

Cuba Yacht Rally 2017

17 March to 1 April – 15 days

From
\$5,395pp
includes Havana
stopover and
11 day sail

Sail in company, explore on your own.

Cuba Yacht Rally 2017

Cuba is a country of colour, passion and creativity. Economically poor but culturally rich, Cubans are experts at celebrating life. Their motto is 'slow down, forget yesterday, don't worry about tomorrow'.

To introduce you to this vibrant country, we have created the itinerary that includes four nights in the audacious capital of Havana followed by 11 nights on board your own private catamaran. Cuba is one of the safest cruising destinations in the Caribbean and yet the coast and offshore cays are so often overlooked by tourists. Sun, sea, fresh fish and lobster. It doesn't get better than this.



About the Rally... sail in company, explore on your own

How does it work?

On arrival at Havana Airport transfer to your accommodation in Havana where you will meet your guides and the Yacht Rally group.

Over the next four days discover Havana's sites, people and culture. Travel over land to the southern side of Cuba, to the city of Cienfuegos and board your catamaran for 11 nights. The destination is Cayo Largo, along the way stop at untouched islands, marvel at the abundant wildlife, lounge on white sand beaches and dine under the stars. Your Yacht Rally guides will organise fun social races, rendezvous, dinners and beach BBQ's. You will cruise in company, however, there are plenty of 'Leisure days' where you can drift off to explore on your own.

All you need to do is grab some friends and choose a yacht from our list, or book a cabin and meet up with other sailing adventurers.

How to get there?

The most direct route to Cuba from Australia is via Mexico City, Santiago (Chile) or Toronto (Canada). Whichever route you take there are essentially three flight connections necessary, for this reason we suggest extending your holiday and enjoying a stopover in one of these three cities.

Mariner Boating Holidays work closely with *Travel Counsellors*, a specialist travel organisation whose agents are experts at creating tailored flight solutions. Contact us for further details.

What is a Casa?

Your accommodation in Havana will be in a VIP guesthouse, commonly known as a 'Casa' in Cuba. Casas are typically located in the residential suburbs of Havana, have anywhere from two to ten bedrooms, and are run by local families. Your Yacht Rally group will occupy a number of houses in the same area and the largest house will be used as a meeting point.

When staying in a casa, you can expect personalised attention from your hosts, daily breakfast, a great location, clean rooms with ensuite and air conditioning, and a night watchman.



Highlights

Havana: Music, Spanish colonial architecture, a famous political history and vibrant street culture. Be transported back in time and drink rum at the Hotel Nacional where Frank Sinatra was a regular, dance at the famous Buena Vista Social Club, then wander Callejon De Hallel, a street where artists live and paint.

Cienfuegos: This beautiful city has allured travellers for years with her French influence and sparkling seaside location. It's no wonder Cienfuegos is referred to as the 'Pearl of the South'.

Beaches: The islands in the Canarreos Archipelago are home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Spend your days lounging on deserted stretches of sand, snorkel along coral reefs or sit back with a cocktail on Cayo Lago.

Trinidad: If you can ignore the jineteros (hustlers) and tourists, Trinidad is like a perfectly preserved outdoor museum. Horses and donkeys appear to be the main mode of transport, old men sell fresh bread from bicycles and guitar wielding troubadours sing from the street corner.

Weather and tides

- The climate is tropical and has two seasons, dry season (winter) from November to May and a wet season (summer) from May to November
- Average daily air temperature in March 25 °C
- Average water temperature in March 25 °C
- Rainfall – during the dry season the monthly rainfall average is less than 50mm

- Wind – predominantly northeast with variations southeast 15 to 25 knots
- Tide – between 0.2m to 0.4m

Sailing experience

The goal is for you to have the most enjoyable experience possible so it is important that you are comfortable with the person in charge of your vessel. If you or a friend choose to skipper a yacht then we will require details of your experience and an internationally recognised qualification such as the International Certificate of Competence.

