



What to look forward to once the pandemic is over... take two!

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Hello again...

I hope you're all staying safe and healthy.

This is the longest I've stayed at home since... uff, a long time! But that's the way it has to be, playing my part to minimize all social contact as the only way to keep Covid-19 in check until that much-needed vaccine arrives. Hopefully, we'll then be traveling again like there's no tomorrow.

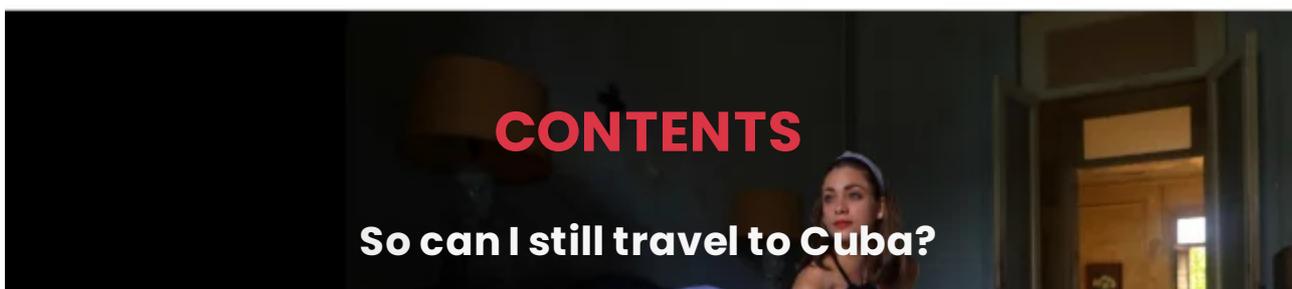
Inevitably, all my travel plans for this year have been nixed, including all the photo and motorcycle tours I was due to lead. As each month passes, more tours get canceled... most recently my photo tours to Cuba and Oman in January and February 2021, respectively.

Below, you'll find details of my tours for the balance of 2021, including an exciting domestic photo tour in and around Palm Springs with Atlas Obscura.

Plus, I bring you up to date with new writing projects, articles, etc.

But first, I explain about Cuba travel in the wake of Trump's latest changes.

Read on...





Travel with me in 2021
Recent articles & blog posts
Books in the works

CAN I STILL TRAVEL TO CUBA?

The answer is YES!

On September 23, 2020, President Trump announced the following new restrictions on travel to Cuba for U.S. citizens and others under U.S. jurisdiction:

- **U.S. citizens may no longer use hotels in Cuba**

The good news is that you may still utilize private B&Bs. There are more than 20,000 around the island, including thousands in Havana, where many rise to the level of world-class boutique hotels.

- **U.S. citizens may no longer bring back Cuban rum and cigars**

Fortunately, these are the only two products now banned,

- **U.S. citizens wishing to attend conferences, sporting events, meetings, workshops, etc. may no longer do so pre-approved under a "general license."**

Written authorization from the Treasury Department is now required through solicitation requesting a "specific license."

NOW THE GOOD NEWS...

Other than those individuals and/or groups affected by #3 above, **ALL U.S. citizens may still freely travel to Cuba at any time, pre-approved, under the 'Support for the Cuban People' (SFCP) license.**

This is the license category that I use for my group photo, motorcycle, and cultural tours, which remain unaffected by the above changes other than the need to ensure that all accommodations used are in private *casas particulares* (B&Bs). **PLEASE JOIN ME IN CUBA! SEE 'TRAVEL WITH ME IN 2021' BELOW...**

WHY DID TRUMP ENACT THESE CHANGES?

Very simple! He was speaking in front of right-wing Cuban-Americans in Florida (in fact, veterans of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion) and was chasing their vote. Nothing more! Well, other than his determination to reverse all of President Obama's initiatives.

TRAVEL WITH ME IN 2021

I'm sure like me you're itching to travel and sense the liberation of exploring exotic places anew. Plan now to join me on one of my exciting tours in 2021.

[CLICK TO SEE A COMPLETE CALENDAR OF TOURS FOR 2021](#)

PHOTO TOURS



November 19-22, 2020

Photographing Quirky & Surreal Palm Springs with AtlasObscura

You'll love this photography trip in which I help you hone your craft in one of the world's most beautiful and interesting destinations.

April 24-May 2, 2021

Cuba: Havana & Trinidad plus May Day Parade

Photograph Cuba's two most photogenic cities plus the iconic May Day Parade—the country's most important event.



