

SARDINE RUN SOUTH AFRICA



"IT COULD WELL BE THE MOST
MEMORABLE DIVE OF YOUR LIFE"

~  PADI

"THIS IS SOMETHING THAT JUST
TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY"

~  DIVEIN.com

"...ONE OF THE GREATEST MARINE
EVENTS ON THE PLANET"

~  DIVE
magazine

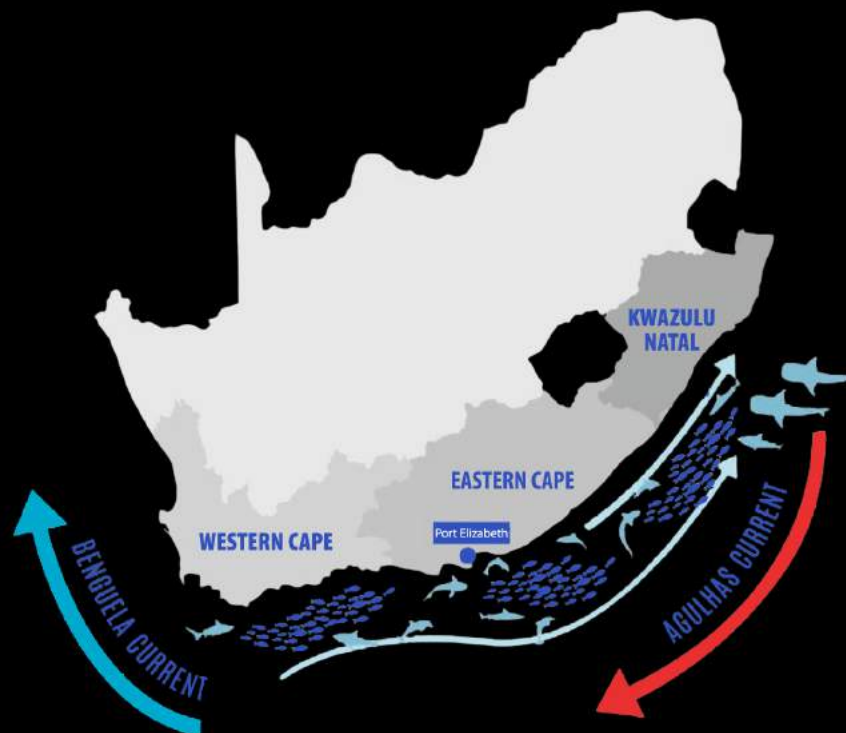
EXPERIENCE ONE OF NATURE'S GREATEST EVENTS

THE SARDINE RUN - THE AFRICAN ADVENTURE

During the months of March to July, the cooler Benguela Current moves up towards the east coast of South Africa, resulting in the migration of millions of sardines. This natural phenomenon provides an abundant food source, attracting dolphins, whales, seals, penguins, sharks, game fish, birds, and people that come from all over the world to spend time interacting with these animals while they chase the biggest shoal on earth.

The Sardine Run action starts in Port Elizabeth in March and by the end of June, the sardines reach Port St Johns, which is situated in the heart of the Wild Coast, a 250km coastline which offers spectacular scenery and unique beauty to the Sardine Run experience.

Cthulhu Divers has built the best Sardine Run experience - putting together the best crews, boats and accommodations to create an exhilarating adventure for anyone choosing to experience the ocean's greatest event of the year.





PORT ELIZABETH

AKA: NELSON MANDELA BAY

From March to April Port Elizabeth is home to the best Sardine Run sightings in Africa.

With a large array of excellent dive sites, Port Elizabeth's diving is characterised by colourful soft corals and a remarkable concentration and diversity of marine species including, whales, dolphins, seals and the largest breeding colony of African Jackass Penguins and Cape Gannets in the world.

Port Elizabeth is also the gateway to South Africa's renowned Garden Route and has a collection of Big 5 Game Reserves, beautiful beaches, restaurants, shopping centres and loads more to enjoy on days off to complete your South African experience.



THE CTHULHU DIVERS ADVANTAGE

OCEAN SAFARI EXCELLENCE

A typical sardine bait ball in crystal clear conditions where dolphins, sharks, whales and sea birds are in a feeding frenzy is, in fact, a rare sighting. Film crews have spent weeks out at sea over the span of a couple of years in search of the perfect bait ball action to get the footage regularly seen on television.

With over 20 years of Sardine Run experience, combined with local knowledge of the area and animals, Cthulhu Divers provides you with the highest probability of encountering the densest displays of the Sardine Run action where you can see penguins, seals, dolphins, whales, sharks as well as birds on the bait balls.