Alternatively you may wish to hire a professional skipper to help sail and manage the vessels systems. Speak to your Mariner Boating Holidays consultant for more information.

Yacht Rally Package*	Cabins		Shower/WC	Recommended Guests	Price per person Based on recommended capacity	Yacht Bond
	Dbl	Twin				
Lagoon 39 – Premier	4		4	8	\$5,595	€650
Lagoon 380 – Super Premier	4		2	8	\$5,395	€650
Nautitech 40 – Premier	4		2	8	\$5,395	€650
Lagoon 450 – Premier	4		4	8	\$5,995	€650
Lagoon 450 Luxe – Super Premier	4		4	8	\$6,495	€650

Prices are in Australian dollars and do not include airfares. Prices will vary according to the final numbers sharing the yacht. Please enquire with Mariner Boating Holidays for the full price list. Super Premier yachts are less than 1 year old from their first charter date. Premier yachts are less than 3 years old from their first charter date. Older vessels at a lower price are available upon request.

*Yacht Rally Package requires one person in your crew to skipper the yacht, or you must hire a professional skipper to sail for you.

What's included?

Yacht charter and equipment

- 11 night bareboat charter
- Marina fee in Cayo Largo
- Yacht security bond reduction
- Standard navigation equipment
- End of charter cleaning
- Welcome pack
- Dinghy and outboard motor
- Snorkeling gear
- Bed linen and bath towels
- Beach towels
- Cruising permit and taxes

Havana Accommodation and Tour

- Group transfer from Havana Airport to guesthouse accommodation
- 4 nights in a VIP guesthouse
- 4 breakfasts
- Welcome dinner
- Walking tour of Old Havana – half day
- Cigar factory tour
- Distillery tour
- Half day Afro-Cuban religion tour (with a traditional Rumba)
- Transfer from Havana to Cienfuegos to board the yachts, including a tour to the Bay of Pigs and Playa Giron Museum
- Cienfuegos walking tour (time permitting)
- All transport in a private bus
- Local English speaking guide for 4 days

Everything else!

- 4 dinners during the sailing program
- Return transfer from Cienfuegos to Havana after the sailing program
- 24/7 support from Mariner Boatings experienced guides
- 24/7 professional technical assistance for the yacht
- Race management

- Prizes for race days
- Rally 2017 shirt
- Daily weather updates
- Regular newsletters with up to date itinerary suggestions
- Annual subscription to *Travel Play Live* magazine

Additional costs

- Airfare and taxes
- Cuba tourist visa
- ESTA if travelling through the USA
- If required add a professional skipper for AU\$1,595 for 10 days plus food and beverage
- Add a single supplement if you would like your own room in Havana
- On board provisioning
- Optional pre and post yacht rally extension tours
- Diving and fishing equipment
- Kayaks and stand up paddle boards available upon request
- Travel insurance
- Mandatory refundable yacht security bond
- Fuel for the yacht and outboard motor

Personal travel insurance

A valid travel insurance policy is a Mariner Boating booking condition. We partner with Suresave, with whom we have special arrangements for cover during our yacht rallies. Please ask your Mariner Boating consultant for a Suresave no obligation quote.

Please note

- A booking form and deposit of AU\$1,500 per person is required to confirm a booking
- The designated skipper on board your yacht must possess suitable experience and qualifications
- Havana accommodation is twin/double share and includes breakfast
- Prices are subject to currency fluctuation until paid in full
- Credit card transactions are subject to merchant fees
- The prices are correct at the time of issue but subject to changes without notice (25/07/2016)

Contact us

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*Outside Sydney metropolitan area.

Yacht Rally Note

Cuba is a destination for adventurers and travellers who don't mind taking each day as it comes. While we will strive to deliver the itinerary as published, it is important to note that conditions in Cuba often change from one day to the next. We ask our guests to note that minor tour modifications may be necessary with no advance notice.