

All Star LIVE ABOARDS

ALL STAR AVALON | Jardines de la Reina, Cuba

WELCOME TO YOUR PROGRAM OVERVIEW

All Star Avalon will take you on an adventure like no other to explore and experience the results of Sustainable Marine Conservation in the beautiful Jardines de la Reina, the Gardens of the Queen, located 60 miles off the southern coast of Cuba. Our all-inclusive liveaboard trip runs Saturday through Saturday, departing out of Júcaro port every week, all year long.

We offer a variety of eco-adventures and activities guests can participate in during their week aboard that support the conservation efforts including diving, snorkeling, mangrove exploration, and even crocodile encounters. The trip is suitable for divers of all skill levels.

Our program is designed as a Sustainable Marine Conservation Humanitarian Project. As a result, your participation in our program qualifies US Citizens for legal travel under the **OFAC General License: 515.575 Humanitarian Projects**. Prior to your departure Avalon will provide all guests with a certificate and itinerary to validate their reason for travel.





INDIVIDUAL DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

- \$1,500 per person due to confirm
- Remaining balance due 4 months prior to departure

ALL Supplements Must be PAID in ADVANCE of Travel.

Nitrox (\$130/person) - Rental Gear ([view pricing here](#)) - Cabin upgrades (Premium Suite: \$600/person; Demi-Suite: \$350/person) - Transfers (Havana: \$160/person each way in 2025, \$210/person each way in 2026; Camaguey: \$65/person each way in 2025, \$85/person each way in 2026): Must be confirmed and paid 4 months prior to departure.

Dive accident insurance is required in Jardines de la Reina. We recommend [DAN](#). **Travel insurance** (separate from Dive Accident insurance) is **strongly advised**. No refunds or reschedules available within 12 months of travel. We recommend [Arch RoamRight](#).

ARRIVALS - DEPARTURES

Our liveaboard program runs Saturday through the following Saturday out of Jucaro port. You may fly in or out of any of the following airports following these timeline parameters. **Collective transfers to and from Jucaro port are available and encouraged to utilize.**

www.google.com/travel/flights is a good resource for searching flight itineraries. (Searching 'one-way' routes can often yield more results to consider).

Havana (HAV)

Havana offers numerous daily direct flight routes though it is the **farthest city from Jucaro Port** and requires a 6 - 8 hr. land transfer.

- Arrive into Havana Friday before trip or earlier. Overnight in Havana required for Havana arrivals.
- Depart Saturday no earlier than 8pm out of Havana. Though it is suggested to overnight in Havana and fly out Sunday.

Camaguey (CMW)

Camaguey offers **non-stop daily flights through Miami, FL** and is approximately a 3hr bus transfer from port.

- There is currently only one flight between Miami and Camaguey each Saturday. Since most passengers arrive on this flight, transfer pickup and All Star Avalon's departure will be based on this flight's arrival time.
- Depending on origin city (and your inclination to avoid travel issues), staying in Miami on Friday night may be necessary. Staying in Camaguey is not suggested.

BOARDING & DISEMBARK TIMES

- Boarding: 2pm - 5pm*
- Disembark: 5am - 8am*

*Times may vary depending on collective transfer schedule



COLLECTIVE TRANSFERS

Havana (\$160/person each way in 2025; \$210/person each way in 2026) - Approximately 6-8 hours

**Specific time to be confirmed prior to travel. Pick up and drop off locations & times:*

- A. Iberostar Parque Central Hotel (Old Havana): 8:00 am.

Camaguey (\$65/person each way; \$85/person each way in 2026) - Approximately 3 hours

**Saturday mid-morning pick up, specific time to be provided. Pick up and drop off locations & approximate times:*

- A. Hotel E. Santa Maria: 10am-11:30am

- B. Camaguey Airport: Upon arrival

Transfers - What to expect:

Transfers are NOT included in your base package pricing. ALL transfers must be paid in advance.

- Typically, the collective transfer will be on a large van or tour bus with air-conditioning depending on the route and number of passengers.
- There are multiple restroom and light snack stops along the way, though, it is recommended to **bring a few non-perishable snacks and a large bottle of water**. It is also suggested to **bring a bit of toilet paper and hand sanitizer** as it is not always available in the public restrooms.
- If you would like to **stop to purchase any Rum or Cigars** to enjoy during your week, please **let the Avalon representative know at time of pick up** and they will do their best to accommodate your request. (depending on schedule this stop may not be possible)

IMPORTANT INFO

- Liveboards in Cuba remain stationary after arriving in the mangroves of Jardines de la Reina. At most, the vessel may change locations once or twice during the week. This is an unconventional liveboard experience, but it is the best way to explore this area.
- There are several required documents that each traveler must obtain/complete. Two of the documents will be provided to you approximately one week before departure. The document checklist on pages 7-8 must be completed for each traveler. More information about the required travel documents can be found [here](#).
- Cuba is less developed than the US. Differences in grocery stores and provisioning companies make it difficult to accommodate dietary restrictions (vegan, gluten-free, etc.).

