

All information provided in this tour dossier is subject to change without prior notice, changes would always be in consideration of your safety first and a better quality experience. This would be where we are able to make improvements, sometimes last-minute decisions due to the nature of the tour/event. Overnight accommodation stops can change depending on road or weather conditions or any unforeseen circumstances. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the properties listed in this dossier, these are to be used as a guideline only. We recommend that you download the most up to date version of this tour dossier one week prior to your tour departure date.

Partaking in an adventure tour in Africa involves covering hundreds if not thousands of kilometres and our tours are as much about this journey as they are about the destinations we visit. Use your time during these drives to talk to your fellow travellers, have a drink and take note of the world passing by your window. Some roads you travel on will be smooth and easy while others could take up to an hour to cover 1 kilometre. There is just no telling what could happen with road, weather, traffic and other conditions that may exist that will either increase or decrease the amount of time you spend on the road so take your watch off, put your iPad away, turn off your phone and just relax. An average day could take anything from 5 to 14 hours, it all depends on the day... and that's only an "average"!

Please ensure that you have downloaded and read a copy of the PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION booklet as this document contains important information (e.g travel insurance, visas, your money, health etc) you need to know before you depart on tour.

<http://nomadtours.co.za/media/Pre-Departure-Information.pdf>

Activity Package

This is an optional payment that covers what we consider to be 'essential activities' on our tours. Ideally we would include all of these, but not everyone can afford this. This payment is 100% transparent and is listed below. The Activity Package must be pre-booked along with your tour booking. We cannot always guarantee availability of the activities if you only book on the morning of your tour departing.

Activity	Price
Protea Banks baited dive	R 1 750
Aliwal Shoal baited dive	R 1 750
	R 3 500

This itinerary has been written with the Activity Package items included. If you wish to participate in all the activities listed, you will need to purchase the Activity Package.

Maximum Number of Passengers

20

After hours emergency contact

Our reservations staff are available to receive emergency calls. We would like to request that you respect this emergency number and use it only in the event of emergencies. Please only contact this number if, for example, you have missed your incoming flight, you cannot find your airport transfer or you are running late for your tour departure.

If calling from outside South Africa: 0027 82 578 2199

If calling within South Africa: 082 578 2199

Arrival / Departure

Please be sure to arrive 1 day before your tour is due to depart. This will avoid any unforeseen problems. As the activities on your tour can be moved to any day during your tour, we also highly recommend that you book your flights to depart the day after the tour officially ends.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you. We can also arrange airport transfers – contact your travel agent or Nomad to make these bookings.

Your tour will be departing from the following location

07:00am Garden Court South Beach, 73 OR Tambo Parade, South Beach, Durban, Tel: + 27 (031) 337 5511 www.tsogosun.com

Your tour will be ending at the following location

East London airport

Countries Visited

South Africa

What's included

Meals (Breakfast x 12 / Lunch x 12 / Dinner x 11) (unless otherwise specified, all meals are prepared and served at the Nomad truck), accommodation, guides and transport. Your marine park entry permit will also be included in this tour. We also include some of the highlights. These highlights are listed below in the day-by-day descriptions as "included highlights".

What's excluded

Items of a personal nature (snacks, alcohol, bottled water, soft drinks, tips) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities / souvenirs / activity packages and optional activities).

Insurance (Compulsory)

Please also note that for this tour you will require a diving insurance policy that permits multiple dives and dives to a depth of 30m (we recommend DAN divers insurance). Diving insurance can be purchased from the DAN website, www.diversalertnetwork.org. Travel insurance can be purchased via the Nomad website. (World Nomads travel insurance is in no way affiliated with Nomad Tours). www.nomadtours.co.za/page/travel-insurance.

Diving notes

Water conditions in South Africa can vary day by day. Temperatures will range from 14-26 degrees celsius and we recommend a wetsuit of a minimum of 5mm for your comfort. Visibility ranges from 5-20m, with slightly better conditions in the winter months. Diving is conducted on semi-rigged ribs with launches taking place either straight from beaches or via river mouths. These launches involve breaking through the incoming waves and can get bumpy. All divers joining a Nomad Africa Dive Tour must hold an Advanced Open Water (or equivalent) certification as a minimum and be confident and comfortable in the water. If you are unsure whether your experience level is sufficient please contact us. All dives are conducted within no decompression limits to a maximum of 30m and are standard air dives. Nitrox is available to divers at some of our diving locations. This will be at the extra cost of the diver and will require the proof of a Nitrox certification. All divers must understand that Nomad Africa Dive Tours cannot guarantee any ocean sightings and there will be no financial reimbursement for dives where highlights are not seen. Please note in particular that the Sardine Run is not guaranteed and we can only work to the best of our knowledge with respect to time of year.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – Durban to Margate

Please note that during the next few days (while we are visiting Protea Banks and Aliwal Shoal), the order of activities could change without prior notice and a degree of flexibility is needed. This is to allow for maximum dive opportunities and experiences based on conditions and weather. Please also note that should conditions prevent diving we will substitute an alternative activity.

