

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
7 Gilled Cow Shark & Cape Fur Seals dives	R 1 925
Red Bus City Tour	R 190
Table Mountain cable car	R285
Great White cage dive	R 1 900
Robben Island Tour	R 350
Cape Town cultural tour	R 580
Cheese and wine tasting	R 70
Cango Caves basic tour	R 140
Graaff Reinet historical tour	R 360
Protea Banks baited dive	R1 750
Aliwal Shoal baited dive	R 1 750
	R9 300

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
12:00pm from your Cape Town accommodation.

Please ensure you arrive at the departure point at least 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time.

Your tour will be ending at the following location

King Shaka International Airport, Durban

What's included

Accommodation, meals (Breakfast x 18 / Lunch x 16 / Dinner x 15) (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) / entrance fees (associated with optional activities / souvenirs / activity packages and optional activities, tips).

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.

Countries Visited

South Africa, Lesotho

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 – Cape Town arrival and Robben Island Tour

This morning you will arrive into Cape Town International Airport and transfer to your accommodation to settle in for your 4 day city stay. At 12pm you will hop on the hotel shuttle service to the V&A Waterfront (upon arrival at the V&A Waterfront, make your way through the waterfront, over the foot bridge and towards the museum and the Robben Island ferry departure point), where you will board the ferry to the famous Robben Island, the location of the prison that Nelson Mandela was incarcerated on. This tour takes approximately 4 hours. Please ensure you have warm clothes as it can get windy on the ocean around Cape Town.

Accommodation	Cape Sun Hotel www.tsogosun.com
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>
Activity Package	Robben Island Tour

Day 2 – Cape Fur Seal and 7 Gilled Cow Shark Dives

After breakfast, you will be collected by a transfer at 7:30am and transferred to Simon's Town, located on the Cape peninsular and the launch site for diving with Cape Fur Seals and the 7 Gilled Cow Sharks. After a dive briefing you will board the boat and head out for your two dives of the day, one with the ever playful Cape Fur Seals and another with the 7 Gilled Cow Shark. Please note that whilst these dives are available year round you may want to check on the best seasons for these dives.

After your two dives and lunch at the dive center your transfer will take you back into the city and drop you at the V&A Waterfront for a few hours of shopping, enjoying the festive atmosphere at the waterfront. Perhaps you would like to take a tour of the Cape Town Aquarium, or simply sit at one of the many restaurants or cafes to while away some hours in the sun.

Accommodation	Cape Sun www.tsogosun.com
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>
Activity Package	7 Gilled Cow Shark & Cape Fur Seals dive
Dive Centre	Pisces Dive www.piscesdivers.co.za
Route	Cape Town City Centre to Simons Town return

Diving with Seals and 7 Gilled Cow Sharks

Kelp Forest Dive

One of our more popular kelp forest sites is at Pyramid Rock where we have a good possibility of encountering the Sevengill shark, which is also called the Cow shark or Broadnose Sevengill. The maximum depth is only 12 meters making it ideal for beginner and junior divers to join. The shallow depths and picturesque environment makes this is the ideal environment for photographers aiming to capture these sharks in their natural habitat. The Cow sharks aggregate in the shallow channel between Pyramid Rock and the shore. If the sharks are present, there can be up to 30 sharks in the aggregation. Their curious and inquisitive nature means there is no baiting involved and we rely solely on a specific area where these animals are known to aggregate. Aside from the main attraction, the kelp forest is a beautiful environment to explore. There is an abundance of life in the kelp forest understorey.

We do have times when the sharks are not present in the area – please enquire about recent sightings when booking to have realistic expectations. If the Cow sharks are not evident, then look out for the Spotted Gully sharks, which attain 1.7 meters in length. This is a timid shark more easily approached by free divers than SCUBA divers. Then there are several species of catshark: the Pyjama catshark, Puffadder Shyshark, Leopard shyshark and Dark shyshark. These smaller sharks are between 50cm and 1.2 metres in length. The huge Short-tailed rays can occasionally be spotted. These rays grow up to 2 metres across the disk.

