

**Tour Itinerary**  
**Especially Prepared for**  
**Judith Millard**  
**11- 17 May 2018**

**Friday, 11 May 2018:**

Arrive King Shaka International Airport – Durban at 19h05 off flight SA 573 ex Johannesburg. On arrival at King Shaka International Airport – Durban you will collect your Bidvest Group “D” rental car, an air-conditioned, automatic, VW Polo Vivo or similar, and self-drive to Umkomaas, and Agulhas House. This is about a 1h30 minute drive in the dark. Overnight at Agulhas House, in a single room, on a full board basis. (Dinner, continental breakfast, “brunch”/lunch.)

Please note that Agulhas House is not licenced to sell liquor. Please advise us in advance of your first night’s liquor requirements, and we will arrange for Agulhas House to purchase it on your behalf. You can then settle the invoice directly with Agulhas House.

**Included:**

Hire of a Bidvest Group “D” rental, an air-conditioned, automatic, VW Polo Vivo or similar; Bidvest contract fee; daily GPS rental; car rental airport surcharge; Bidvest tourism levy; VAT; Bidvest vehicle assist; tyre waiver; Bidvest windscreen waiver; 3<sup>rd</sup> Party liability; dinner, if on time; single accommodation at Agulhas House.

**Excluded:**

International and domestic air into King Shaka International Airport – Durban; ZAR 1 000 refundable deposit for the hire of the GPS; fuel for use in Bidvest rental car; all toll fees; breakfast; lunch; additional touring & entry fees; bar; items of a personal nature; gratuities.

**Day’s 02**

**Saturday, 12 May 2018:**

After an early wake-up call, at about 06h30, you will have a light continental breakfast before transferring to the Umkomaas River mouth lagoon to launch the "Duck" (Zodiac/ RIB) for your two scheduled wreck / reef dives on Aliwal Shoal, weather permitting.

All diving in South Africa is best done early in the morning, at dawn, as this is when there is no wind, no swell, no currents, and definitely the best time to dive. As the morning wears on, the winds tend to pick up causing a chop on the water, large swells, which result in unpleasant diving conditions.

The reef at Aliwal Shoal is fossilised sandstone, almost 80 000 years ago. The area around the shoal consisted of sand dunes and with heavy rains, the sand and shale dissolved forming a compound of calcium carbonate, which today forms the main body of the shoal. These reefs are covered with both soft and hard corals and have an abundance of fish life that is normally associated with coral reef diving.

Aliwal is about 2½ km’s long with a width averaging 150 meters. Depths vary from 6 to 27 meters (19 to 88 ft.) and the shoal offers a tapestry of diversity. The Cathedral area of the reef is one of the more spectacular dives. Its inhabitants include the Ragged Tooth Shark (in season), Loggerhead Turtle, and Ribbon Tailed Rays.

In addition to the reef itself, there are also two good wrecks on which to dive. The *Produce*, an 18 000 ton Norwegian tanker that hit the Shoal and sank in 1974 and the second could be on the *Nebo*, which struck the shoal in May 1884 and sunk almost immediately with its cargo of railway material. Both wrecks lie at approximately 30 meters and are fairly intact, which makes for great wreck diving. After the second reef / wreck dive, you will return to Agulhas House at about 13h00 for a shower and a hot “brunch”/lunch. The rest of the afternoon is free. Brett, the owner of Agulhas House, will be more than happy to “point you in the right direction” of the many local places of interest in and around

Umkomaas. Such as Croc World, Tala Game Reserve, a Durban City Tour, a visit to uShaka Aquarium in Durban, a visit to the Natal Sharks Board also in Durban, a Zulu Village cultural Tour, or an Oribi George tour. The costs of these tours have not been included in the cost of this itinerary, and would be for your own account. Overnight at Agulhas House, in a single room, on a full board basis.

**Included:**

Hire of a Bidvest Group "D" rental, an air-conditioned, automatic, VW Polo Vivo or similar; daily GPS rental; Bidvest vehicle assist; Bidvest tyre waiver; Bidvest windscreen waiver; 3<sup>rd</sup> Party liability; light continental breakfast; road transfer to the launch site; two guided wreck / reef dives; full equipment hire; Nitrox airfills, if Nitrox certified; services of a qualified dive master to lead all dives; MPA dive permit; return road transfer to Agulhas House; hot "brunch"/lunch; dinner; accommodation at Agulhas House.

