



JARDINES DE LA REINA Cuba

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 transfer guest by bus from Havana to Jucaro port (5 hour drive), and then a 3-hour boat ride to final destinations which are approximately 60 miles from the Jucaro port. Here we have our floating hotel, Tortug (1-14 anglers), and 4 yachts; Avalon Fleet

I (Groups of 8 to 10 anglers), Avalon Fleet II (Groups of 10 to 12 anglers), and for smaller groups, we can offer 3 yachts,





La Reina (groups of 4), Halcon and Caballones (groups of 4 to 8 anglers). All accommodation are equipped with air conditioning, large dining areas and an exclusive crew.

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.

Lunches on board Caballones are particularly good, while we are a bit more limited in fare when making up box lunches for a full day on the water.

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 the Caballones. In Jardines, the morning winds often calm down in the afternoons, and fishing in the late afternoon can be superb, especially for bonefish. 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 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. Clients board the yachts, Sol or Mares, for the trip to the Jardines de la Reina, where they will then board the Caballones.





AVALON FLEET I
Jardines de la Reina

NEW EXCLUSIVE ACCOMMODATIONS WITH PERSONALIZED SERVICE IN THE "GARDENS OF THE QUEEN".



Both live aboards and brand new, there are intimate, comfortable and stylishly designed yachts, 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 8 crew members. We suggest between 8 and 12 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.



Avalon Fleet I has 8 deluxe king cabins, with 7 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).





AVALON FLEET II
Jardines de la Reina

NEW EXCLUSIVE ACCOMMODATIONS WITH PERSONALIZED SERVICE IN THE "GARDENS OF THE QUEEN".



Avalon II is a brand new state-of-the-art vessel, larger than Avalon I with 10 state rooms, that will start operating since April 2014. It is air conditioned with private bathrooms.

Both live aboards and brand new, there are intimate, comfortable and stylishly designed yachts, 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.

Avalon Fleet 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).



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.



HALCON
Jardines de la Reina

THE LUXURY YACHT.

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 and four bathrooms. It is perfect for groups of six to eight anglers.

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.

Meals are usually served on the afterdeck where there is normally a nice breeze. In inclement weather, the afterdeck is easily and quickly enclosed with heavy roll-down clear plastic windows. In more severe weather the air conditioned salon is utilized for our dining room.



LA REINA Jardines de la Reina

THE PERFECT YACHT FOR SMALLER GROUPS.

La Reina is a comfortable yacht, fully refurbished at the end of the 2008 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. The showers now have plenty of hot water to make the accommodations as comfortable as possible for our guests.



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.

CABALLONES

Jardines de la Reina

CABALLONES
JARDINES DE LA REINA

OUR RECENTLY REFURBISHED YACHT IS IDEAL FOR GROUPS OF FOUR TO SIX ON AN ANGLING ADVENTURE.



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.



It can accommodate groups from 4 to 6 anglers, and sometimes bigger crews of 8 anglers.



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, a place where you can wade miles of white-sand flats in your bare feet for big bonefish, a place where you'll find enough big tarpon, jacks, cudas, and sharks on the flats to wear you out!

FISHING IN 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 or lodges where you are often limited to six or eight 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.



SPINNING

Light

Bonefish, Yellowtail Snappers, Cubera Snappers, King Mackerel, Schoolmasters, and all sorts of youngsters of the different species can be included in this category. The perfect (almost) match could be a (6 or 7 ft) rod, fast action, lure 1 / 4 to 5 / 8 oz line 6-17lb. A travel pole is suggested, I Doubt that you want to carry around one of those large rod cases. If you can break it into 3 pieces, this is great. Otherwise, you can do as well with a 2 piece rod. For this lighter outfit you might want to use an 8 to 10 lb mono, maybe tied to a 20 lb leader. The use of braided lines with such light lures is not recommended and the use of a thin mono will not affect your casting distance. The reel size should be around 2 or 3.000

JARDINES DE LA REINA IS THE ONLY FISHING DESTINATION WHERE YOU CAN USE SPINNING GEAR



Light Lures

We suggest a nice selection of jig heads with grubs and other soft plastic lures. If is Bones you're after, don't bring very bright colors because they won't take it, a limited selection of natural pattern grubs will do the trick. As far as the other critters you can use a wide array of different artificials, from soft plastic, to plugs to poppers or walkers. We do pretty well with the likes of Yo-Zuri Hydro Tiger and Crystal Minnows, Rapala Suspending Jerk, Skitter Pop and Skitter Walk, Mirrolure Top Dog Jr. and Catch 2.000, Excalibur Spit'n' Image and Pop'n' Image and Super Spook Jr. The sizes should range between 2.7 and 4 inches. Natural colors do well, but the guy who's writing this has a particular love for yellowish things.

