



cubanfishingcenters



2010 season
cubanfishingcenters.com

CUBA

CUBA

Cuba is the largest island in the West Indies and includes the island of Cuba, the Isle of Youth (also known as Isle of Pines), and over 4,000 keys and islets with more than 200 bays and over 300 natural beaches. The population of Cuba is approximately 11,000,000 inhabitants, Havana being the capital.

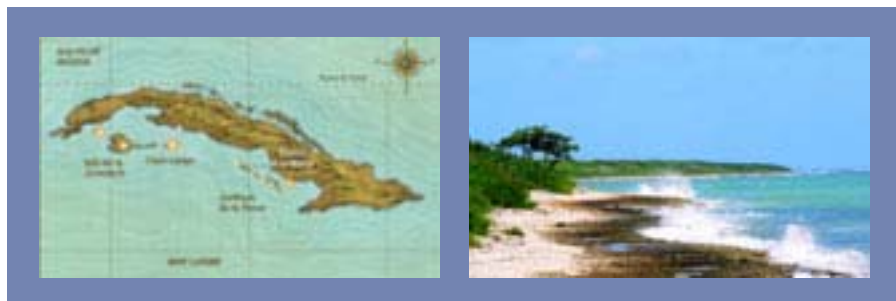
Royal palm trees, coconut palms, sugarcane, and tropical fruit trees are all common to the island. Cuba features some of the richest flora in the world. With about 900 different kinds of fish and 400 kinds of birds, there are no animals that represent a danger to humans.

Sugarcane is the number one crop. Other crops include tobacco, citrus fruit, and coffee. Cuba has the world's largest open-pit ore deposits for nickel mining.

Education is free at all levels. According to the Cuban government, illiteracy has been completely eradicated. Cuba has dozens of centers for higher learning. There are universities or faculty departments, high schools, special schools for the handicapped and technical schools.

Cuba's health-care system is unmatched elsewhere in Latin America. It fully covers the needs of the country's citizens. Medical care is free for all Cubans. Cuba has the lowest infant mortality rate in Latin America and one of the lowest in the world: 1 per 1,000 live births. The life expectancy rate is around 75 years.

Cuban life is characterized by a wide variety of cultural activities. Literature, fine arts, cinema, ballet, contemporary dance and drama have all provided Cuban culture with internationally renowned figures.



CUBA

Cuban food is the result of a synthesis of Spanish and African culinary traditions, to which Chinese elements were added in the late nineteenth century.

Ajiaco is the national dish: a thick soup made with meat (especially pork), along with different kinds of edible vegetable roots and stems. The taste will depend on the vegetables used, and the seasoning.

Other typical Cuban dishes include:

Lechon asado en pala - broiled pork cooked on a stick over an open fire

Tachinos, chatinos or tostones - fried unripe sliced bananas

Frijoles negros dormidos - very thickly cooked black beans

Congrí oriental - a combination of rice and red kidney beans

Moros y cristianos - rice and black beans

Picadillo a la habanera - Havana mincemeat

The excellence of Cuban rum, a product of its unique aging process, has made Cuban cocktails a perennial favorite the world over. Old-gold dry and extra-aged rums are best for drinking straight up or on the rocks. For cocktails, light dry and silver dry are ideal. The most famous Cuban cocktails served in most bars are Cuba Libre, Mojito, Daiquiri, Daiquiri Mulata, Havana Special, Piña Colada, Cubanito, Isla de Pinos (Isle of Pines), Presidente, Saoco, and Cuba Bella.

With an average water temperature of 26° degrees Celsius (79° F), you will discover the best possible swimming conditions. Above all, you will enjoy the transparent Cuban waters with AVALON CUBAN FISHING and DIVING CENTERS for fishing, scuba diving or snorkeling and the rich nature of the country's coral barrier reefs, which can be compared to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Cuba's beach season lasts all year long, a never-ending summer from January to December.

All of these characteristics have contributed to highlighting the exceptional subtropical natural elements that provide Cuba with a truly marvelous landscape. Just turn a corner and you might be amazed to find a green valley flecked with red soil. Further on ahead, a cluster of hills with crystal clear streams cascading into sparkling waterfalls.

See more of Cuba at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/cuba.php>



HAVANA

Aside from its famous Old City, Havana also has a fascinating modern section that began to grow quickly at the start of 20th century. Here you will discover houses of a unique eclecticism and tall buildings, products of Havana's contemporary vitality.

