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Fly Fishing – Cuba, Cayo Largo 25.11-4.12.2022

Fly fishing for Tarpon, Permit, Snook and Bonefish in Cayo Largo in Cuba. Fishmaster will arrange a hosted fly fishing trip to Cayo Largo on 25th November-4th December 2022. Jouni Rauha from Fishmaster will be the host. Cayo Largo is considered to be an excellent tropical fly fishing destination.

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 Largo area consists of several different types of flats that can be waded and fished from special boats. The fishing season is long and fishing is done with single hand fly rod. Tarpon, bonefish, permit and snook are plentiful. Local fishing guide will take you by boat to a range of interesting fishing locations and show where to cast. The guides know waters well and speak English.

Cayo Largo 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 Largo 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 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 challenges because bonefish will often take the fly before the permit has a chance to eat it, unless fly is cast to the right location.

Fly Fishing Tackle. 9 feet long 7 or 8 weight fly rod is good for bonefish and one 9 or 10 weight for tarpon and permit. High-performance reels with a good brake system are required, capable of holding 200-250 yards of 20-pound backing. We recommend weight forward tropical floating fly lines. For bonefish and permit we recommend 10-foot knotless leaders, and 12-15 pound fluorocarbon shock tippet. For tarpon leaders we recommend 60-80 pound fluorocarbon hard shock tippet.



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



Accommodation. Accommodation for guests in Cayo Largo will be in Jardines Avalon 1 yacht, double cabins with air conditioning, shower and toilet. Meals in yacht are included (breakfast, lunch and dinner).



Travel Arrangements. Anglers take a flight to Havana, stay 1-2 nights in hotel there and continue following morning with a 3 hours bus trip to Zapesca. JA 1 yacht will be waiting for the guests in the harbour and take them to Cayo Largo.

Trip length: 6 fishing days/7 nights in Cayo Largo

Price includes:

- Bus transport Havana-Zapesca-Havana
- 6 fishing days, guide, boat (2 fishermen/guide)
- 7 nights in Jardines Avalon 1 yacht in Cayo Largo (2 persons/cabin, air conditioning, shower and toilet)
- All meals in JA 1 yacht (breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- 4 drinks/ fishing day (beer/ water/soft drink)
- Fishing license and Natur Park fee



Price excludes:

- Flights Europe/Havana/Europe
- Taxi transfers and meals in Havana
- 1 night in hotel in Havana
- Gratuities for fishing guide (130-150 eur/person) and personal (130 eur/person)
- Open bar fee in yacht (180 eur/person)
- Conservation fee (90 eur/person)
- Covid insurance and pcr test in Cuba (220 eur/person)
- Visa (approx 50 eur)



Trip Schedule: (Flights are just an example)



25.11. Friday. Air Europa flight UX1098 departs from Amsterdam at 11:05 and arrives to Madrid at 13:45. Meeting host Jouni Rauha and other guests. Air Europa flight UX51 departs at 15:35 and arrives to Havana at 19:45. Taxi from airport to hotel in Havana. Cuban pesos (CUC) can be exchanged at airport or in hotel.

26.11. Saturday. Breakfast at hotel. Check out. At 13 bus transport from Havana to Zapesca harbour in Southern coast of Cuba (about 3 hours). At 16 check in to Jardines Avalon 1 yacht and 2 hour sea trip to the first anchor place (Cayo Blanco). Dinner.

27.11. Sunday – 2.12. Friday. 7.00 Wake up call. 7.30. Breakfast. 8.00. Start fishing. 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. Return in the afternoon at 16-17. Appetizer and dinner.

3.12. Saturday. Breakfast. Transfer with JA 1 yacht to Zapesca harbour 7-9. Bus transport to Havana airport 9-12. Air Europa flight UX52 departs from Havana at 22:00.

4.12. Sunday. Flight arrives to Madrid at 12:40. Air Europe flight UX1093 departs at 15:00 and arrives to Amsterdam at 17:40.

Cuba, Cayo Largo – Tackle List

Pack into hand luggage or wear on

Backpack
Flats cap
2 x Polarized sunglasses with side shields, lens cleaning rag
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 (CUC)
Tooth brush, Compeed bandage
Electronic adapter
Razor
Pain killers, cortison paste, prescription medicins, prescriptions
Flats wading boots, neoprene socks

Pack into luggage bag

2-3 x Long sleeve fishing shirts
2-3 x long wading pants (light weight, quick dry), belt
Short boxers
T-shirts
Socks
Sandals
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
Alarm clock
Fly boxes, flies
Fly rods
Fly reels, spare spools
Fly lines (tropical fly lines)
Fly leaders, leader material 0.30, 0.35, 0.40, 0.60, 0.80, 1.0 mm
Chest bag
Fly line cleaning kit
Reel oil
Hemostats
Hook file, clippers

Cuba, Cayo Largo - 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



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



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



Black Death

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



Black and Purple

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



Chartreuse and Pearl

Hook: Single saltwater 1/0-3/0, Tiemco 600 SP
Thread: White
Wing: Pearly white and chartreuse Slinky fibre
Eyes: Plastic eyes
Head: Clear epoxy

