



cubanfishingcenters



## AVALON CUBAN FISHING CENTERS

Fishing in Cuba is a delight and a continual mixture of incomparable sensations. In the exclusive fishing centers of AVALON at Jardines de la Reina (Gardens of the Queen), Isla de la Juventud (Island of Youth), Cayo Largo (Long Key), and at our newest destination on Cayo Cruz, you will be tempted with the most combative and acrobatic species, while enjoying the exclusiveness of a vast area of endless flats just for you. This is a unique and incomparable combination that Avalon offers their clients-fishing in their own marine park on the southern coast of Cuba. There is no doubt that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Imagine being able to choose the place where you want to fish, and go after the species you want and to do so accompanied by the most experienced and knowledgeable guides. These guides spend almost 250 days every year guiding visitors and ensuring that their guests enjoy all the benefits and opportunities that this amazing environment offers. These they are some of the species that you can fish in Avalon, Cuba: Bonefish or Macabi, Tarpon or Sabalo, Permit or Palometa, and other ones like Snappers, Jacks, Snooks Barracudas, Needlefish or the combative and voracious Lemon sharks.

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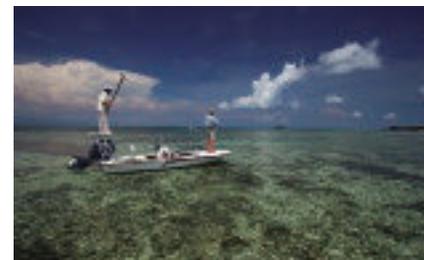
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## JARDINES DE LA REINA

This vast marine park, which is bigger in size of the Florida Keys, is ideal for fly-fisherman who wish to live and experience fishing from dawn till dusk. Here we offer more fishing hours than any other destination. Jardines is for those looking for adventure, absolutely amazing food with fresh seafood every day, and complete comfort.

We advise that guests fly directly to Santa Clara, Camaguey or Cayo Coco airports. Here you will be met by a representative that will transfer you to the Jucaro port. These transfers are between 2 and 3 hours. If guests choose to fly into Havana, they will be transferred to Jucaro port (5 hours) on Saturday of their fishing week. If you are staying aboard Jardines Avalon F I, Jardines Avalon F II, or La Perola you will board your mothership vessel at Jucaro port. If you are staying aboard La Tortuga you will be transferred to the offshore floating hotel via boat.

Our live aboard options are as follows: La Tortuga, our spacious floating hotel, (Groups of 1 to 14 anglers), Jardines Avalon F I (Groups of 8 to 12 anglers), Jardines Avalon F II (Groups of 10 to 16 anglers), and for smaller groups, we offer La Perola (Groups of 6 anglers). All accommodation are equipped with air conditioning, large dining areas, an exclusive crew and direct access to the fishing grounds.



Guests on these programs can enjoy their fishing dreams from the minute they step aboard, and will be able to fish more hours and more species than in any other Caribbean destination.

Here you will cast for large Tarpons (perhaps less BIG tarpon than on Isla de la Juventud, but more classic flats fishing for big tarpon and more variety). JDR is full of everything - Tarpon of all sizes, Permit, bones, Jacks, Barracuda - you name it. JDR is the favourite fishery of all destinations for many anglers around the world.

The fishing hours are totally at the discretion of the clients. Our regular fishing day usually begins with breakfast at 7:00am, and your guides will be ready to depart for fishing from 7:45 am on. Most of the flats you will fish are within fifteen minutes of the yacht or accommodation, and it is always nice to take a lunch break in the comfort and shade, back on board the boat. Relaxing for an hour or so before fishing the long afternoons, especially during the warm summer season, is always a good idea.

Many of the more remote flats can produce outstanding fishing and your guides will suggest the evening before that you pack a lunch and stay out all day in order to access some of the more distant flats and estuaries.

Clients can fish late into the evening if they like, since it is usually only a short run to get back to their mothership yacht. In Jardines, the morning winds often calm down in the afternoons, and fishing in the late afternoon can be superb, especially for bonefish or tarpon. There is never a daily gasoline limitation for our guides, so you can run longer distances to fish remote flats, especially on those days when you opt to stay out all day. Our weeks on board the yachts run from Saturday to Saturday.

Our season in the Jardines de la Reina is from mid-October to end of August. A normal week includes six full days of fishing and seven nights aboard the most luxurious yachts in the Caribbean.

Our fishing weeks on board the yachts run from Saturday to the following Friday. Our season in the Jardines de la Reina is from mid-October to end of August.

A normal week includes five full days of fishing and one to two half days depending on your schedule and mode of transportation to Jucaro.