July 31-August 12

Best of Colombia with Medellín Flower Festival

Experience Bogotá, 'Coffee Country,' Medellín and Cartagena with the author & photographer of *National Geographic Traveler Colombia*.



November 13-22

Best of Cuba with Bob Holmes, Andrea Johnson & yours truly

Three top-class photo instructors, one of the world's foremost Cuba experts, plus Havana, Viñales and colonial Trinidad. What's not to like?



November 27–December 4, 2021

Sensual Havana: Glamour & Fine Art Nudes

Join me on this one-of-a-kind photo tour as we photograph Cuba's most stunning models and ballerinas in Havana's incomparably beautiful and time-worn settings. Socialism and sensuality? It's almost surreal... as this stunning image by Juan Pablo Zapata suggests. **ONLY SIX SPACES!**

MOTORCYCLE TOURS

I'll be leading two private motorcycle tours of Cuba in 2021, including once again for the BMW Riding Academy of Turkey. Meanwhile, **stay tuned for news**

of the following exciting tour, soon to be formally announced by a leading U.S. motorcycle tour operator...



February/March 2022

10-day Best of Cuba Motorcycle Tour

A 1,000-mile dream tour of Western Cuba, including Viñales, Bay of Pigs, Trinidad, Santa Clara and more!



Customized group tours

Let me prepare and lead a U.S. legal motorcycling Cuba motorcycle adventure using BMWs or Harley-Davidsons, customized for your group.

REQUEST A CUSTOMIZED CUBA MOTORCYCLE TOUR

RECENT ARTICLES & BLOG POSTS

Truth be told, I'm writing and selling only a fraction of the feature articles as in past years. It's a much tougher row to hoe than I can ever recall. Not least, several of my key magazine and online outlets that were steadfast income earners have folded!

Nonetheless, several of my stories on motorcycle touring have been published since my last newsletter. Plus, I write a monthly article for StartUp Cuba. And I post to my blog several times a month, including book reviews on travel, Cuba, motorcycling, and more.

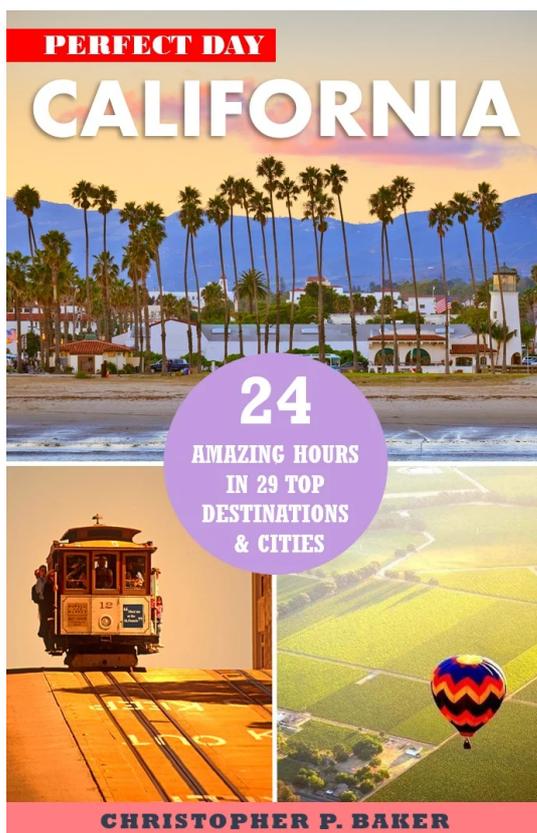
[CLICK TO READ MY RECENT ARTICLES](#)

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BOOKS IN THE WORKS

Since my last newsletter in April, I've...

- Updated three National Geographic guidebooks to Alaska, Costa Rica, and Washington, D.C.
- Developed a proposal for a coffee-table book about Harley-Davidsons at the request of a major international publisher and now await a contract.
- Signed a contract to author the following guidebook about California in an exciting new series from Reedy Press...



Perfect Day California

to be published by Reedy Press

In this fun, fact-filled guidebook, lavishly illustrated with vibrant photos and maps, Christopher P. Baker—the Lowell Thomas Award 2008 'Travel Journalist of the Year'—profiles ideal 24-hour itineraries for 29 cities and top destinations throughout California.

The representation of the book shown is a conceptualization by the author and bears no resemblance to the edition yet to be conceived by the publisher.



Christopher P. Baker



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