



ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD Cuba

This marine park is located at approximately the same longitude as Havana. To reach our two destinations here, Avalon flees guests out on a national airline and in only 35 minutes arrives at the main city, Nueva Gerona, then transfers them out on a short drive to Hotel Rancho (1-8 anglers) and the motherships, Georgiana and Perola (groups of 6 anglers). These are the ideal programs for fisherman with an obsession for monster Tarpon. Between March and June we have caught and released Tarpon around 100 pounds, and always exceed our expectations.





GEORGIANA Isla de la Juventud

GEORGIANA yacht, one of the latest additions on Avalon family, is a brand new, yacht, fully constructed and designed for outdoor purposes, able to take you to the most remote and pristine flats of the Island of the Youth. This is an exceptional and exclusive destination, 100 feet long with comfortable cabins and private bathrooms used for weekly trips inside the Marine Park of the Canarreos Archipelago, the world famous chain of islands that runs eighty miles from the Island of the Youth to Cayo Largo.



THE NEW ADDITION ON ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD, IDEAL FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR EXCLUSIVITY AND GREAT FISHING.



It can accommodate groups of 6 anglers in exclusivity, in 6 deluxe cabins with air conditionate, hot water, private bathroom and wide storage space.



Regarding fishing, this yacht will be located in the east side of the Canarreos, where after an intensive research we have assigned 10 different fishing areas and are planning to introduce a rotation system, similar to the one used in Cayo Largo. This allows to reduce fishing pressure on each area, having non-spooky fish, and increasing your chances of success. Guides are being trained under this method, and results are better than expected





HOTEL RANCHO Isla de la Juventud

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.

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.

BEST ACCOMMODATION IN NUEVA GERONA.

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





PEROLA Isla de la Juventud

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 four 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.

OUR LUXURY YACHT IS READY TO TAKE YOU TO OUR MOST REMOTE AND PRISTINE FLATS OFF THE ISLE OF YOUTH, A FANTASTIC, EXCLUSIVE DESTINATION.

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





FLY FISHING

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

Think about a place where you can fish more than 100 miles of flats without seeing another fisherman, a place where the flats fishing is so good, you can catch seven species of fish in one day, a place where big bonefish run toward your fly even when it hits the water too hard, rather than streaking off the flat in the other direction, a place where you have a legitimate chance for a Grand Slam every day of the year, a place where big permit are as plentiful as they were in the Florida Keys 30 years ago, 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.



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!