Of all the suburban neighborhoods that make up this other Havana, the "Vedado" is the one preferred by everybody, Cubans and foreigners alike. Along their streets you will find the greatest number of theaters, art galleries, movies, cultural institutions, specialized restaurants, cafes, bars, and entertainment hotspots.

Its main artery is 23rd Street, best known as "La Rampa", where you have to pay attention as you walk down the streets, because there is art under your feet, traditional works of art on tiles of multicolored granite that renowned Cuban artists such as Wifredo Lam, Rene Portocarrero and Amelia Pelez, among others, decided to offer the general public as a means of beautifying 500 meters of sidewalk.

But there is another Havana, a nocturnal Havana, for all those wishing to discover the good vibrations of music that moves even the most rigid hips and reluctant spirits to be enjoyed, in discos and night clubs such as the Tropicana, the mythical cabaret under the stars, most coveted for its breathtaking shows and its rumba-dancing beauties who defy the sky when they emerge dancing from the trees. And what can one say about Havana's famous rum, savored straight or on the rocks or mixed in fabulous cocktails, renowned as the best in the world.

Of course we can't forget Cuba's world famous writer Ernest Hemingway, his country house (La Vigia) in San Francisco de Paula, on the outskirts of Havana, has been preserved exactly as the great American writer left it when he went on his final trip and is now a museum. Every single object, souvenir, hunting trophy, book and piece of furniture has been zealously preserved as an important part of the cultural heritage of Cuba and the world.

Intro to <http://www.sanchopanza.com/cuba.htm>



Hotel Parque Central – where Avalon books Havana Hotel Rooms before and after fishing weeks. Pick ups on Saturday mornings are from the lobby of this hotel.



ACCOMODATION

at AVALON FISHING CENTERS

ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD

Hotel Rancho

The Hotel Rancho El Tesoro is located on the outskirts of Gerona, the Isle of Youth's largest city of 75,000 people. "Hotel Rancho" offers comfortable accommodations for our anglers with large single rooms for each angler. Each room has excellent beds, good AC, lots of storage space and excellent showers with plenty of hot water.

Your maids will clean your room each day and will also do laundry for you if you'd like. (Please leave a suitable tip for these extra services) Security at the hotel is excellent and the front desk is open on a 24 hour basis. Telephone service is available to anywhere in the world and there is Internet service for hotel guests.

Anglers staying at Hotel Rancho have their own private dining room, exclusive from the other hotel guests as well as their own private chef and wait staff. The dining room is air-conditioned and used not only for meals but also as a place to relax before dinner with that perfect Mojito and perhaps a classic Cuban Cigar. Meals are superb, with a combination of classic Cuban dishes like smoked pork, chicken, black bean soup, rice and beans. Fresh fish like mutton snapper and grouper are also available and the French Fries are out of this world. Salads with fresh tomatoes and other vegetables are served with olive oil and Balsamic Vinegar dressing. Our chef is always happy to prepare sashimi from freshly caught fish of the day. Evening meals feature several different entrees, and our chef has often been accused of preparing enough food for twice the number of people we'll have at the table. We can promise you that no one will go hungry while staying at the Hotel Rancho! .

Taxi service is available for the short ride into Nueva Gerona. The people are friendly and it is fun to walk along the city streets in order to see what life is like in a typical Cuban city that is far different than Havana. There are several good bars where you can enjoy a Cuba Libre or a fine Mojito, and even a couple of discos where you'll enjoy the infectious beat of the hottest sounds in Latin music. Rental cars are also available to tourists by the day or week.

See more of Hotel Rancho at: http://cubanfishingcenters.com/hotel_rancho.php



ACCOMODATION

at AVALON FISHING CENTERS

ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD

Perola

Our luxury yacht will take you to the most remote and pristine flats off the Isle of Youth. This is an exceptional and exclusive destination. The Perola is a classy 75-foot luxury live-aboard yacht that we utilize for weekly trips to the most remote areas of the Canarreos Archipelago, the world famous chain of islands that runs eighty miles from the Isle of Youth to Cayo Largo. We'll stop off at selected anchorages like Cayo Campo, The Cantilles islands and finally Cayo Rosario, which is renowned for some of the most outstanding flats fishing in all of Cuba. 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.

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!

