



Cuba Avalon Trip Information

Avalon Outdoors – Jardines Avalon IV

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Emergency Number: Mark Potter Cell: 508-254-3483 (Works in USA only)

Jardines Avalon IV built 2021

190' Feet x 42'	TVs in cabins
3 Diving skiffs	Indoor salon
20 Staterooms, 12 standard, 4 demi suites, and 4 suites with balconies	Huge dive deck and camera tables
All cabins private bath and shower	Large AC lounge
Two beds either twin or double	Audio and video entertainment
Airconditioning with individual thermostats	2 Hot tubs
40 Passengers with up to 20 crew	110V or 220V Available throughout the boat
3 Panoramic decks, hot tub	For charging: USB in bar, restaurant, and rooms
	Nitrox available on boat

Before you go:

• **Fill out Boat Liability form online** **No later than 7 days before you arrive in Cuba.**

<https://avalonoutdoor.com/liabilityagreement-cdc.php>

In order to travel and engage in your scheduled programs, you must sign and return this document.

• **Purchase your Visa/Pink Tourist eCard** **Do now**

This is required for ALL travelers to Cuba. If you are coming to Cuba through a US city you must get the Tourist eCard. Purchase online <https://cubavisaservices.com/product/touristvisa-card/>, print out, bring with you. They will collect it in Cuba. Cost \$85 Use Humanitarian Projects

• **Cuban Health Insurance**

The Cuban government requires ALL travelers to carry a minimum level of 'Cuban qualified' health insurance coverage while in Cuba. For ALL US airline departures, a minimum level of coverage is included in the price of your airfare.

• **Advance Traveler Information (D' Viajeros)**

Follow the link to D' Viajeros **7 days prior** to your departure to Cuba and complete the requested information. After completing your form online, a QR code will be generated and is required to present during your travel and upon entry into Cuba. *It is suggested to print the provided QR code and keep easily accessible during your travels. <https://www.dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu/inicio>
https://avalonoutdoor.com/US_Travelers.pdf (page 2 has important instructions on how to fill this out)

"FORM REQUEST" * See below for answers to the online questions for Advanced Traveler:

**Note: Only complete ovals highlighted in Red. Otherwise leave it blank, it is not required.*

- Reason for Travel: Tourism

- Province where you are going Ciego de Avila

- Place of Accommodation: House or Room for Rent
- Direction/ Traveler Address: Hotel address or Airbnb Address
- *If not overnighiting in Cuba prior to your Avalon program then use the following address of our departing port: Jardines de la Reina: Jucaro port, Venezuela, Ciego de Avila Province, Cuba*
- Unaccompanied baggage (checked bags?): Yes or No
- Nothing to import or claim: any personal belongings including dive gear or gifts are NOT necessary to declare.

(MUST HAVE A PRINTED COPY OF QR CODE)

• OFAC License/Travel Affidavit

One week prior to your departure we will email you a blank Travel Affidavit which you will need to PRINT, complete, sign, and hold onto. This document serves as your affirmation of which general license category you fall under for legal travel to Cuba. The box you will check is: 10. Humanitarian Projects. You may be asked to present it to US customs upon your return. Note: The Cuban customs will not ask for this document. It is only for the US Government.

• Print Humanitarian and Environmental Project Itinerary and Certificate (US Travelers)

One week prior to your departure you will receive your Certificate and Humanitarian Project Itinerary personalized with your name and dates of travel. This document substantiates your reason for travel that you've declared on your Travel Affidavit. Your participation in our program is part of a sustainable environmental conservation project and your involvement has a direct effect on our conservation and humanitarian efforts in the Cuban Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and its surrounding communities. If you are asked why you are traveling to Cuba by US customs, you should tell them this and present them with the certificate and itinerary if requested.

• Passport and Boarding Pass

Passport must be valid at least 6 months after your date of return from Cuba. I recommend taking a picture of your passport on your phone in case you misplace your passport.

