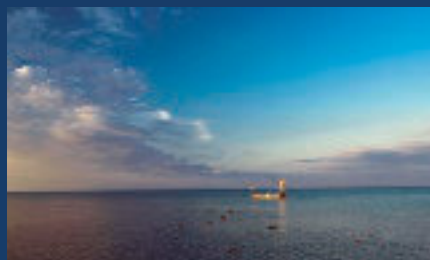




JARDINES AVALON IV (NT)

AVALONOUTDOOR.COM



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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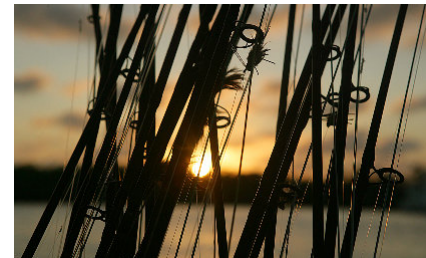
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CUBA



Area 109,884 km² (42,426 sq mi)
Area rank 104th
Length 1,250 km (777 mi)
Width 191 km (118.7 mi)
Coastline 5,746 km (3,570.4 mi)
Highest elevation 1,974 m (6,476 ft)

www.avalonoutdoor.com

 Protected areas

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.

Our live aboard options are as follows: The Jardines Avalon IV (NT), our spacious floating hotel, (up to 8 skiffs), Jardines Avalon F I (up to 5 skiffs), Jardines Avalon F II (up to 6 skiffs), Jardines Avalon III (up to 8 skiffs) and for smaller groups, we offer La Perola (up to 3 skiffs).

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, Jardines Avalon III or La Perola you will board your mothership vessel at Jucaro port. Guests that will be on the Jardines Avalon IV for the week must arrive to Camaguey, Santa Clara or Cayo Coco airports in the morning on Saturday for transfer to Jucaro



port where they will board the transfer ferry for a quick, three hour transfer to Tortuga that leaves promptly at 2pm. If guests are arriving in the afternoon, they must arrive on Friday.

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 season in the Jardines de la Reina is YEAR ROUND. Our weeks on board the yachts run from Saturday to Saturday. Our normal fishing program includes five full days of fishing and one half to three quarter days of fishing on Friday before you return to the mainland for your final night aboard your vessel in Jucaro. On the Jardines Avalon IV (NT), you will stay aboard the vessel Friday evening and return to Jucaro port on Saturday morning for the transfer to your airport of departure.





BLUE SANCTUARY AND GARDENS OF THE QUEEN

Blue Sanctuary has been working with partners in the Jardines de la Reina Archipelago for the past 27+ years. This is the largest no take marine preserve in the Caribbean, to focus on research, management and economic issues related to what are considered the most healthy and extensive coral reefs in the Caribbean region. We are working closely with the Cuban Center for Coastal Ecosystems and Marine Research Center of Cuba to better study the natural resources of the region while also assessing their economic and social values.

Project Gardens of the Queen is a comprehensive, aggressive and forward-looking program to research and protect the unique and pristine ecosystems of Jardines de la Reina. This research ensures that these protections will endure in perpetuity, serve as a compelling model for marine protected areas worldwide, dramatically advance human understanding of how healthy coral reef ecosystems function, and yield critical insights to inform management decisions for protecting coral reefs globally.

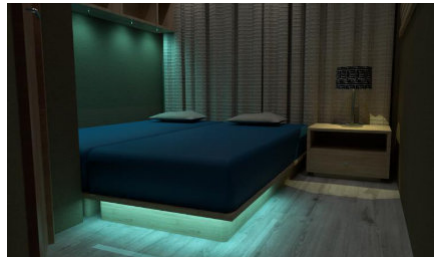
Furthermore, this ecosystem and educational research model is bringing Americans and Cubans closer together. Former fishermen and their families are now employed in diving and fly fishing operations. Through this they are continually creating human connections by educating visiting ecotourists creating a sustainable way of life; which in turn, is fostering future generations of stewards in this marine park.