See more of Perola at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/perola.php>



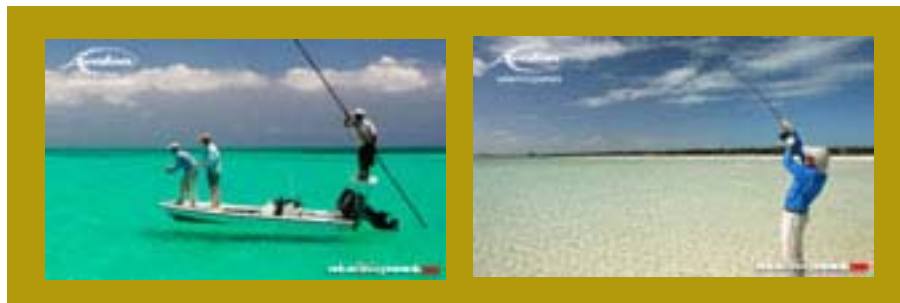
FISHING

In Cuba with Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers

Fishing in Cuba is a permanent delight and a mixture of incomparable sensations on the hour, in the exclusive fishing centers of AVALON (hyperlink to www.cubanfishingcenters.com) at Jardines de la Reina (Gardens of the Queen), Isla de la Juventud (Island of Youth), Cayo Largo (Long Key) and South Ana Maria. 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 possibility 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 to be able to choose the place where you want to fish, and challenge the species you want and do so accompanied by the most experienced and knowledgeable guides, who spend almost 250 days every year guiding visitors and who 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 Lemons.

See more of Fishing in Cuba at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/flyfishing.php>



FISHING

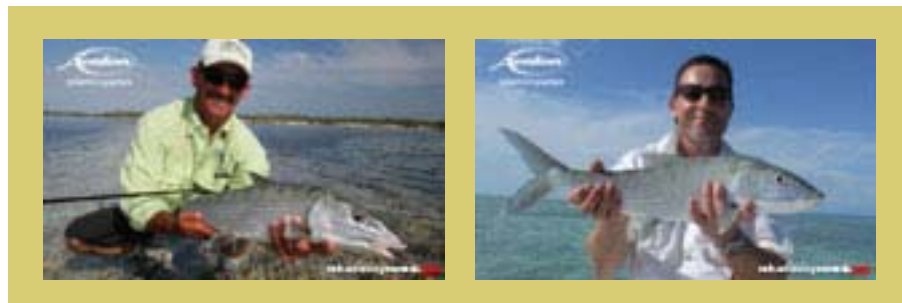
In Cuba with Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers

Bonefish or Macabi

The Bonefish prefers zones of low depth along the coast. It can especially 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 very 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 a 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 be fought by mastering, never with extreme force, since this could break the line in the act. The skill of the fisherman must be present so the Bonefish manages to generate the race and fight necessary, tiring it with appropriate patience.

See more of BONEFISH in Cuba at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/bonefish.php>



FISHING

In Cuba with Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers

Tarpon or Sabalo

Brutal it is the right word to describe fly fishing for Tarpon. The King of Silver has an insatiable appetite, and has a violent behavior, biting with power, and shows resistance and acrobatic qualities which make it the perfect adversary to a fly rod.

For fishing Tarpon or Sabalo - as it is known in Cuba, can be divided in three categories: Baby Tarpon (those that they 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 surpass the incredible mark of 200 Lbs). Obviously, these last ones are searched for, but unfortunately are much less common.

When nearing a school of Tarpon, unfailingly legs shake and a matchless sensation of adrenalin invades the body, while holding a heavy #11 or #12 rod in hand, anticipating a battle with one of these marine monsters. The sighting plays a preponderant role, since the fisherman identifies the school of fish and with a precise movement the angler must reach the school of Tarpons that move slowly in a movement of rotation-transferring to within meters of the boat. At all times it is important to control the nervousness and never feel intimidated by the extraordinary presence of these beasts. The beginning road to success is to be precise, since the violent reaction of the Tarpon when feeling the fly in its mouth allows one to achieve an effective catch, always maintaining the rod low to avoid any rupture, allowing the angler a new chance when maintaining the fly in the line of sight of the Tarpon in case the nailed one is not effective.

It is a difficult sensation to describe with words

See more of TARPON in Cuba at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/tarpon.php>



FISHING

In Cuba with Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers

Permit or Palometa

To guarantee success when fly fishing for permit, is something that we simply cannot do. This wonderful fish is the ultimate flats challenge and many fly fishermen have been taken to school by this weary 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 with.

Fly fishing for Permit is extremely challenging and the odds are often stacked against the intrepid anglers who look 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 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.

See more of PERMIT at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/permit.php>



FISHING

In Cuba with Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers

Besides the mentioned species you will be able to fish other ones like Snappers, Jacks, Snooks Barracudas, Needlefish or the combative and voracious Lemons.



