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TRAVEL

Air Travel News: Private Jets to Cuba

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Victor will offer direct flights to Cuba from 19 United States cities.

In Transit

By ELAINE GLUSAC

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CHARTERS TO CUBA

Beginning today, the private jet charter service [Victor, which is based in Britain](#), will offer direct flights to Cuba from 19 United States cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. In accordance with federal guidelines, the carrier has partnered with the tour operator Cuba Educational Travel, which will develop custom itineraries on the island for individuals, families or small groups. It promises exclusive experiences such as rum tastings with a master distiller, intimate concerts with the musicians of the Buena Vista Social Club, and private dinners with prominent Cubans. Victor fliers can choose from a range of private jets and begin to build their itinerary with the company's app. Prices for a group of eight travelers flying to Havana for a four-night program begin at \$40,000.

FINNAIR EXPANDS U.S. ROUTES

Finland and Florida will be linked by new year-round flights aboard [Finnair](#) beginning in April. The carrier already flies between Helsinki and Miami three times a week in winter, but will expand the service next spring, making it year-round. The move is designed to synchronize service with its One World alliance partner American Airlines, which operates a hub in Miami offering connections to the Caribbean and Latin America.

Finnair also plans to increase its summer-only service between Helsinki and Chicago next summer, from three times each week to five, to improve connectivity in the Americas with American Airlines, which also uses Chicago as a hub.

PAMPERING NEW ZEALAND TRAVELERS

Anticipating long international flights, [Air New Zealand](#) aims to give front-cabin fliers a soft send-off with its new premium-class flagship lounge at Auckland International Airport. In addition to zones designed for work and for rest, the 21,000-square-foot club includes a year-round outdoor terrace with a fireplace; a children's area with a play treehouse, books and toys; a kitchen offering cooked-to-order dishes at meal times; and a digital ceiling over the bar that broadcasts images of the New Zealand sky.

For economy fliers, stress relief is strictly DIY. The tourism board for New Zealand proposes coloring to bide the time creatively with new coloring-book-style [postcards](#) travelers can download from its website. Bring your own crayons and markers.

CROSS-COUNTRY ROAD TRIP RALLY

Staging a road rally for classic car fans, [America's Car Museum](#) in Tacoma, Wash., which bills itself as the largest auto museum in North America, plans to send three vintage cars on a cross-country trip to Detroit in December in an event called the Drive Home. The red cars are a 1957 Chevrolet Nomad, a 1961 Chrysler 300G and a 1966 Ford Mustang. Local car clubs are invited to join the route as the classics travel 2,400 miles, stopping for rallies in Portland, Ore.; Boise, Idaho; Salt Lake City; Denver; and Chicago, among other cities. The caravan will leave Tacoma on Dec. and plans to arrive in Detroit on Jan. 7 in time for the Motor City's annual auto show.