

Guidance for Travel to Cuba

Despite publicized easing of restrictions on travel to Cuba, the general rule is that US citizens need a license for travel to Cuba. The Cuba sanctions program is overseen by the Office of Foreign Assets Controls (OFAC) in the US Department of Treasury, and is responsible for issuing licenses. There are, however, a limited set of activities that do not require a license from OFAC. Please see below for additional guidance, and contact the Office of Compliance for guidance before traveling.

Travel that does not require OFAC authorization:

- ✓ USC students may travel to Cuba to perform degree-related noncommercial academic research specifically related to Cuba, or to pursue a formal course of study at a Cuban educational institution.
- ✓ USC students may travel to Cuba to participate in a structured educational program as part of a course offered for credit by USC (e.g. study abroad).
- ✓ Faculty may teach at a Cuban academic institution related to an academic program.
- ✓ Sponsoring and attending non-commercial academic seminars, conferences, and workshops related to Cuba.
- ✓ Travel to Cuba to engage in certain humanitarian projects for the benefit of Cuban people, as long as the traveler maintains and documents a full-time schedule of activities consistent with this purpose.

All student travel must be reviewed and approved by the applicable school and Student Affairs. Faculty teaching at a Cuban institution must obtain approval from their school as provided for in the Faculty Handbook.

Travel tips while in Cuba:

- ✓ You may use your US credit and debit cards or travelers checks in Cuba **IF** the issuing bank/financial institution allows it.
- ✓ You may bring your cellphone and laptop provided they only have standard commercial or mass market software commonly purchased from retail outlets.
- ✓ You may take to Cuba informational materials already created and in existence, such as pre-existing brochures publicly available information.
- ✓ You may bring back to the US \$400 worth of Cuban-origin merchandise, provided that no more than \$100 of this merchandise consists of alcohol and tobacco products.
- ✓ You may conduct travel-related transactions such as paying for accommodations, food, and lodging.

Not Authorized:

- ✗ You may not engage in tourist travel, recreational travel, or travel in pursuit of a hobby.
- ✗ You may not engage in transactions with OFAC-banned parties or entities, including restricted banks.
- ✗ You may not participate in, approve, or facilitate transactions (e.g. contracts, memoranda of understanding, or other oral or written agreements) on behalf of yourself or USC with Cuba unless otherwise authorized by the US Government.
- ✗ You may not import any products or items from Cuba other than the allowances listed above.