



CUBA'S JARDIN DE LA REINA "GARDEN OF THE QUEEN"

Join Brad and Jon on the Avalon II Nov. 11-18

Well we did it! And boy did we! From the nights in Havana to the days on the flats, Cuba was everything I hoped it would be. Castro in all his flaws has preserved a vast expanse of water which is now considered to be one of the last pristine flats and reefs left in the world and I thoroughly agree. When I was sitting at the Jose Marti' Airport a few weeks ago the only thing I could think of was how to get back here as soon as possible.

Below are the particulars of the trip and some helpful packing tips. I personally plan to stay a few extra days in Havana on the front end of the trip to take in some of the Cuban culture. I would be glad to have some company. As we start booking flights I will be in contact with all of you on which flights are the most affordable and practical. Jet Blue out of Orlando for example is doing a \$59 flight! This is a new era in US-Cuba relations. As I write this, Flights are being made available from the major carriers so we are going to be dealing with a changing climate.



As for pricing, The mothership sleeps 14 comfortably. I plan to take 10 guests at the price of \$6320/angler. This price includes all and transportation once you hit Havana. We will need to give a 10% deposit to hold the dates but i am waiting till the first of the year to make sure there will be no changes due to the new administration.

And finally, enclosed also is a link for your visa application which is simple and can be done online.

<https://www.traveldocs.com/express-visa-services/cuba-visa-processing-country57>

"Things are changing very fast, and it has never been so easy for Americans to travel legally to Cuba.

Get the license is very quick and simple, as it is an auto declaration. You just need to download the Affidavit, and follow the guideline for the category you choose .. no approvals necessary!

Cuba Packing List & Information

FISHING GEAR

- Bonefish Rod & Reel: 7 or 8 weight w/ floating line. (1 per person)
- Permit Rod: 9 or 10 weight w/ floating line. (1 per boat)
- Tarpon Rod: 10-11 wt w/ floating or clear sink tip line. (1 per boat)
- Snook/Cuda/Shark Rod: 10 weight w/ floating line. (optional)
- Bonefish Leaders: 12'. 1X. 14#. (3 per person)
- Permit Leaders: 10'-12'. 16#-20#. (2 per person)
- Tarpon Leaders 60#-80# bite tippet. (3 per person)
- Barracuda/Shark Leaders: w/ 30# wire tippet. (2 per person)
- 02X Fluorocarbon Tippet Spool (Permit)
- 1X Fluorocarbon Tippet Spool (Bonefish)
- Fly Boxes & Flies

Bonefish Flies: Size 2-8

Permit Flies: Size 2

Tarpon Flies 2/0, 3/0

Barracuda, Poppers, General Saltwater Flies

- Boat Bag, Gear Bag or Backpack (use as carry on)
- Polarized Sunglasses (bring an extra pair)
- Lens Cleaning Cloth
- Pliers (pack in checked baggage)
- Nippers
- Hook Sharpener or File
- Sunscreen & Lip Balm
- Camera (w/ extra memory, batteries or charger)

FISHING CLOTHING

- Fishing Shirts (3)
- Quick Drying Wading Pants and/or Shorts (3)
- Fishing Hat (2)
- Lightweight Rain Jacket
- Lightweight Fleece or Puff Jacket / Vest (it can get chilly)
- Flats Wading Boots (lightweight neoprene is fine)
- Buff or Bandana (2)
- Fly Line Stripping Guard or Athletic Tape

PERSONAL CLOTHING

- Short Sleeve Shirts (4)
- Lightweight Pants or Shorts (4)
- Belt
- Sandals
- Lightweight Shoes (wear on plane)
- Swimsuit
- Underwear (4)

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Plane Tickets & Itinerary
- Passport (& copy packed separately)
- Travel License (& copy packed separately)
- Cash (\$1000+ per person converted to Euros)
- Credit Cards
- Toiletries (including soap & shampoo)
- Prescription Medications (labeled)
- Small Personal First Aid Kit
- Pepto Bismol, Imodium, Tylenol
- Aloe / After Sun Lotion
- Bug Dope
- Anti-Itch Cream
- Travel Electricity Adapter

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Eye Glasses / Contacts
- Laptop / Tablet
- Books / E-Reader
- Ipod & Earphones
- Fanny Pack for Wading
- Mask & Snorkel (They have loaners available)
- Sun Gloves
- Tobacco
- Cigar Cutter, Lighter (not in carry on)
- [Spin Fishing Gear](#)



PACKING & TRAVEL NOTES:

Pack lightly. There is free laundry service available on the Avalon II fleet. On the charter flights, all luggage including carry-ons are weighed. You will be charged \$20.00 for your first checked bag, which must be paid in cash. Anything over 44lb will cost \$2.00 per pound. Carry-on luggage, your checked bag, and any personal items such as purse, camera, bag, ect is all counted as part of your 44 lb. luggage allowance. They are strict about these allowances. I recommend using your boat bag as a carry on. Carry your reels, camera and other valuables inside it. Additionally, carry on a travel rod tube with all of your rods. Pack your flies in checked luggage. One should easily be able to fit everything in a medium size bag. GPS units and satellite phones are illegal in Cuba and will be confiscated

MONEY NOTES:

Credit cards are virtually useless in Cuba.

