

# SARDINE RUN



# 2022

**JULY 10TH - 17TH**



**DIVERS  
READY!**

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[JAMES@DIVERSREADY.COM](mailto:JAMES@DIVERSREADY.COM)

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# OVERVIEW



**Location:**

Port St John, a rural riverside town in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, known as 'The Wild Coast.'

**Dates:**

July 10th - 17th, 2021

**Duration:**

5 dive days / 1 cultural day / 7 nights

**Diving:**

All day boat diving from a semi-rigid boat for Advanced Certified Divers or above.

**Accommodation:**

N'Taba Riverside Lodge and Spa, 4-Stars.

**Pricing:**

\$3800 Per Person (double occupancy.)

Single occupancy +\$300

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# THE DIVING



Following the success of our Sardine Run 2021 Expedition, Divers Ready is proud to present: Sardine Run 2022! Diver requirements include Advanced Open Water certification, a minimum of 50 dives, and have dived in the past 3 months prior to the trip. Free diving experience is a plus. This is not for the feint of heart! This is expedition diving at it's finest.

We will be diving from a rigid inflatable that has been specially adapted for the fast pace and manouverability required to keep up with huge schools of sardines. These boats are designed with the Sardine Run in mind; a camera tray that is positioned down the centre of the boat; additional fuel tanks that enable us to range 160 km and a spacious seating arrangement. There is a maximum of 8 divers per boat, with two crew members.

One can come across Sardine Run action quite unexpectedly. The crew will do their best to manoeuvre the boat and anticipate the marine animal activity. Be prepared to stay long hours on a semi rigid boat with your wetsuit on. In the meantime, migrating humpback whales, super-pods of common dolphins and flocks of diving gannets provide plenty of topside entertainment.

The dives are best-suited for advanced divers who feel comfortable not only gearing up fast to jump into the middle of a multi-species feeding frenzy, but also spending hours a day bouncing in a semi rigid boat on choppy seas.

Visibility can exceed 60 feet. Because of the strong currents, drift-diving experience is recommended.



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# THE MARINE LIFE



Land and sea collide during the Sardine Run, as sharks and birds attack giant schools of sardines off the coast of South Africa, and we want to put you in the middle of the action!

South Africa's annual sardine run is arguably the most spectacular underwater event on the planet. Every year between May and July, vast shoals of sardines migrate up South Africa's Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, an area known as the Wild Coast because of its remote location and abundance of wildlife above and below the water.

These schools of tiny fish can grow more than 10 miles long, filling the water column from the surface to more than 100 feet down. And it's not just the sheer number of sardines that makes this a once-in-a-lifetime diving experience. As bait fish migrate up the coast, predators come from far and wide for a frenzied feast of epic proportions.

This massive migration is an annual event that attracts seals, dolphins, sharks, birds and it coincides with the humpback whale migration. This is your chance to star in your very own Blue Planet style documentary!



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# ACCOMMODATION



Nestled between towering cliffs and set in amazing tropical gardens on the banks of the Umzimvubu River, N'taba River Lodge is one of the most scenic resorts in the area.

N'taba is a 4-star lodge and offers the finest mixture of Wild Coast hospitality and comfort with heating and bathtubs in most rooms and an on-site restaurant.

Feeling tired after a long dive day? Grab a massage at the in-house spa or soak in the hot tub!

The convenience of this location is that you embark and disembark from the dive boat right on your doorstep, head down river and out to sea.

All meals are included. Breakfast and dinner at the lodge while lunch is on the boat.



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# THE ROUTES



## **Getting There by Air:**

The best international hub to arrive into South Africa is Johannesburg. Most major airlines fly here. United, Delta and South Africa Airlines fly non stop from a few cities in the USA. Make sure you account for the travel time - it takes about 2 days to get here from the USA and 1 day from Europe.

Mthatha Airport is the closest airport to Port Saint John. It's a 1.5 hour direct, domestic flight from Johannesburg then approximately a 2 hour drive from the airport to the lodge. Last flight from Johannesburg is 3:50PM (15h50) each day.

## **Getting to Port St Johns from Mthatha Airport:**

We have included round trip ground transportation for the 2 hour drive in the price of the trip.

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# DAILY ITINERARY



**Arrive:** Sunday, July 10, 2022 to N'taba River Lodge in Port St Johns. Check into the hotel for 7 nights. Meet up in the early evening for a full expedition briefing and to meet the crew. (If you arrive on the last flight from Mthatha your briefing will be the next morning.)

**Dive:** 5 dives days included. Spend full days out at sea looking for Sardine Run action.

- 6:00AM: Breakfast
- 6:45AM: Meet at launch site and load the boat
- 7:00AM - 3:00PM: Ocean Safari. Refreshments and lunch is provided on the boat. Return to lodge at approximately 3PM to relax, download footage and enjoy dinner at the resort.

**Cultural Day:** Spend the day relaxing at the hotel or join the Pro Dive crew on a excursion where you will get to explore the area and participate in projects that will positively impact the community e.g. school building.

**Farewell BBQ and Open Bar Party:** On our last night, we will host you and the Pro Dive team for a traditional Braai by the river.

**Depart:** Sunday, July 17. Check out after breakfast and transfer to Mthatha airport for your flight home or on to other adventures!



