

**WHERE IS CUBA?** Cuba, officially the Republic of Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean. Havana is the capital of Cuba and its largest city. The United States lies 93 miles away to the north; the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands are located to the northeast, and the Cayman Islands to the south. The island of Cuba was inhabited by numerous Mesoamerican Indian tribes prior to the landing of explorer Christopher Columbus in 1492, who claimed it for the Kingdom of Spain. Cuba remained a colony of Spain until the Spanish–American War of 1898, after which it gained independence. Since 1965 the country has been governed as a single-party state by the Communist Party. Jardines de la Reina (Gardens of the Queen), is an archipelago in the southern part of Cuba that was named by Christopher Columbus to honor the Queen of Spain. Jardines de la Reina is a National Park and one of Cuba's largest protected areas. It parallels the Cuban coast and is made up of more than 600 cays and islands. The healthy reefs are full of fish, reef sharks and is known to be one of the most beautiful areas in the Caribbean.

**ITINERARY DETAILS** Thursday Day 1 Welcome and pick-up at Havana International Airport Between 11 am – 3:30 pm Transfer to Hotel, Check in 4 pm 7 pm Dinner with Cuban hosts and learn about Cuba's marine conservation programs Friday Day 2 Breakfast at hotel and Conference about Marine Conservation Programs Visit to Fortress of El Morro Lunch in Havana Afternoon Cultural tour of Old Havana 7 pm Dinner with Cuban hosts and learn about Cuba's marine conservation programs 9 pm Visit to a Cuban neighborhood Saturday Day 3 – Friday Day 9 7 – 7:45 am Breakfast at hotel 8 am Transfer to Jucaro to board yacht for marine program with lunch on the yacht upon arrival at approximately 3 pm for boarding. Saturday Day 10 4 – 5 am Transfer to Havana International Airport for arrival at approximately 12 noon. Most airlines require a 3 hour check-in prior to flight. The bus will stop for lunch on the way to the airport.

**WELCOME** As you prepare for your Cuba Travel Program, we extend a most hearty welcome. The enclosed information will assist you. Please download the most recent "Know Before You Go" prior to traveling from [www.oceansforyouth.com](http://www.oceansforyouth.com). The Reservations Office is in constant communication with the leaders of the Cuba Travel Program I & II. In the event of an emergency, family and friends may call the numbers listed above to relay information. Don't forget to use your Cuba Travel Program luggage tags; they will help the tour guide identify your bags. We recommend you pack a swimsuit, change of clothes, medication and toiletries in your carry on bag. Having these few items with you can make an unexpected luggage delay more bearable.

**THE YACHTS:** All staterooms are air-conditioned and fitted with private toilets, showers and sinks. Breakfast (cooked to order), buffet lunch and an elegant meal at dinner with tableside service are served in addition to fresh midmorning and mid-afternoon snacks. Beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) are complimentary while onboard. The yacht is equipped with hairdryers in each stateroom. Linens are changed mid-week, by request, and fresh towels are placed in each stateroom as needed. Filled tanks, weights and weight belts are included.

**PASSPORTS & DOCUMENTATION** Visitors must have a current passport, adequate funds to support themselves, a return airline ticket and the verification letter from Oceans For Youth Foundation to travel to Cuba. Travelers must have a passport that is valid for 6 months from date of entry. It is the travelers' responsibility to ensure they have the proper documentation to travel into each country on his or her itinerary as well as for re-entry and return to their country. Please check with the appropriate consulate to ensure you have the proper documentation. Always check your passport and visa requirements. US citizens may go to the US Department of State website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for more

information. The website also has information for consulates by country to assist with requirements. There are special requirements for children leaving the US and many countries have adopted requirements for the protection of children. Since regulations vary by country, contact your consulate or embassy of your country for the requirement. The Reservation Office and staff cannot assume responsibility for passengers not having correct documentation.

**ARRIVAL** (Thursday) Prior to arrival, you will be given an Immigration form that will look like this. Since you are traveling on an Oceans For Youth Foundation, People to People program, please select 'Foundation'. The Cuba Travel Program I & II begins on Thursday from the Havana International Airport. Guests arriving on flights between 11 am – 3:30 pm will be greeted at the airport by a Cuban representative who will assist you with your luggage and transportation to the hotel. The greeter will have a 'Oceans For Youth' sign with the starfish logo and will have the guests name on it. Any arrivals before or after that time will need to make their own way to the hotel. Hotel check in is at 4 pm.