Helpful Information to know before you go:

Medicine: If you need medication, bring it. Make your own first aid kit: prescription drugs or medications, aspirins, decongestants, cough drops, Band-Aids, motion sickness pills, suntan lotion, Pepto-Bismol, Imodium AD, contact lens solutions, and anything else you will need. Do not expect to find it on the boat.

Food: Western Food, Local Food, Vegetarian Options, Beer available, Selection of wines, Fine Cuisine, Snacks All Day

- If you have any dietary restrictions or allergies, please let us know ahead of time.
- There are 6 soft beverages and beer included in your package per day. If you surpass this daily amount, you may have a bar tab to pay for at the end of the week, therefore it is important to reserve some cash to do so while on board.
- If you would like to have a full open bar for the week then it costs **US\$ 200** per person and it must be paid for in advance.
- You may bring aboard any additional liquor, wine or duty-free beverages that you like.

Alcohol

In addition to filtered water, tea, coffee, and juice, guests are allotted 6 specialty beverages per day during their week aboard. The variety will be limited to local Cuban beer, wine, rum mixed drinks, and limited soft drinks. (Please note diet sodas may not be available on all trips).

You may bring any additional alcohol or drinks onboard as you like, just please remember mixers onboard will be limited. We hope that you enjoy yourselves in moderation.

Please refrain from offering alcohol to the crew and staff as it is against the regulations of the marine parks and Cuban Nautical Administration and risks their employment and everyone's safety. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Electricity on Boat: 110V Standard US **Cuba Airport:** the plugs will be mixed in Cuba so having a double round two-pin plug (European style) to double flat converter, (US) is good.

Money: **Only US cash or Euros are accepted in Cuba.** No credit cards allowed. Bring plenty of cash once you are there you will no longer be able to get more cash. Best to bring a lot and go home with extra cash. Some places in Cuba only accept Euros. If you plan to tour Havana or stop at stores, bring some Euros. They typically prefer the smaller denominations so they can share it more easily amongst all the crew. If they receive all \$100's, it's harder for them to share.

Tipping: Tips are essential to the Cuban people and, for most, the foundation of their livelihood. Therefore, as you feel inclined, please tip accordingly for ALL the various services and experiences (large and small) throughout your time in Cuba. Including: drivers, porters, tour guides, street musicians and dancers, etc. At the end of your week in Cuba you will be given two envelopes for a staff tip and a guide tip. Gratuities for the boat are recommended \$350-\$450 USD or Euros cash per person. **US dollars only** for the week to be given directly to the captain or cruise director. This will be evenly shared between the diving staff and boat crew.

Climate: Day air temp average 88 degrees

Phones: Some US cell phones now work in Cuba, WhatsApp and Messenger now work in Cuba while on Wi-Fi or cellular networks. There is no communication available on the boats. If you need to connect you can ask one of the instructors to take you with them on one of their daily trips. The service is somewhat slow and unreliable, but you can usually send an email or two.

Do Not Bring: Drone, satellite phone, GPS, firearms, and narcotics.

Time Zone: Eastern Standard Time

Laundry Service: Laundry service twice a week, usually Monday and Thursday. Rooms will have daily housekeeping.

Dress: Casual light cotton clothes, polo shirts, t-shirts and shorts. A sweatshirt or light jacket if you are one to get cold. You will not need a lot of clothes on the boat, mostly bathing suits and t-shirts. There is laundry service on the boat so you can pack light.

Hyperbaric Chamber: Havana

DAN Insurance: Highly recommended.

Insurance: Divers Alert Network does not directly pay the Cuban entities for any coverage in Cuba. However, they do reimburse the guest for any expenses that would normally be covered under their policies upon return. The supplemental insurance purchased through Avalon for each guest covers most everything else directly that is not a dive related accident or needing to spend time in a chamber. For example, if there is an accident, Cuba insurance would cover the nautical and land transfers to get the guest to the hospital then if they needed to spend time in a chamber that is where the dive insurance would cover but the guest would have to pay out of pocket first then get reimbursed by their insurance carrier.

