

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO JARDINES AGGRESSOR II

Gardens of the Queen (7 nights)

Aggressor Adventures Reservation Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8 am – 5 pm EDT Saturday/Sunday: 9 am – 5 pm EDT

Office (USA/Canada toll free): 800-348-2628 +1-706-993-2531

cuba@aggressor.com

Delay in travel and emergency only:

Cell Phone (after hours) +1-706-664-0111

Jardines Aggressor II

Cell phone calls from unknown or international numbers are not answered due to spam and costs. Guests needing to call for assistance should call the above Aggressor Emergency Contact Number. Local staff of the Jardines Aggressor II do use “WhatsApp”. Guests can reach them using the numbers below.

Alexander +5352861818; Victor +5352635368; Pietro +5353587353

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Aggressor Adventures LLC is the Oceans for Youth Foundation contracted reservation agency for the Cuba travel programs. The Oceans For Youth Foundation is the registered licensed foundation that runs these legal programs. Due to USA OFAC regulations for Cuba travel, all payments need to be made by each individual traveler whether for groups or individuals.

Requirement: Tourist Visa (check with your airline) **and** QR code guests must bring by completing the **online Government form (48 hours prior to departure)** and prior to boarding your flight to Cuba. Link is clickable to translate in English (next to the local time)
<https://dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu/inicio>

There is no option for Liveboards listed. You may select HOME to bypass and enter Jardines Aggressor II, Gardens of the Queen. The harbor is Jucaro in the province/city of Ciego De Avila.

The airline will also ask for the physical address of the marina:

Marina Jucaro
Calle Jucaro final
Ciego de Avila 2

Remember to print also the OFAC letter from your GIS (guest profile).

FEES & TAXES (per person)

All fees and transportation costs must be prepaid through the GIS as part of the People-to-People Legal Cuba Travel Program. **Gratuities** to the conservation guides and staff is not included (**to be paid in cash onboard in USD**).

Mandatory fees: \$120 conservation fee and \$240 port fee

Optional fees:

- \$60 weekly dive computer rental
- \$40 weekly night dive light
- \$175 Scuba equipment pkg includes BC, regulator, dive computer, night dive light, mask, fins, snorkel

Airport transfers: \$60 pp (one way) airport transfers from Camaguey or Cayo Coco (2.5+ hour drive) on charter departure day. \$150 pp (one way) airport transfer from Havana (7-hour drive). Must be reserved in advance through the GIS and cannot be changed 4 weeks prior to the departure.

Pick-up from Camaguey or Cayo Coco Airports to and from the airport is on the charter embark/disembark dates. Dinner is at 7 pm followed by the yacht briefing and a program on Cuba's marine conservation programs. Pick-up in Havana is at 8 am at the Iberostar Parque Hotel. Please arrive at 7.30 am to join the bus transfer to Jucaro where the yacht docks (7 hours approximate).

Sunday – Friday Day 2 - 6

Diving in the Gardens of the Queen and marine programs with Cuban biologists and experts (up to 4 dives each day and 2 on Friday). There will be one night dive during the week. For that day, the 3rd dive will be at 3 pm and the night dive after dinner at 8 pm.

Breakfast	6.30 am
1 st dive	7.30 am
2 nd dive	10.30 am
Lunch	1.00 pm
3 rd dive	2.30 pm
4 th dive	5.00 pm
Dinner	7.00 pm

Saturday Departure Day 7

Early disembarkation (4-5 am) Transfer to Havana International Airport for arrival at approximately 2 pm. Transfer are also arranged to the Camaguey and Cayo Coco Airports. Most airlines require a 2-hour check-in prior to flight.

WELCOME

In the event of an emergency, family and friends may contact the emergency number at Aggressor Adventures.

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.

JARDINES AGGRESSOR II

The Jardines Aggressor II is a 120' yacht with a wide beam built and powered for comfort, safety and stability, is diesel-powered, cruises at 10 knots and has 110-volt power onboard. Staterooms have a hairdryer, their own private bathroom with a toilet and shower and individual air conditioning climate controls. Linens are changed mid-week, by request, and fresh towels are placed in each stateroom as needed.

The Jardines Aggressor II sleeps 24 guests in privacy and comfort and each has a roomy, air-conditioned salon and dining area, sun deck complete with a hot tub, lounge and deck chairs, stereo and media, shaded outdoor bar and grill, and a photo editing computer. Diving amenities include Nitrox (must be prepaid), individual dive lockers, camera table with low-pressure air hoses, and two hot, freshwater showers. The 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. 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 **the VISA requirements**. US citizens may go to the US Department of State website at www.travel.state.gov for more information. The website also has information for consulates by country to assist with requirements. ***The Reservation Office and staff cannot assume responsibility for passengers not having correct documentation.***

C-CARDS

Remember to bring your c-card or proof of certification. The divemaster requires proof of certification 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 Adventures agent. ***Passengers who fail to complete it will be denied participation in the program.***

TELEPHONE/INTERNET/INSURANCE

There is no email or internet available onboard the yacht.

