# CONGRESO DE LITERATURA Y CULTURA FEMENINA HISPÁNICA. EN EL BICENTENARIO DE GERTRUDIS DE AVELLANEDA: LEGADOS DE CREACIÓN FEMENINA

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Below are some tips and resources for you to make your travel arrangements, which are different due to the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba. As you make your arrangements, remember that **credit cards or travelers checks drawn on U.S. banks** are **not accepted in Cuba**! Please bring enough cash “efectivo” to pay for hotel, conference registration, etc.

**Reserve Conference Hotel**

Service is being handled by Havanatur (prices included in acceptance email). As of September first, just the Habana Libre and Vedado St. John’s are available.

Contact:

**sago@havanatur.cu** **o**  gbpino@havanatur.cu

**Buy plane ticket:**

See list of providers below. They will ask you what license you will be traveling under.

**General License for Travel to an Academic Conference**

Remember, it is not legal to travel to Cuba as a U.S. citizen for purposes of tourism. The United States Office of Assets Control (OFAC) has a list of guidelines for travel to Cuba;

Section IV “General license for travel to a professional meeting, section 31 C.F.R, section 515.564” outlines the regulations for our travel as professional researchers in the field. Your travel service provider (TSP) will have you sign an affidavit attesting to that effect in order to buy tickets to Havana.

([http://www.treasury.gov/resourcecenter/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba\_tr\_app.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_tr_app.pdf) page 16).

Some travel service providers recommend you apply for a Specific License. If that is the case, colleagues have done so [here](http://www.treasury.gov/services/Pages/Cuba-Travel-Licenses.aspx).

**Purchasing Tickets:**

U. S. government regulations require you to use an approved Travel Service Provider (TSP) ([OFAC list of approved TSPS](http://www.treasury.gov/resourcecenter/)). Our colleagues have had the best luck with ABC Travel (Tampa: (813) 875-0011 and [cubamax](http://cubamaxtravel.com/), but your selection from the list may be determined by your departure point (direct flights now available from various cities across the country, (Miami Tampa, New York, LA), third country connections as well).

Each TSP offers chartered flights that fly on certain days. You will have to work within those dates. Each TSP requires you to sign an Affidavit (sample attached) attesting to the fact you are not travelling for purposes of tourism.

You will also need a visa from the Cuban side of things. You can contact Lidia Santana (gigi@ill.cu) at the ILL or purchase one through your TSP ($75.00); in the latter case, the visa will be issued at the airport, in the former, Lidia will be waiting for you at the José Intl. Airport in Havana before you pass through immigration.

For charter flights, check-in follows different rules. Some start as much as 4 hours before the flight and close 1.5 hours before boarding. You may have to wait in 3 lines: 1 for document check, 1 for luggage check, and 1 to pay for luggage check-- for the bag and for any weight over 44 lbs (including carry-on). These procedures are in place for the many Cubans who live here and are returning with products for their families. It is generally a chaotic environment, but with a festive feel.

**Currency**

**Credit cards or travelers checks drawn on U.S. banks are not accepted in Cuba! Please bring enough cash “efectivo” to pay for hotel, conference registration, etc.** Cuba currently uses two types of currency: El peso cubano (moneda nacional) or El peso cubano convertible (CUC). As a foreigner, you will be expected to pay for everything in CUC. Be aware that any currency exchange office will take 10% off the top of your total amount to change and will then give you the going rate. Currently, 1.14 USD = 1CUC.

Questions? Write briess@allegheny.edu