

Tour Itinerary
Especially Prepared for
Michel Kossovsky
23-30 June 2018

Day 01

Saturday, 23 June 2018:

At a time to be advised you will be collected, by Agulhas House, from Hertz Mthatha Airport for the road transfer to Mpame. Overnight at The Bull's Inn on a dinner, bed, and breakfast basis. Note: From Mthatha Airport to Mpame is a 2.5-hour road transfer.

Day's 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, & 07 (6 sea days, weather permitting)

Sunday 24 June, Monday 25 June, Tuesday 26 June, Wednesday 27 June, Thursday 28 June & Friday, 29 June:

After a light breakfast we walk the 50 meters or so to the boats, and do a "tame" surf launch and spend the rest of the day at sea looking for Sardine Run "action". Typically we will be at sea from around 08h00 till 15h00 daily, depending on sea conditions and sea life activity. With an exhilarating surf launch, long boat rides, and the amount of time we spend at sea we suggest that all members of the Expedition be of average fitness. Hot and cold beverages are supplied throughout the day, and a packed lunch is packed and served on-board. When the sardines are spotted, usually by the Gannets diving bombing the shoals, we move on top of the action and the skipper, in conjunction with the DM decide if it's better to get in on the action, either on snorkel, or on full scuba gear. After a full day at sea, depending on the action, we will return to Mpame at about 15h00, or earlier, depending of the general consensus of all on board. Rest of the afternoon is free. A full hot dinner (the menu is changed daily) is served at about 20h00. Overnight at The Bulls Inn on a dinner, bed, continental breakfast and packed lunch basis.

Day 08

Saturday, 30 June 2018:

At 04h00 Agulhas House will transfer you back to Mthatha Airport to check-in at 06h50 for flight SA 8752 departing at 07h50 to OR Tambo International Airport – Johannesburg. End of services.

The above itinerary includes:

- 6 days at sea, weather permitting.
- 7 nights' accommodation.
- Transfers from Mthatha Airport to Bull's Inn return.
- All dinners at Bulls Inn.
- Packed / picnic lunches on the boat on all sea days.
- Continental breakfasts.
- Wifi, but poor!
- Tanks, weights and air-fills.
- Services of experienced skipper and DM.

The above itinerary excludes:

- International and domestic air into and out of Mthatha Airport.
- Hire of dive equipment as follows:-
 - Pair of fins for the duration of the expedition @ ZAR 200.
 - Hire of a mask and snorkel @ ZAR 200 for the duration of the Expedition.
 - Hire of a pair of booties @ ZAR 100 for the duration of the Expedition.
 - Hire of a pair of gloves @ ZAR 100 for the duration of the Expedition.
 - Hire of a BCD @ ZAR 250 for the duration of the Expedition.
 - Hire of a regulator @ ZAR 250 for the duration of the Expedition
 - Hire of a wetsuit @ ZAR 200 for the duration of the Expedition.

- Hire of full dive gear @ ZAR 1 000 for the duration of the Expedition.
- Travel insurance. Highly recommended.
- Lunches on day 01 and day 07.
- Laundry.
- Bar.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Gratuities.

What to bring:

- Dive Certification Card if you intend to go on SCUBA.
- Beach towel.
- “Dry bag” in which to keep valuables dry, when on the boat.
- Warm waterproof jacket, beanie, and sunhat. It’s cold out there in the early mornings!
- Sunblock.
- Seasick tablets and personal medications. Mpame does not fall within a Malaria Area.
- Cameras. Both topside and underwater.
- Binoculars for whale watching.

Fitness:

- Must be fit to dive and snorkel. Boats are Zodiac’s or RIBS. No ladders for ease of getting in and out of the ocean!
- We spend at least 8 hours at sea, in a boat with no marine head. An “iron bladder” and a good level of fitness is required, as well as the correct equipment. You can’t urinate in a “dry-suit.” You can..... but its nor recommended!

Skills:

- Open to all levels of certified divers. Snorkelers and surface viewers also welcome, but pay the same price as divers, as they occupy a space on the dive boat that could be taken up by a diver.

Please note that out of Mpame, we do not use the services of a spotter aircraft in order to spot the shoals of Sardines, we go one better, we use the sea birds, specifically the Gannets. When they rise in the air, in their thousands, and start dive-bombing into the sea, it’s a sure sign that the Sardines have arrived!

Dive The Big 5’s cancellation policy:

If Dive The Big 5 or its agent deem the weather not suitable to venture to sea on a given day, then no refund will be given. On that day we will evoke the “reserve day” and transfer you to the nearby Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve for a morning on safari in the bush. We will endeavour to make up this lost “sea” day on day 7 of the expedition.

Subsequent bad weather days: It is entirely up to the skipper to decide if it is safe to launch the boat. If he does decide to launch the boat, and weather condition worsen, to the point where it is unsafe and dangerous out at sea, it is the skippers decision, and purely the skippers decision, to return to harbour. No refunds will be given.

Should a client choose not to venture out to sea, even though the skipper deems it safe to do so, no refund is due.