**Excluded:**

Fuel for use in your Bidvest rental car; applicable toll fees; additional dives, touring & entry fees; bar; items of a personal nature; gratuities.

**Day 03**

**Sunday, 13 May 2018:**

A full day today, as we want to fit in 2-reef dives before you check out of Agulhas House and transfer to Sodwana Bay. This is a road transfer of about 400 km's or a 5-hour road transfer, but you should allow about 6 hours for this transfer.

After returning to Agulhas House after your 2-reef dives, you will have the opportunity to freshen up, check out, and self-drive from Agulhas House in Umkomaas to Coral Divers in Sodwana Bay in your Bidvest rental car. We will arrange for Agulhas House to prepare a picnic lunch for you to take as "pad kos" to be enjoyed in the rental car, on your way to Sodwana.

On arrival at Coral Divers Dive Camp at Sodwana, you will check into your en-suite, air-conditioned cabin, and after, attend dive planning which is held at 18h45 every evening at Coral Divers. You might miss this depending on your arrival time at Coral Divers. If you are unable to make it to the dive planning you can contact the Dive Planner on +27 (0)79 071 2612 before 19h00. After dive planning, a buffet dinner is served. Overnight at Coral Divers, in a single en-suite, air-conditioned cabin, on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

**Included:**

Hire of a Bidvest Group "D" rental, an air-conditioned, automatic, VW Polo Vivo or similar; GPS rental; Bidvest vehicle assist; Bidvest tyre waiver; Bidvest windscreen waiver; 3<sup>rd</sup> Party liability; light continental breakfast; road transfer to the launch site; two guided wreck / reef dives; full equipment hire; Nitrox airfills, if Nitrox certified; services of a qualified dive master to lead all dives; MPA dive permit; return road transfer to Agulhas House; packed picnic breakfast / "brunch"; KwaZulu/Natal daily park fees; dinner; accommodation at Coral Divers, in a single, en suite, air-conditioned cabin.

**Excluded:**

Fuel for use in your Bidvest rental car; applicable toll fees; additional dives, touring & entry fees; once off Isimangaliso Park entry fee of ZAR 42.00, payable at the gate, in ZAR cash, no credit cards accepted; once off Isimangaliso Community Levy of ZAR 5.00, payable at the gate, in ZAR cash, no credit cards accepted ; Isimangaliso once off vehicle entry fee of ZAR 58.00, payable in ZAR cash, no credit cards accepted; Isimangaliso nightly accommodation levy @ ZAR 7.00 per night x 3-nights, payable in cash, no credit cards accepted; bar; items of a personal nature; gratuities.

**Day's 04 & 05**

**Monday, 14 May & Tuesday, 15 May 2018:**

After an early wake up, you will walk the short distance from your cabin to the dive centre, where you will meet "the Crew," sign the indemnity, kit-up, and transfer to the beach. On arrival at the beach, you will assemble your scuba equipment, attend dive planning, and watch as the tractor pushes the "duck," into the sea for the two planned dives on 2-Mile Reef, which is only one of the many magnificent coral reefs dive sites of Sodwana Bay, weather permitting. The surf launches at "Soddies" are far tamer than the launches at Aliwal. Once the boat has been pushed into the surf by the tractor, and is about waist deep, the skipper asks all the ladies to board the boat, and position themselves opposite their dive gear, which has been stowed aboard by Coral Divers crew. The men then board the boat, and once everybody is settled, the skipper "guns" the motors and skilfully punches his way

through the breaking surf to the relative calm beyond the back-line. Once everyone is settled, it's off to the reef. Quite exciting!