Travel Insurance: (Avalon does not give refunds) I extremely highly recommend getting travel insurance for Cuba. Most carriers do not cover Cuba but here is a link for Cuba Travel Insurance from [Arch Roamright](https://partner.roamright.com/?agencycode=CulturalCuba&agentid=DLee%20Travel%20Insurance%20-%20Arch%20Roamright%20Link)

Language: The official language is Spanish, although many Cubans have studied either English, French, German or Russian.

Covid Travel Requirements: As of April 6, 2022, it is no longer required to be fully vaccinated to enter Cuba. We still recommend traveling with an approved copy of your vaccination card as a record of your immunization status.

- As of April 6, 2022, it is no longer required to take a pre-arrival PCR test to enter Cuba. You may travel without test results or proof of vaccination if you wish.

Upon arrival in Cuba:

- You may be given a rapid test upon arrival to Cuba. There is an increased level of screening and testing upon arrival in Cuba and there is a possibility that you may be given a random test, which you must comply with.
- Present the QR code that was generated for you when completing the D'Viajeros advance information portal. The authorities will scan this code and maintain record of this throughout your time in Cuba.
- Pass through customs where you will present your Passport and Visa / Tourist card / Entry permit
- After you gather your bags and head outside, you will be met by boat representatives with a yellow shirt from CUBATUR.
- The transfer to Jucaro from Havana is 7 hours, Santa Clara is approximately 3 hours, Camaquey is approximately 2.5 hours. Don't forget to tip your driver when you arrive if you have not already done so.

Lost Luggage: Once you leave the airport, there is no way to get it out to you. You would be without your items for the week, so it is important to pack some essentials in your carry on. Avalon would help you out with dive gear etc. to make sure you could engage in the week but wouldn't be able to provide much more than that. You will have to contact the airline to see where your bags are. Most likely they will be held at the airport for you on return. Currently as of 2/1/23, American Airlines is charging \$30 for the 1st checked bag and \$200 for the second checked bag (INBOUND).... On the outbound flight there was no charge for two checked bags.

Certification Card: A must to dive!!! **Need Nitrox Card for Nitrox Tanks**

Water Temperature: 80 to 85

Water Visibility: 60-100+ feet

Diving: Typically, we dive mainly between 40 and 75 feet but sometimes we will dive as deep as 80 to 100 feet. All diving is done from 30ft long dive skiffs and tenders which can accommodate up to 10-12 divers per skiff.

Nitrox Tanks: Nitrox is available for an additional **\$120.00. Nitrox must be paid in advance in the USA.** Nitrox highly recommended. If you are not certified, there is still time to take our online course and practical session. Arrange with Mark ahead of time.

Recommended things to bring:

Regulator with octopus and dive computer
Exposure Suit: rash guard, dive skin, shorty or 3mm Full
Lightweight gloves (not recommended)
Buoyancy compensator
Mask, snorkel, fins, and boots (if needed for fins)
Tank light (for night diving)
2 Dive lights one main one backup
Movies/DVDs, games
Electric adaptor/converter, power strip if many items to charge

Safety sausage
Surface sound - Dive Alert, whistle
Logbook
Spare parts kit
Sunglasses
Camera equipment and SD card
Reusable water bottle a must
Face covering
Plus, any other personal gear

Roll toilet paper for transfers some bathrooms have none.

Diver's check List: Copy and paste this link into your browser and see items they recommend.

https://avalonoutdoor.com/diving_checklist.pdf

On Boat Equipment Rentals: All rentals must be ordered and paid in advance. No rentals or purchases can be made on the boat.

Recommended Wetsuit: It all depends on your tolerance for coldness. Divers wore dive skins, rash guards, shorty or 3mm to 5mm full suit. You are better off bringing multiple combinations so if you need them, you have them.

Tanks Onboard: (12 and 15L available) must know ahead of time how many 15L. Yoke only valves



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