JARDINES AVALON III  
Jardines de la Reina

## THE GRANDEST AND MOST SPECTACULAR CRUISING YACHT



Avalon has taken the utmost care in building and restoring our fly fishing yachts continually over the last 25 years. First, there was the 50' Explorador, refitted and transformed into La Reina. Then the Halcon, an old wooden boat with a noble past; and next the Georgiana. In 2010 the Jardines Avalon F I became our first brand new boat built from scratch, and she is beautiful and comfortable with 8 staterooms cruising to the outer edges of the Gardens of the Queen. In 2014, we took this model of size and luxury even further; the Jardines Avalon F II at 120 feet with 10 cabins, is a wonderful vessel cherished and loved by all.



The 160 foot Jardines Avalon III is a luxury motor yacht with 15 staterooms, including 4 suites with balcony. All cabins have private bathrooms and 2 beds (double or twin), air-conditioned with individual thermostats. Jardines Avalon III has an overall capacity of 30



passengers and 12 crew members.

There is a plethora of space onboard among its 3 panoramic decks. With a hot tub and full time crew at your every beck and call, you will find care and comfort in all of her details.

Jardines Avalon III is strikingly beautiful and we are so proud of how she turned out and we very much look forward to hosting you onboard!



Marine Biologists working with Avalon will be speaking with the clients about Marine conservation and the Gardens of the Queen's unique ecosystem.



JARDINES AVALON F II  
Jardines de la Reina

## EXCLUSIVE ACCOMMODATIONS WITH PERSONALIZED SERVICE



Jardines Avalon F II is a state-of-the-art vessel, larger than Jardines Avalon F I with 10 state rooms. It has been in operation since April 2014 with the newest available amenities. It is air conditioned with private bathrooms, wonderful gathering areas and an open deck with endless Caribbean views.



Jardines Avalon F II is a spacious, comfortable and very stylishly designed yacht, where each space is created to provide its guests with maximum comfort and safety. The atmosphere was conceived and designed to provide our guests with an experience of a lifetime.

Its overall capacity is 20 passengers and 9 crew members. We suggest between 10 and 16 anglers for optimum comfort. The design and interior decor give the yacht a touch of intimacy, refinement, a sense of warmth and simplicity. The boat has the perfect balance of substantial



exploration capabilities and a unique and noble style. It guarantees all our guests a pleasant, exciting and exclusive voyage through Jardines de la Reina.

Jardines Avalon F II has 10 deluxe cabins, with 10 private bathrooms. Each room includes air conditioning and heat controls, electricity plugs, as well as storage in drawers. Each room has panoramic windows to enjoy the breathtaking view of the Caribbean beaches.



There is a spacious and comfortable combination lounge, dining room and bar area on the boat deck. In cabins and common areas there are electric sockets available for you to plug in your personal items (220 volts and 110 volts).



## JARDINES AVALON F I Jardines de la Reina

Jardines Avalon F I has 8 deluxe king cabins, with 7 private bathrooms. Each room includes air conditioning and heat controls, electricity plugs, as well as ample storage in drawers. The atmosphere was conceived and designed to provide our guests with an experience of a lifetime. Its overall capacity is 20 passengers and 8 crew members. We suggest this yacht for groups between 8 and 14 anglers for optimum comfort.

The design and interior decor give the yacht a touch of intimacy, refinement, a sense of warmth and simplicity. The boat has the perfect balance of substantial exploration capabilities and a unique and noble style. It guarantees all our guests a pleasant, exciting and exclusive voyage through Jardines de la Reina.

Each room has panoramic windows to enjoy the breathtaking view of the Caribbean beaches. There is a spacious and comfortable combination lounge, dining room and bar area on the boat deck. In cabins and common areas there are electric sockets available for you to plug in your personal items (220 volts and 110 volts). Cuisine on board the Jardines Avalon I is exceptional. Fresh fish of the day is utilized for most meals, either caught by the anglers themselves or harvested by the crew. Lobster and Conch are abundant can be had on a daily basis from the surrounding waters. Traditional Cuban flan topped off with aged Havana Club Rum is one of the many unique and delicious deserts served, and you can have seconds on anything your heart desires!



LA TORTUGA  
Jardines de la Reina

## THE LARGE DOUBLE-DECKER FLOATING HOTEL



The Tortuga functions as a floating hotel with seven guest cabins that accommodate two anglers each. The Tortuga is a massive, steel houseboat that is permanently secured in a small, protected channel of a big island, so that it never moves, regardless of bad weather or wind. It is extremely stable and level at all times so there is never any chance of guests getting seasick.