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# MORE ADVENTURES



## **Safari at Kruger National Park**

...Because you're already in Africa! World famous for the Big 5! Pick either full board tented accommodations at the boutique Rhino Post Safari Lodge or a standard room at the Mjejane River Lodge.

## **Diving the Aliwal Shoal**

Can't get enough of the diving?! The Aliwal Shoal is South Africa's premier reef where sightings of ragged-tooth sharks are common and other large pelagic species such as sea turtles, potato bass and numerous game fish abound.



These packages are custom and prices depend on your itinerary. Ask us for a quote!

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# YOUR HOSTS



**James** is a professional technical diving Instructor and experienced expedition leader.

**Karina** is an avid recreational diver and digital marketing executive.

Together, they are the dynamic duo behind the fastest growing You Tube channel in the Scuba Diving niche.

Based in Miami, FL, James and Karina fill their days diving, making dive plans, creating digital content for dive equipment companies and dreaming up their next dive trips. Basically, anything scuba!

When not diving, they try to be excellent guardians of one cat and two doggos, who sadly won't be joining you in South Africa!



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# INCLUSIONS



## Included in the trip costs:

- 7 nights accommodation for double occupancy (ADD \$300 for single occupancy). The lodge offers double rooms for couples. Superior twin rooms for solo travelers that want to share a room and family units that have 2 bedrooms with two twins and 1 king.
- Breakfast and dinner daily (the kitchen can accommodate food allergy restrictions)
- Lunch packs on diving days
- 5 days at sea (weather permitting)
- Daily dive boat trips with experienced skipper and guide
- Air fills, tanks & weights
- Tea, coffee, water
- Farewell Braai with an open bar
- The deluxe Divers Ready! swag bag



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# EXCLUSIONS



## **NOT Included in the trip costs:**

- All Flights
- Any required visas for travel to and within South Africa
- Airport transfers (except from Mthatha to PSJ and back.)
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Equipment
- Travel and Dive Insurance (proof of dive accident insurance required.)
- Gratuities (recommended 15%)
- Additional sightseeing and activities (see above for optional adventures... because when is the next time you will be back to South Africa?)
- Personal expenses



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# PAYMENT INFO



## Payment

To guarantee your space on the trip, complete payment is due with the registration form. When we receive your payment and completed booking form, we will send you detailed trip information to prepare for the experience and destination, as well as a sales receipt.

Payment can be made by check, wire transfer, PayPal, Zelle, Venmo or CashApp. Divers Ready! are not responsible for any transfer fees associated with payments.

Flight, visas, travel fees, and taxes are not included in trip cost.

Flight time and schedule, weather, water temperature, and animal behavior are all subject to change. We recommend all Guests to purchase travel insurance in case of unforeseen circumstances.



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# BOOKING POLICIES



## Cancellation policy

- Our cancellation policy is a reflection of the cancellation policy of our operators.
- Cooling off period. Should you need to back out of the trip for any reason, you will receive a full refund as long as written notice is received before February 1st, 2022.
- No refund is made for any unused parts of the itinerary.
- Trips can not be postponed, transferred or rebooked for the following year. Trip details such as dates, prices, accommodations, are subject to change without prior notice.
- Should you need to cancel your trip after the February 1st, 2022 deadline, you are welcome to find your own replacement. Any replacement is subject to the same standards outlined herein. Divers Ready reserves the right to reject last-minute replacement travelers who do not meet the **experience** and **safety** requirements.
- Travel insurance is not included in the trip price, but strongly recommended.

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# REGISTRATION FORM



## Personal Information

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dive Accident Insurer \_\_\_\_\_ Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dive Cert. Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Dive Cert Level \_\_\_\_\_

Diver Cert Number \_\_\_\_\_ No. Of Dives \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check) I agree that I need to have dived within three (3) months of trip departure date.

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I need to rent dive gear. (Cost to be quoted based on needs. Payment for rental gear can be made in South Africa.)

Wetsuit & Boots (M/F, size): \_\_\_\_\_

BCD (size): \_\_\_\_\_

Regulator: \_\_\_\_\_

Mask, Snorkel, Fins (size): \_\_\_\_\_

## Total Trip Cost

- \$3800 USD per person, double occupancy room, en suite.
- \$4100 USD per person, single occupancy room, en suite.

If double occupancy, who is your dive buddy? \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment method (please check one.)

- Check payment: Miami Technical Diving, LLC  
14651 Biscayne Blvd #144  
North Miami Beach FL 33181
- Venmo: @James-Blackman-5
- PayPal: PayPal.Me/JBlackman866
- CashApp: \$miamitechnicaldiving
- Zelle: jblackman.diveinstructor@gmail.com
- Wire Transfer: (Please call for bank details.)

Please email completed form to: [james@diversready.com](mailto:james@diversready.com)

# PREFERENCE FORM



In order to make your dive vacation the best it can be, Divers Ready! wants to make sure we personalize your trip as much as possible. Please use the below form (email together with your reservation form) to let us know of any way in which we can make your scuba adventure the best it can be.

Do you have any food-based allergies or strong dislikes?

What size T-Shirt do you usually wear?

What size sweatshirt do you wear?

What excites you most about this trip to South Africa?



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