

Fishmaster Finland Oy
Kuokkakuja 8
21260 RAISIO
FINLAND
Phone: +358-400824530
www.fishmaster.fi



Fly Fishing – Cuba, Cayo Cruz 21.2-2.3.2020

Great fly fishing for permit, bonefish and tarpon in Cayo Cruz in Cuba. Fishmaster will arrange a hosted fly fishing trip to Cayo Cruz on 21st February – 2nd March 2020. Jouni Rauha will work as a host for this fishing trip. Cayo Cruz is considered to be an excellent tropical fishing destination located in northern coast of Cuba.

Cuba. Aside from its fascinating culture and Caribbean hospitality, Cuba has long been synonymous with some of the finest fly fishing in the world. For the last decades of fishing operation has brought together the most exclusive areas of the country combined with a high level of service in what are logistically complex environments.

Fly Fishing. This huge Cayo Cruz area consists of several different types of flats that can be waded and fished from special boats. The fishing season is long and fishing can be done with single hand fly rod. Tarpon, bonefish, permit, jacks and big barracudas are plentiful. Local fishing guide will take you by boat to a range of interesting and challenging fishing locations and show where and when to cast. Two persons will fly fish with one guide in a boat. The guides know the local waters intimately and speak well English.

Cayo Cruz is an outstanding location for producing Grand Slams and Super Grand Slams, in part because the permit fishing is consistently so good. Each of these fisheries regularly produce 25 pound + permit for anglers and we don't know of too many other places that boast the number of weekly Grand Slams that Cayo Cruz do. Anglers in this destination will periodically find permit tailing on the flats in 1 to 2 feet of water. As 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 Cruz is one of the best locations 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 Cruz, so if you are dreaming of landing a big permit, Cayo Cruz is the destination of choice. Cuba's north 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.

Fly Fishing Tackle. 9 feet long 7 or 8 weight fly rod is good for bonefish and one 9 weight for permit and 10-11 weight for tarpon. High-performance reels with a good brake system are required, capable of holding 200-250 yards of 20-30 pound backing. We recommend weight forward tropical floating fly lines for bonefish and permit. For bonefish and permit we recommend 9-10-foot knotless leaders with 0,35-0,40 mm tippet. For tarpon we recommend weight forward tropical intermediate fly lines with 60-80-pound test fluorocarbon level leader.

Flies. Good flies for bonefish are for example Crazy Charlie, Bonefish Special, Cuban Shrimps and small crabs tied on hooks 4 or 6, sand and light-brown. Permit flies: Avalon fly, Rag Head Crab, Brown Special, Velcro Crab and Del's Merkin tied on hooks 2 and 4. Flies for tarpon and snook: streamers, deceivers on hooks 1/0-3/0 in colours brown and orange, black and yellow, orange and yellow, olive and white, Black Death and Purple Death.



Accommodation will be in double rooms in a new five star hotel Oceans Arena Blanca in Cayo Cruz with air conditioning, toilet, shower. The hotel is located only 5 minutes car drive from the fishing dock of Cayo Cruz. All meals in the Cayo Cruz destination are included in price. In Havana we stay in three star hotel in double rooms.

Travel Arrangements. Hosted Fishmaster fly fishing trip. Jouni Rauha will travel with as a host for this fly fishing trip to Cayo Cruz in Cuba. Anglers will take an international flight to Havana airport in Cuba and stay one night in hotel in Havana. Next day we continue with a short 30 min domestic flight from Havana to Cayo Coco and from there we take an hour bus trip to Cayo Cruz. In both ends of this Cayo Cruz trip we stay one night in Havana.

Trip length: 6 fishing days/7 nights in Cayo Cruz, 2 nights in Havana

Price includes:

- 2 nights in hotel in Havana (Double bedroom, air conditioning, shower and toilet)
- Bus transports from/to hotel to domestic airport in Havana
- Flights Havana/Cayo Cruz/Havana
- Bus transports Cayo Coco/ Cayo Cruz/ Cayo Coco
- 7 nights in new 5 star hotel in Cayo cruz (Double bedroom, air conditioning, shower and toilet)
- All meals in Cayo Cruz (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- Alcohol drinks and beers in Cayo Cruz
- 6 fishing days, guide, boat (2 fishermen/guide)
- 4 drinks/fishing day (water/beer/soft drink)
- Fishing license

Price excludes:

- International flights to/from Havana
- Taxi from/to international airport to hotel in Havana
- Meals and drinks in Havana
- Gratuities for fishing guide and personal (350 CUC = approx 280 eur)
- Conservation Fee (90 eur)
- Visa (approx 50 eur)

Trip Schedule: (Example, changes possible)

21.2. Friday. Departure on Friday morning at European airport, several European departure airports are possible. Flight to Amsterdam departs. Landing to Amsterdam airport and meeting host Jouni Rauha and other fishermen at the Amsterdam airport. KLM flight departs at 12.35 and arrives to Havana at 17.15. Cuban pesos (CUC) can be changed at Havana airport or at hotel. Taxi from international airport to hotel in Havana. Check in to hotel. Evening dinner.