**IBEROSTAR PARQUE CENTRAL HOTEL** The Cuba Travel Program uses the IBEROSTAR Parque Central Hotel as part of the Cuba Travel Program. Check in time is at 4 pm. Travelers will enjoy staying at the elegant 5-star hotel which is located in central Havana on Thursday and Friday nights. All hotel rooms are double occupancy. Note that hotel rooms are reserved in advance and we are unable to reserve specific rooms in the different towers. Known for its Spanish colonial-style architecture, which pulls in the rich culture of the streets, the IBEROSTAR Parque Central Hotel is an excellent starting point for the Cuba Travel Program which is nestled in the heart of Havana. Travelers will admire beautiful city views from the charming French windows and doors of the hotel. The restaurant has some of the best international cuisine in Havana, but above all, the most impressive Cuban fare. The hotel is conveniently close to the José Martí International Airport and only 20 minutes away. The presentation will be held in the hotel meeting room. The hotel uses the European 2 rounded plug socket with 220V like the attached. C-

**CARDS & DIVE THE WORLD CLUB** Remember to bring your c-card or proof of certification. The divemaster requires proof of certification 4 before the first dive.

**GIS (GUEST INFORMATION SYSTEM)** The Reservations office and the Cuba Travel Program require each guest to complete an Application and Waiver prior to departure and boarding through the online GIS (Guest Information System). If you have not received a link to complete the online Guest Information System (GIS), please call an Aggressor Fleet agent. Passengers who fail to complete it will be denied participating in the program.

**TELEPHONE/INTERNET SERVICE/EMAIL** There is no email or internet available onboard the yacht.

**INSURANCE** We strongly recommend each guest purchase comprehensive accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation and interruption insurance when space is reserved. Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip due to illness, family illness or in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the airline or yacht from making its scheduled trip. In the event you cancel your trip, be familiar with the cancellation policies. More information can be found on Diveassure or Divers Alert Network insurance on our website.

**FEES & TAXES** (per person) All fees and transportation costs have been paid as part of the Cuba Travel Program. Gratuity to the conservation guides is not included.

**HEALTH** The yachts have a first aid kit onboard, including oxygen and an AED. You may want to bring motion sickness medication if you feel you will need it. We suggest you bring over-the-counter motion sickness medication or consult your doctor about prescription brands, such as the trans-dermal patch or Scopace tablets. Currents and winds may cause moderate movement of the yacht at times. We recommend a complete physical before your trip. The recompression chamber is located in Havana. The yachts staff are unable to accept any medication brought onboard for safe keeping including those that require refrigeration. Should a guest have a medication requiring temperature control, they will need to travel with a travel cooling case or small storage cooler with several blue ice packets. The crew will be happy to store and recharge the blue ice but are unable to accept possession of or responsibility for the proper care and storage of medication. This should be kept in your stateroom. There is NO smoking allowed inside the yacht or on the dive deck. Smoking is only permitted on the rear of the sun deck.

**JARDINES AGGRESSOR I & II** The Jardines Aggressor I is a 110' yacht with a wide beam. (The Jardines Aggressor II will start operating in 2017) Both are built and powered for comfort, safety and stability, they are diesel-powered, cruise at 10 knots and have 110-volt power onboard. Accommodation on the Jardines Aggressor I includes two Master staterooms, each having 2 twins that can be made into a queen, eight Deluxe staterooms, each with single side-by-side beds. The Jardines Aggressor II includes two Balcony Suites, each having double side-by-side beds, ten Deluxe staterooms, each with single side-by-side beds. Each stateroom has its own private bathroom with a toilet and shower. All staterooms have air conditioning climate controls. The Jardines Aggressor I sleeps 20 and the Jardines Aggressor II sleeps 24 guests in privacy and comfort. They each feature a roomy, air conditioned salon and dining area, sun deck complete with a hot tub, lounge and deck chairs, stereo and CD player (has an iPod plug-in), shaded wet bar and grill, a complete photo center with a digital video and still photo editing computer. Diving amenities include Nitrox (must be prepaid), individual dive lockers, camera table with low-pressure air hoses, and two hot, fresh water showers. Each yacht has a safe aboard to store valuables such as passports, cash, credit cards or anything else you would like to store. The yachts are not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen items. We highly recommend extreme caution and care be taken if you plan to travel onboard with electronic equipment. This equipment should always be stowed after use to avoid the risk of damage.

**FOOD** The menu onboard is varied and plentiful, with a variety of American feasts, barbecues and local cuisine. If you have any special dietary requirements, please be sure these are noted when completing the GIS. You will awaken to fresh fruits, hot entrees, cereals and juices. Lunches are buffet-style, featuring hot soups, homemade breads, salads and sandwiches and/or entrees. Chef prepared dinners are seated and served each evening including: salads, vegetables, seafood, beef or chicken with a fresh homemade dessert. Once onboard, please speak to the chef about any special needs. Certain special dietary and beverage requests may not be available due to the remote nature of this location.