The reefs at Sodwanes are the southernmost tropical coral reefs in the world, and are even more south than Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef has 1 800 species of fish, and Sodwana, which is 1/10 the size of the Great Barrier Reef, has 1 200 species of fish, six of which are endemic to the Sodwana area. Your chances of seeing more species of fish are greater at Sodwana than on the Great Barrier Reef, due to the concentration of the fish in the area that you are diving on! Both your dives are scheduled for 2-Mile Reef, the largest of Sodwana's Reefs. Should you wish to dive on either Five-Mile Reef, Six-Mile Reef, Seven-Mile Reef, Eight-Mile Reef or the fabulous and seldom dived, Nine-Mile Reef, the applicable far reef surcharges would be for your own account, and dives on these far reefs should be booked in advance, at Coral Divers dive centre. Sodwana's reefs are all unromantically named by the distance they are from the launch site, Jessor Point. For a deep dive, Sponges is a must, and is best dived on Nitrox, which is available at Sodwana at an extra cost of ZAR 80 per fill. Please be advised that all diving in South Africa is best done early in the morning, just after sunrise, because as the morning wears on, the wind tends to pick up, causing a chop on the water, which makes for unpleasant and even dangerous diving. This leaves the afternoons free to explore the Isimangaliso National Park. In addition to diving, and deep-sea fishing, there are microlight flights of between 10 and 45-minute durations, boat based snorkelling, and whale watching from June – November. None of these activities has been included in the cost below and would be for your own account. Overnight at Coral Divers, in a single en suite, air-conditioned cabin on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

**Included:**

Hire of a Bidvest Group "D" rental, an air-conditioned, automatic, VW Polo Vivo or similar; daily GPS rental; Bidvest vehicle assist; Bidvest tyre waiver; Bidvest windscreen waiver; 3<sup>rd</sup> Party liability; breakfast; KwaZulu/Natal daily park fee; road transfer from the Coral Divers to the Beach; MPA (Marine Protected Area) dive permit; two x 2-Mile reef dives (weather permitting); all beach entry fees; full equipment hire; services of a qualified dive master to lead all dives, breakfast, dinner, accommodation at Coral Divers in a single, en suite, air-conditioned cabin on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

**Excluded:**

Fuel for use in your Bidvest rental car; applicable toll fees; far reef surcharges at; ZAR 25 for a 5-Mile Reef dive; ZAR 40 for a 6-Mile Reef and a 7-Mile Reef dive; ZAR 45 for a 8-Mile Reef dive; ZAR 50 for a 9-Mile Reef dive; additional dives & activities; night dives; gratuities to the "casual" helpers at Coral Divers beach gazebo who assist with handling the dive gear; lunch; bar; items of a personal nature; gratuities.

**Day 06**

**Wednesday, 16 May 2018:**

After breakfast you will check out and depart Coral Divers at about 11h00, for your self-drive in your Bidvest rental, back to King Shaka International Airport - Durban. This is a 335 km road trip taking about 5-hours. On arrival at King Shaka International Airport you will drop-off your Bidvest rental car at 17h30 and check in at 18h25 for flight SA 2050 departing at 19h25 to OR Tambo International Airport - Johannesburg. On arrival at OR Tambo International Airport – Johannesburg, at 20h30, you will collect your bags and walk the short distance to the City Lodge at OR Tambo International Airport, which is situated within the airport complex. This is a walk of about 15 minutes. Rest of the evening free. Overnight at the City Lodge at OR Tambo International Airport in a single room, on a bed and breakfast basis.

**Included:**

Hire of a Bidvest Group "D" rental, an air-conditioned, automatic, VW Polo Vivo or similar; daily GPS rental; Bidvest vehicle assist; Bidvest tyre waiver; Bidvest windscreen waiver; 3<sup>rd</sup> Party liability; breakfast; overnight accommodation at the City Lodge at OR Tambo International Airport – Johannesburg, in a single room, on a bed and breakfast basis.

**Excluded:**

Fuel for use in your Bidvest rental car; applicable toll fees; domestic air from King Shaka International Airport – Durban to OR Tambo International Airport – Johannesburg; additional touring & entry fees; lunch; dinner; bar; items of a personal nature; gratuities.

**Day 07****Thursday, 17 May 2018:**

After a leisurely breakfast, you will have the rest of the day free until you return to the airport complex at 17h00 to check-in, 2-hours before your international flight back to the US which departs OR Tambo International Airport – Johannesburg at 19h00. End of services.

**Included:**

Breakfast.

**Excluded:**

Additional tours and entrance fees; lunch; dinner; accommodation; bar; items of a personal nature; gratuities; onward flight out of OR Tambo International Airport – Johannesburg.

**Please note:** Sodwana Bay fall within a “low-risk” Malaria area. To be safe, we strongly suggest that you consult your Doctor for advice on taking prophylactics before entering a “low risk” Malaria area.