

Raggie Dive



RAGGIES / SAND TIGERS – NO CAGES

ALIWAL SHOAL

During the Raggie high season (winter months) the Raggies have followed the annual migration of the sardines up the coast to the Aliwal Shoal where we can see them for the next 6 months. It is speculated that they move in there to escape the strong currents that are found off the Kwa Zulu Natal coast and the abundance of food - they have gouged themselves on sardines all the way to our relatively warmer waters as opposed to the Cape waters. Although one of the fiercest looking sharks they are unusually calm and accommodating posing for the photographer at every opportunity. The "Raggie Close Encounter" dives are spectacular. They come right up to you with their menacing mouths gaping displaying their very impressive set of dentures that fall out throughout their lives. Once you have experienced this sharks and witnessed their quiet and calm disposition one quickly relaxes in the splendour of these magnificent creatures.

You can find the Raggies at these various dive sites:

Raggies Cave 12 – 19m


This is where the Raggies (Ragged Tooth shark/Sand shark) all meet up to spend their winter holidays. Although fierce looking they can be approached with caution. This area has rock formations with a great amount of caves, overhangs, gullies and swim through's. Big caves, where you can easily fit in a couple of scuba divers, are often also inhabited by Ragged-tooth sharks. The coral life consists mainly of hard coral with fewer reef fish to be found. In the gullies and crevices the juvenile fish hide during the day with False stonefish and Scorpionfish also commonly found in this area. Shark's teeth can be found inside the cave and also in the surrounding sand patches. This dive site is known worldwide for the Ragged-tooth sharks that populate the reef.

Cathedral 15 – 27m

This is a spectacular part of the reef, with a huge cathedral like opening. Here you can explore a cave surrounded by a crater-like rock formation with Ragged-tooth sharks swimming in and out patrolling their territory. The rest of the reef onwards is a plateau with the edges dropping five to ten metres at some places. The main attraction at Cathedral is obviously the Ragged-tooth sharks with all sizes coming in and out like planes on a busy landing strip in the summer holidays. Some of them are tagged and under constant surveillance with tracking systems that are placed near the caves to monitor the migration of these incredible sharks.

Shark Alley 16 – 20m

Ragged-tooth sharks congregate in large numbers on Aliwal Shoal between July and November. Travel through the Alley to get into Raggies Cave. This part of the reef has rock face walls with a sandy bottom and it is a favourite place for Ragged-tooth sharks swimming to the outside ledge. Between the scattered rocks n the sand you can find shark's teeth, and in all the caverns in the walls, reef fish hide from the sharks. Scorpion fish are commonly found here.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Sandtiger Shark (Carcharias Taurus)												
Average size: 8.3 ft / 2.5 m												
Maximum size: 10.5 ft / 3.2 m												
Colour: light brown, bronze-ed back, white belly.												
Note: a.k.a. Ragged-Tooth Shark or Raggie ; known to surface and swallow air to regulate its buoyancy; often found in large groups.												



Price – please email for current prices.

Bookings are essential, and booking terms and conditions apply.

Sometime you can add on a Baited shark dive afterwards for an additional price

NB: Minimum amount of people for the boat to launch (during the quiet times) are TWO divers.

General Itinerary:

- 7:00am kit up
- 8:00am Launch
- Dive briefing
- Return to beach after dive

If you would like to have a personal DVD of your dive, please book ahead for this optional extra.

Happy Holidays and look forward to hearing from you ☺

At your service, best regards

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