

Planning For The Open Orange Bowl

Every year, the Open Orange Bowl is the pinnacle event of the winter season, providing an awesome opportunity to test the skills you've worked on throughout the Fall against top sailors from around the world. The event takes place on Biscayne Bay in Miami, Florida – one of the best winter sailing venues in the world – and the city is set up for sailing, but with hundreds of other sailors arriving at the same time for the International Orange Bowl, it's important to make your plans early! Here's everything you need to know about planning for the Open Orange Bowl Regatta.

The Open Orange Bowl is not the International Orange Bowl

As confusing as this is, there are two different regattas that take place during the same week on the same road, both with "Orange Bowl" in the name, but they are not the same regatta! If you have been searching for 29er registration on the Coral Reef Yacht Club website, stop searching – it's not there. The Open Orange Bowl is the 29er event, and it is hosted by the Coconut Grove Sailing Club (CGSC) at the opposite end of Bayshore Avenue from the other classes.

General Planning Overview

When you're making your plans for the winter, the main items you'll need to address are:

- Boat – Are you shipping your boat? Chartering? Do you need sails? Etc.
- Coaching – Will you be part of a team, or are you heading to the Orange Bowl solo?
- Lodging – Hotel or ???
- Travel – Airfare plus transportation while you're at the venue
- Registration – Sign up for the event!

All of these items will have associated expenses that need to be included in your budget, and if you are fundraising, the sooner you know what each of them will cost, the sooner you can start asking your local sailing organizations to help you out.

Boat

There are a few different ways to get a boat in Miami, and this is one of the first things you need to consider as you start making plans for the winter.

Ship your own boat: From California, [John Papadopoulos](#) generally loads up a big trailer with eight boats or so, and heads out to Florida for the winter season. This is usually the most cost effective way to get a boat to Miami, and one of the advantages is that you get to sail using your own equipment for both the Orange Bowl and the Midwinters East if you so choose. Be sure to book your spot on the trailer as early as possible, as it tends to fill up!

Charter a boat: If your boat at home is old or if you just don't want to deal with packing a boat up for the winter to ship across the country, your other option is to charter a boat in Miami. While you can sometimes find private charters for less money, chartering from the east coast boat importer, [Zim Sailing](#) ensures that you have a brand new Ovington built 29er for your winter events.

Coaching

This winter, we will be helping to organize a team for the Orange Bowl and for the 29er Midwinters East. To request an invitation for this team, and for more information on our goals at this event, e mail us at 29erhighperformance@gmail.com.

Lodging

The closest hotels are the [Mutiny](#) and the [Sonesta](#) (both right across the street from CGSC). Both are nice, but also on the pricey side, and they tend to fill up fast, so it pays to make reservations early. There are a lot of [alternative hotel options in the area](#), and the general rule of thumb is that the farther you get from the water, the more affordable they become. Another good option especially if your whole family is going, or if you can get a few teams together is renting a house through [VRBO](#), [airBnB](#) or [craigslist](#).

Travel

Look into airfare using a travel booker like Orbitz or Google flights. Shop around for prices, but remember that the closer it gets to your travel date, the more the price will likely go up.

Putting Together A Budget

An important step to keep everything organized as you plan each piece of the puzzle is to create a budget. You will use this to keep track of all of your expected costs, and if you plan on fundraising it will be a central part of your request for money. An example budget that I put together in Microsoft Word can be found below.

Item	Description	Price	Notes
Airfare	United Airlines	\$ 842.96	2x round trip tickets
Coaching	Working with the 29er HP Team	\$ 1000.00	
Rental Car	Hertz Rent-a-car company x 8 days	\$ 412.16	
Lodging	Sonesta hotel x 7 nights	\$ 1155.73	1rm w/ 2 double beds
Boat Shipping Fee/Charter Fee	Shipped boat and sails with John Papadopoulos	\$ 1000.00	
Registration fees		\$ 150.00	
Food	Food for 2 hungry sailors x8 days	\$ 640.00	Based on \$40/day
Totals		\$ 4200.85	