Leaving the city of Durban behind us we make our way south along the dolphin coast of Kwa-Zulu Natal. About 2 hours north of Durban is the launch site for both Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks, home to some of the best Apex Predator shark diving. We arrive at the Dive House and settle in for our stay. This afternoon we will check all dive equipment, ensure the correct gear is allocated and have a dive briefing for the following days.

Accommodation	Sugar Beach Resort www.sugarbeachresort.co.za
Facilities	Two per room with en-suite bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Durban to Sugar Beach Resort
Included Highlight	Kwa-Zulu Natal coastline and dive briefing

Day 2/3/4 Protea Banks Diving

Over the next three days we will have 5 dives on the Protea Banks Reef where we hope to see some of the worlds largest marine predators. During these three days you will also be offered a baited shark dive. Diving both North and South Pinnacles we will have the chance to collect Sand Tiger Shark teeth and explore caves, swim-throughs and tunnels. An optional Tiger and Bull Shark baited dive at Protea Banks will be offered during our stay. This dive takes place in open water, hanging in the blue whilst possible Tiger, Bull, Hammerhead and Oceanic Black-Tip sharks come in to investigate the scent trail around us. A full safety briefing and training session is included and this is a breathtaking experience.

Accommodation	Sugar Beach Resort www.sugarbeachresort.co.za
Facilities	Two per room with ensuite bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Included Highlights:	5 Recreational dives on Protea Banks
Dive Centre:	African Dive Adventures
Route:	Ifafa to Shelley Beach launch area
Optional Highlight:	Protea Banks Baited Dive

Protea Banks

Protea Banks has been rated by many divers from around the world as *the* best shark dive. Many divers are scared of sharks due to horror stories and myths created by the movie world, but their fears are totally unfounded. Sharks are intelligent animals, do not recognise us as a food source and generally tend to be shy and respectful towards the divers.

Key Dive Sites

NORTHERN PINNACLES: The reef has two large cave systems which are used by the Ragged Tooth Sharks as resting zones on their annual migration and congregation route. On a good day, the diver can encounter up to 200 sharks in an area smaller than half a rugby field. Starting at the large cave we look in from the top to observe the 'Raggies' interacting peacefully with each other, often in numbers so large the bottom can hardly be seen! Afterwards we can pass through a tunnel that we can swim through (if it is not occupied by sharks). At the end of the tunnel lies the second cave. This cave is also open on top and features several chambers, each one with a wide opening at the top ceiling. If there are no Raggies in the caves, it is fun to explore around in the chambers, looking for sharks' teeth. This is the only souvenir we allow the diver to remove from the reef. As spring goes into summer, large shoals of Hammerhead Sharks frequent this part of the reef.

SOUTHERN PINNACLES: This area is home to the Zambezi Shark (Bull Shark) that Protea Banks initially became famous for. From Oct to May, some very large specimens can be encountered here. Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks are also seen shoaling at this time; they can come past in groups of up to several hundred. Hunting packs of Great Hammerheads investigate any strange noises. We start the dive at the Southern Cave full of game and reef fish and head towards Kingfish Gully, an overhanging rock that is home to large shoals of Kingfish, Yellowtail, Kaakap, Sea Pike Tunny and Potato Bass. The current then takes us to a large sandy patch called Sand Shark Gully. It lies at exactly 40m depth and is home of the Giant Guitar Shark, at times these can be seen lined up like planes at an airport.

BAITED SHARK DIVE: 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 habit, African Dive Adventures lets divers as well as snorkelers and non-divers share in the experience.