We refurbished the Tortuga again in 2010. The guest cabins on the upper level all have their own bathrooms with sink and toilet and a good shower with plenty of hot water. Each cabin has its own easily adjustable air-conditioning system. On the lower level you will find our large air-conditioned dining room along with both a foredeck, afterdeck, chairs and tables that are perfect for setting up your tackle, tying flies or relaxing after a day of fishing.



We have plenty of rod racks as well as good facilities for washing and cleaning your tackle. The foredeck is everyone's favorite place to enjoy appetizers like pizza and your favorite beverage before dinner. A great spot to kick back, and relax, enjoy that perfect mojito, or smoke a great Cuban cigar while swapping tales of the day's fishing.



Electricity on board is supplied by generators located on a small island nearby and is available twenty-four hours a day. We have many outlets on board that provide both 110 and 220V. We have a satellite Wireless connection making communication with the outside world easy and free for our guests. You can use your laptop in our dining room at any time or in the cabins using our Avalon Hot Spot network as long as your laptop or other device has wireless capability.



## PEROLA Jardines de la Reina

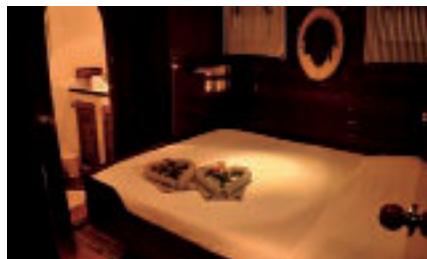
### AN IMPRESSIVE YACHT WITH HIGHLY POLISHED HARDWOOD FLOORS

Our luxury yacht will take you to the most remote and pristine flats off the Jardines de la Reina. The Perola is a beautiful yacht, recently refurbished, and perfect for a group of six anglers. There are five very comfortable air-conditioned cabins below deck, most having their own private bath, with good showers and plenty of hot water. Anglers will really appreciate the large amount of storage space available in each of the rooms.

This is an impressive yacht, with highly polished hardwood floors and teak paneling. Circular stairways take you downstairs to the cabins or upstairs to the dining area on the top open-air deck. The top deck is covered and always remains in the shade, but open to the sea breeze, insuring our guests a very comfortable and insect-free environment. Clear plastic side coverings are utilized in harder winds or in inclement weather. Several comfortable rope hammocks are hung from the ceiling structure and can be lowered after lunch or dinner for a delightful nap in the breeze. A full sized, air-conditioned salon on the main deck level can be utilized for a living and dining area in extremely harsh weather. Fly tiers will like the full size table in the salon, and sinking into one of the salon's plush couches with a good drink is the perfect end to a long day on the flats.

## OUR LUXURY YACHT IS READY TO TAKE YOU TO THE MOST REMOTE FLATS

Cuisine on board the Perola is exceptional. Fresh fish of the day is utilized for most meals, either caught by the anglers themselves or harvested by the crew. Lobster and Conch are abundant can be had on a daily basis from the surrounding waters. Salads with fresh vegetables and a variety of fruits are always available. In addition, you'll have excellent pork and chicken entrees during the week, fresh sashimi for appetizers and some of the finest frozen Daiquiris known to man. Traditional Cuban flan topped off with aged Havana Club Rum is one of the many unique and delicious deserts served. and – you can have seconds on anything your heart desires!





## FLY FISHING

Fly fishing in Cuba is far different from other destinations in the Caribbean. Only in recent years has this flats fishery been developed, and you are fishing waters that have not seen sport fishing for nearly fifty years. Cuba has given these pristine areas protection as Cuban National Marine Parks, where no commercial fishing is allowed other than for lobster. Flats fish like Tarpon, Permit, Bonefish, Snook, Mutton Snapper, Barracuda, and a variety of Jacks are found in incredible numbers and since the fishing pressure is so light in these areas the fish rarely encounter sport fishermen and are unusually easy to catch.

Think about a place where you can fish more than 100 miles of flats without seeing another fisherman. A place where the flats fishing is so good, you can catch seven species of fish in one day. A place where big Bonefish run toward your fly even when it hits the water too hard, rather than streaking off the flat in the other direction. A place where you have a legitimate chance for a Grand Slam every day of the year. A place where big Permit are as plentiful as they were in the Florida Keys 30 years ago, and here they take absolute pleasure in eating your fly! Jardines de la Reina is an incomparable location of barefoot wadeable white sand flats where you'll find enough big Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Jacks, Cudas, and Sharks on the flats for lifetimes of fishing!

