals included on itinerary
- Opportunity to try privately owned Paladars and sample some of the best cuisine of Cuba
- Land transportation in Cuba by a driver with many years of service
- Services of an experienced Cuban, English speaking professional guide who has much knowledge of the Cuban community, politics, education, medical system, arts, economics, etc.
- Entrance fees to the important cultural and historic sites
- Medical insurance while in Cuba – this does not cover preexisting conditions
- US airport departure tax
- Cuban visa fee (if Cuban born, additional fees apply)
- Gratuities to wait staff at included meals and bellboys in Cuba

Not included:

- Trip cancellation insurance – highly recommended. Cancellation for any reason prior to trip can cause you to lose all money paid.
- Tips for guide and driver (\$8-10 daily per person for guide and \$4-5 daily per person for the driver is customary)
- Departure tax from Cuba - \$30 US dollars
- Domestic airfare to Miami
- Excess baggage charges

Reservations:

Due to the process in getting approval for the tour, all reservations and paperwork must be completed by October 1, 2014. A deposit of \$1,000 USD must be paid with your reservation. Once we receive your deposit we will send you all the necessary documents to fill out. The balance of payment will be required by November 15, 2014. All Checks must be made out to **OCJ Other Cuban Journeys** and sent to:

Richard Graves & Associates – 1000 SE 4th Street - #224 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

For any questions and further information please contact Richard Graves Phone: 954.401.4096 or Email rvgraves@rgassoc.com