

Packing for an English Language Evangelism Event in Cuba

Our suggestions will stress the practical, and will assume your own common sense and maturity level. We are representing Christ before people who will watch us closely.

An Overview

Think in terms of the length of your stay and a busy schedule. Therefore, pack with this in mind; choose clothing items that are easy care clothing, practical and adequate for more than one function.

Realize that most Americans tend to take too much and then regret it. Therefore, reduce clothing items to a basic minimum. Remember these things:

- (1) you will be before adults four times daily in a teaching situation (therefore, choose skirts and slacks, casual but appropriate),
- (2) you will be in five to six church services,
- (3) you will be in transit two days (wear something comfortable.)

Physically, try to condition yourself for long days. Start walking a mile per day in the shoes you will wear in Cuba.

Remember also, you will be among people who are living on \$200 - \$300 annually and we are not operating a style show. We will dress conservatively. Women might wish to wear only a gold ring instead of a diamond ring. With this overview in mind please note the four major points of emphasis that will follow.

Ministry Items

You will bring your Bible and a devotional guide of your choice. Tracts and other hand-outs will be supplied to you as needed

Personal Items

1. Luggage - Please note, only one personal suitcase or back-pack can be taken. This bag cannot be larger than 57" total when you add the length, width and height. The weight is limited to 45 pounds. A carry-on not larger than 35" total may be carried aboard the aircraft. These packing instructions must be followed exactly because we are taking additional teaching materials for our ministry. These materials will count for your second checked bag. Also, we pay for every pound that we check over 45.

2. Clothes - Suggestions for women: Comfortable shoes for walking, 1 pair of jeans or slacks, 2 or 3 skirts (denim travels well), 6 or 7 shirts or tops, 1 sweater or light jacket and 2 pajamas or nightshirts. All toilet articles and make-up you use at home. Bring an umbrella or a fold-down rain coat. The weather in Cuba in November ranges from 60 to 95 degrees, so please be prepared for anything. Suggestions for men: Comfortable shoes for walking, 2 or 3 pairs of jeans or docker-type pants, 1 pair of slacks, 6 or 7 casual shirts and 1 dress shirt, 1 sweater or sweatshirt, pajamas or T-shirts, 1 light jacket, a sport coat and a tie. All toilet articles you normally use at home. Bring an umbrella or a fold-down rain coat.

3. Medications - Bring all prescription medications that you normally take plus a little extra, just in case. You may also wish to bring a pain reliever, a cold medicine, a cough syrup, a stomach medicine like Pepto Bismol chewables, and an anti-diarrhea medication. Remember that there are no medications to be bought in Cuba, so prepare well.

4. Extras That Are Important - Two thin towels and washcloths, toilet articles, soap powder or tube of Woolite, small travel iron and a hair dryer.

5. Extra Suggestions from Past Cuba Teams (use your own judgement) - Mosquito repellent, one roll of toilet paper, pack of baby wipes for quick baths, anti-bacterial hand wash, baby powder or Shower to Shower, sunscreen, water treatment pills (we will be able to buy water in Havana), Spanish/English Bible, a small flashlight, coffee creamer and peanut butter.

Documents

Passports should be carried throughout the entire trip. (There will be a passport check in Mexico and Cuba.) Check your passport to make sure it has not expired. Make photo-copies of your passport, leave one copy at home and pack one with you in another piece of luggage.

Points of Special Importance

1. Money - Your air, bus, lodging, and meals are included in the trip price. \$100 will be more than enough for your out-of-pocket expenses in Cuba. Our U.S. State Department License does not permit the purchase of souvenirs and gifts to bring home. Your money should be taken in small denominations cash (5's and 10's new, clean bills with no ink marks). Traveler's checks are virtually impossible to cash in Cuba, and credit cards are not accepted except at hotels.

2. Electric Appliances - Some places in Cuba use 220 V instead of 110 V, so you will need a converter for irons, hair dryers, etc. These items are about \$25.00, so before you buy one, you may wish to borrow one from someone who has been to Europe.

3. Gifts - Assignments will be made next week.