CUBAN VISA / TOURIST CARD

This is required for ALL travelers to Cuba and can be purchased in advance. **You will not be allowed to board your flight without this.**

- All Travelers must pre-purchase the electronic visa (E-Visa).
 - > US citizens, use this link: <https://cubavisaservices.com/product/e-visa/>
 - > Non-US citizens, use this link: <https://easytouristcard.com/product/cuba-evisa/>
- OFAC Category / reason for travel: Humanitarian Projects.
- Keep a copy of this on your electronic device and also print a copy just in case.
- Follow the guidelines on the link above: IMPORTANT: YOUR E-VISA WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE E-VISA NUMBER & "DIRECCION DE IDENTIFICACION, INMIGRACION Y EXTRANJERIA" SEAL IS INCLUDED ON YOUR D'VIAJEROS FORM CONFIRMATION PAGE.

**Please see a more complete list of required documents beginning on page 7.

LAND ACCOMMODATIONS AND TOURING

- In addition to any overnights necessary for your All Star Avalon program itinerary, you can also extend your trip on either end for additional land touring.
- Land based itineraries for US Citizens should meet the guidelines set by OFAC under the General License: [515.574 Support for the Cuban People](#).
- US citizens should NOT book anything on the State Department's [Prohibited Accommodations List](#).
- Contact All Star Liveaboards for additional information about arranging legal pre- or post-trip land tours in Cuba.

CURRENCY

- **CASH** is the PRIMARY form of PAYMENT. Crisp, new bills are best. Worn and torn bills are not accepted.
- **US Credit Cards are NOT widely accepted** in Cuba. (This includes onboard the boats)
- There are **NO U.S. ATMs to withdraw more cash**. It's important you bring enough to satisfy your foreseen expenses for the duration of your trip.
- **USD or EURO are preferred** for most transactions in Cuba.
- It is suggested to have some of both currency (USD + Euro) on hand, though not required.
- **Exchange cash prior to your arrival into Cuba** *Pro-tip: Many US banks do not keep foreign currency on hand, so ensure you exchange your cash well in advance of your travel date to allow the banks to order your requested currency.
- **Bring plenty of smaller bills** adequate for tipping.
- USD may not be accepted in places like government owned hotels or shops for things like food, beverages, rum, cigars and other general purchases. (Euro is generally accepted for these purchases instead).
- USD is typically accepted for purchases made in privately owned Airbnbs, and restaurants along with private art and souvenir vendors.



TIPPING AND GRATUITIES

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.

- Tips should **ONLY** be paid in CASH (USD or Euro)
- **10-15%** of your base All Star Avalon program **package price** is a **suggested minimum gratuity** given directly to the Manager or Cruise Director on the boat at the end of your program.
- **2 envelopes are provided** to each guest and you will have the opportunity to **split this tip** amount as you see appropriate between your **dive crew and boat crew**.
- Mixed large and small bills are appreciated for easier splitting between the crew members.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR WEEK

After arrival to Jucaro port you will board your mothership. Depending on the season, you will either begin the navigation out to Gardens of the Queen (between 3hrs - 5hrs) that afternoon or stay aboard overnight in port and head out very early Sunday morning to the Gardens. Saturday afternoon you will be served a light snack and receive the Welcome & Safety briefing, cabin assignments and anticipated program schedule for the week. Enjoy your first night's dinner aboard that evening, followed by a restful night's sleep before starting your week of activities Sunday morning.

BOAT AMENITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- **No WIFI aboard** the boats during the week in Jardines de la Reina. The JA4 can occasionally have very 'very' slow and unreliable internet, though it is best to assume there will be no WIFI.
- There is also **no cell service** out in Jardines de la Reina as you are 60 miles off the coast of Cuba.
- Satellite phones or devices and drones are illegal to bring into Cuba and could be confiscated upon arrival at the airport.
- Standard US 110v and 220v outlets in the cabins and in communal charging areas. Unattended charging is not permitted in the cabins.
- Laundry service is available twice during the week on board. There is no charge for this but it is requested you tip the crew accordingly if this service is utilized.
- Shampoo, body soap, hairdryers and linens are provided in each cabin. (no irons)
- Filtered water is available on board along with coffee and a selection of tea and local juices.
- Each guest has an allotment of 6 'specialty' beverages per day.
 - Specialty beverages include a limited selection of soda, local beer, wine, and 1 rum mixed drink per day (mojitos, daiquiris, etc.)
 - You are welcome to bring aboard your own additional liquor or beverages.
- The vessel generally does not move after arriving in the mangroves of Jardines de la Reina. At most, it will move once or twice during the week.
- In addition to divers, there are often fishermen on the trip. They tend to stay out fishing for most of the day, but they're usually around for dinner and evenings on the sun deck.