The fishing day in Avalon begins at dawn. Your crew will wake you up and invite you to a delicious breakfast, including the freshest tropical fruits. After breakfast, your guide will be expecting you to start your fishing day. At noon you will have the possibility to relax and enjoy a lunch on one of the heavenly local beaches. Then off to taking up fishing again with force. At sunset, you will return to your boat where you will be delighted with a typical drink and appetizers recently prepared by the crew members. At night, dinner offers plenty of seafood, and the possibility of being a guest of honor with some recently trapped lobster - all prepared in the most diverse and original ways by your chef.

All the live aboards include air conditioning and private bathrooms, which will allow you rest and recuperate to regain strength overnight in order to enjoy this tropical paradise during the day.

See more on other species at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/otherspecies.php>



ENVIRONMENT

This it is without doubts one of the points you will enjoy most, your eyes will be delighted with the various colors that this Caribbean water offers, coasts of different and white sand tones of a crystalline sea, since the blue intense one on the deep zones passing for the inequable tone that the funds of choirs offers, to the unmistakable color of the flats of sand near the coasts, where you will appreciate the incomparable underwater life that this region offers. The fishermen often we feel hypnotized and fascinated by the "sound of the silence", somewhat frequent by these spots, where you will only hear the noise of waves, or some dolphin that greets you near the skiff, of the amazing noise of your spool yielding line during the long races of some bonefish or permit, or of the marvelous crash produced by some tarpon that delights us and trembles with its numerous and acrobatic leaps after being hooked. Nothing of horns, engines or cell phones, only you, the nature and the adrenaline of fishing. allow you rest and recuperate to regain strength overnight in order to enjoy this tropical paradise during the day.

WEATHER

The Cuban weather is pleasant most of the year, the temperatures oscillate 25°C in the day with a light descent during the nights, most of the day the breeze appeases the strong sun but likewise we recommend to carry a good solar protection as well as repellent blocker for mosquito's, because in the afternoons they usually hound us for some minutes and is convenient to be prepared.

See more on environment at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/environment.php>



SKIFFS

We use Dolphin Super skiffs at all our Avalon flats fishing destinations. The last one acquired was a new Dolphin 16 foot Super Skiff Pro. The original Dolphin Super Skiff has been a favorite of Florida bonefish guides for thirty years! It was the first skiff designed specifically for poling shallow flats that also had the ability to handle long runs in open bays through heavy chop and still provide a smooth ride for the guide and clients. The hull is designed with enough deep V to slice through the waves, turn and handle beautifully yet with a draft of only 8 inches, it's a skiff the guides can pole on the shallowest bonefish flats.

Dolphin's Super Skiff has been the choice of the finest lodges in the Caribbean for many years and has earned its reputation as the safest, quietest, stealthiest, best handling flats skiff on the planet!

We set up our Super Skiffs with the client's comfort in mind. There is a lot of storage space for your rods and all your gear is stowed in a forward hatch where it will remain dry and keep the boat uncluttered. We also utilize a removable aluminum "leaning post" on the bow that give clients a very secure and comfortable way to stand up and fish in the roughest of conditions. They also greatly minimize the fatigue of fishing all day, especially for older anglers. They are easily removable for anglers that prefer to fish without them. Coolers are provided with plenty of ice, drinks and a great lunch for a day on the flats.

Our Super Skiffs have enough gasoline capacity (27 gallons) to be able to run very long distances in a day so that you can cover as much water as possible and still have an adequate amount of gas to get you home. There are no fuel limitations when you fish with Avalon - We don't skimp on gas either like other lodges – you can run just as far as you would like to get to those far-off flats that often produce the finest fishing.

We equip our Super Skiffs with Yamaha 60/70 HP motors, one of the finest and most reliable outboard motors in existence. They allow the Dolphins to cross vast distances with a minimum of time so that you can maximize your fishing time! And of course all our skiffs are equipped with poling platforms that allow the guides to pole the boat quietly and precisely, while giving them the best possible view of approaching fish so that they can put you in the best position to maximize every opportunity.

Radio and life jacket are aboard every boat.

See more on skiffs at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/skiff.php>



STAFF

The Avalon guides and crew spend about 250 days every year on the sea, giving them solid experience about every need, expectation and anxiety you may have. The crew, captain, and guide, begin working before you arrive until after all guests have left their company and they are there for your every need 24 hours a day. The guides are specialists in fly fishing, spinning and bait casting and they will be there to assist you at all times, making your fishing trip an experience of a lifetime. The crew members are in charge of the ship, the food, room cleaning and general maintenance, so you should not be worried at all by any of these needs.

