

Dold World Journeys

Cuba Documentation



Passport and Documents

Each tour member must have in his or her possession a valid passport while traveling. If you already have a passport, check to see that you have signed it, it is **valid past September 2015**, and it contains at least **three (3) blank** “Visas” pages. (“Amendments and Endorsements” pages are not acceptable for visas.) **Delays in submitting passports to insightCuba could result in fees.**

A visa is required for Cuba. For the “Undiscovered Cuba” journey you will need to submit **a copy of your passport (picture page) with your final payment to BOTH insightCuba and Dold World Journeys.** The cost of the Cuba visa is included in the journey package.

New Passport/Passport Renewals

If you do not have a passport, apply for it as soon as possible. You can apply at most major post offices, public libraries, and the University of Hawaii. To find a location nearest you and download passport application forms online visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html>.

Application for a passport can only be made at the Honolulu Passport Agency at the Prince Kuhio Federal Building if you have less than **two weeks** to departure or need a tourist visa within four weeks. You will need to call them for an appointment at 1-877-487-2778.

Kapiolani Community College’s Passport Acceptance Office accepts walk-ins. The people there are friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable, and they can also provide passport photos on-site. Please contact them at (808) 734-9258 or <http://www.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/project/u-s-passport-office/> for more information.

When applying the following are required: The proper application; Evidence of U.S. citizenship—a valid passport, certified birth certificate or naturalization papers; current Photo identification—a driver’s license or State/Military/Student I.D. card; Photocopy of the ID document you are presenting; Applicable fee of \$135 in personal checks (two), cash, or money orders; and One current passport photo. Allow about six weeks for processing.

For renewals you will need the following items: A completed renewal application; Your old passport (issued within the last 15 years and when you were at least 16 years old at the time of issue); One current passport photo; and Payment of \$110.

All passport photos must be taken within six months of application. Some places to take photos at are Costco, SAM’s Club, Ace Portrait Studio on King Street (591-9220), or Kaimuki Camera (735-5955).

If you are a citizen of another country and **do not** possess a U.S. Passport, please let us know *as soon as possible* since different regulations may apply.

Health Concerns

We **strongly suggest** you talk with your own physician about any trip. If your doctor is not familiar with foreign destinations, then consider visiting a travel clinic like Straub, Queen’s Medical, or Kaiser. Travel Clinics are a wealth of great medical information and very reasonable in cost. It might even be covered by your health insurance.

If you need any special medication, take sufficient amounts to last you at least four days longer than the tour. Another word of advice is to take along an extra pair of eyeglasses, as well as a copy of the prescription if you rely heavily on your glasses. *A qualified companion must accompany people requiring special medical or walking assistance.*



Travel Insurance

Every year a number of travelers encounter unexpected difficulties, which often prove quite expensive. Most of these money-consuming problems could have been avoided by purchasing low-cost travel insurance before the trip. Consequently, we urge all travelers to protect themselves by securing adequate Trip Cancellation and Interruption and Accident/Sickness Insurance before taking their trip. Below is a brief description of each of these insurance plans. Please take them into consideration when buying any type of travel package.

Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance

As noted under the General Conditions of your itinerary, late cancellation will result in penalty fees enforced by the airlines, tour and/or cruise companies (regardless of the reason). These strict rules concerning cancellations are set by the government to protect the remaining passengers against last-minute cost increases due to vacancies. With adequate Trip Cancellation insurance, should you be forced to cancel before the tour, you will receive a refund of a predetermined limit for any expenses of your travel program that cannot be reclaimed, less the cost of the insurance. Trip Interruption insurance covers you in cases where you have to withdraw while you are on tour.

Accident/Sickness Insurance

A large number of Hawaii's medical insurance plans have international medical coverage. Please check with your insurance carrier to see if you are covered and for how much. Most travel insurance policies have some sort of accidental loss of life, limb, or sight; medical expenses for accidents; and in-hospital sickness benefits included in their travel insurance packages. Medicare and Kaiser insurance do not cover their clients outside the United States.

An increasing number of land operators have eliminated their city representatives who in the past would be available locally should something happen to you while you are abroad and cannot continue the tour with your group. This representative would serve as a city host and assist you with your unexpected circumstances. Without this local host or travel insurance you will end up handling the bulk of the legwork yourself (telephone calls, hotel accommodations, hospital visits, flights home, etc.).

Keep in mind in certain situations Travel Insurance is **supplemental** to your present insurance program. You have to make a claim with your primary insurance provider first, and then Travel Insurance will make up the difference up to certain dollar limits.

** Your insightCuba package **already includes** "*The Core Plan*" through Starr Indemnity and Liability. You can find the details of this coverage online at www.doldworldjourneys.com on the "Journeys" page or at www.coretravelinsurance.com.

For the most part "*The Core Plan*" is a good coverage. It is upgradable. My recommendation would be to upgrade the Trip Cancellation portion of the policy. Keep in mind though with this insurance company Trip Cancellation only covers cancellations for medical reason (yours or family members). Also the policy **does not cover** the Honolulu to Miami portion (**air ticket** and **hotel**) and/or **any type of baggage coverage**.

Registered group members can **upgrade** their coverage (the whole plan, increase the trip cancellation, add baggage insurance, etc.) by visiting www.coretravelinsurance.com and entering your name and date of birth. All upgrades must be done prior to departure. For Trip Cancellation it is best to do it immediately after making full payment.

If you have any questions and/or need web help, please e-mail me at alex@doldworldjourneys.com or call me at (808) 732-9430.