



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.

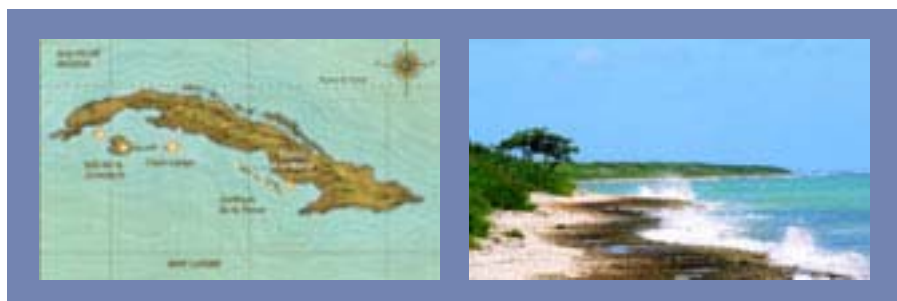
Royal palm trees, coconut palms, sugarcane, and tropical fruit trees are all common to the island. Cuba features some of the richest flora in the world. With about 900 different kinds of fish and 400 kinds of birds, there are no animals that represent a danger to humans.

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

JARDINES DE LA REINA

Avalon Fleet I

Avalon Fleet I is an intimate, comfortable and 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 16 passengers (maximum of 8 anglers) and 8 crew members. The design and interior decoration give the yacht a touch of purity, intimacy, refinement, sense of warmth and simplicity, with a perfect balance between 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.

The Mother ship's cabins have been built with extreme care, emphasizing the importance of comfort and safety above all else. You'll also find an exquisite décor and refined taste, so you definitely won't miss anything from home. You'll also feel our warm and attentive service during your trip.

There are 8 deluxe king cabins, each cabin has a private bathroom with air conditioning and heat controls, electricity plugs, as well as storage in drawers. Each room has panoramic windows to enjoy the breathtaking view on the caribbean beaches.

There is a spacious and comfortable combination lounge, dining room and bar area in the boat deck. This is where you would do much of your socializing and eat your meals. The setting is casual and filled with fun and entertainment. In this area you can find a swimming pool, DVD's and music to complement your stay.

In cabins and common areas there are electric sockets available for you to plug in your personal items (220 volts and 110 volts).

The Avalon Fleet I is heaven on earth. We offer queen size beds, hot tub, lounge to make you feel at home with excellent visual/audio equipment and of course the amazing Cuban gastronomy that we will treat you to throughout your entire stay, served with international wines and local liquors and desserts.

See more of Avalon Fleet I at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/avalonfleet1.php>



ACCOMODATION

at AVALON FISHING CENTERS

JARDINES DE LA REINA

La Tortuga

While you are our guest in Los Jardines de la Reina, accommodations are provided primarily on 3 large live-aboard boats or on our original 110-foot double deck houseboat, the Tortuga. 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 2008 this was a major rebuild with a total cost of 1.5 million Usd. The guest cabins on the upper level all have their own bathroom 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 and 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 after a day of fishing. 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.

Dining on board combines the flair of the best Continental Italian cuisine, wonderful fresh seafood every day and traditional Cuban favorites like rice and beans, black bean soup and fried bananas. Beverages available on board include bottled water, Mineral and Tonic water, various soft drinks, beer, rum and excellent wines. If you prefer liquor other than rum, you can bring this with you and our bartender will have whatever mixers you need.

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 you have wireless capability with your laptop or other device.

See more of Tortuga at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/tortuga.php>



ACCOMODATION

at AVALON FISHING CENTERS

JARDINES DE LA REINA

Halcón

The Halcon is our recently refurbished luxury yacht with a storied past. Seventy-Five feet in length, it is powered with two GM 450 hp diesel engines. Below decks you will find six cabins with private bathrooms. It is perfect for groups of eight to ten anglers. The ability of the Halcon to travel allows anglers to fish the more remote parts of the Jardines de la Reina, and explore flats where the fish have rarely seen anglers and are easier to catch. But best of all is that anglers on the Halcon get in a lot more quality fishing time each day. You are minutes away from many of the very best flats so there is far less running time in the skiffs and more fishing time for everyone. Since you are fishing flats that are often ten minutes from where the Halcon is anchored this makes it very pleasant to come back to eat a wonderful lunch aboard and then even catch a little nap before heading back to the flats. Since the run back to the Halcon in the evening is short, it allows anglers to fish very late, almost until dark. Since it is often calm late in the day, it is always easy to find and catch some very large bonefish that become a lot easier to fool once the sun starts to go down.

