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Cuban Visas Approved – Swim is A Go!

Posted by Diana Nyad on Aug 27, 2010 in Contact Diana | 0 comments



Ops TEAM (Friends Boat note below but thought you all might find the Ops notes of interest)

1) We have at long last word that the Cuban visas are done!!!!

A good friend, former esteemed journalist in Mexico City, is going from Mexico to Havana tomorrow to pick them up for us. Kathy Loretta will then also be our Ground Ops person in Havana when we arrive. She will coordinate between our needs/actions at Hemingway Marina, any press conferences I must give, what hotel needs we may have, our starting point, etc.

Kathy was instrumental in my year-long training, much of it with her boats in Mexico. She will be with us all the way across.

2) We also have now crossed the last governmental hurdle in extending our Treasury Dept license.

Now, or at least when I hear from Kathy that she in fact has the visas in hand, all that we are waiting for is weather.

Please see at the very bottom of this email the latest as of today from our TEAM meteorologist Dane Clark. Very volatile time of year, hurricanes moving daily across the Atlantic, but also the

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Diana's Tweets



- @GeoSocietyPhila Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of an event like this. Looking forward to the fun and the Cuban food. [about 1 hour ago](#) from [HootSuite](#) in reply to [GeoSocietyPhila](#)
- The first annual GEOfest is bringing renowned explorers and filmmakers to the Philadelphia Area - <http://t.co/nWo8aT3u> [about 8 hours ago](#) from [HootSuite](#)
- @brkfastattiffys Thanks so much for the follow back.. make sure to check out my facebook page! <http://t.co/nf0JK8HG> 06:45:02 PM October 13, 2011 from [HootSuite](#) in reply to [BrkfastAtTiffys](#)
- @janetober Don't let anything stand in the way of your dreams- courage is never stopping!! 06:40:07 PM October 13, 2011 from [HootSuite](#) in reply to [JanetOber](#)

time when calm seas come in between the storms. Per his email, we may just be looking at a window early to mid week coming.

As we have been in Key West a week now, fine tuning many aspects of the operation, a few new plans.

Other details same as of last week.

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Plans for 18 of us (please see attached Ops TEAM LIST, not only to familiarize yourselves with personnel and jobs, but those of you asterisked for Cuba must get me all your passport information immediately. You have perhaps already passed to Heidi.

Plan is for that sail to happen 24 hours before we are truly expecting calm seas. We don't want to be sitting in Havana, boats going through long Customs searches, me having to attend diplomatic press conferences, and miss any precious time of light winds. Best we are there in advance, even if we may wind up waiting in Havana a day or two for the actual light winds to come our way.

The Ops TEAM not going into Cuba will make your way to Key West once we have left for Havana. As soon as I start swimming, you will all travel out to the 12-mile International water area and be ready to begin your shifts as we all become one convoy coming across together. Your boat out will be Bellisimo (Captain Jim Edwards), out of Key West Harbour Yacht Club.

Whether you are on the 1st Cuba sail or the 2nd 12-mile sail, Pam Derderian and Nancy Becker will be here for you in Key West, aware of your flights in, ready to direct you to either a bed for some rest or to a boat for departure. Don't stress if you can't get here on time for the 2nd sail. Keep in touch with Pam and Nancy. You will have options of a transit boat taking you out to the convoy. (If you are on the Cuba list and miss that sail, you will have to hang back at the 12-mile mark.)

IMPORTANT: Those going into Cuba cannot bring laptops or professional tech gear. All that had to be listed on an Export license with the Commerce Dept and you will likely have those items seized. You can put anything of that nature onto Bellisimo to have waiting for you when you meet up with them.

Of course, each of you responsible for all personal effects. Clothes, hats, sunblock. You will all be given TEAM short-sleeved t-shirt, long-sleeved t-shirt, and baseball caps. They are white with logos.

Change in provisions from the 24-hour training swim. Except for your very personal needs, instead of buying any of your water, other drinks, or food, we have chefs on both Easy Rider and Bellisimo. They will have food ready for you day and night, as you come off shifts. You will be told which boat you'll be sleeping on and taking your meals. Other than that, you may spend time on any of the other boats as you wish.

(Except the Escort Boat, Voyager. That of course is working crew. You know that drill.)

2 handlers

2 drivers

David Marchant navigator

1 safety diver

1 independent observer

1 CNN crew (sometimes more, when approved)

1 Tim doc crew (sometimes more, when approved)

Candace carte blanche

Michael doctor carte blanche

(We had once thought the Friends coming down to join in would be able to travel with us on Bellisimo but that has not worked out. There will be another catamaran named Becky Bad Girl to house all the Friends. At the appropriate times, one or two of those individual will be invited to come spend a bit of time on Voyager, near the handlers. The handlers will instruct them as to when they might interact with me, during a feeding perhaps.)

I'm sure I'm forgetting a few things.....later. We might be getting close.

-Diana

- @slatefree1 I'm happy to have followers! The next adventure is whatever jumps out at me next in life.

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"Diana is more than a swimmer. She's a beacon of hope to us all that we can dream big, live life large, and look back at all of it with no regrets whatsoever."

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Xtreme Dream. For Diana Nyad's representation please contact Pam Derderian