DIVE AMENITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- The standard dive program includes 3 dives per day (18 total: 17 dives + 1 night).
- **All diving is done from a tender/ dive skiff.**
 - Max number of divers per skiff (and dive site) is 12. There will be 1 dive guide assigned for every 6 divers.
- Typical depth will range from 40ft – 80ft and last between 45-60mins depending on the dive group.
- Water temperature range: Dec - Apr: 77/79F | May - Nov: 80/85F.
- 80 cuft Tanks and weights are provided. 100 cuft tanks are available upon request but there is limited availability and may not be guaranteed.
- Yoke and DIN tanks are available but due to the onboard filling system yoke is preferred. DIN adapters are available if needed.
- Rebreathers are NOT currently supported in the Gardens of the Queen.
- Repair tools and service parts are very limited in Cuba. Please make sure you bring your own “ save a dive kit” to be prepared for minor fixes in the field if necessary for yourself.
- For a detailed breakdown of suggested items to bring, view our [Ultimate Liveboard Packing List](#).

CONTACTS

U.S. Avalon Representatives

All Star Liveboards

U.S. Office

+1 954-734-7111

info@allstarliveboards.com

General Inquiries

cuba@allstarliveboards.com

<https://allstarliveboards.com/cuba-liveboard-diving-avalon/>

Emergencies while in Cuba: WhatsApp is the best method for communication for any of our Cuban team members in the event of any emergency while in Cuba. (Please ensure to have this app pre-installed and set up prior to your arrival into Cuba). We will provide in-country emergency contacts after we have received final payment.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- If canceled more than 1 year (12 months) prior to departure, guests may reschedule their reservation to a future date. No refunds will be issued. Reservations may only be rescheduled once, and the rescheduled trip must be within 1 year (12 months) of the original booking.
- If canceled less than 1 year (12 months) prior to departure, all payments are forfeited.

DOCUMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO CUBA



A. TRAVELER'S RESPONSIBILITY

A.1. CUBAN TOURIST CARD / TOURIST VISA

This is required for ALL travelers to Cuba and can be purchased in advance. **You will not be allowed to board your flight without this.**

- All Travelers must pre-purchase the electronic visa (E-Visa).
 - > US citizens, use this link: <https://cubavisaservices.com/product/e-visa/>
 - > Non-US citizens, use this link: <https://easytouristcard.com/product/cuba-evisa/>
- OFAC Category / reason for travel: Humanitarian Projects.
- Keep a copy of this on your electronic device and also print a copy just in case.
- Follow the guidelines on the link above: IMPORTANT: YOUR E-VISA WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS THE E-VISA NUMBER & "DIRECCION DE IDENTIFICACION, INMIGRACION Y EXTRANJERIA" SEAL IS INCLUDED ON YOUR D'VIAJEROS FORM CONFIRMATION PAGE.

A.2. ADVANCE TRAVELER INFORMATION (D'VIAJEROS)

Within 7 days prior to your departure flight to Cuba, ALL travelers must complete the information requested through the D' Viajeros link: www.dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu/inicio

YOU MAY NOT fill this form out prior to 7 days of arrival in Cuba.

After completing your form, a QR code will be generated and is required to present upon entry into Cuba. It is suggested to print the provided QR code and keep easily accessible during your travels.

Tips for completing D' Viajeros online form:

Select: "Form Request"

Only ovals marked with red are required to be completed

- **Airport:** Arrival Airport
- **Travel Reason:** Tourism
- **Place of Accommodation:** House for rent
- **Traveler Address:**
 1. Your hotel or Airbnb Address (if overnighing in Cuba prior to your program)
 2. If not overnighing in Cuba prior to your Avalon program, use the following address: Jardines de la Reina: Jucaro port, Venezuela, Ciego de Avila, Cuba
- **Province where you are going:** Ciego de Avila
- **Unaccompanied baggage:** checked bags? Yes or No
- **Nothing to import or claim:** any personal belongings or gifts under \$1,000 are not necessary to declare.



A.3. LIABILITY AGREEMENT

Each traveler must follow the link below to fill out and submit the liability agreement:

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

A.4. PASSPORT/BOARDING PASS

- Passport must be valid at least 6 months after your date of return from Cuba.
- It's recommended to print your boarding pass and have copy of your passport ID page kept somewhere safe throughout your travels.
- Travelers are solely responsible for verifying and complying with the most current Cuban entry protocols.

B. WE WILL PROVIDE

Approximately 1 week prior to your trip you will receive these blank documents via email. Each passenger will need to print and complete the documents accordingly and keep accessible throughout your travels.

B.1. OFAC LICENSE/TRAVEL AFFIDAVIT

**Guests traveling through U.S. and U.S. citizens*

Please print, check box #10: Humanitarian Projects, sign, and carry with you.

This document serves as your affirmation of which general license category you fall under for legal travel to Cuba.

B.2. HUMANITARIAN PROJECT: CERTIFICATE & ITINERARY

**Guests traveling through U.S. and U.S. citizens.*

Please print and complete with your name and dates of travel and carry with you.

This document validates your itinerary and your reason for travel that you've declared on your Travel Affidavit: **Humanitarian Projects.**

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.

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