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.

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 transdermal 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 yacht's staff are unable to accept any medication brought onboard for safekeeping, 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.

FOOD

The menu onboard is varied and plentiful, with a variety of Cuban and American feasts, barbecues and local cuisine. If you have any special dietary restrictions, please be sure these are noted when completing the GIS. You will awaken to fresh fruits, hot entrees, cereals and juices. Lunches feature 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.

Aggressor yachts, river cruises, signature lodges and floating resorts operate in remote locations which limits the availability of certain foods and edibles, which can be unavailable in grocery stores and markets. While our culinary teams strive to accommodate individual requests, it is important to recognize that they cannot guarantee it despite their best efforts. Guests with dietary restrictions and food allergies should be aware that the same meal is prepared for all guests, making cross-contamination a possibility. Based on this, travelers should plan accordingly and bring pre-packaged goods if needed. The availability of fresh produce may vary weekly, and they may have a limited selection depending on the destination and availability. The concept of "organic" is infrequent, and items like "gluten-free" products are seldom found in these remote locations.

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 sunbather until the next day.

CLOTHING

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 stateroom. 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 your time on shore.

MISCELLANEOUS TRAVEL INFORMATION

Drones, satellite phones, stand-alone GPS, Nautilus Lifeline Rescue Units (and other units), dive knives and walkie-talkies are not allowed in Cuba. The minimum age limit for scuba diving in Cuba is 15 years of age.

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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 staff can celebrate your occasion. Kindly advise the Reservations Office prior to traveling so the staff 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

While onboard, you may pick a buddy of your choice. The yacht offers up to four dives per day (2 on the last day) including night dives.

There is ample storage space for your diving equipment in your personal locker. The Jardines Aggressor 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 freshwater showers on the back deck after your dives and dry off with a warm towel.

All diving onboard the Jardines Aggressor II should be within the limits and standards of the training agency that certified you. All dives should be planned, no decompression dives. Courses are not offered. **The age limit for diving in Cuba is 15.**

DIVING SUPERVISION

We understand that diving is not just an activity; it's a passion for exploring our underwater world. That's why we empower you and your buddy to take charge of your diving experience. While in the water, you and your buddy are in charge. Every dive begins with a comprehensive briefing from our experienced staff, providing you with the information you need. As certified divers, you and your buddy are responsible for planning and conducting your dives while respecting the limits of your experience and those set by the briefing and your certification agency. When diving is directly off the yacht, at least one staff member will be in the water offering support, underwater photography and videography, and critter spotting services. On select dive sites, a staff member may assist a group in finding specific points of interest. However, we do not directly supervise dives, and guests are not required to follow the in-water staff member. In some destinations, especially those with tender diving, a staff member will accompany each tender group and be in the water to offer assistance and ensure the group stays together. However, buddy teams can operate independently. If a buddy team needs to surface early, the entire group is not required to abort the dive and follow. The buddy team should follow their training procedures for surfacing from a dive and signaling the tender driver or yacht staff that everything is OK once on the surface.

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 staff will loan you equipment free of charge.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

The yacht's Video Professional will capture your diving adventure onboard the Jardines Aggressor II to share with family and friends.

FRIDAY

Friday afternoon the Jardines Aggressor II returns to Jucaro to provision and fuel. 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. **Payment can be made by cash only (USD).** The bills should be in very good condition. Any that have excessive wrinkles, tears, wear marks and are old-style bills are not normally accepted.

CHECKOUT

For those taking the transfer to the Havana International Airport, check out is Saturday morning between 4 – 5 am. A continental breakfast will be offered prior to departing the yacht. Most airlines require a 2-hour check-in prior to the flight. Please book the return flights after 5 – 6 pm. Transfers to the Camaguey or Cayo Coco airport will be early am and depend on flight time.

Guests are advised that credit cards issued by US-based banks are not functional in Cuba. In the rare event of travel disruptions due to weather, guests are encouraged to have a cash reserve to cover meals while waiting for a delayed flight or an additional night in a hotel before boarding a rescheduled flight. Airlines do not provide any assistance in cases of weather-related flight delays.

BOUTIQUE

Guests may purchase Cuba boutique items by going to: www.aggresor.com.

ADVENTURE LOGS

Each week we post the Cuba Travel Program log of the previous program on the website and Facebook. Please feel free www.aggresor.com and go to the Adventure logs to find the recent water temperature, visibility, and sightings.

Wishing you a wonderful educational vacation. Please don't hesitate to call or email us if you have any questions.