Cape Fur Seal Dive

The Cape Fur Seal dive is a super fun and interactive dive and one of the signature dives that Cape Town has offered for more than two decades. The seals are very playful and love to show their acrobatic skills to divers. These seals are used to divers and are not shy at all, they will often jump in the water in large numbers to come and investigate and play with divers. We dive at Partridge Point, an exposed haul-out spot for seals. There are times when the water can be rough at the site due to waves or currents. We will make a careful assessment before entering the water and reserve the right to divert the divers to a more protected site if conditions warrant it. A shallow section of the reef, known as the amphitheater, is the best spot to interact with the Seals. The deeper sections of the reef offer beautiful marine life, swim-throughs and large sea fans.

Day 3 – Cape Town City Tour, Table Mountain and Constantia Wines

The best way to experience the city of Cape Town is on the classic 'Red Bus' that guides visitors around the city with full information and allows for you to jump on and off as you please. This morning you will join the Red Bus tour at the stop nearest to your hotel and enjoy the highlights of Cape Town. Jump off the bus at the iconic Table Mountain and go up the cable car to experience the impressive views of the city and beyond. Stop in Constantia and sample the marvelous Cape wines. Take the day to explore the city and enjoy the atmosphere of this vibrant town.

Accommodation	Cape Sun www.tsogosun.com
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>
Activity Package	Red bus city tour and Table Mountain cable car

Day 4 - Gansbaai Great Whites

This morning you will have an early pick up and transfer to the town of Gansbaai, the gateway to Great White diving in South Africa. You will be collected between 5-6am and served a light breakfast upon your arrival in Gansbaai, where you will also be briefed for your cage diving adventure. Today you will experience the awe-inspiring Great White Shark, up close and personal, as each person gets the opportunity to spend some time in the cage. When not in the cage you can view these incredible animals from the viewing deck on the top of the boat. On return to land we will enjoy a light lunch before making your way back to the city.

Accommodation	Own arrangements (please arrange with the hotel concierge to store your bags, if you are not booking a post tour night for this evening)
Activity Package	Great White cage dive

Day 5 - Cultural Cape Town – Stellenbosch

Set at the south-western corner of the African continent, Cape Town is scenically located at the foot of Table Mountain. This morning we spend our time experiencing some of the rich historical and cultural highlights of the city, those who have opted for the activity package will join a local tour operator for an insight into the life and history of the people living in the Cape. Enriched by our experiences we travel north to the winelands to enjoy a sampling of some fine Cape wines. Our final stop this afternoon is the historic town of Stellenbosch where we will have some time to explore the town on foot. We end this busy day with a dinner out after checking-in to our hotel this evening.

Accommodation	Le bac Estate http://lebac.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	Cape Town to Paarl
Activity Package	Cape Town Cultural Tour & Cheese and Wine Tasting
Included Highlight	Self-Guided Walk through Stellenbosch
Optional Activity	Lunch and Dinner

Day 6 - Route 62 – Oudtshoorn

Crossing the Hottentots-Holland Mountains this morning we set out for the Klein Karoo and our overnight stop in Oudtshoorn. We follow the scenic Route 62 today, stopping to experience one of the many farm stalls on the way. One of the more quirky highlights today is Ronnie's Sex Shop, not a sex shop at all, but a rather interesting country pub! On arrival in Oudtshoorn this afternoon we will visit an Ostrich Farm to learn about these fascinating birds.

Accommodation	Kleinplaas Holiday Resort http://www.kleinplaas.co.za OR De Oude Meul http://www.deoudemeul.co.za/
Facilities	Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Paarl to Oudtshoorn
Included Highlight	Ostrich Farm Visit

Day 7 - Heart of Garden Route

Our morning starts with a guided tour of the famous Cango Caves, we can only marvel at the astonishing formations that have formed in these impressive limestone caves. Returning above ground we make our way over the Outeniqua Mountains and descend to the beautiful Garden route coastline below. In the coming days we spend time hiking, relaxing at the beach and sampling the many optional activities available.

