

Tour Itinerary
Especially Prepared for
Oliver (Oli) Wallimann
03-10 June 2018

Day 01

Sunday, 03 June 2018:

Arrive East London Airport off flight FA 146 arriving at 13h45 ex Cape Town. On arrival, you will be met by Blue Wilderness, at East London Airport, and transferred to Santa Paloma Guest Farm and Eco Centre. At 17h00, you will assemble in the bar at Santa Paloma to meet your fellow Sardine Run Expedition participants, DM, and skipper, for a full orientation of the following day's Sardine Run Expedition. After, you will be kitted out with your dive gear, including reg, BCD, wetsuit, hoodies, booties, gloves, and fins, as required. A hot home cooked meal is served from 19h00. Overnight at Santa Paloma on a dinner and bed basis.

Day's 02, 03, 04, 05, & 06

Monday, 04 June, Tuesday, 05 June, Wednesday, 06 June, Thursday, 07 June, and Friday, 08 June 2018:

A light breakfast consisting of coffee, tea, fruit juice, cereal, toast, condiments, fresh fruit in season, & yogurt will be served from 06h00 to 06h30. Before departing Santa Paloma for the launch site in East London harbour, you will change into your bathing suits and into your wetsuit, which you strip to the waist. Don't forget your fleecy lined wind jammer for the boat. You will need that! From Santa Paloma to East London harbour is about a 30-minute road transfer. At about 07h30 we launch out of East London harbour for a day on the ocean looking for the shoals of Sardines, weather permitting. The sure tell-tail signs that there are Sardines in the area are the sea birds, mainly Cape Gannets. They are always the first to spot the shoals, and as soon as they do, they fly into the air, in their thousands, and start dive-bombing the shoal. The Gannets are far better at spotting the shoals of Sardines than any spotter plane or micro-light, in fact, that's exactly what the pilots look for – Gannets! At about 12h30, or whenever you are peckish, there is a packed picnic lunch consisting of assorted rolls, chocolate and nut trail mix, seasonal fresh fruit, juice, water and cold drinks to "sea" you through to dinner. When everyone on the boat has "has enough action", or at about 15h00, the boat heads back to East London Harbour where you will transfer back to Santa Paloma to freshen up, shower and relax before dinner. Dinner, a two course home cooked, hot meal is served in the dining room from 19h00. Overnight at Santa Paloma on a continental breakfast, packed lunch on the boat, dinner, and bed basis.

Day 07

Saturday, 09 June 2018:

Reserve "Safari" Day.

Breakfast is served at 06h30 after which the group will be transferred to Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve, which is about a 30 minute road transfer from Santa Paloma. On arrival at Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve, at about 08h00 you will be introduced to your ranger and start your 2 ½ hour game drive in "open safari vehicles." The early morning is the best time to be on safari as it's still cool, and the animals are more active early morning and late afternoon when it's cool. Only "mad dogs and Englishmen" venture out in the noonday sun!

After the safari you will then be introduced to Inkwenkwezi's Africa Elephants, and go for a walk in the African bush with these magnificent beasts. An experience never to be forgotten! And if that's not enough, after, you will have a hands-on introduction and interaction to one of the most endangered species in the wild, the magnificent cheetah.

After these two incredible "meetings," you will return to Santa Paloma for lunch, and to ponder what you have experienced during the past 6 days. Only in Africa. Overnight at Santa Paloma on a breakfast, lunch, dinner, and bed basis.

Day 08

Sunday, 10 June 2018:

After breakfast, at 13h00, you will be transferred by Blue Wilderness from Santa Paloma to East London Airport in time to check-in at 14h10 for flight SA 1354 departing at 15h10 to Cape Town. End of services.

The Sardine Run Expedition Includes:

- 5 days at sea, weather permitting
- 1 “reserve” safari day. This day can be used as a “sea” day if any of the 5 scheduled “sea” days is cancelled due to weather.
- 7 nights’ single accommodation.
- Local transportation, including airport transfers.
- All dinners at Santa Paloma.
- Packed / picnic lunches on the boat on all sea days.
- Continental breakfasts.
- Wifi available in the public areas – lounge.
- Full equipment / gear hire, including BCD, regulator, tanks, weights, air-fills, wetsuit, hoodies, booties, gloves and fins.
- Services of experienced skipper and specialist marine dive guide.

Above Expedition excludes:

- International and domestic air into and out of East London Airport.
- DAN and related travel insurance.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Bar.
- Laundry.
- Meals not included at Santa Paloma.
- 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. East London is not 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 it’s not 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 East London, 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.