



Center for Responsible Travel

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Center for Responsible Travel Responds to New Restrictions on U.S. Travel to Cuba**

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) [announced new restrictions](#) on U.S. travel to Cuba, eliminating the people-to-people travel category that allowed organized group tours to visit the island. The Center for Responsible Travel (CREST), a nonprofit organization that specializes in sustainable travel to Cuba, is deeply concerned about the impact of this sweeping policy change on people in Cuba, particularly on small-scale Cuban entrepreneurs and their families. CREST’s Executive Director, Martha Honey, issued the following response:

“Today’s announcement that the U.S. government will end group people-to-people educational travel to Cuba is a devastating blow to millions of Cubans as well as U.S. travel companies, airlines, and cruise lines. It will also have far-reaching impacts on U.S.-Cuban relations, as these educational exchanges are critical for creating meaningful connections and fostering understanding between American travelers and Cubans.

Currently, U.S. citizens are the second largest group visiting Cuba after Canadians. This major policy change barring many American travelers from visiting the island will make life much more difficult for average Cubans and will be deeply felt by Cuba’s burgeoning private sector – the very entrepreneurs that the Trump administration claims to support.”

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*CREST Executive Director Martha Honey is available for comment on this topic. Please contact Rebekah Stewart at [rstewart@responsibletravel.org](mailto:rstewart@responsibletravel.org) to arrange an interview. CREST can also arrange interviews with U.S. tour operators involved in people-to-people travel to Cuba.*

#### **About the Center for Responsible Travel (CREST)**

The Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) is a nonprofit research organization dedicated to increasing the positive global impact of responsible tourism. CREST assists governments, policy makers, tourism businesses, nonprofit organizations, and international agencies with finding solutions to critical issues confronting tourism, the world’s largest service industry. Learn more about CREST’s innovative field projects, research, and advocacy at [www.responsibletravel.org](http://www.responsibletravel.org).