

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
Hlane afternoon game drive	R 360
Hlane morning game drive	R 360
Protea Banks baited dive	R 1 750
Aliwal Shoal baited dive	R 1 750
	R 4 220

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

7.00am Belvedere Estate corner George and Belvedere road, Glen Austin Midrand, Tel: 079 510 6705 – www.belvedereestate.co.za

Your tour will be ending at the following location

King Shaka International Airport, Durban

Countries Visited

South Africa

What's included

Meals (Breakfast x 13 / Lunch x 12 / Dinner x 12) (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.diversalernetnetwork.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-ridged 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 – Johannesburg to Kruger National Park

Please note that during the next few days (while we are visiting Kruger National Park), the order of activities could change without prior notice and a degree of flexibility is needed. This is to allow for maximum game viewing opportunities and experiences. Leaving the city of Johannesburg behind, we travel along the Panorama Route, one of South Africa's most scenic drives, where we will visit the Blyde River Canyon, God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes. Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world and the view is dominated by the Three Rondavels, huge rocky outcrops at the end of the canyon. Later your guide will give a full briefing on the tour.

Accommodation	Timbavati Private Nature Reserve www.timbavati.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	Johannesburg to Timbavati
Included Highlight	Panorama route: Blyde river canyon, God's window, Bourke's luck potholes

Day 2 – Kruger National Park

Our day begins with a visit to the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, where injured animals are rehabilitated so they can be released back in to the wild. After a full tour of the Moholoholo facility we travel toward the world famous Kruger National Park area.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Safari Camp http://www.nkambeni.com
Facilities	Two per Permanent Tent with En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Timbavati area to Kruger National Park
Included Highlight	Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation tour / afternoon game drive in Nomad Truck in Kruger Park

Day 3 – Kruger National Park

The day will be spent in open 4x4 vehicles in order to truly appreciate the Kruger. Your 4x4 vehicles will be driven by specialist Kruger guides and by using these smaller vehicles we have a better chance of viewing the wildlife. The whole morning will be spent driving, at midday we will stop at one of the well-appointed camps where lunch can be purchased, before the afternoon game drive that will bring us back to the our camp.

Accommodation	Nkambeni Safari Camp http://www.nkambeni.com
Facilities	Two per Permanent Tent with En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Included Highlight	Kruger National Park game drive in 4x4 vehicles

Day 4 – Kruger National Park to Hlane National Park Swaziland

Today we head south again and cross the border into Swaziland, entering the Hlane Royal National Park, a huge nature reserve, home to lion, elephant and white rhino. We will camp near a water hole where game can be seen coming to water and have an option to be entertained around the fire that evening by traditional dancers. This afternoon, we will participate in the afternoon Hlane open vehicle game drive.

Accommodation	Hlane National Park www.biggameparks.org/3parks_hlane.html
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	Kruger Park to Hlane National Park
Activity Package	Afternoon Hlane game drive
Border	Swaziland: Matsamo/Jeppes Reef, Tel: +268 2437 1791 Open: 07h00-20h00

Day 5 – Hlane National Park to Sodwana Bay

After an early morning optional game drive we leave Hlane, cross the border back into South Africa and enter iSimangaliso Wetland Park. We arrive in Sodwana in the late afternoon and check into our bungalows at Triton Dive Lodge. That evening we will meet our dive guides and have a briefing of the upcoming diving

Accommodation	Triton Dive Lodge (4 sleeper cabins) www.tritondiving.co.za
Facilities	Four per room (shared ablutions) <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Activity Package	Morning Hlane game drive

Route Hlane National Park to Sodwana Bay

Day 6/7 - Sodwana Bay

The following two days will be spent diving a selection of the Sodwana Bay dive sites.

Accommodation Triton Dive Lodge (4 sleeper cabins) www.tritondiving.co.za

Facilities Four per room (shared ablutions)

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Included Highlights 4 recreational dives in Sodwana

Dive Centre Triton Dive www.tritondiving.co.za

Diving Sodwana Bay

Sodwana Bay is a small town on the northeast coast of South Africa, south of the Tropic of Capricorn. It hosts one of the most southerly and beautiful hard and soft coral reefs in the world. The dive sites are situated in the Marine Protected Area within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage site.

Key Dive Sites

2 MILE: This is the largest reef at Sodwana Bay. This reef is approximately 1.9 km long and 900m wide and because of its size hosts up to 30 different dive sites. 2-Mile has the most extensive beds of beautiful coral of all types. All the different sharks are occasionally seen here, with White-tipped and Grey Reef sharks seen most often. One of the highlights and many customers' favorite dive site is Anton's Reef at the most southern tip of 2-Mile. has sheer walls which create vortex in the slight current which attracts shoals of schooling fish, such as snappers, flame goat fish, coachmen and also king fish. A spectacular dive and a photographers dream.

7 MILE: We normally drop in on Northern Wall, where there are beautiful structures of sand stone with corals and sponges growing all over. Huge shoals of Blue banded Snappers and Goatfish are there to greet us. This area is a favorite hunting ground of the Trumpet Fish, and all his different hunting techniques are observed. A slow drift along the edge of the wall leads onto the Amphitheatre. Gorgeous Plate and Table Corals dominate the reefscape. Small fellows like the Golden Moray, are occasionally observed hiding there. Continuing with the slow drift we then arrive at Lionfish Cave, named after the Devil Firefish (or Lionfish) that often hide inside there. Occasionally a turtle will be found sleeping in this cave as well. At this stage we often say farewell to those divers who's air has not lasted, and continue our drift through to Mushroom Rocks, which are huge sandstone structures rising from the bottom of 22 m to 15 m. These rocks get the name because of their shape. They have beautiful corals, particularly the soft corals, and are surrounded by Goldies and other small fish.

Day 8 - Protea Banks

We head through Durban, South Africa's largest port and a popular surf destination. It is also home to the famous dolphin coast and some of the world's best Apex Predator shark diving. An hour and a half south of Durban is the small beachside resort of Shelley Beach, launch point for the infamous Protea Banks, our diving destination for the next 4 days.

Accommodation Sugar Beach Resort www.sugarbeachresort.co.za

Facilities Two per room with ensuite bathroom

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

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

Day 9/10/11 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 world's largest marine predators. 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 en-suite bathroom

Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.

Included Highlights 5 Recreational dives on Protea Banks

Activity Package Protea Banks baited dive

Dive Centre African Dive Adventures www.africandiveadventures.co.za

Route Ifafa to Shelley Beach launch area

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. 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 12/13 - 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 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 www.aliwalshoal.co.za
Route	Ifafa to Umkomas
Activity Package	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

KRUGER & SODWANA PRIVATE GROUPS 2018: 14 Days | NAJSS (Accommodated)

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 14 - Durban

We travel this morning to the Durban airport where our tour ends upon arrival at the King Shaka International Airport.

Accommodation: Own Arrangements/post-tour accommodation/ Extension can be booked through Nomad

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