



Travel & Angling

**FLY FISHING  
THE RUN**





## FISHING GARDENS OF THE KING WITH FLY FISHING THE RUN

As of September 1st, 2015 the incredible area of Garden's of the King called Cayo Santa Maria is under the exclusive fishing operation of Fly Fishing The Run. This area had been known as the Tarpon Paradise of the North Coast of Cuba, a world class destination for Tarpon on the fly, where the trophy fish is just at the next cast.

This fishing base is placed in the North-Central section of Cuba, right in "Cayo Las Brujas", Villa Clara, as a part of the attractions of the beautiful countryside. It is an excellent and privileged area of marine life.



The Iberostar resort has lush, well kept grounds and 2 stunning beaches. The staff here is some of the best we have ever had the pleasure of meeting while in the Caribbean, everyone is friendly and willing to help everytime. The Iberostar has 2 sides, one is the “Park” side which is family friendly, and the other is the “Spa” side, which is adults only. Both sides have swim up bars, and they both share the buffet in the main building, and the a la carte restaurants on site. There is also a Grand Village section, which is completely separate. For our fishing operation, we’ll use the Spa Suites or Grand Village\*, but if your thinking on travel with the family, we could also book the Park suites, that allow kids.

The swim up bars at this resort were exceptionally clean, as were the beach bars and lobby bar. The food at the restaurants was surprisingly good given Cuba’s reputation when it comes to food. The spa on site is fantastic, we highly recommend the couples massage for a relaxing morning.

\*additional charge

#### LOCATION

62 km from Remedios

110 km from the international airport of Abel Santa María, in Santa Clara

177 km from Cienfuegos

198 km from Trinidad

386 from Havana



## FISHING

Cayo Santa Maria is one of the keys part of Buenavista Bay Biosphere Reserve of UNESCO since year 2.000.

Gardens of the King (GOK)- Cayo Santa Maria is characterized by migratory tarpon fishing from March to August. It's called by many the best big tarpon fishing destination in Cuba, nonetheless you have bonefish, 'cudas, jacks and other saltwater species. Quality of fishing has increased and with our new management and develops we'll focus in the marine life preservation, research and control for a "good health" ecosystem, that allow us better fishing with the hands of conservation.



This northern area has developed an important nautical infrastructure for tourism. Anglers can stay in a 5-star hotel on the coast, which offers a customized service.

There is plenty of tarpon in the area from March through August, which is found in very clearly determined spots. There are many canals through which great numbers of tarpon come and go to the open sea, and where they are relatively easy to catch. We also have plenty of areas of bay fishing, with deeper waters up to 20 feet, in this areas tarpon are plentiful. Often times fish are sighted rolling in schools, and the skiffs position themselves ahead of them for intercepting casts. There are also wide flat areas, of 3 to 6-feet deep, where they are easy to spot due to the crystal-clear waters.



For bonefish, there are huge areas of flats and mangrove vegetation to be fished on boat or by wading. The region abounds in permit too in deeper waters called floaters, some of them weighing up to 40 pounds. The average weight ranges from 25 to 30 pounds.

All varieties of flats fish exist in the Gardens of the King, however, it is Tarpon that make this area famous for fly fishing.



Resident Tarpon are present all year long, and range in size from 10-80 pounds. Beginning in March, Gardens of the King begins to see the larger migratory Tarpon, and the fish continue to be present through August. These fish can be in excess of 150 pounds, and are a true test of a fly angler's skills.

### Fishing Boats

We have new Dolphin Super Skiff with Yamaha 70HP engines, that allow us to access every shallow water area and also run dry and fast in transfers between fishing spots. First and foremost if the boat has not capsized or run aground due to its incompatibility with the depth of the water, then you undoubtedly have scared the fish away due to the boat's noisy and ungraceful handling in the flats, so we are cover to meet our anglers expectation.



# ENVIRONMENT

The Jardines del Rey (Gardens of the King) Archipelago lies just off the northern coast in the North of Cuba. Some of its cays are larger than some countries of the world, and its intact nature stands out making it one of the most precious spots in the Cuban Caribbean. To the north it is surrounded by a coral wall of about 248 miles long, which is the second largest barrier reef in the world, the first being the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. There are canals among the cays and islets, whose origin dates back to millions of years ago when they used to be ancient riverbeds. After the last big thawing, they were partly flooded when the level of sea water rose. The cays become bigger from the West to the East in Morón, Ciego de Avila Province. In this region Turiguanó Island and Cayo Coco, Guayabal and Sabinal are located, forming a kind of exterior coast in front of the shore, giving shape to the Buenavista bays, Los Perros and Jigüey. Among the formations in the archipelago, we can mention Cayo Coco which is linked to the mainland by an 11 mile causeway, which also links Cayo Guillermo and Cayo Paredón Grande, just like Santa Maria.





## PROGRAM

The normal program for anglers visiting Gardens of the King is Saturday to Sunday. Guests stay overnight in Havana Saturday night, and depart the next morning by overland shuttle to their accommodations at Iberostar Ensenachos. Contrary to other fishing itineraries, shuttles depart Havana at a comfortable time morning, for the nearly 5 hour ride to the island. Then, anglers have 6 full days of guided fishing. Most guests depart from Ensenachos on Sunday, directly to Jose Marti airport in Havana for their departing flights. From 2016 there are new flights straight from US to Santa Clara, that is just two hours from Ensenachos Resort.

# CONTACT

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