State-Of-The-Art Boats

Cthulhu Divers' boats are modern and include state-of-the-art modifications specifically with the Sardine Run in mind. A specially designed camera tray that is positioned down the centre of the boat, additional fuel tanks that enable our boats to reach 100 miles and an aft seating arrangement, ensures more space with fewer people on pontoons and excellent agility, reach and speed.

Best Equipment

Cthulhu Divers has teamed up with some of South Africa's top dive guides. You will be provided with the latest and greatest in new or well-maintained equipment, 12ℓ steel tanks and boats that are equipped with ladders for easy boat access. These are benefits that few other Sardine Run operators have.

Seasoned Skippers

Our crew are PADI Certified and seasoned Sardine Run specialists. They have worked with the animals for over 20 years and their intuition and local knowledge guarantees the best Sardine Run experience. They have two goals in mind, your safety and making your Sardine Run experience the most memorable expedition of your life.

Superior Comfort

We aim to make sure that you are absolutely comfortable for 24 hours of the day. We think further than your comfort on the boat – we ensure that there is ample space when you are travelling in the shuttle to game reserves, lodgings and attractions and that you are accommodated at superior lodging. A major highlight, is providing you with a dry wetsuit every morning.

Snorkellers And Non-Divers

Most of the Sardine Run is experienced snorkelling and only when we find a static bait ball do we get in the water with scuba gear to view the bait balls from below. This is excellent news for people who are not qualified divers but are able to snorkel.

The Sardine Run is an exceptional experience above and below the water. Think of it as a game drive safari, but in the ocean.

SCHEDULE

DAY OF ARRIVAL



Airport Pick Up

Upon arrival at the Port Elizabeth airport, you'll be greeted by your own personal conseirge and be driven approximately 15 minutes down to your beach front accomodation found near our morning prediva meeting spot. Depending upon the time of your arrival, you may wish to also join us on a short shuttle expedition into the bushveld where you'll need to keep your eyes open as you won't want to miss any of Africa's Big Five which all call this remote area home.



A Taste of Southern Africa

Later in the evening, a welcoming dinner will be served overlooking South Africa's deep blue Indian Ocean. The dinner menu includes options such as butter roasted venison, slow braised lamb shank, beef fillet farci and chermoula prawns.



SCHEDULE

A WELCOME TO AFRICA AND PREPARATION

Open Top Safari

We celebrate the orange glow of your first morning in Africa by jumping into an open top vehicle for a 2 hour guided safari through the wild "kleinbos" (small bush) which is found due east of Port Elizabeth. The height advantage of the vehicle will allow you to see further afield and will grant views of the animal life at their most active time of day. Your knowledgeable guide will also identify each animal and describe their traits and habits while positioning the vehicle to ensure that you get the absolute best photos to show your loved ones back home.

Sardine Run Preparation

After a light breakfast, provided to you back at your accommodation, and an hour to drink in the cool bushveld air, it will be time for us to go meet the rest of your Cthulhu Divers Sardine Run Crew at our dock in the heart of Port Elizabeth. Here you will choose all your necessary equipment to make your dives such as:

- masks & snorkels
- fins
- BCDs
- wetsuits (drysuits aren't recommended due to the added drag)
- regulators
- dive computers

Shopping & A Traditional Sardine Lunch

After the dive briefing, you will then have time to explore The Boardwalk where you can shop for souvenirs and trinkets before we jump back into the shuttle to head to Shanna's Portuguese Restaurant where you will have the option to try sardines cooked in the traditional Portuguese manner. All other menu items are also available.

South African "Braai" BBQ

A relaxed afternoon back at your accommodation in the fresh ocean air will come to an end around a fire where we will be cooking local game such as Kudu, Buffalo, Springbok and Ostrich. Beef, lamb, chicken and snook will also be available for less adventurous guests.





SCHEDULE

SARDINE RUN OCEAN SAFARI DAYS

Sardine Run

You will be shuttled down to our dock at 8am to join up with our crew and head out for some the best Sardine Run sightings along the coast, where thousands of dolphins can be seen chasing shoals of fish into tight bait balls, which results in a feeding frenzy attracting African penguins, sharks, whales, seals, game fish and sea birds.

No Time Wasted

Depending on the weather, you'll be back at the dock between 3 and 5pm at which point you'll have a shuttle ready, with hot coffee and ice cold national beers aboard waiting to take you back to your accomodation.



SCHEDULE

LANDLUBBER DAYS



With so much to wilderness to explore, why not choose a day to take advantage of your time here by joining us on your own African adventure:



Follow in the Footsteps of Giants

Experience an incredible scenic walk, meandering through the Knysna Wildlife Park at elephant pace with panoramic views of the Outeniqua mountains and Knysna forest. Join our guides who will relate informative 'elephant tales' while you follow in the footsteps of these remarkable animals.