## CUBA IS FAR DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DESTINATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN



Despite heavy commercial fishing pressure before the ban, Cuba's remote archipelagos have remained unspoiled. This is because they are often situated from 50 to 100 miles off the Cuban coast and are not easily visited, even by the Cuban lobster fishermen. Under the tutelage of several famous guides and anglers, the Cubans have become excellent guides and good fly fishermen. Give them a fly rod and they'll double-haul a 100-foot cast or show you just how to work a fly to make a bonefish charge and inhale it. They spot fish as well as any of the Caribbean's best guides and direct your casts from the poling platform. These guides enjoy enthusiastic anglers and love to work long days, allowing you to fish as hard as you want. A remarkable contrast to many other destinations where you are often limited to 6 or 8 hours on the water, including your running time. In Avalon's destinations, there is never any limitation on gas used or distances run in the day.



If you want to get out early and fish to dark, you can do it! But the fishing is normally so good and so intense that you'll be ready to quit in time to be back for cocktails. Although Spanish is the guides' native tongue, they have all taken classes in English and they communicate surprisingly well with their anglers. They are also in constant training to improve their language skills.



## TARPON

### “BRUTAL” IS THE RIGHT WORD TO DESCRIBE FLY FISHING FOR TARPON

The King of Silver has an insatiable appetite, and gets very violent. Tarpon take with power, and show stamina and acrobatic qualities that make tarpon a formidable adversary on a fly rod. Fishing Tarpon or Sabalo, as it is known in Cuba, can be divided into three categories: Baby Tarpon (those that weigh up to 30 Lbs), Medium Tarpon (those that weigh 30 Lbs up to 80 Lb) and Monster Tarpon (those of more than 80 Lb and sometimes can surpass the incredible mark of 200 Lbs). Obviously, the last category is hunted hard, but unfortunately these behemoths are much less common.

When nearing a school of Tarpon, holding an 11 or 12 wt. rod, legs shake and a matchless sensation of adrenalin invades the body, as you anticipate a battle with one of these marine monsters. Sighting and casting accurately play a major role as the angler must reach the school of Tarpon that swim slowly in a circle within meters of the boat. At all times it is important to control one's nervousness and to never feel intimidated by the presence of these extraordinary beasts. The beginning of the road to success is to strip strike the fish precisely and firmly. the violent reaction of the Tarpon when it feels the fly in its mouth is going to send him skyward. so you have to bow to the king to keep that line slack and then hold your rod low and keep him under control - easier said than done.



## PERMIT FABULOUS ADVERSARY.

No one is ever able to guarantee success with Permit; however, with a little ingenuity and teamwork between guide and angler, dreams and life long pursuits can be realized with great joy! This wonderful fish is the ultimate flats challenge and many fly fishermen have been taken to school by this wary fish. To cast to, hook, and land a permit on a fly is a true angling milestone and one that most fly fishermen who have fished the salt will eventually aspire to. It is a gift that with patience, agility, modesty, and great humility, a lucky few will be rewarded.

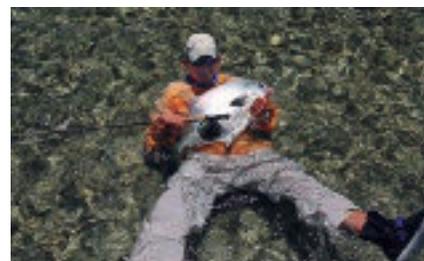
Fly fishing for Permit is extremely challenging and the odds are often stacked against the intrepid angler who looks to target this fabulous adversary. Wind, sun and the erratic nature of this fish all conspire against fly fishermen in their quest to tail one of these majestic fish. We can think of no other fish that is so difficult to predict, to understand, and worse still, to deceive. What a challenge!

The best locations in Cuba to consistently find permit are in Cayo Largo and Jardines de la Reina. Both of these locations are 60-80 miles offshore, along Cuba's southern coast. The optimal times to fish for permit in Cuba are between March and July, as well as in the month of November, when the tides are high.



Cayo Largo and JDR are both outstanding locations for producing Grand Slams and Super Slams, in large part because the permit fishing is consistently so good. Each of these fisheries regularly produce 25 pound + permit for our anglers and we don't know of too many other places that boast the number of weekly Slams that Cayo Largo and JDR do. Further west, Isla de la Juventud is fast becoming known as a Mecca for huge permit taken on a fly and we would not be surprised to see a record come from this location in the near future.