A NEW LEVEL OF LUXURY IN JARDINES DE LA REINA

It has been an initiative of Avalon over the last decade to ensure the comfort of our guests and the luxury of the experiences in Jardines de la Reina by continually upgrading our yachts. In 2019, we released the Jardines Avalon III at 160 feet with the most updated amenities and highest level of comforts with 15 cabins and an incredible cruising ability. This vessel has set the standard for our newest project to be released in August 2020, the Jardines Avalon IV (NT).

The former Tortuga has developed a strong following as our floating hotel in Jardines. Many anglers, divers, and eco adventurers have called this special place home for weeks on end, enjoying the classic comforts of this Cuban vessel. Now, with an increased demand for updates and higher levels of comfort and service, Avalon has invested in a massive improvement in building a Jardines Avalon IV (NT) from the hull up.

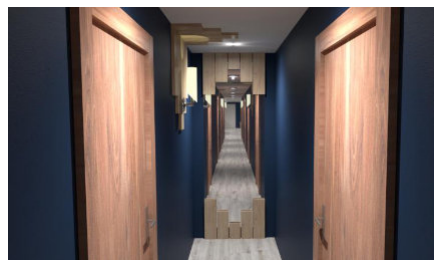


YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME IN CUBA'S MOST REMOTE ARCHIPIELAGO

This amazing 180 foot vessel will be permanently moored in Jardines de la Reina and will feature 20 staterooms, a spacious lounge, a modern dining room, and a sun deck to enjoy every aspect of the Gardens of the Queen. Each room will include personalized air conditioning and heating controls, ample storage space, and convertible double beds.

The Jardines Avalon IV (NT) will be the perfect base of operations for your week of fly fishing, diving, eco adventuring, and experiencing the pristine nature of Jardines de la Reina through your conservation workshop program. Come join us in Cuba!

THE JARDINES AVALON IV (NT) IS QUITE COMFORTABLE AND SPACIOUS



The helm deck includes four suites with balconies as well as a delightful jacuzzi and sun deck to enjoy the incredible views.

