

Sodwana Bay



Welcome to Meridian Dive, where we hope you can find exactly what you are looking for!



Enjoy a very comfortable diving holiday experience while retaining the rustic appeal of an out-of-the-way bush camp. The area is covered with dense coastal forest offering exquisite scenery, set back from the beach (no sea views from any of the resorts).

Sodwana is situated 400 km north of Durban near the Mozambique border and as such enjoys a tropical climate. The combination of tropical sunshine and the warm Agulhas current which flows over the reefs, has allowed the formation of a unique coral reef dominated by colourful soft corals.

Over 1200 species of reef fish have been identified in the area and the reefs are often visited by the animals such Mantas, Whale sharks, Zambezi sharks, Humpback whales and dolphins.

Some sightings are seasonal, such as the Whales, which are only seen during their migration from June to September. Loggerhead turtles are common year round, but from November through to January they can be seen laying eggs on the beaches at night. During this time, you can also see the elusive giant Leatherback turtles. Sodwana also has safe beaches for swimming in the sea.

Weather wise – Sodwana is diveable all year around.

Sodwana Bay is one of the most popular of the dive sites – means "little one on its own" in Zulu, is easily accessible, only three and a half hours – 4 hours' drive from Durban by tar road. Temperatures are always above 21°C (70°F) and average 24°C – 28°C. There are many shallow coastal pools, which are suitable for snorkeling with interesting reef formations and fish life.



Anton's Reef – 2 Mile Reef

Average depth is 15m/49ft. A fantastic variety of residential tropical fish and dense shoals of Big-eyes, Moorish Idols and Snappers hover above the coral. Scorpion fish, moray eels, big potato bass, marbled rays and triggerfish are a common sight. The coral is dense and varied, excellent for photography.

Pinnacles

Average depth 10 -15m/49ft. The formation of the corals resembles that of gullies and caves, sandy patches flanked by over-hangs, walls and swim throughs. Occasionally a visit from a passing shoal of dolphins, whale shark or large pelagics may be seen.

Gullies, Caves and Overhangs

Average depth is 10 -15m/49ft. Resident potato bass are up to 1.5 m long. Sea turtles and rays are often seen here. A wide range of coral and invertebrates occur in this zone because of the shallow depths and good light penetration. Small sharks can be sighted.

Seven and Nine Mile Reef

The drop-offs and mushroom-shaped pinnacles, characteristic of this wonderful reef with its great diversity of marine life, make it a favourite among divers.

THE RESORT



sundeck pool



kit up area



outside restaurant

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is scattered around a large communal dining area where everyone gathers after the days diving. Enjoy a couple of drinks and snacks/light meals (burgers, toasted sandwiches, snack baskets, salads and pizza's) from the well stocked bar and take away café, while soaking up the sun's rays around the splash pool. There is a range of different accommodation types from Safari Tents to En suite Cabins. All accommodation is serviced on a daily basis by housekeeping. The accommodation sleeps two persons per cabin.



Private Standard Cabin with shower room

This is a standard log cabin with two single beds, all linen, bath towels and mosquito nets. There is a private shower room attached to the back of the cabin with an open air shower and covered toilet and basin. You walk out your front door down a decking on the side of the cabin where there is another door leading to your private shower room.



En suite Cabin with inside en suite shower room

The En suite Cabin with either two single beds or one double bed, all linen, bath towels, fans and mosquito nets. There are lights and plug points in these cabins. These cabins are substantially larger with an inside door to the en suite shower room with an open air shower and covered toilet and basin. These cabins have their own private deck where you can relax in comfortable lounge chairs after a day of diving.



CATERING

In addition to our well stocked bar and take away cafe, Coral Divers can provide you with an excellent catering service for the duration of your stay – buffet breakfast and buffet dinner.

For this trip, the meals are additional as we decided to get a meal straight after dives, at Coral Divers restaurant, or Light House restaurant, or anywhere, then bring our own evening snacks to have back at Coral Divers. As we may have an early morning dive and miss the breakfast, it will be best to self cater breakfast. However, we can order breakfast the evening before – full buffet at R150 pp. Dinner at Coral Divers from 18:30 is R200 pp.





There is an undercover braai area in the boma. Let the reception know you wish to braai and they will light the fires for you. A hot water urn by the reception area is available throughout the day, just bring your own tea/coffee/milk/sugar.



