

2027

JULY 1ST – 8TH



DIVERS READY!

KARINA@DIVERSREADY.COM
JAMES@DIVERSREADY.COM
+1 (954) 543 0026
+1 (786) 607 7378

OVERVIEW





Location:

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

Dates:

July 1st - 8th, 2027

Duration:

6 sea days / 7 nights

Diving:

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

Accommodation:

Cremorne Estate.

Pricing:

$4900 Per Person (double occupancy.)

Single occupancy +$370

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OCEAN DAYS



Divers Ready! will return to thew wild coast of South Africa for our fourth time in 2027! Our Sardine Run Expeditions in 2021, 2023 and 2025 were packed full of epic marine life encounters. Diver requirements include Advanced Open Water certification, a minimum of 50 dives, and have dived in the past 3 months prior to the trip. This is an ocean expedition into the unknown.

We will be snorkeling and diving from a rigid inflatable that has been specially adapted for the fast pace and manouverability required to keep up with super pods of common and bottlenose dolphins. 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. Spotter planes assist us to find baitballs from the air. Be prepared to stay long hours on a semi rigid boat with your wetsuit on. In the meantime, migrating humpback whales, super-pods dolphins, schools of sharks and flocks of diving seabirds provide plenty of top-side entertainment.

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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

The Cremorne Estate is nestled between the dramatic cliffs and lush forests on the banks of the mighty Umzimvubu river.

They are our accommodation of choice, located on the quieter side of the river and offering a wide variety of cosy en-suite log cabins (singles, doubles, and family rooms) overlooking the beautifully manicured gardens and river frontage.

The resort has its own private jetty allowing our boat to pick you up and drop you off on your doorstep.

Cremorne Estate is the perfect place to rest and recharge during your Sardine Run adventure.

There is a restaurant and pub on site. All meals are included - Breakfast is served buffet style, a packed lunch is taken on the boat and dinner is served in the restaurant, also buffet style.





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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. You want to plan to arrive into Johannesburg a day earlier - on June 30th - and overnight at one of the airport hotels not included.)

Mthatha Airport is the closest airport to Port Saint John. It's a 1.5 hour direct, domestic flight from Johannesburg. The goal is to get the whole group on the same domestic flight. Details will be shared once the flight schedules have been announced. Flights are not included in the trip cost.

Getting to Port St Johns from Mthatha Airport:
We will be met by our driver at Mthatha Airport. The round trip journey to and from Port St Johns is included in the trip cost.

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DAILY ITINERARY

Land into Mthatha (UTT) airport around midday (exact flight TBA) on Thursday, July 1st, 2027. Group ground transportation (included) from Mthatha airport to Port St Johns. Check into Cremorne Estate for 7 nights. Meet up in the early evening for a full expedition briefing and to meet the crew.

July 2nd - 7th are our 6 ocean days. Spend full days out at sea looking for Sardine Run action. These days run as follows:

• 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.

We depart on Thursday, July 8th 2027. Check out after breakfast and transfer to Mthatha airport for your flight home or on to other adventures!





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REQUIREMENTS



Who is the sardine run for? Lovers of adventure. The difference between vacation travel and adventure travel is that with adventure, you have to be OK with a certain amount of discomfort. Yes, the mornings are chilly. Yes, the ocean launch out of the river mouth is an adrenaline rush. Yes, we start early, before the sun is up and we stay out at sea for as long as the action lasts, coming in just before sunset. But the rewards are epic!

As far as dive requirements go, we ask that all divers be Advanced Open Water and have dived in the three months prior to the trip. Buoyancy control is very important, because even though all of the action is in the top 9m/30ft, we are in deep, deep water. You need to have stable buoyancy.

One planned dive we sometimes do is called Ragged Reef, which is a 30m/100ft reef dive to see a colony of Ragged Tooth Sharks (Sand Tiger Sharks, to my U.S. friends!)

However, the vast majority of the action is fast paced in and out of the RIB boat, in mask, fins and snorkels. The ability to perform repeated deep water exits into an inflatable boat is useful. But don't worry if you've never done that before - we will teach you!

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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 and include how many days/nights you would like for diving/safari.

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YOUR HOSTS



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

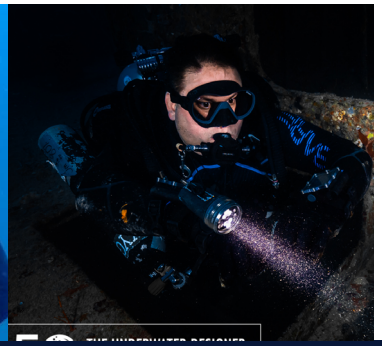
Karina is an avid recreational diver and digital marketing executive.

Together, they are the dynamic duo behind Divers Ready!

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 trips. Basically, anything adventure related!

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





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INCLUSIONS



Included in the trip costs:

- 7 nights accommodation for double occupancy (ADD $370 for single occupancy) in lodge-style wooden chalets.
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Lunch packs and snacks on ocean days
- 6 days at sea (weather permitting)
- Daily ocean boat trips with experienced skipper and guide
- Round trip transfers between Mthatha and Port St Johns
- Air fills, tanks & weights
- Tea, coffee, water
- The coveted 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
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Rental 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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BOOKING PROCEDURE

To book:

Firstly, fill out the booking form (last two pages of this brochure) and send it to us via email. We will then send you an invoice.

To guarantee your space on the trip, we require a non-refundable 30% deposit of $1470pp. When we receive your deposit payment and completed booking form, your space is secure and we will send you detailed trip information to prepare for the experience and destination.

U.S. domestic payment can be made by Zelle or Wise. International payment can be made via Wise. Details for both will be included in your invoice.

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 strongly recommend all Guests to purchase travel insurance in case of unforeseen circumstances.

We have only 15 spaces total available on this trip.

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BOOKING POLICIES



Cancellation policy

- Our cancellation policy is a reflection of the cancellation policy of our operators.
- Your space is not confirmed until your deposit has been received.
- Final payment is due April 1st, 2027.
- No refund is made for any unused parts of the itinerary.
- Trips can not be postponed, transferred or rebooked for later dates. Trip details such as dates, prices, accommodations, are subject to change without prior notice.
- Should you need to cancel your trip, you are welcome to find your own replacement. Any replacement is subject to the same standards outlined herein and must submit a booking form. Divers Ready! reserves the right to reject last-minute replacement travellers who do not meet the experience 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) By submitting this form, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the policies outlined in this brochure.

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

☐ $4900 USD per person, double occupancy room, en suite.

☐ $5270 USD per person, single occupancy room, en suite.

If double occupancy, who is your dive buddy?

_____

Please email completed form to: james@diversready.com

PREFERENCE FORM



In order to make your expedition 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?

Would you like more information on diving Aliwal or Kruger safaris for after the Sardine Run?

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