SHARKS & SARDINE RUN 2018: 14 Days | NADE (Accommodated)



Starting with a special Tiger Shark Dive Briefing and explanation of code of conduct, guests are then taken out to Protea Banks. The bait is dropped in the water at about 6m/18ft depth and we wait until the chum slick has dissipated and a tiger shark has picked up the scent. As soon as the tiger is circling the bucket, the divers enter the water as quietly as possible and swim slowly towards the bait bucket. Divers as well as bucket will be drifting with the current as the tiger sharks swim round and round and right in between the divers. After approximately one hour we will call time out and return to base. *(This activity is optional and you need to pay the dive centre directly)*

Day 5/6 Aliwal Shoal

The following two days we spend diving the equally famous Aliwal Shoal. Renowned for Raggie Tooth Sharks congregating in their hundreds, dolphins and the baited shark dive. Each morning we will travel the hour from our Dive House in Margate to the launch site for Aliwal Shoal. Over the two days we will do 3 recreational dives on the Aliwal Shoal, including the famous "Raggie Cave". The optional baited shark dive is well worth it, with Oceanic Black-Tip Sharks gathering in large numbers and possibly Tiger Sharks investigating the bait.

Accommodation	Sugar Beach Resort www.sugarbeachresort.co.za
Facilities	Two per room with ensuite bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Included Highlights:	3 Recreational dives on Aliwal Shoal
Dive Centre:	Aliwal Dive Centre
Route:	Ifafa to Umkomas
Optional Highlight:	Aliwal Shoal Baited Dive

Diving Aliwal Shoal

The World Famous Aliwal Shoal was formed thousands of years ago from fossilized sand dunes during the times when sea levels were much lower than they are today. The Agulhas Current that runs south along the east coast of Africa brings with it warm water and a huge diversity of tropical sea life.

Key Dive Sites

CATHEDRAL: A very popular dive for the Ragged Tooth Shark enthusiast. During the "Raggie" season it is possible to see up to 40 of these placid sharks resting within the amphitheatre. A fantastic photo opportunity! During the summer months look out for hammerheads above, and see the stingrays that take up residence when the Raggies depart. **RAGGIES CAVE:** The most popular dive site here on Aliwal Shoal. As its name suggests this is the best place to view the Ragged Tooth Sharks during the shark season. Entry into the cave is not permitted when the sharks are here but there is an excellent viewing area at the entrance where divers can safely kneel and watch the sharks' activities. When the sharks have departed this is a very good place to hunt for sharks' teeth in the sand. Please note that teeth are the only items that divers are permitted to take from the Shoal. There are many resident potato bass found in the surrounding overhangs as well as many types of moray eel.

HOWARDS CASTLE: This recently discovered and pristine site is not often dived as it requires a longer boat ride and sea conditions need to be calm. There are loads of interesting gullies and overhangs as well as a wide diversity of marine life. **INSIDE EDGE:** This section of the reef encompasses the entire inshore edge of the shoal. Although many large species of fish, sharks, dolphins and rays may be found here, it is particularly good for finding smaller things such as octopus, cuttlefish, scorpion fish, firefish, cowfish, nudibranchs and eels. The top of ledge is at about 14 to 16m and open water divers can therefore enjoy this dive site providing they level off.

OUTSIDE EDGE: This is the dive site for viewing the big stuff, and it is always a good idea to keep an eye out at midwater where schools of hammerheads, game fish or the odd tiger shark may be found. **EELSKINS:** This dive site is superb example of the fossilized rock formations. Situated near the southwestern tip of the reef there are lots of clusters of reef with plenty of sand gullies and lovely swim-through. Many cowries can be found here and as the gullies offer shelter from the currents you will often find Raggies during the season and lots of shoaling tropical fish.

NORTH EASTERN PINNACLES: A very easy and gentle dive site for open water divers and beginners. Lots of potholes forming sheltered nurseries for small fish. Many anemones and clown fish are to be found here as well as octopus. You may see some large potato bass sheltering from the current.

NORTH SANDS AND SOUTH SANDS: These two large sand patches are an ideal location for students to practice their skills and for divers to descend and pause to adjust buoyancy before exploring the reef. An ideal place to find sand sharks and often groups of dolphins can be found playing and rubbing themselves on the sand. Truly an amazing sight! **MANTA POINT:** Lots of nooks and crannies where crayfish and cleaner shrimp hide. Good area to find rays of all varieties especially Manta Rays during the season.

Day 7 - Durban

Durban has long been the favourite holiday destination for South Africans, the golden mile with its warm seas and safe swimming beaches attracts visitors throughout the year. This afternoon we have time to spend on the beaches of the golden mile.