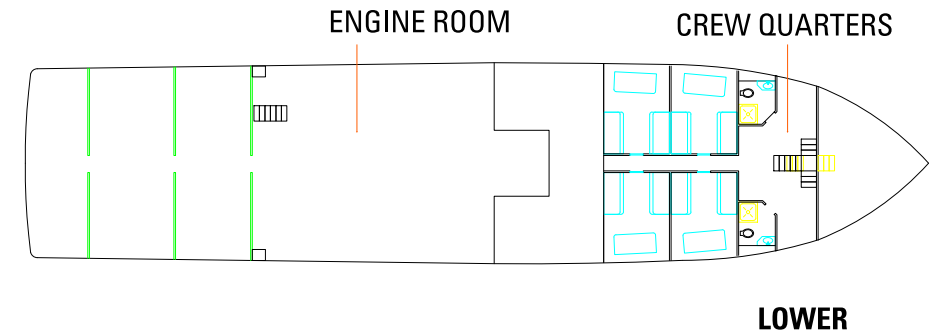
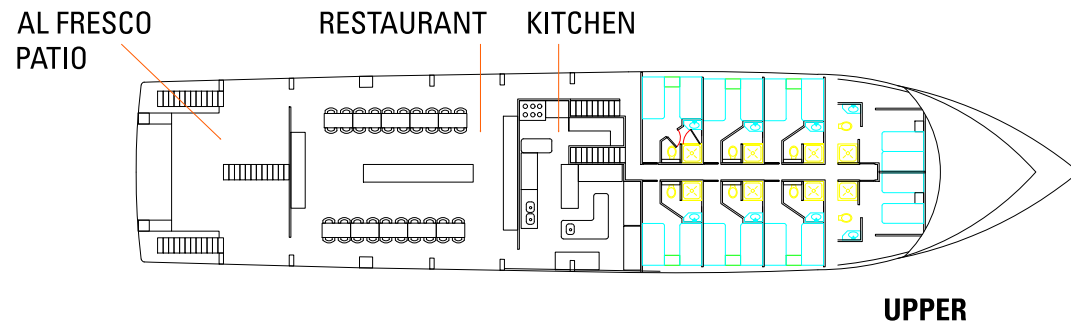
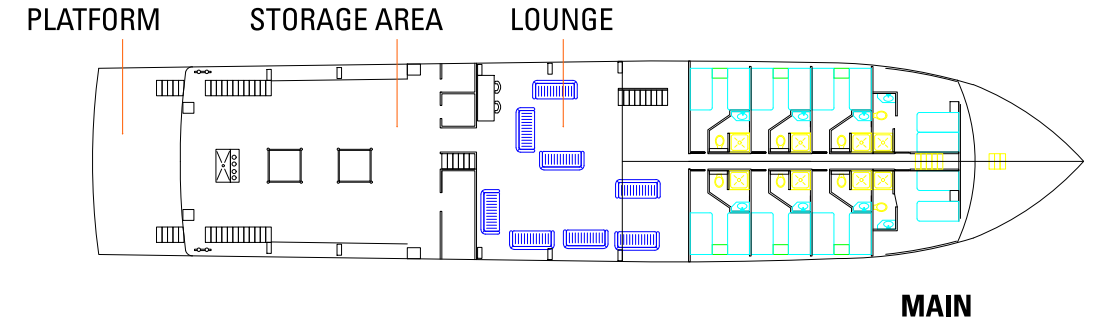
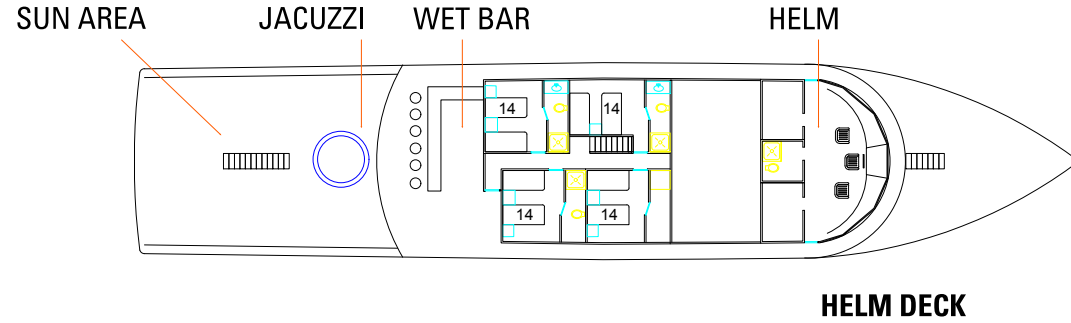
The upper deck includes eight double rooms with private bathrooms as well as a lovely dining area and rear patio.

The main deck includes another eight double rooms, a comfortable lounge area with large couches and areas to relax. This is the main entrance area to the yacht and features a massive rear deck and platform to keep all of your gear organized and access easy.

The lower deck is where the crew resides along with the engine room powering this incredible vessel.

Specifics

- 180" feet long
- 30" feet wide
- Engine 2 Caterpillar 1500 BHP
- 3 gen set
- 3 water maker
- 3 AC Chiller
- Water cooler
- 4 dive compressors





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 of 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.



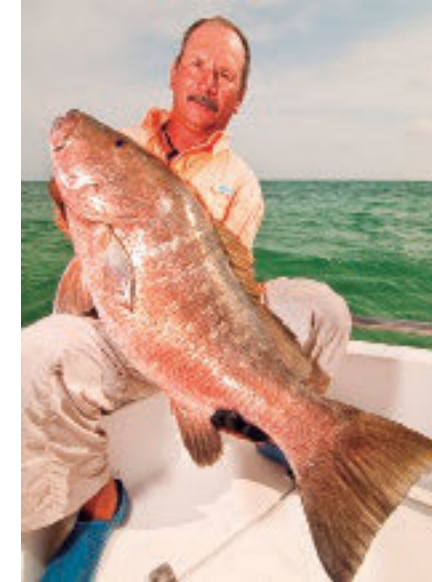
Snook

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!

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