World's Highest Bridge Bungee

The bungee jump takes place from the top of the arch of Africa's biggest bridge: Bloukrans. To get out to the jump point you'll zipline from the bank to the arch. From there, it's time for your jump, you nutter!

Two more unique experiences happen in order to get your feet on solid ground. First of all, we offer you a winch ride back up to the top of the arch after your jump. Finally you get to face the suspended skywalk back off the bridge.



What's all this Monkey Business?

The world's first free-roaming multi-species primate sanctuary, Monkeyland offers monkey safaris where you will view the 550+ resident primates, including lemurs, in their forest home. There is also a restaurant, souvenir store and viewing deck. Furthermore, a 420 foot suspended canopy walk will grant you a rare glimpse into these fascinating creatures day-to-day lives.

Here Kitty Kitty...

On your guided tour through the sustainable Jukani Cat Sanctuary by a highly skilled and motivated guide, you will be given an unique insight into all the animals that call the sanctuary home.

After leaving, you'll have a gained a unique understanding of these creatures and the dangers they face both in the wild and captivity.



SCHEDULE

DEGASSING DAY

Horseback Guided Safari

On your last full day before flying home, join us for a 2 hour morning horseback ride through some of the Eastern Capes most game-rich wilderness as we outhorse in search of Kudu, Zebra, Elephant, Hippo, Zebra, Buffalo, Eland, Hartebees, Rhino, Baboon, Leopard, Lion and Hyena to name only a few.

Suitable for unexperienced riders, these horse trails are conducted by experienced guides on sure-footed, well-trained mounts and can lead to some of your closest encounters with with the African Wildlife.

SANCCOB Seabird Sanctuary Tour

SANCCOB is a non-profit organisation whose primary objective is to reverse the decline of seabird populations through the rescue, rehabilitation and release of ill, injured, abandoned and oiled seabirds.

Your tour of the facility will both entertain and educate you on the birds such as the African penguin, cormorants, terns, albatrosses, gannets and petrels, oystercatchers, gulls, pelicans and other coastal birds found in the region. On average, 24 different seabird species are rehabilitated by SANCCOB every year.



DEPARTURE

Airport Drop Off

You end this incredible vacation with a private shuttle back to the Port Elizabeth airport where you'll be given padkos – a selection of South African treats and candies to be enjoyed on your return trip home – and not a single goodbye but a “see you next time” instead as you are sure to be back for another Cthulhu Divers Adventure.

How does the warm Israeli Red Sea, crystal clear water of the Maldives or even the white sandy beaches of the Mexican Yucatan sound?



ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL INFO

There is a wide variety of accommodation available along the beach front, from B&B's, hotels as well as 5 star options. Our preferred choice is the Brookes Hill Suites which are close to many local attractions and enjoy a lovely ocean view, from stylish and comfortable rooms. Wake up and admire the lively waves of the Indian Ocean from the room, take a leisurely walk along the beautiful beach and enjoy every comfort these suites have to offer.

Brookes Hill guests also have the convenience of private access to the beach front from the hotel making it an excellent vacation getaway destination. A shuttle is provided to the Boardwalk, and major attractions are within a close distance from the hotel.

Please contact us for a quote on alternative options.

- Queen bed
- Ocean facing room
- WC and shower
- Full kitchen
- Aircon
- Pool
- Cable TV
- Onsite coin operated laundry



SAMPLE ITINERARY

SELF CATERING
BEACHFRONT ACCOMMODATION

- Day 1:** Shuttle pick up from airport
Afternoon shuttle safari
South African fine-dining dinner
- Day 2:** Guided game drive
Dive preparation
Shopping
Portuguese sardine lunch
South African "Braai" BBQ dinner
- Day 3:** Full day on the ocean (light lunch included)
- Day 4:** Full day on the ocean (light lunch included)
- Day 5:** Bloukraans Bridge bungee
Elephant Walk tour
Primate Sanctuary tour
Jukani Cat Sanctuary tour
- Day 6:** Full day on the ocean (light lunch included)
- Day 7:** Full day on the ocean (light lunch included)
- Day 8:** Horse back safari
Guided game drive
SANNCOB Seabird Sanctuary tour
- Day 9:** Shuttle to the airport
Traditional South African travel care package

SELF CATERING SARDINE FUN
BEACHFRONT ACCOMMODATION

US\$3195

PER PERSON SHARING

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

CAPE TOWN

US\$885
Per Person

A visit to South Africa would not be complete without a stop in Cape Town - known to many as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. This is an awesome 4-night extension that can be added on to any of the standard South African packages. You will get to experience great white shark cage diving, penguins and the scenic beauty that Cape Town has to offer. Tailor-made packages are also available.