22.2. Saturday. Leaving the hotel at 5.00 AM and heading towards the Havana domestic airport with bus. Flight from Havana to Cayo Coco at 8.00, flight takes about 30 min. Bus transport, about one hour from airport to Cayo Cruz. Check in to new 5 star hotel. Free program in Cayo Cruz. Evening dinner at hotel.

23.2. Sunday – 28.2. Friday. 7.00 Breakfast. 5 min bus transport from hotel to harbour. Professional fishing guides will take us to the sea by boat, 2 fishermen/guide/boat. Guide will show the fishing places, techniques and so on. Lunch by the sea. In the afternoon around 17 fishing day is over and bus driver will bring the group back to the hotel. Evening dinner at hotel at 20.

29.2. Saturday. Breakfast. Free program at Cayo Cruz. Check out from hotel. Leaving the hotel and about one hour bus transport towards Cayo Coco airport. Flight from Cayo Coco to Havana at 17.00, flight takes about 30 min. Taxi from airport to hotel. Check in to hotel. Evening dinner.

1.3. Sunday. Breakfast. Free program and lunch in Havana. Check out from hotel. Leaving the hotel at 15.30 and heading towards the Havana international airport with taxi. KLM flight departs from Havana at 19.15.

2.3. Monday. Flight arrives to Amsterdam at 10.35. Connection flight departs from Amsterdam and arrives to your destination in Europe.

Cuba, Cayo Cruz – Tackle List

Pack into hand luggage or wear on

Backpack
Flats cap
2 x Polarized sunglasses with side shields, lens cleaning rag
Buff (30-50 SPF)
Long sleeve fishing shirt
Short boxers
T-shirt
Socks
Long wading pants (light weight, quick dry), belt
Shorts
Sun gloves
Sneakers
Light weight rain jacket with hood
Lip balm with best possible SPF
Camera, (video camera), battery, charger, memory cards
Mobile phone, charger
Books, magazines, maps, notebook, pen
Passport
Visa
Flight tickets and travel documents
Travel insurance, travel insurance card
Wallet, credit card, cash for tipping and drinks (euros)
Tooth brush, Compeed bandage
Electronic adapter
Razor
Pain killers, cortison paste, prescription medicins, prescriptions
Flats wading boots/neoprene wading boots

Pack into luggage bag

4-6 x Long sleeve fishing shirts (30-50 SPF)
2-3 x long wading pants (light weight, quick dry), belt
Short boxers
T-shirts
Socks
Sandals or Crocs
Swimming boxers
Photocopy of passport
Sunblock (30-50 SPF, waterproof)
Insect repellent
Shampoo, hand cream, tooth paste
Small flashlight
Zip lock bags, plastic bags
Tape, Sports tape
Fly boxes, flies
Fly rods, length 9' class 8-11, rod tubes
Fly reels, spare spools
Fly lines (tropical fly lines)
Fly leaders, fluorocarbon leader material 0.35, 0.40, 0.60, 0.80 mm
Chest bag
Fly line cleaning kit
Reel oil
Hemostats
Hook file, clippers

Cuba, Cayo Cruz - Flies

Gotcha

Hook: Single saltwater 4-8
Thread: Pink
Tail: 4-5 pearly flashabou
Body: Pearly flashabou
Wing: Light brown calf tail
Eyes: Ball chain or painted dumbbell eyes
Head: Pink



Crab

Hook: Single saltwater 2-4
Tail: Tan calf tail, few pearly mirror flash
Scissors: Brown or grizzle cock hackle
Legs: 3-4 pairs yellow/brown or black/white rubber legs
Body: Tan
Eyes: Ball chain or painted dumbbell eyes



Avalon

Hook: Single saltwater 2-4
Tail: Orange antron, 2 orange/black rubber legs, 2 dark mirror flash
Scissors: Light brown zonker on sides
Body: Pearl light brown, keel monofil with silver beads
Eyes: Ball chain
Head: Pink



Black Death

Hook: Single saltwater 1/0-3/0, Tiemco 600 SP
Thread: Red
Wing: 4 black hackle feathers
Hackle: Red marabou
Head: Red



Black and Purple

Hook: Single saltwater 1/0-3/0, Tiemco 600 SP
Thread: Black
Wing: Purple and black Slinky fibre
Eyes: Plastic eyes
Head: Clear epoxy