Money can be exchanged at both the airport and the hotel. Rates are the same \$1 CUC will = \$1 US Recommended gratuities on Avalon II : Guides \$125-150 CUC per angler, Staff \$100 CUC per person.

There is a \$25.00 departure tax in Havana that will need to be paid in CUC \$ prior to boarding.

GUIDE NOTES:

You will be paired with a specific guide for the week. The Avalon guides are extremely hard working and excellent fishermen. That being said, communication is generally not a strong point. Their limited english coupled with their passion for fly fishing can be exciting. Remember they want you to catch fish as badly as you want to catch fish! Please convey your desires to your guide. Tell them if you want to only target permit, or only tarpon at the onset of your day. Practice casting those big rods prior to your trip!

FLY NOTES:

Bonefish: Size 4-8, primarily with bead chain eyes. A few with lead eyes and unweighted. Key colors: Tan and Pearl.

Permit: Avalon flies, also carry a few crabs as well. EP Spawning shrimp in varied sizes and colors

Tarpon: Size 2/0-3/0 A small section of classic Keys style (orange/yellow/grizzly, black death, white grizzly) Puglis style: black purple, mullet, Toad style, black, purple, chartreuse. These patterns will also work for Jack Crevasse, Mutton snapper and snook.

HAVANA:

You will have the option of staying 2 nights at the front of your trip, October 12th & 13th. I have already contacted the Hotel Mercure Sevilla Hotel where we stayed last year and can help you with the reservations. However you can also fly directly into Camequey on the 14th and board the Avalon II

More nights in Havana can be added. We had great luck with restaurants and I can make reservations for our group each day if you like.

The flight on the 14th from Havana to Camequey is covered in the cost.

All incidental costs including taxi from airport is not covered in total trip cost.

INTERNET:

You can purchase internet at your hotel but it is spotty at best all over Havana. If you need internet in Jardines De La Reina, ask your guide to take you to the Tortuga. This is most easily accomplished on the first and last day of being on the boat.

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

If someone needs to get a message to you have them contact Matias Gimenez from Avalon. He can get a message to your boat crew. PHONE: (+54) 9261 6721577

OR matias.gimenez@cubanfishingcenters.com

As of now cell service will not work in Cuba, maybe by OCT but please don't count on it.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST:

HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE AND GET A SUPER SLAM

FROM OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE SALT, WE HAVE BECOME CONFIDENT IN DIFFERENT RODS AND REELS WHICH TAKE ON THE HARD TASK OF FIGHTING FISH AND HOLDING UP TO THE SALT. THE FOLLOWING IS WHAT WE CARRY TO ALL OUR FAVORITE CARIBBEAN DESTINATIONS:

BONEFISH: 8WT - NRX 9' 8WT

G.LOOMIS CROSSCURRENT 9' 8W

BOTH PAIRED WITH THE ARC BONEFISH/REDFISH FLY LINE

8WT WINSTON BORON III+ PAIRED WITH THE WINSTON ENERGY LINE (MADE BY SCIENTIFIC ANGLER)

REEL: NAUTILUS NVG 8/9 WITH HATCH BACKING (60LB WITH SMALLER DIAMETER THAN SA 30LB)

PERMIT: 9-10WT - NRX 9' PAIRED WITH THE AIR FLO RIDGE CLEAR LONG FLY LINE

SNOOK: WINSTON BORON III+ PAIRED WITH THE WINSTON ENERGY LINE

REEL: NAUTILUS NVG9/10 WITH HATCH BACKING

TARPON: 10-11WT NRX 9' PAIRED WITH THE ARC TARPON LINES

REEL: NAUTILUS MONSTER WITH HATCH BACKING

*ALL BACKING SHOULD BE TERMINATED WITH A BIMINI TWIST NO QUESTION!!

ANDERSON & PLATT OUTFITTERS IS A FULLY LOADED SALTWATER EQUIPPED FLY SHOP. FROM RODS, REELS LINES AND LEADERS TO FLIES AND KNOWLEDGE WE CAN TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR NEEDS!

PLEASE CONTACT OUR SHOP IF YOU NEED TACKLE FOR YOUR UPCOMING DESTINATION TRIP.