Accommodation:	Garden Court South Beach Hotel www.tsogosun.com
Facilities	Two per room with ensuite bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Margate to Durban
Optional Activity	Dinner

Day 8 – East London to Coffee Bay

Please note that during the next few days we will be subject to weather and ocean conditions and may not be able to launch each day. To account for this risk we have created this lengthy stay in Coffee Bay in order to ensure you have the best possible chance. Please also note that Nomad cannot guarantee Sardine Run action at any time and are only able to book tours in the best possible window to the best of our ability.

This morning we will be transferred to King Shaka International airport, boarding our flight to East London. Upon arrival in East London, we will meet our crew. Leaving the city of East London behind, we travel north along the Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape to the small town of Coffee Bay, our launch site for the famous Sardine Run. After settling into your hotel you will have the chance to explore this stunning area and visit the iconic "Hole In The Wall". This evening you will have a full briefing on the operating of the Sardine Run adventure over the next few days.

Accommodation	Ocean View Hotel, Coffee Bay www.oceanview.co.za
Facilities	Two per room with shared bathroom Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Route	East London to Coffee Bay
Included Highlight	Hole in the Wall and dive briefing

Day 9/10/11/12/13 – Sardine Run

The annual Great Sardine Run is a natural phenomenon that usually occurs during the months of June and July, when massive schools of sardines migrate from the colder waters around the Cape to the warmer waters of Kwa-Zulu Natal to give birth to their offspring. Once they've laid their eggs, they return to the Cape, closely followed by thousands of dolphins, birds, fish of prey, whales and sharks. The ocean awakes and the thrill is simply indescribable.

After an early breakfast, you will be transferred to Mapusi, the most spectacular, idyllic river mouth from where we launch our boat. On the banks of this river, divers get ready for the launch. The 4 x 4 drives the boat down into the river. Divers and the crew have to push the boat further until there is enough water under the keel and all rocks are cleared. Once it is safe, the skipper gets on the boat and starts the motors. When he has enough water under the keel, he calls all guests on. With speed the boat drives over the sandbank and into the waiting basin. Once all waves have passed, the skipper chooses the safest moment to launch out to sea.

In the meantime our plane has taken off and done a good fly over in search of animal activity. The skipper and the pilot are in constant radio contact whereby the boat gets directed to the best action on hand. Sardine Run Action consists not only of silver fish but more so of activities such as whales, dolphins, sharks and gannets. Wherever there is something happening the boat will go.

The highly experienced and skillful crew will approach anything interesting with great care and only when it is safe will the divers be allowed to enter the water. More often than not this will be done on mask and snorkel. There is a constant off-the-boat and on-the-boat which requires stamina and certain fitness. Obviously it is always the client's choice if he wants to remain on the boat or jump into the water. To make a long day out at sea as pleasant as possible we offer sandwiches, fresh fruit, chocolates, cookies, fruit juice and water on the boat.

Each day we will launch (weather permitting) and spend a full day out at sea to give you the best chance of action. We return by early to late afternoon each day when you will get a chance to rest, relax, hike the area and charge those all important cameras. Each evening we have a sumptuous buffet and bar for tales of the day just past.

Accommodation:	Ocean View Hotel, Coffee Bay www.oceanview.co.za
Facilities:	Two per room with shared bathroom Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.
Included Highlights:	6 full days of Sardine Run action (weather permitting)
Dive Centre:	African Dive Adventures

THE SARDINE RUN BAIT BALL

The sharks and dolphins round up a large number of sardines and form what is known as a bait ball. Once the bait ball is formed, the sharks and dolphins swim through that ball until not one sardine is left. They are often joined by gannets, which dive from a dizzy height and use their wings to actually swim further down in pursuit of a sardine.

Then comes a Brydes Whale from the depth and like a Front End Loader scoops thousands of sardines into its gullet. As divers, we first approach the situation carefully and watch from the boat what is going on. Then we slide into the water and watch the incredible scene from a depth of approximately 5-7m. Such a Bait Ball can last from a few minutes, to half an hour, or even longer. When it is over it's back on the boat and off to the next group of sardines. This can go on for hours or even the whole day with a short lunch break in between.

Day 14 - Coffee Bay to East London

Today we will retrace our steps from Coffee Bay back to the town of East London, where your tour comes to an end upon arrival at the East London airport. Please ensure you book your flights for as late as possible in the afternoon.

Accommodation:	Own arrangements (please ask Nomad for assistance if required)
Route:	Coffee Bay to East London

This itinerary has been written with the Activity Package items included. If you wish to participate in all the activities listed, you will need to purchase the Activity Package.