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AUG 18

Posted 5:05pm

Change of Plans: The Swim Has Begun!

Change of Plans

Saturday August 18, 2012 11am Havana Time



photo: Christ Barli

"Well, at least I won't have a sleepless 'night before the swim' experience and have to get up at 4:30 in the morning," she said, packing up her ready bag. "I'll be well on my way swimming by then."

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As Diana Nyad knows better than anyone, there is nothing predictable about long distance swimming except the unexpected. Because the weather window at the end (Tues.) seems to be closing, Diana has decided to begin swimming from the Havana harbor as soon as possible—looking at 3pm today (Saturday). Only her lone escort boat, Voyager, will accompany her for the first few hours, with only the crew members who came in on it (those are the customs rules). That means Diana will be out there without her shark spotters and with minimal medical personnel on into the dusk when the jellyfish tend to come out. But starting early is her only chance of catching smooth enough waters at the end where she plans to finish this epic journey.



photo: Christ Barli

As soon as the other boats and crew clear customs—a very time consuming process—they will follow and catch up with her as soon as possible. At 2pm Diana was back in her room, having walked the half mile from the press conference there seemingly unfazed by the hot sun and sudden change in plans. "Well, at least I won't have a sleepless 'night before the swim' experience and have to get up at 4:30 in the morning," she said, packing up her ready bag. "I'll be well on my way swimming by then."



Visit DianaNyad.com to view the swim in real time!

--Candace Hogan, on board the Quest in the flotilla

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Will you join our Xtreme Dream Team? Any donation, no matter how small, makes you part of our Team.

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