

Cuban Government Expects to Welcome 3,000 Russian Tourists per Week to Varadero

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MIAMI, United States. - This week, Nordwind Airlines restarted its flights between Russia and the Varadero resort in Matanzas province, joining AZUR Air and Royal Flight. Together, they are expected to bring more than 3,000 tourists per week to Cuba.

According to a press note from the Cuban News Agency, with Cubanacan at the receiving end and the Russian tour operator Pegas Touristik, "the Boeing 777, a handsome aircraft, landed on the runway of Juan Gualberto Gomez International Airport with 500 visitors aboard, most of them young people and many children, which goes to show how much Cuba is trusted as a safe tourist destination," explains the note.

"It is a challenge, at a time of a global pandemic, to organize options that meet visitors' demands," stated Ernesto Oliva Gonzalez, Cubanacan's chief of operations. However, he added that the country has "the hygiene and sanitation conditions and all protocols required."

According to this information, Cubanacan suggests to Russian tourists that they lodge in hotels of its own chain, or Gaviota and Gran Caribe hotels, “a wide program that includes boating excursions, the Nicho Waterfall in Cienfuegos, Guamá and the Zapata Swamp, as well as panoramic visits to the Hicacos Peninsula.”

For his part, Dr. Carlos Raul Perez Hernandez, chief of International Sanitation Control at the Matanzas airport, stated that “all protocols established for visitor entrance to the country are being followed, documentation is checked on the aircraft prior to disembarking, and once on the ground, all passengers go through temperature scanners and polymerase chain reaction testing (PCR) is performed.”

Ever since the restart of flights on April 18, more than 2,000 tourists originating from Russia have arrived in Varadero; according to Dr. Perez Hernandez, none of them tested positive for COVID-19.

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