Accommodation	Dunes Lodge http://www.plettenbergbayinfo.co.za/accommodation/selfcatering/dunes.html OR Fairy Knowe http://www.rgfp.co.za/fairyknowe.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	Oudtshoorn to Garden Route
Activity Package	Cango Caves Basic Tour
Optional Activity	Dinner

Day 8 – Tsitsikamma

The Garden Route is a treasure trove of beautiful beaches, forest walks and an exciting menu of optional adventures. While our morning is set aside for some relaxation on the beaches of Plettenberg Bay, today offers a number of optional activities and your guide will assist you to get the most out the day. This afternoon we have the opportunity to visit the hidden gem of Nature's Valley, this beautiful village offers us a chance to enjoy a hike or simply relax on the pristine beach in this little paradise. In order to make the most of this day, the truck will run a set schedule and you are free to join or leave at the places that interest you.

Accommodation	Tsitsikamma Village Inn http://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/ OR Tsitsikamma Cottages http://www.tsitsikammahotel.co.za OR Khoi San Village http://www.tsitsikamma.info/listing/tsitsikamma_khoisan_village
Facilities	Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Route	Plettenberg Bay to Storms River Village
Included Highlight	Plettenberg Bay Beaches, Natures Valley Nature Walk
Optional Activity	Township Tour, Ocean Safaris, Sea Kayaking, Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and Bloukrans Bungee Jump

Day 9 – Tsitsikamma

Tsitsikamma National Park is one of South Africa's premier marine reserves and this morning we set out to explore the rugged coastline on foot. Our hike along the Waterfall Trail sees us cover the first section of the world renowned Otter Trail, this is not an easy hike and those who prefer a more leisurely option can make use of the boardwalks to the Storms River Mouth. For the adventurous the Waterfall Trail offers a spectacular winding path that follows the rocky coastline, an out and back trail we stop for a refreshing swim at the base of an icy Waterfall. For those who wish to get a birds-eye view of the magnificent forests an optional zip line tour through the canopy is offered this afternoon.

Accommodation	Tsitsikamma Village Inn http://www.tsitsikammavillageinn.co.za/ OR Tsitsikamma Cottages http://www.tsitsikammahotel.co.za OR Khoi San Village http://www.tsitsikamma.info/listing/tsitsikamma_khoisan_village
Facilities	Two per Room with En-suites Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Included Highlight	Tsitsikamma National Park entrance and hike with your Nomad guide
Optional Activity	Treetop canopy tours

Day 10 - Addo Elephant National Park

This morning we set out for the Eastern Cape and the Addo National Park. We make a stop this morning in the surfing mecca of Jeffrey's Bay, famous for its waves you have the opportunity to visit the small surfing museum, catch a quick wave or simply enjoy a cup of coffee overlooking these famous waves. This afternoon we will make our first visit to seek the elephants after which Addo is named.

Accommodation	Kudu Ridge Lodge http://www.kuduridge.co.za
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	Tsitsikamma National Park to Addo Elephant National Park
Included Highlight	Jeffrey's Bay and an afternoon game drive in Addo National Park (in the Nomad truck)
Optional Activity	Addo Night Drive

Day 11 - Addo Elephant Park

With no large predators to endanger us, we make a relaxed start to the day. Our guide will lead us for a bush walk this morning as we enjoy the natural surrounds. Spending time in the bush on foot, we have the opportunity to stop for the little things so often missed from a vehicle. This afternoon we return to Addo for a second exploration of the park.

Accommodation	Kudu Ridge Lodge http://www.kuduridge.co.za
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	Afternoon game drive in Addo NP in Nomad Truck
Optional Activity	Addo Night Drive

Day 12 – Graaff Reinet

The historic town of Graaff-Reinet nestles in the heartland of the Great Karoo and offers a unique insight into the history of this arid region. On arrival this afternoon we will enjoy a Historical walking Tour of the town dubbed “the gem of the Karoo”, our local guide will introduce to the rich history of South Africa’s fourth oldest town. Towering above the town below, the Valley of Desolation is a spectacular backdrop for the setting sun, this evening you will have the opportunity to join an optional Sundowner visit to close out the day.

