



Ebony Pyramid Entertainment

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EPE CANCELS PRIDE CRUISIN' 2018 TO CUBA

Washington, DC – Ebony Pyramid Entertainment (EPE) has reluctantly decided to cancel its Pride Cruisin' 2018 event to Havana, Cuba. Pride Cruisin' 2018 was scheduled for a Pre-Cruise event in Tampa, Florida on October 5, 2018, with departure on October 6, 2018 onboard Royal Caribbean International's Majesty of the Seas. The cruise was scheduled with ports of call in Key West, Florida and Havana, Cuba.

"This decision did not come lightly, but with the ever-changing and unpredictable policies of the Cuban government and Trump Administration, I felt it best to place the safety and well being of our guests, first," said DaJuan Patrick Xavier, EPE President/CEO. Since the announcement of Pride Cruisin' 2018 in September 2017, there have been a few significant changes from Royal Caribbean ship change to activities in Cuba. According to the Royal Caribbean website, Cuba's new regulations do not affect any of their sailings to Cuba. However, self-guided "people-to-people" travel will no longer be allowed. This means that in order to enjoy Cuba, guests will need to participate in a group "people-to-people" tour that complies with the new regulations. Basically, you cannot simply explore the island, unless you are part of a sanctioned tour or excursions managed by Royal Caribbean.

According to a Washington Post, November 8, 2017 article, The Trump administration announced tight new restrictions on American travel and trade with Cuba, implementing policy changes President Trump announced to reverse Obama administration normalization with the communist-ruled island. Under the new rules, most individual visits to Cuba will no longer be allowed, and U.S. citizens will again have to travel as part of groups licensed by the Treasury Department for specific purposes, accompanied by a group representative. Americans also will be barred from staying at a long list of hotels and from patronizing restaurants, stores and other enterprises that the State Department has determined are owned by or benefit members of the Cuban government, specifically its security services.

"To avoid last minute surprises, cancelling Pride Cruisin' 2018 was a clear decision," according to Xavier. Guests that have purchased EPE Pride Passes should contact EPE at pdpops@ebonypyramidonline.com for a refund. Guests should also contact Royal Caribbean to cancel their cruise or move their booking from the EPE group to individual booking, if they choose to continue with the cruise.

EPE plans to announce another event to replace Pride Cruisin' 2018. The new event will be announced late January to early February 2018.

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For More Information

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