

Sodwana Bay

THE SMALLER RESORT



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 as 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 the best time to visit Sodwana is from March through to June when the weather is mild. July to September is regarded as the windy season, although pleasant. Although October through to February is hot, if you can handle the heat it is also a good time to visit as this is when the visibility is best.

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/82°F. There are many shallow coastal pools, which are suitable for snorkelling 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.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation is scattered around a large communal 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 our well stocked bar and take away 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 tent / cabin. We have four family en suite cabins and they have one double bed and one single bed that can sleep two adults and one child.



Splash pool; Braai area;



Self Catering
Kitchen; cabins; safari tents



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Please note: Standard Cabins and Safari tents do not have private bathrooms. Customers are required to use the communal KZN Wildlife ablutions. These ablutions are serviced daily and consist of 3 toilets, 2 showers and a bath (The bath is only in the ladies and you will need to bring your own plug). There is hot and cold running water.

Safari Tents

This is the most cost effective option for accommodation. Each tent is equipped with two single foam mattresses and an electric light. (There are no plug points in the tents) You are required to bring along your own linen (Sheet, Duvet and Pillows). The tents are all under a permanent roof for protection from the rain and sun. The safari tents use the communal KZN Wildlife Ablutions. Linen can be hired and a refundable deposit of R100 is required per person.

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.



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CATERING

In addition to our well stocked bar and take away, we can provide you with an excellent catering service for the duration of your stay. This means you can just sit back and enjoy the back-to-nature experience while our home cooked meals recharge your batteries.

Breakfast consists of a buffet including a full English breakfast, cereals, fruit, yoghurt and fruit juice. Our dinner, bed and breakfast rates are excellent value. The menu changes every day and the catering manager and the kitchen staff will make sure you enjoy your meal. We can cater for vegetarians by prior arrangement.



SELF CATERING

We also have a lovely undercover braai area in the boma. Let the reception know you wish to braai and they will light the fires for you. Tea and Coffee is available to all residents throughout the day.



Safari Tents



Standard; and Standard private with shower room



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En-suite cabin (front)



En-suite cabin (inside)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dive planning – provisional dive bookings can be made throughout the day at the Activities counter up until dive planning at 7pm where he/she will need to confirm the dive times with the beach controller at the dive planning board. Making a provisional booking is advised especially during the high season when we are extremely busy. All provisional bookings are subject to change.

Dive equipment – Meridian Dive has dive equipment for you. Or if you arrive here without gear, this can be arranged at dive planning, hired from the reception and collected at the gear room on the morning of the dive. The gear room is open from 6am. A member of staff will assist you with your sizes, weight requirements etc. Dive equipment will be signed out under your name and it is your responsibility to ensure its safekeeping during your stay. All equipment is individually numbered for your identification. You are liable for replacement gear at current rates

The Dives - all the dives conducted at Sodwana Bay are drift dives. A predominant current that flows from north to south is noticeable. Depending on the strength of this current, more than one dive site may be covered. Occasionally a reverse current develops. The Dive masters that lead the dives will choose the best dive sites according to the conditions to ensure a comfortable dive.

Kitting up - divers must kit up and check their equipment during the 30 minute period before their launch. Cylinders will be on the beach at the gazebo. The beach controller co-ordinates the launches and dives of the day and will inform you of the procedures to follow. Your Divemaster is also there to assist you and will brief the group with regards to diving before setting out.



The boats - we use 8m 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.



Freelance beach assistance can be hired at our gazebo on the beach to carry and wash your equipment. They are experienced, reliable and trustworthy.

Dive excesses 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) – nominal fees
- 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).



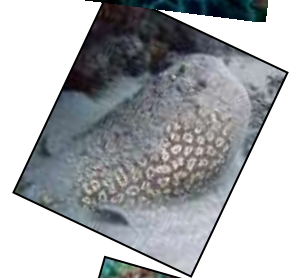
Excesses are charged per person per dive. All dive prices include air fills.

A 5 dive package cannot be converted into individual dives nor shared.

Dive credits - will be given for the remaining dives to individuals that were unable to complete their 5 dive package. These credits are non-refundable, non transferable and valid for 1 year. We have no control over the weather and if we are unable to launch dive credits will be given.



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.

Your cell phone and rechargeable camera batteries can be charged at reception. Please provide a charger and note that all items are left at your own risk.



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.



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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.

Catered guests can expect a full buffet in the morning and the evening. Breakfast is served from 6:30 am until 10:30 am and dinner is served from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm.

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.



Only 4x4 vehicles may drive onto the beach however they may not park in the launch site. All other vehicles must park in the beach parking area. If you are making use of your own transport and not using the courtesy shuttle then you will need to be on the beach 30 minutes prior to your launch.

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. 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.



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KZN Fees

A once off entry fee 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.

The community levy and the wildlife fees will be included on your invoice. 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 for a month's licence for a years licence. The Dive centre will be selling one month licences or we can arrange early in advance.

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

MERIDIAN DIVE ADVENTURE ☺

Best regards

Celia Coleman



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