

2nd International Symposium on Navigated Sinus and Skull Base Surgery

2016, June 11th - 12th

www.navigated-skullbase.com

Havana - Cuba, Meliá Cohiba Hotel

organized by
ACADEMUS
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NSBS Info 02: Information for US citizens how to enter Cuba

In order to enter Cuba, you need a visa or tourist card required by the Cuban authorities. US participants will be able to acquire a visa or tourist card at the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in the United States, and can also arrange their trip by those travel agencies working with Cuba and facilitating this process, such as the follows: Marazul Charters, ABC Charters, CTS (Cuba, Travel Services).

Upon arrival in Cuba, Immigration Control requests:

1. Valid Passport (U.S. passport cannot expire within 6 months of traveling to Cuba)
2. Visa or tourist card issued
3. Mandatory healthcare insurance
4. Airline ticket or e-ticket with entry and return date
5. Lodging place

For further information, please visit the following website: <http://www.cubadiplomatica.cu>, where you will find the Cuban diplomatic missions and other consular services (incl. a description how to apply for visa or tourist card).

For American authorities, traveling to Cuba only needs a statement that your travel is allowed according to a general license!

You do not need to submit an application to a U.S. government agency; it is simply a matter of stating that your travel is legal under **one of the 12 categories of allowable travel to Cuba**. Make sure that you are not violating the American law by parking yourself at an all-inclusive resort. Here it is how to travel with a General License:

Step 1: Pick Your Category

The **Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)** has **issued** general licenses within the **12 categories of authorized travel** for many travel-related transactions **to, from, or within Cuba** that previously required a specific license (i.e., an application and a case-by-case determination). Travel-related transactions are now permitted by general license for certain travel related to the following activities, subject to the criteria and conditions in each general license. Here are the categories of legal Cuba travel for the general license.

1. Family visits
2. official business of the U.S. government, foreign governments, and certain intergovernmental organizations;
3. journalistic activity;
- 4. professional research and professional meetings;**
5. educational activities;
6. religious activities;
- 7. public performances, clinics, workshops, athletic and other competitions, and exhibitions;**
8. support for the Cuban people;
9. humanitarian projects;
10. activities of private foundations or research or educational institutes;
11. exportation, importation, or transmission of information or information materials;
12. and certain authorized export transactions.

Items 4. and 7. are the relevant ones for the "2nd International Symposium on Navigated Sinus and Skull Base Surgery".

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Step 2: Create Your License

To create your license, you can either **go online to a generic affidavit to fill out** (find a link at the end of this document), or you can write a letter with the following information:

- Dates of travel
- High level purpose of travel
- Specific category of general license (use the code citation)
- Signature and date.

You do not need it to be notarized. While the regulations don't have specific documentation requirements there is no actual paper "license" per se, it may be difficult to explain that to a customs official who asks to see it. **It is better to have some paper to show them, and this letter or affidavit should be sufficient.**

As of September 21, 2015, **families (either by blood or by household) can travel together as long as one member qualifies under the general license for Professional Research, Journalistic Activity, Religious Activities, Educational Activities, and Humanitarian projects.** If you are not traveling as family, **each individual in your party (even children!) must qualify for a general license on their own**, meaning that if you are traveling for journalistic purposes and your friends are not, they are not legally traveling to Cuba.

Step 3: Document Your Travel

OFAC requires that you maintain specific records of your travel to Cuba, regardless of whether you are traveling under a license or not, and to keep these records for 5 years in the (highly unlikely!) event that OFAC requests to see them. Hang on to any documents relating to transactions or purchases you make relating to your trip to Cuba (e.g. receipts for flights or accommodations), along with any itineraries and other support for your purpose for travel.

Step 4: Return to the US

You don't need to worry about showing your license anywhere except the US when returning from your trip. Other countries aren't in the practice of enforcing the US travel embargo, so don't expect anyone in Cuba, Mexico, Canada, etc. to have any idea of what you're talking about if you mention the license. **When you fill out your customs/immigration form when returning home, you can write "Cuba (under general license xxx.xxx)" in the "Countries Visited" section.** Most of the time they don't even look at these forms, but if you are asked where you've been, you can freely admit that you were in Cuba. You only need to show your license if an official asks to see it. It would be very rare for them to ask to see your license, unless you are bringing back tobacco. If you received a passport stamp in Cuba, don't worry- you are traveling legally!

Helpful links with additional information

Cuba Diplomats

<http://www.cubadiplomatica.cu>

OFAC License Application Page

<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/licensing.aspx>

U.S. Department of the Treasury – Guidance regarding travel between the United States and Cuba

https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/guidance_cuba_travel.pdf

U.S. Department of the Treasury – Cuba Sanctions

<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/pages/cuba.aspx>

U.S. Department of the Treasury – Frequently asked questions related to Cuba

https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_faqs_new.pdf

What you need to know about traveling to Cuba

<https://www.cheapair.com/blog/destinations/what-you-need-to-know-about-traveling-to-cuba/>