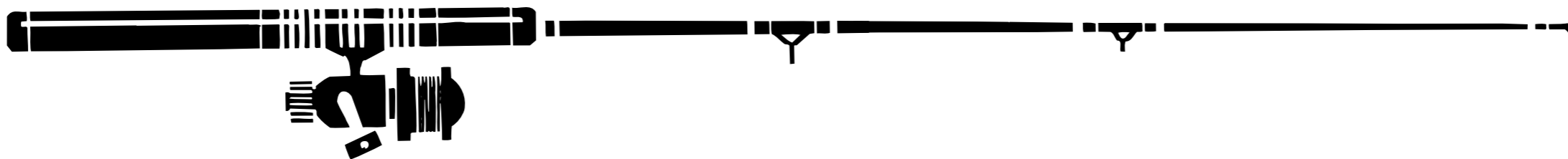


Medium

Jacks (Crevalle, Horse Eye, Yellow), Cudas, Kingfish, Snappers (Mutton, Dog, Mangrove, Cubera), Groupers, Blackfin Tunas, Albacores. This bunch of bad boys will represent 70% of your daily catch and if some of them will be so kind as to pull straight and won't try to tangle the line in the reef. Others won't be so polite, so you'd better be ready. A stout 7' rod, rated for 10-25lb line and 1 to 2.5 oz lures is your weapon. Match it with a 4.000 size reel and # 20 to # 30lb test braided. You won't regret the advantage of its non-stretch qualities and you will be able to spool more yards of line on your reel. A mono leader is very much recommended, a couple feet of 40 to 80 lb test, your choice. A piece of wire wouldn't be a bad idea either.

Medium Lures

POPPERS! Sorry for the enthusiasm but as far as your humble writer is concerned I would just bring a good bunch of 5 to 8 inches surface bricks and a handful of Jigs. Hab's Perfect Poppers and Perfect Squids, High Tide Exploders, Rapala Skitter Pop, Yo-Zuri Surface Cruiser and Hydro Tiger, Gibbs Polaris Poppers in the range we mentioned before are the best bet. Put in the box also some 1 to 3 oz buck tail jigs and you're fine. If you like traditional plugs, bring those as well, they catch fish too, even though with a lesser show. Colors. Any color is fine as long as it is...yellow! Sorry, we have a monochromatic vision sometimes: bring some Parrot and Orange too, just to feel a bit more „covered“. For the jigs we had success with red/white, red/yellow, white/chartreuse, the groupers aren't very finicky though and if you find the right spot and do some deep jigging you can find yourself in a very funny situation sometimes.



Heavy

Jardines de la Reina is Cubera Snapper, s Paradise (and sharks and Goliath Grouper). The Cuberas of that evil reef range between 20 and 140 lb and I can assure you that a medium outfit, most of the times, is absolutely useless. If a 60 pounder charges your popper (yes they love poppers), 20 feet from the boat, it will peel 30 ft of # 30 lb braided in a nanosecond and next thing you hear is a very annoying „snap“. So, if you really want to target those animals you might want to bring a (7 to 9ft) rod rated for # 80lb line and able to cast 6 oz lures even though your poppers will range around 3 to 4 oz. Put in a heavy duty reel, 5.000 or 6.000, # 80 to # 100 braided line and a # 80 to # 130lb mono leader. Then you start tossing your surface lure and pray.... even with this outfit it is very easy to break ,em off. The same stuff can be used for deep jigging, there are plenty of big monsters on the reef and you definitely will need some extra help if one of these bad boys decides to have your jig for breakfast.

Heavy Lures

Big poppers and the same jigs you were using with the medium outfit. My favourites are Yo-Zuri Surface Bull (8 inches 4 oz), Gibbs Polaris Poppers (3,4 oz) and Hab's Perfect Poppers (4 oz). Remember, you can live without the heavy outfit. It's probably the least important but when you will see the copper hump coming out of the water chasing your lure, you might regret it.



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.

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

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 has the power to punch to the nearest piling with a wide, swooping tail, plus a double set of razor-sharp gill rakers. An angler has to fight tooth and nail to keep one of these fighters from cutting itself free, one way or the other. So we power up with heavy monofilament leaders, high-speed reels, braided lines and rods so thick you could remove the tips and play pool with them. And they still eat our lunch.

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 trolling off the reef with plugs, bait, and even flies encounter many other 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!