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Dives – We will be diving with Adventure Mania, Jacques and Amanda van Jaarsveld. They are a RAID Dive centre based opposite Sodwana Bay Lodge and they launch from the beach. Their parking bay to get access to the beach is just past the Sodwana Bay entry boom gate, by the ablutions. Their staff will collect our dive equipment from the car and take it 100m down the dune to the beach set up site. Barry will be the Dive Leader and arrange dives and dive times with the group to suit everyone. There will also be a divemaster on board to carry the buoy line.

The boats - 9m semi-rigid inflatables with twin outboard motors. They carry a maximum of 11 divers including the Divemaster and have sufficient space for cameras and video equipment. Divers are to kit up in their wetsuits and assemble their gear before the boat launches. The equipment will then be secured into the boat, which is then pushed off the sand into the water by the divers. From here the skipper navigates his way through the breakers to the respective dive site. When the diver's surface, the skipper will pick them up and once all are onboard, return them to shore. Medical oxygen is available on all the boats and under the gazebo for emergencies.



Dive excursions are charged for the further reefs over and above the '2 mile' reef price.

- The '5 mile' reef area (including Hot spot, Ribbon and Pothole)
- The '7 mile' reef area (including Northern wall, Amphitheatre, Mushroom rocks and Ramsey's)
- The '9 mile' reef area (including Green tree and Breaking waters)



Excesses are charged per person per dive. All dive prices include air fills.

The Beach Shop – this is located near the air filling stations on the main beach. It has a gear hire facility and a range of diving equipment and accessories for sale. Clothing, cold drinks, tea and coffee are also available. The beach shop is open from 7am to 3.30pm daily.

The resort reception - is open from 7:00 am to 9:30 pm daily, however, the administrative and accounts are only available until 3:30pm.

There is a safe in the office for customers to keep their valuables.

There is a swimming pool which can be used throughout the day in the front of the veranda.

Beach towels can be obtained from the reception upon receipt of a deposit.

There are full self catering facilities for self catered guests and 70 personalised storage fridges. Please bring your own fridge locks (long paddock size 32mm). Cutlery and crockery are provided in the kitchen.

Self-catered guests are more than welcome to join us for breakfast or dinner any time. However, if you book dinner it will be necessary to inform reception before 12pm on the day you want dinner. Prices are available at reception. A fire is lit on request in the boma braai area at 5:30pm.

Take-aways are available from 10:30 am to 6:00 pm that can be ordered from the bar.

The internet facility is available in the TV/sitting area. Internet credit can be purchased from the bar. Public telephones are located outside near the boma.

A free shuttle service is available for all guests to and from the beach. It will leave from the pool deck 45 minutes before each launch and return after your dive. The beach is 2 km away. If you take this option, you will get dropped off at the Coral Divers dive mat, then please walk with your kit across the river to Adventure Mania, or if it's a group, we can ask Adventure Mania to collect our kit!



Adventure Mania's parking bay to get access to the beach is just past the Sodwana Bay entry boom gate, by the ablutions. Their staff will collect our dive equipment from the car and take it 100m down the dune to the beach set up site.



Small Shop - The Silversands shop is the only convenience store located within the park. It is situated opposite the fuel pumps near the KZN Wildlife reception, about 1 km away. It is open from 8am – 5pm Monday to Saturday and from 8am – 1pm on Sundays. The nearest bank is First National in Hluhluwe, although there are ATM facilities inside the Silversands shop and outside the Spar in Mbazwana.

Check in time is 2pm and check out time is 11am (no early arrivals or late check out's are permitted).

A Deposit is required to secure your booking and all accounts are to be paid in full 14 days prior to arrival with Meridian Dive. Cheques are not accepted at the resort

HIGH SEASON DATES – Meridian Dive does not book during the high season, it is total chaos. However, we are happy to book the Sodwana Bay Resort, the bigger resort for you during the High Season.

High Season Dates – no bookings

9 Dec – 12 Jan 2017

KZN Fees

A once off entry fee of +-R40 is to be paid at the 1st gate upon arrival. This allows access in and out of the park. At the 2nd gate, fill out a form. This indicates that you will be staying in our camp.

We accept this payment on behalf of the KZN Wildlife. Be sure to bring all forms provided by the KZN Wildlife on arrival, to our receptionist who will issue your gate exit pass.

(All Prices are subject to change without prior notice)

DIVING LICENCES



As per the Department of Environment and Tourism, all divers will be required to purchase a scuba diving licence to dive in a marine protected area.

These can be purchased from your local Post Office at R50.00 for a month's licence or at reception or R95.00 for a year's licence.

☺ Look forward to seeing you all on another fun-filled

MERIDIAN DIVE ADVENTURE ☺

Best regards
Celia Coleman



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