

## The Cuban "Pickle"

The resort was picked, and the tickets were booked. As we talked about packing the question of Pickleball came up. Could we play in Cuba, we were told they have tennis courts available to play on, but the question was that some of the tennis courts in Cuba are grass. On the good recommendation of our friend Judi, who had previously been to Cuba we booked Villa Jibicoa, Topica, formally known as Cameleon villas Jibicoa.

We were all excited about all the activities we could take part in. Snorkel being the biggest draw. The corral reef extends for miles. You only have to walk out on to the beach and step into the beautiful clear turquoise water. The pools looked wonderful as well if the salt water does not call your name. Beach volley ball, paddle boats and a catamaran and parasailing to book as well. We could not wait to get there and dive right in.

The first night we set our alarms for 6:30 am we were determined to hit the tennis courts early to beat the wonderful heat. Our temperatures were to reach around 30 – 34 C. With our backpack packed we were ready to tackle the day. We met at the courts and took a look around. Ok this could work. We packed a measuring tape and some street chalk, took it out and mapped out the perfect court so we thought. Besides a few wayward leaves scattered about we could see the surface of the courts were a little uneven. No big deal we thought; however, a few spots looked like they patched a pot hole or two.

As we were bent over in concentration making our lines as straight as possible a lovely security guard came over to see just how or what we were vandalizing the courts with. We assured him the chalk was easily removed and we would clean up when we were done. He took a little interest in our play and proceeded to carry on with his duties.

Courts lined we started to play. One of our friends who joined us was new to Pickleball so we needed to teach her the game so we had a game of four playing. Giggles upon giggles emerged as we realized our game had a new challenge once more. Not only a newbie playing but we did not have to curve the serve the surface of the courts posed to make the serve challenging on its own. As the day got underway a welcoming breeze would gently caress us just enough to cool us down and the play continued game after game until we felt like masters again. As for scoring a chipper woodpecker joined us each morning announcing the scores pecking on the metal post like rapid machine gun fire.

Each morning we would get our routine started, Pickleball till 9, breakfast, a snorkel, maybe a snack or two, refreshing drinks, a dip in the pool and then on to other sights to see. Each morning we drew different interest from staff and patrons alike. We tried to encourage others to come play with us, and one of the gentleman kindly told me no but thank you he tried to focus only on lovemaking while on holidaying more giggles ensued. He also said he did not think we wanted to join him in that activity.

We would and will definitely come back to this wonderful resort it was immaculately kept the grounds were beautiful the flowers and trees in bloom. Our bungalows were quaint and quite adorable. As for

the sidewalks they were in a little disrepair so at night you just had to walk your step. We feasted on seafood just up the road past the resort at private homes that are restaurants. We got our days filled with sport and relaxation. Gorgeous sunsets and a lot of Rum. Spanish coffees were the work of art from Pablo he made them the best we had ever tasted or seen. As we were saying our goodbyes I saw my first chameleon send us off.