All of the Halcon cabins have excellent A/C, comfortable beds and a surprising amount of storage space for your clothing and gear. Good showers with plenty of hot water make things comfortable at the end of a long fishing day. On the main deck is a large salon, which is fully air-conditioned with comfortable couches making it the perfect place to relax with a cocktail, before dinner. The salon is equipped with a TV, DVD and a good sound system that allows people to either watch movies or for anglers to hook up their video cameras and have fun watching the exciting fishing videos shot by their friends earlier that day.

The Captain on the Halcon has many good protected spots in the island system that make for a perfect anchorage yet are close to some of the very best fishing flats. Cachi Boca is one of the best, about twenty miles or so East of the Tortuga. Here we position the Halcon in the well-protected back bay of a large channel. In selected spots like this it is easy to keep the yacht far enough from mangrove islands to eliminate any bug problems, and in a spot where there is little more than a chop on the water even with hard wind. We try to maximize angler comfort and eliminate any problems with seasickness. The gentle rocking and rolling you experience will lull you to sleep at the end of a long day.

See more of Halcon at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/halcon.php>



ACCOMODATION

at AVALON FISHING CENTERS

JARDINES DE LA REINA

Caballones

Excellent yacht angling adventure, ideal for groups of six to eight.

The guides stay on aboard the Caballones during the week, in the crew quarters, near the bow of the boat. This ensures the privacy and comfort of our guests on board, while ensuring as flexible a fishing schedule as possible. By having the guides and skiffs travel with the Caballones, this gives us the ability to cruise around the huge islands system in order to find the best fishing. This is the key to the popularity of the Caballones and our other live-aboard yachts. The yacht is ideal for a group of 6 to 8 anglers, with three to four guides and their skiffs, available at all times.

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The Caballones is one of our superb yachts located in the pristine Jardines de la Reina eco system. The yacht is ideally suited for those guests who want to try all kind of fishing techniques, from fly fishing to spin fishing, trolling along the reef and bottom fishing.

See more of Caballones at: <http://cubanfishingcenters.com/caballones.php>



ACCOMODATION

at AVALON FISHING CENTERS

JARDINES DE LA REINA

La Reina

La Reina is a comfortable yacht, fully refurbished at the end of the 2005 season. It is sixty-nine feet in length, fully air conditioned, with 4 double rooms and 4 bathrooms. The large upper deck, where meals are usually served, makes a fine place to relax before diner with a cocktail or a good Cuban Cigar. We installed a new water maker that allows us an unlimited amount of fresh water each day. The showers now have plenty of hot water to make the accommodations as comfortable as possible for our guests.

The chef on La Reina, as on our other yachts, goes all out to provide delicious fare for our guests. Dinners are seafood oriented with fresh mutton snapper and grouper being readily available. Other traditional Cuban entrees like chicken and pork are also part of the regular weekly menu. It is very easy for us to prepare vegetarian meals on request and the chef serves a variety of salads and fruits each day. Everyone looks forward to the desserts like our famous Cuban flan, and delicious rum cake.

The guides live aboard the La Reina along with the guests, giving us the flexibility to travel around this huge island system in order to find the absolute best fishing. This is one of the keys to the popularity of booking one of our yachts like the La Reina for your week. The ideal group of anglers is four, with two guides and two flats skiffs available at all times. For those guests that are keen to try all kinds of fishing techniques, from fly fishing to spin fishing, trolling along the reef, or bottom fishing for snapper and grouper, the La Reina is a superb choice and is the ideal setting for a smaller groups of anglers.