Accommodation	Profcon Resort http://www.profconresort.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	Addo (via Port Elizabeth) to Graaff Reinet
Activity Package	Graaff Reinet Historical Tour

Day 13 - Lesotho – Malealea

This morning we cut across the vast expanse of the Great Karoo, our destination is nestled in the heights of Lesotho. This autonomous mountain kingdom boasts the highest peaks in Southern Africa and is one of the highest countries in the world, the entire kingdom lies over 1000m above sea level. Having crossed the mighty Orange River, we enter the border of Lesotho and make the climb to our camp set high in the mountains.

Accommodation	Malealea Lodge http://www.malealea.com
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	Graaff Reinet to Lesotho
Border Post	South Africa: Van Rooyens Gate, Open: 06h00-22h00 Lesotho: Van Rooyens Gate, Open: 06h00-22h00

Day 14 - Lesotho – Malealea

The clean air of the mountains accompanies us this morning as we explore the mountains on foot, our hike concludes with a village visit and the opportunity to gain insight into the community that calls these mountains home. The Basotho are famous for their traditional hats, blankets and their sturdy ponies. Basotho ponies are renowned for their surefootedness in the mountains and you have the opportunity of an optional pony trek this afternoon to experience this first-hand.

Accommodation	Malealea Lodge http://www.malealea.com
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>
Included Highlight	Lesotho Village Visit, Hike with Nomad Guide
Optional Activity	Pony Trekking, Pitseng hike

Day 15 - South Africa – uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park

We exit Lesotho and travel through the sandstone cliffs of Golden Gate, our destination is the mountains of the Drakensberg. Running the length of the Kwazulu-Natal province, the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park is a UNESCO recognised world heritage site. Whether you go by the Zulu name uKhahlamba, meaning 'barrier of spears', or the Afrikaans name Drakensberge, meaning 'dragon mountains', these towering mountains are hikers paradise and worthy of exploration.

Accommodation	Monks Cowl http://www.goodersonleisure.co.za/gooderson-monks-cowl-golf-resort
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	Lesotho to Drakensberg
Included Highlight	Sterkfontein vulture centre, Oliviers Hoek pass
Border Post	Lesotho: Maseru Bridge, Tel: +27 51 924 4300, Open: 24hrs

Day 16 - UKhahlamba Drakensberg Park

We set out this morning for a lengthy hike, along our way we will have the opportunity to view examples of San rock art with a local guide. While we encourage everyone to make the most of the day in mountains, we may offer separate options depending on the activity level of the group. With a number of trails available we can ensure that we cater to every need, the most important aim is to ensure everyone enjoys this mountain paradise at their own pace.

Accommodation	Monks Cowl http://www.goodersonleisure.co.za/gooderson-monks-cowl-golf-resort
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>
Included Highlight	Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg Park

Day 17 - Kwa Zulu Natal Coast – Durban

It's all downhill as we leave the mountain scenery en route to the Kwazulu Natal Coast. On the 5th August 1962, police waved down a car on a lonely country road in KwaZulu-Natal. At the wheel was Nelson Mandela. He was arrested and spent 27 years in prison. Today you will have the opportunity to visit this historic capture site, marked by an impressive sculpture in honour of "Madiba". We will also stop at the Howick Falls to listen to the power of the falls and take some photos at the view point. Then it's onto the bustling city of Durban is South Africa's largest port and well-known surfing destination.

Accommodation	Garden Court South Beach Hotel www.tsogosun.com
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	Drakensberg to Durban
Included Highlight	Visit to the Mandela Capture Site, visit Howick Falls
Optional Activity	Dinner out

Day 18 – 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. Today we explore the city of Durban and 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 En-suite Bathroom <i>Please visit the website of the accommodation provider for a full list of the facilities offered.</i>
Included Highlight	Half day Durban city tour
Optional Activity	Dinner

Day 19 – 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 20/21/22 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

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
Activity Package	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. 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 23/24 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
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 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 25 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

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.