

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Wheels Up takes off to Cuba

November 23, 2016



Inside the Wheels Up King Air 350i

By STAFF REPORTS

Private aviator Wheels Up is now offering service to and from Havana, Cuba.

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With the United States government's travel ban to Cuba lifted, the island nation has quickly climbed into the top 15 of desired destinations among affluent American travelers, according to a luxury survey conducted by Travel Leaders Group. The Caribbean country is a destination unseen by many U.S. travelers due to the past travel restrictions imposed by the government, but many affluent travelers have Cuba high on their bucket lists now due to the exclusivity ([see story](#)).

Havana flights

Wheels Up's founding partner Justin Firestone announced that the private aviator will begin offering flights to and from Havana, Cuba Nov. 22.

Clients will fly to Cuba onboard Wheels Up's signature fleet of Beechcraft King Air 350i and Citation Excel/XLS aircraft.

To assist its clients, Wheels Up has also established an on-the-ground booking assistance program in Cuba. This will help Wheels Up's more than 3,500 members book flights while in Cuba due to the country's limited Internet service.

"We are excited to be part of history as among the first of the American private aviation companies to make flights available to and from Havana," Mr. Firestone said in a statement. "Wheels Up has arranged more than 150 flights between the United States and Cuba and are now averaging more than any other major U.S. private aviation provider."



Photo courtesy of Travel + Leisure Journeys, Cuba

Wheels Up made its inaugural flight to Cuba in 2015. Also in 2015, Wheels Up became a founding member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-Cuba Business Council and currently serves on the board of directors.

Now, Wheels Up members can enjoy private service to Cuba through any of the 18 Customs and Border Protection designated airports in the U.S. Traveling from the U.S. to Cuba requires that passengers qualify for one of the 12 approved categories required for visitation under the U.S. General License.

Wheels Up will help members secure the necessary visas, provide itineraries and handle logistics for its members through its partners Engage Cuba Travel and Services and Cuba Educational Travel.

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