**BEVERAGES** The yachts selection includes fruit juices, soft drinks, iced water, iced tea, coffee, and a limited selection of local beer and wine, which are complimentary. Due to the high duty charged on liquor, we suggest you bring your special brand from the U.S. or last duty free point. Due to local regulations; the bar will be closed while the boat is in port. Drinking and diving do not mix. Once you consume alcohol, you become a snorkeler until the next day.

**CLOTHING** Please plan to travel light, as on all live-aboard dive yachts, space is limited. We recommend that you pack your gear in soft luggage such as a duffel bag for easy stowage and to add to your comfort in your cabin. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear; sunscreen and swimsuits are a must. A light sweater or jacket is ideal for evenings. Dress is always casual and informal. Additional items you may want to bring are sunglasses and walking shoes for you time on shore.

**MISC TRAVEL INFORMATION** Drones, satellite phones, stand-alone GPS, Nautilus Lifeline Rescue Units (and other units) and walkietalkies are not allowed in Cuba.

**INTERENTAINMENT** There is a variety of nightly entertainment, including diving, fish identification presentations, movies, games and more. If you have a favorite movie, digital presentation or a video to share, we encourage you to bring it along. The crew especially loves new releases of movies, music, recent magazines and books. A small library of books for exchange is maintained onboard as well as fish identification books for reference.

**CELEBRATING A SPECIAL OCCASION** Whether it's your anniversary, birthday, honeymoon, wedding or you are celebrating a 100th dive, please let us know so the crew can celebrate your occasion. Kindly advise the Reservations Office prior to traveling so the crew is notified in advance.

**DIVING CONDITIONS** You will be diving in water that averages 82°F in the summer months and approximately 78°F in the winter months. Most guests make as many as 4 dives each day and 2 on Friday, so some sort of protection is needed. A 1-3mm wetsuit or shorty is recommended year round, however some people prefer a 5mm in January/February. All diving is from tenders.

**DIVING** The crew of the Jardines Aggressor I and II, with their unique combination of talents, offers the ultimate service. While onboard, you may pick a buddy of your choice, or dive with one of the crewmembers. The yacht offers up to four dives per day (2 on the last day) including night dives. 6 There is ample storage space for your diving equipment in your personal locker. The Jardines Aggressor I and II provides 80 cubic ft. tanks, weight belts and weights. The stern and platform area is very spacious. The boarding ladders were designed for convenience to allow divers easy entries and exits. Enjoy fresh water showers on the back deck after your dives and dry off with a warm towel. All diving onboard the Jardines Aggressor I and II should be within the limits and standards of the training agency that certified you. All dives should be planned no decompression dives.

**DIVE GEAR SUGGESTIONS** We suggest you pack the following: mask, fins, snorkel, regulator with pressure gauge, depth gauge, buoyancy compensator, dive computer, dive light, mirror, safety sausage, Dive Alert and/or other safety devices. Dive computers are mandatory for each guest. Each piece of gear should be marked with waterproof paint or tape.

**CONSERVATION LAWS** Cuban conservation laws do not permit spear fishing or collecting of any kind.

**RENTAL DIVE EQUIPMENT** A full line of Aqualung rental gear is available aboard including regulators, BCs, dive computers, and night- lights but must be pre-paid. If any of your dive equipment fails while onboard, the crew will loan you equipment free of charge.

## **CERTIFICATION, SPECIALTY COURSES & PHOTO/VIDEO** (Not available yet)

**UNDERWATER VIDEO/DVD** Our Video Professional will capture your diving adventure onboard the Jardines Aggressor I and Jardines Aggressor II to share with family and friends.

**FRIDAY** Friday the Jardines Aggressor I and II returns to Jucaro in the afternoon to provision and fuel for the following week. They will host a sunset cocktail party Friday evening and dinner onboard afterwards.

**GRATUITIES** Gratuities are not included in the Cuba Travel Program. We believe gratuities should be voluntary and based upon the quality of service the staff has provided. When traveling back to Jucaro on Friday, the Captain will have an envelope for gratuities that will be divided with the yacht staff, those who assisted you in Havana and your transport drivers. Payment can be made by cash only.

**CHECKOUT** Check out is Saturday morning between 4 – 5 am. A continental breakfast will be offered prior to departing the Jardines Aggressor I or II. A stop for lunch will be made along the way with arrival at the airport at approximately noon. The crew will assist with your luggage to the international airport in Havana.

**BOUTIQUE** Guests may purchase Oceans For Youth Cuba Travel Program boutique items by going to: <http://www.liveaboardboutique.com>.

**CUBA TRAVEL PROGRAM LOG** Each week we post the Cuba Travel Program log of the previous program on the website and facebook. Please feel free to visit the Oceans For Youth website and go to the log to find out the weather in Havana, water temperature, visibility, and sightings.