Package Includes:

- 4 nights' accommodation (close to the Waterfront)
- Breakfast daily
- Full day great white shark cage diving - Gansbaai (incl. lunch and refreshments)
- Full day scenic tour of Cape Town including Cape Point Nature Reserve
- Free day for sightseeing, visit to Robben Island,
- Conservation Fee
- Shopping and more.
- Note: transfer/car hire/flight quoted on request



KRUGER PARK

US\$1575
Per Person

The Kruger National Park is world-famous for the Big 5, attracting travellers from all over the globe. South Africa constantly works towards preserving its wildlife, and we work with renowned safari lodges and suppliers to ensure your holiday is one that will never be forgotten. Tailor-made packages are also available.

Package Includes:

- 3 nights' full board tented accommodation at Rhino Post Safari Lodge
- 6 game drives with optional bush walks
- Qualified ranger and tracker
- Note: transfer/car hire/flight quoted on request



ALIWAL SHOAL

US\$675
Per Person

Spend a few days at Aliwal Shoal, one of South Africa's premier dive spots where sightings of ragged-tooth sharks are common and the possibility of other large pelagic life such as sea turtles, potato bass and numerous game fish can be seen. The baited shark dive is extremely popular with divers, where you are surrounded by anything from 20 – 80 bold oceanic blacktip sharks and might even have other species such as tiger or bull sharks come close.

Package Includes:

- 3 nights accommodation at Scottburgh
- Breakfast daily
- 3 reef dives
- 1 Baited shark dive
- Hire of tanks and weights
- Diving permit
- Note: transfers/car hire/flight quoted on request



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR THE ULTIMATE OCEAN SAFARI EXPERIENCE

When is the Best Time?

March to April. While the cool Benguela Current may bring the some sardines up earlier, larger shoals tend to be seen over these two months.

Is it Guaranteed?

Like any wildlife encounter, it is not guaranteed, however a day out on the ocean can bring about anything at anytime and you are sure to be rewarded with awesome encounters with marine life.

Scuba or Snorkel?

We do both - whether you are a snorkeller or a diver you can still partake in the action. However, it all depends on the size of the baitball and how fast it moves as to whether we use scuba or snorkel. Your skipper will be your guide and advise you what to use.

Minimum Diving Certification?

Like any adventure the more experience you have the better, however we can cater for all levels of experience. It is however mandatory to have a diving qualification to use scuba, where for snorkelling no experience needed. On your first day, if the conditions allow we will be doing a check dive to make sure that you are comfortable with your equipment, have proper buoyancy control and to familiarise yourself with the conditions.

Water Temperature & Wetsuit Requirements?

The water temperature varies between 57 & 68 degrees Fahrenheit and we recommend 5mm - 7mm wetsuits, including a diving hood & booties. Dry suits are not ideal as they create drag on the surface of the water when snorkelling and are quite cumbersome when it comes to getting on and off the boat on a regular basis.

Diving Equipment?

12L steel tanks Din/Int, weights and all necessary equipment is included in the tour.

Rebreathers are not recommended as they are cumbersome & not practical for staying with the fast moving action.



MAKE YOUR BOOKING

FOR YOUR ULTIMATE OCEAN SAFARI EXPERIENCE

How to Book:

- Visit cthulhudivers.com or express your interest via email on info@cthulhudivers.com
- A 30% Deposit is required to confirm your booking.
- Balance is payable 75 days prior to departure.

Cancellation Policy:

- The deposit is non-refundable.
- Less than 75 days = 100% cancellation fee applicable.

Recommended Requirements:

The PADI Advanced Certification or equivalent is recommended but not required. Alternatively, the option for taking a PADI Discover Local Diving class is also available for interested divers.

Please Note the Following:

- The package is quoted as a US Dollar value which can be converted to the equivalent Pound Sterling/Euro value. Please contact us for a quotation at the time of payment.
- The tour package has been quoted on a sharing basis and an additional single supplement fee will be charged for singles.
- Quoted prices are based on EFT (Electronic Check) payments.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The South African Government has circulated a new travel advisory stating that only a valid passport is required for accompanied foreign minors travelling to South Africa and a visa if required.

CONTACT US



+52 998 303 1727



info@cthulhudivers.com
nicholas.hosken@cthulhudivers.com



cthulhudivers.com

FOLLOW CTHULHU DIVERS ON :

