

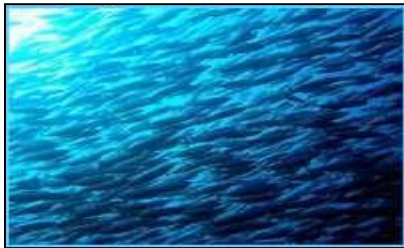
Sardine Run

THE GREATEST SHOAL ON EARTH
Runs from June – July every year!



You might be wondering what exactly is this Sardine Phenomenon people are talking about...

It is called "**The Greatest Shoal on Earth** - hundreds of people are engulfed in the sardine fever that strikes KwaZulu-Natal and, not only are the people in a frenzy; predators of the ocean congregate en-masse for a feast-of-the-year.



The Sardine Run Expedition is a unique wildlife encounter, following the annual Sardine migration along South Africa's beautifully rugged coastline. Typically, the annual migration of the Sardines from their beginnings in the Southern Cape to being sighted off shore on South Africa's Wild Coast starts in June each year. As the shoals of Sardines move north wards up the coast the size of the Sardines shoals tend to grow, ultimately forming the 'greatest shoal on earth' .

This amazing journey attracts a multitude of predators that track and follow the Sardines migration, exploiting this localized and abundant food source. It is hard to describe the excitement of the Dolphins, numerous bird species, Whales, Cape Fur Seals and Sharks as they 'hunt' the Sardines.

You can actually hear the excited squeals of Common and Bottlenose Dolphins as they travel in large breaching waves to pursue their prey, long before you see them. Attracted by the Sardines, game fish such as Shad and Garrick pursue the Sardine Shoals and provide another food source for the Dolphins. Contributing to the noise and surface action are the birds, Cape Gannets, Albatross (yellow nose and black browed), Terns and Petrels, diving into the shoals of Sardines from a great height. Humpback Southern Right and Bryde Whales can also be seen in pursuit of this moving feast.

Below the surface the action continues with the Sharks (Copper, Dusky, Blacktip, Whitetip, Bronze Whalers and Zambezi) feasting on the Sardines and other marine life. The Cape Fur seals actually sleep with one eye open, ready to react should they see a large shark in their vicinity.

The Dolphins and Sharks look for opportunities to herd the Sardines into balls, this is the Sardines natural reaction to feeling threatened as they perceive there to be safety in numbers. These 'bait balls' vary in size and frequency, with the action on some of the larger ones lasting hours.



After several weeks of migrating northwards, the sardines swim out to sea and are carried along the inner edge of the Agulhas current back to the southern Cape to spawn. It must be mentioned at this point that the Sardine Run is a natural phenomenon; therefore the exact timing cannot be predicted. Typically the best times to see the 'run' is June to July.

BEST DATES are in JUNE & JULY:



PACKAGE ITINERARY

6 Nights / 7 days

- Day 1: Transfer to your accommodation, in either your own vehicle, or you can book transfer for extra.
- Day 2-6: After an enjoyable breakfast, board the RIB/zodiac for an exhilarating day of adrenalin rush as you experience the spectacular migration of the sardines. Unlimited diving! Sandwich lunch onboard.
- Day 7: Depart after breakfast – or travel on to Aliwal Shoal for baited shark diving and reef diving (see details below).

Greatest

THE FULL DETAILS

Full details of the locations with map, travel times, the three different venues, what is included, surrounding activities, what you are likely to see on the run, equipment to bring etc can be found in the separate **SARDINE RUN – TYPICAL DAY** notes.

Location : Mboyti, Wild Coast	Location: Port St Johns	Location: Mpame, Eastern Cape
Dates: 6 nights Mon 13 – Sun 19 June Sun 19 – Fri 25 June Wed 13 – Tue 18 July Other dates are for 9 and 11 day package	Dates: 7 nights Flexible from 7 June – 15 July	Dates: 6 nights Flexible from 7 June – 15 July
Ask for price Minimum two people to book	Ask for price	Ask for price Additional single supplement
Return transfers: Durban – Mboyti R2650	Self drive	Return transfers: R2500 from Durban airport or East London R1500 from Umtata airport
Additional day: On request	Additional day: On request	Additional days: ask for price

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE:

- Experienced skipper and dive leader on the boat
Minimum of 5 hours per day at sea, with activity we stay out longer!
Cylinder, weight belt and weights on board
Accommodation, en suite, with breakfast and snacks on board
- Bonus: Only at Mboyti River Lodge

Extra fuel on the boat, if there is lots action we stay out there!
Microlight spotter – makes out time searching the oceans to a minimum the spotter microlight just calls us up! Plus customers have a shot flip in the Microlight!

EXCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE:

- Drinks, tips and meals not mentioned Dive insurance (DAN) and travel insurance
Additional gear hire
Transfers, airfares, and taxes



BOOKINGS:

In order to secure your booking a 20% deposit is payable by EFT. This deposit is payable per person and is non-refundable. The outstanding balance is to be settled prior to the due date of arrival by EFT. Any additional expenses are to be settled prior to the clients' departure by either cash or credit card.

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the unlikely event, and due to the expeditionary nature of this event there will no refunds for no launch days / no show days, however we will go up the river mouth for an event, should the weather not permit us to go out to sea.

Please Note: Bait-Balls are rare and we cannot expect to dive on these every day.

ADD ON PACKAGE



Includes a baited shark dive and Aliwal Shoal reef dive; 2 nights accommodation

- Day 1:** Arrive and book into your bed and breakfast accommodation
- Day 2:** Baited dive followed by Aliwal Shoal dive
- Day 3:** Aliwal Shoal dive then transfer to Port Saint John's, the Wild Coast.

BAITED DIVING - South Africa is one of only three countries in the world offering this kind of diving.

Using a baiting technique that closely resembles the shark's natural feeding habits – sardines and similar fish. Divers as well as snorkeler's and non-divers share in the experience. Excellent for researching the sharks, as normally they are very shy and divers never see them. They are always surrounded by hundreds of black tip sharks.

NOTE:

Cylinder, weights, weight belt included.
Gear hire available for hire.
Baited dive info can be sent separately.





Various accommodation in Umkomaas



Your dive boat



Your transfer

Surf launching



Raggies; Black Tip; Guitar shark



Baited dive at Aliwal s



Submerge and slide into a surreal indigo blue landscape for a magical & mysterious adventure. Discover the feeling of weightlessness and the exhilaration of breathing underwater. Discover serenity, freedom, excitement, beauty and nature as you witness various silhouettes against the blue rays of the sun. Get mesmerised by a rainbow of patterns & exquisite markings on glistening bodies of all shapes and sizes. Then suddenly experience the ultimate adrenaline rush as an eerie grey shape materialises from the limitless blue to contribute to an unforgettable diving experience.



Other species that are often sighted are the Copper Shark, Mako and oceanic reef sharks. For those who are not all to enthusiastic about sharks will not be disappointed as the spectacle of huge shoals of King Fish, Yellow Fin Tuna and Mackerel will enchant you.



We look forward to hearing from you with all the questions you may have.

Always at your service

Best Regards

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