See more of La Reina at: http://cubanfishingcenters.com/la_reina.php



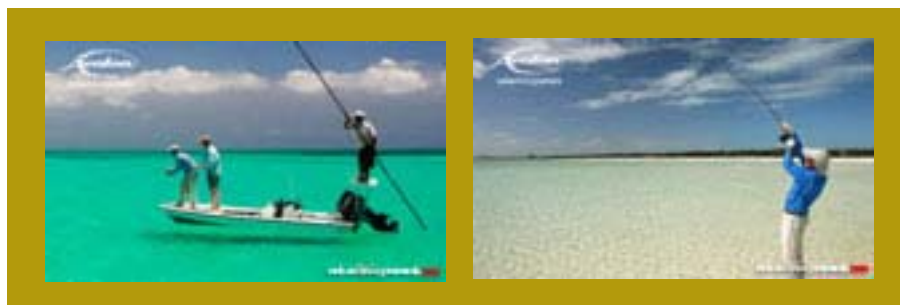
FISHING

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

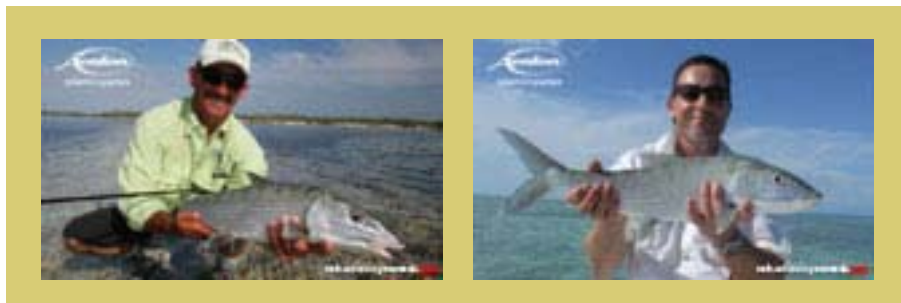
In Cuba with Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers

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 form 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.



DIVING JARDINES DE LA REINA

Imagine 250 virgin coral islands set in a sea of turquoise and jade. Los Jardines de la Reina (The Queen's Gardens)", some 60 miles off the mainland of Cuba, are a completely undeveloped natural wilderness, extending over 75 miles.

In 1996, Los Jardines de la Reina was declared a Marine Natural Park. Access is restricted and limited exclusively for Avalon Fishing and Diving Center. Commercial fishing has been banned from all but the outermost edges of the Park.

The little town of Jucaro with its old fashioned wooden houses and 2000 inhabitants is your entrance to this private world of water, fish and coral.

Aside from a stunning variety of marine life, the coral islands are home to a fascinating collection of birds and plants. Birds commonly seen include ospreys, pelicans, frigate birds, spoonbills, and many different sorts of heron and egret. The only mammal is the 'Jutia' a tree loving animal the size of a squirrel, while reptiles are represented by a large population of iguanas. The flora is mainly palm trees, differing forms of Caribbean pine trees, sea grapes and the ever present mangroves.

The 75 mile long mangrove and coral island system form what is said to be the third longest barrier reef in the world. Certainly, it is one of the last virgin reefs available to the diving world. Like so much of the Caribbean, the real beauty is below the surface. Extensive flats teem with fish. A chain of coral reefs, very close to the southern shore of the archipelago, is made up of undisturbed and undamaged coral. Mangrove roots provide an incredible nursery for the smaller fish which in turn provide the reef with huge schools of baitfish. The quantity of food attracts enormous numbers of large fish, more than anywhere else in the Caribbean. Its possible to hand feed a 200-400 lb Jewfish almost every dive.

Imagine a marine wilderness with walls covered with brightly hued sponges and corals plunging well below the limits of safe diving to shallow reefs filled with both schooling and solitary fish. The bones and maybe the booty of old Spanish galleons lie on the reefs, providing excitement for the diver and home to corals, sponges and fish.

Sharks are one of the main attractions and are everywhere. You can easily dive weekly with 5 different species of "Carcharinus"; Silky, Caribbean Reef, Lemon, Black tip, Nurse and you have chances to dive also with Whale sharks and Hammerhead sharks. The best opportunity for video and photography lovers in the Jardines is from Oct until May. Water clarity and visibility are at their peak, up to 200 feet. During summer time, June-August you will have more fish around due to the reproduction season.

Avalon Diving Center is the only operator allowed by law in this entire area and hosts no more than 350 divers a year.

See more on other species at <http://cubandivingcenters.com/destinations.php>