Anglers in these locations will periodically find permit tailing on the flats in 1 to 2 feet of water. A far more common way to find permit is to go looking for sting rays feeding in 2 to 3 feet of water. Permit are intelligent, opportunistic feeders. They will follow behind sting rays, using the rays to flush out crabs and shrimp which the permit will then



eat before the ray has a chance to get its meal. Cayo Largo is the best location in the world for finding big permit on the backs of rays and the guides are experts at reading the water and tides in order to find this unique phenomenon. Fifteen to 25 pound permit are commonly found feeding on the backs or rays at Cayo Largo, so if you are dreaming of landing a big permit, Cayo Largo is the destination of choice.

Cuba's south coast permit can also be found swimming with large schools of bonefish. This scenario presents its own set of challenges because bonefish will often take the fly before the permit has a chance to eat it, unless the fly is cast to just the right location. This kind of precise angling will get your heart pounding and put all your fly fishing skills to the test.



## BONEFISH

### AMAZING COMBATIVE FISH

The bonefish weighs up to 19 lb (8.6 kg) and measures up to 90 cm (35 in) long. The color of bonefish can range from very silver sides and slight darker backs to olive green backs that blend to the silver side. Slight shading on the scales often lead to very soft subtle lines that run the flank of the fish from the gills to the tail. The bases of the pectoral fins are sometimes yellow.

An amphidromous species, it lives in inshore tropical waters and moves onto shallow mudflats to feed with the incoming tide. Adults and juveniles may shoal together, and they may be found singly or in pairs.

The Bonefish prefers areas of shallow water along the coast. It can be located in depths between centimeters and 2 meters. Normally, it is possible to see them swim in schools of fish with numbers between 4 and 20. This grand specimen has a solitary life. They are fish that reproduce throughout the year in open waters. Nevertheless they return quickly to the coast. They are fish that have a great tolerance to waters with little oxygen since they have a biofunctional characteristic that allows them to do so.

The Bonefish must never be fought with extreme force, since this could break the line. The fisherman must finesse the fight and tire but not exhaust the fish, so he can be released unharmed to swim another day.

## OTHER SPECIES



### Jack Crevalle and Horse Eye

Jacks are wonderful game fish, and are very abundant in the JDR. It is common to see a school of big jacks patrolling the flats, eating everything in sight. Many of these fish are in the fifteen to twenty pound class with some right up to the thirty pound mark. They look somewhat like the permit, being in the same family, but Jacks are one of the most aggressive feeders on the flats and very easy to catch in relation to permit. As a bonus, the Horse Eye jacks make wonderful sashimi back on the boat before dinner.



### Cudas and Sharks

Big Cudas are plentiful around all the bonefish flats. Most will be three to four feet long, and will give any fly angler a terrific fight. Their aggressive take is exciting and few fish can swim faster or jump farther than a big barracuda. They are easy to catch on the many good needlefish patterns, using a wire leader.



### Snook

A snook creates incredible fighting power with a wide swooping tail which it will use to try and return deep into the mangroves when it is hooked. An angler has to fight tooth and nail to keep one of these warriors from cutting itself free, one way or the other. Therefore, we power up with heavy leaders, large arbor reels, and nine and ten weight rods in order to generate enough force to give the angler an advantage in the fighting arena. Nevertheless, they are full of stamina and grit, fighting ,til the very end. In the winter, snook flood the backwaters and offshore reefs, seeking creature comforts while continuing their terror tactics on just about any fish or crustacean that will fit within their maw. When a severe cold front pushes the freezing mark, they become lethargic zombies-yellow-and-white submarines listing on their sides. On the warmer days, snook move from the deep water to the nearby flats. Many times, it's the tiny bay anchovy that suffers their ravenous wrath a hundredfold. As spring approaches, their thoughts turn to food, then love, like an awakening bear fresh from winter slumber. They stake out the channels and cuts through the flats, popping pinfish and sand perch. The fish feed voraciously, building up their fat supplies for the summer, when they'll mass in huge schools at inlets, passes and along the beach for a warm-water "Love Connection."



### Mutton Snappers

Mutton Snappers are everywhere in the JDR, and plenty are found and caught on the flats - a real rarity. This is perhaps the best (and only) place in the world where you can expect to catch mutton snappers on the flats. They are high powered fish that will pull with dogged determination, especially when the safety of the mangrove roots is within sight. Mutton snappers are extremely wary when out on the flats, but if you can get the right cast in there without spooking them, they are suckers for taking a fly. Most muttons caught on a fly run between three and eight pounds, but fish up to fifteen pounds are a distinct possibility.



### Other Fish

Anglers that want to try fly fishing off the reef will find it possible to encounter a variety of hard fighting species of fish. Various snappers including the huge Cubera Snapper are present as well as groupers, jacks, kingfish, albacore, wahoo, and bonito and big cudas. One group of visiting anglers caught twenty five different species of fish off the reef-in one day!

## CONTACT

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