

immerse



YOURSELF

Scuba Safaris

South African East Coast Safari - Luxury **10 Days / 9 Nights**

Upon your arrival at King Shaka International Airport (Durban) you'll be warmly welcomed by the Immerse Yourself Crew who will be your guides throughout your dive safari. From here you will make your way up the coast to the Zululand Tree Lodge in the Ubizane Game Reserve adjacent to the world famous Hluhluwe Game Reserve. Your first evening will be spent in a stilted cabin nestled in a tranquil Yellow Fever Tree forest. In the late afternoon you will get your first taste of the African bush with a game drive as the sun goes down. Dinner is served in the bush under a starry African sky. The perfect start to your South African dive safari!

Early the next morning as daylight breaks you will find yourself on a game drive in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve, giving you a chance to spot the rest of the Big 5. Breakfast will be served back at the lodge and afterwards have some time to freshen up before we depart for Sodwana Bay.

Exquisite scenery will surround you as we enter this World Heritage site, the iSimangaliso Wetlands Park with its pristine lakes and winding river estuaries, dense coastal forest and some of the world's highest natural sand dunes protecting miles of golden beaches and tropical coral reefs rated amongst the Top 10 in the world. This beauty forms the backdrop for your three night stay in Sodwana Bay. The afternoons will be spent exploring the area or relaxing before sundowners are served as the African sun sets.

Next morning after breakfast we will head down to the beach for your first 2 dives. Exciting beach launches in a RHIB takes you beyond the wave breaks into the open Indian Ocean where we will explore some of these world class tropical coral reefs, and we'll also be on the lookout for the two gentle giants, the Whale Shark and Manta Rays. Your surface interval will be spent on the beach before the fun begins again. Lunch will be back at the lodge and the early afternoon is yours to spend at own leisure before we take you on an optional afternoon outing through the nature-reserve followed by sundowners on the beach.

The following morning you will again do two morning dives leaving the afternoon open for group activities or your own leisure time. We can take a 4x4 trip through the bush to beautiful Lake Sibaya, spotting for hippos and crocs with sundowners and snacks. Or we can organize off-road quad biking, Micro-light flights around the bay, or just relaxing on the beach with a cooler box packed with refreshments. In the evenings relax around a campfire at a local bar.

The arrival of day four marks the end of your stay in Sodwana Bay. You'll enjoy your last dive on Sodwana's pristine reefs before we transfer back to the Ubizane Game Reserve. You will have time to relax by the pool before your late afternoon game drive, where the game ranger will once again guide you through the African bush. Dinner will be served at the Lodge in their tranquil restaurant overlooking a waterhole.

An early morning rise on day five and your final game drive of the safari gives you the last chance to spot the Big 5 and the rest of the African animals. After breakfast you'll have some time to freshen up and make our way down to the little coastal town of Umkomaas (meaning the river/water of whales). Upon arrival at the beautiful 3star Guesthouse with full 180° sea view of the open Indian Ocean. You will be shown to your room and invite you to join us for some drinks on the deck followed by dinner.

After a small breakfast we will make our way to the kitting up area where we will get ready for our first two dives on the world renowned Aliwal Shoal. We will make our way down to the beach from where we will do a surf launch from the Umkomaas River, and a 15 min boat ride will take us to the Shoal. Aliwal is renowned for the huge variety of marine life that resides in and around this beautiful underwater paradise, with many big pelagic species cruising the mid-water as well. You will have the option to either do a double tank dive with brunch after, or have brunch between dives and do two launches.

The rest of the afternoon will be yours to spend at your own leisure around the pool or on the beach. An additional afternoon dive can be arranged (weather permitting) or we can arrange a trip to the breath-taking Oribi Gorge with a chance to do the world's highest gorge swing for those of you who are feeling brave.

An early rise, a small breakfast and you will be set for a day to remember! Days eight and nine will bring your Tiger Shark dives. A surf launch from the Umkomaas River and a 20 min boat ride takes you to the Southern Ledge of Aliwal Shoal. Here we will create an odour corridor to attract the sharks. After a short wait the sharks will begin to gather and we will kit up to experience the pleasure of seeing some of the greatest ocean predators in their natural environment. An optional dive on the Aliwal Shoal can be arranged following the Tiger dives.

The arrival of day ten will sadly mark the end of your South African East Coast Safari. With new friends made and plenty of amazing stories to go home with this will be your last day in South Africa. You'll enjoy a late morning with breakfast at your own leisure and spend rest of the day relaxing and getting packed for your evening return flight or your Cape Town Extension. The Immerse Yourself Crew will transfer you to the airport and wish you a fond farewell with hopes of seeing you again soon!

Safari Includes:

Experienced Guide and qualified Paramedic
Transfers
9 Nights Accommodation (Dinner, Bed and Breakfast)
6 Days Diving
2 Tiger Shark Dives
4 Game Drives – 2 in Hluhluwe Game Reserve and 2 in Ubizane Private Reserve
Soft drinks, Juices and Waters
Tanks, Weights and Air Fills
Afternoon Trips (e.g. Lake Sibaya, beach horse ride, Oribi Gorge etc.)

Safari Excludes:

Flights, Taxes and Entrance Visas
Lunches and alcoholic drinks
Personal Travel and Dive Insurance
Dive Gear (available on request)
Any Additional Dives

R30 700.00 p/p/s
R34 400.00 single sup.
R21 200.00 non-diver

Flights: This safari starts in Durban. It is best to arrive sometime before lunch. International flights from the UK, Europe or America generally fly via Johannesburg or Cape Town, but there are some direct flights to King Shaka International. We are usually able to arrange internal flight connections from Johannesburg or Cape Town to Durban for you should you require this service.