

MARINE DYNAMICS SHARK TOURS

- Multi Marine Volunteer Program -

Dear Prospective applicant,

We would like to thank you for inquiring about our multi marine volunteer program and the offer of possible assistance to our shark cage diving company in Gansbaai, South Africa. Marine Dynamics Shark Tours is made up of a team of shark enthusiasts who constantly strive to place shark conservation and education foremost. Marine Dynamics Shark Tours is also the first shark diving company with the Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa certification. We are also very privileged to be the only shark diving company with two marine / shark biologists in our service.

Programme objectives:

Shark populations worldwide are increasingly threatened, and in scientific circles there is still research needed to fully understand and interpret shark behaviour.

Shark education features as a prominent part of the programme. It is only by getting to know these complex creatures more intimately, that we will understand the impact of their current continuing decline.

Therefore the programme is particularly suited to those who are willing to take up a challenge and play a pivotal role in observing and promoting these graceful and majestic creatures.

The programme will enable you to see sharks in their natural environment, either from a boat or from a cage.

You will learn about coastal eco systems in the region, and about what work is going on to help preserve them. Each link of the chain needs to be supported in order to ensure ocean sustainability. Because of this you will have a wide variety of tasks and activities to participate.

Learning part of the programme will consist of the following:

- Learning about climatic conditions pertaining to seamanship
- How shark cage diving operates
- Shark behaviour and biology
- The history of shark attacks
- Lectures by qualified marine biologists
- How to photograph marine wildlife
- Ocean conservation needs at the tip of Africa
- Learning about South Africa's conservation organisations

Practical experience will include:

- Experience out at sea, weather permitting
- Photographing sharks and observing them around the boat
- Learning how to identify individual animals through newly discovered dorsal fin recording, measurement and markings
- Boat safety and seamanship. Learning how to maintain standards and equipment needed for the operation

- Assisting with the monitoring of other marine animals in the area, and learning about hierarchy in the ecosystems
- Participating in rescue and data collection
- Field work in and around the area of Gansbaai, which is dependent on the ocean and tourism for its survival

<p style="text-align: center;">Interns (minimum 1 month)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Volunteers</p>
<p>Primarily here to gain field research experience</p> <p>Majority of sea time spent aboard Lwazi conducting white shark research with some time also spent aboard Shark Fever (cage diving vessel) collecting data and dorsal fin ID's on sharks sighted</p> <p>Tracking of white sharks which may involve sleeping at sea (tracking is a 24hr+ process) will be involved as a part of the internship</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to cage dive during your time here</p> <p>The research vessel will launch 1 – 2 times per day when conditions allow and you will be scheduled for at least one of those trips. If there is space on the cage diving vessel then you may be scheduled on it for the time you are not on the research boat</p> <p>Interns will be expected to help in collecting and entering data on sharks sighted/tracked on both boats to ensure the research database is kept up to date</p> <p>Lectures, educational programs and events (such as research, tracking and seamanship lectures & shark dissections) will be available depending on conditions/staff availability</p>	<p>Primarily here to work closely with sharks and tourists</p> <p>Majority of sea time spent aboard Shark Fever (Cage diving vessel) as a crew member helping out with cage diving operations. For volunteers that show a good work ethic time aboard Lwazi may also be available</p> <p>Volunteers staying for longer than one month may also have the opportunity to be a part of tracking teams (usually two teams will take 10-12hr shifts at sea)</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to cage dive during you time here</p> <p>The cage diving vessel will launch 1 – 2 times per day when conditions and cliental allow, volunteers will be scheduled on trips depending on numbers of volunteers/space on the boat for 1-2 trips per day where possible</p> <p>Volunteers will have the opportunity to help out collecting and entering data, data is collected on every shark sighted from both the cage diving and research boat</p> <p>Lectures, educational programs and events (such as research, tracking and seamanship lectures & shark dissections) will be available depending on conditions/staff availability</p>

Internship programme is a minimum of 1 month that will start on the 1st of each month.

November 2009 – November 2010 Rates

RATE ZAR 16 500.00 for 4 week programme

Cost for 1 week	:	rate – R4 750 per week
Cost for 2 weeks	:	rate – R4 500 per week
Cost for 3 weeks	:	rate – R4 250 per week
Cost for 4 weeks	:	rate – R4 125 per week

(Cost for 2 weeks and more includes contribution towards Penguin housing project)

Additional week after 4 weeks – R3 100 per week

Booking procedures

All bookings should be made at least 30 days before the programme starts. We accept volunteers throughout the year and starting dates are flexible. We do however recommend that volunteers stay for a minimum of 4 weeks, but any shorter stay would still be welcomed. Applications should be emailed to tracey@sharkwatchsa.com

**A 50 % deposit is required to confirm your booking.
The balance is due at least 14 days prior to volunteer arriving.**

Terms & Conditions

Applications must be cancelled at least 30 days before the programme starts. If the volunteer cancels less than 14 days before the programme begins, a 100 % cancellation fee will apply.

What does the cost include?

- Your transfer from Cape Town to Gansbaai when you arrive
- Your transfer from Gansbaai to Cape Town when you leave
- Accommodation (including bedding, coffee, tea, cereals etc)
- Internet access at accommodation
- Activities as part of the programme
- Trips on the boat (weather dependant)
- Programme materials
- Welcome pack of:
 - 2 x Marine Dynamics t-shirts (please state t-shirt size)
 - 1 x Marine Dynamics cap
 - 1 x Marine Dynamics jacket (return after completion of programme. This can be purchase at an additional cost.)
 - 1 x pair of water boots (please state shoe size)
 - 1 x DVD of a trip of your choice as well as a bonus and promotional DVD of company.
- Certificate of contribution towards Penguin Nesting Project, Faces of Need, should you stay 2 weeks or longer.
- Volunteer certificate for programme participation
- Tour of Gansbaai and surroundings including a Township Tour as well as visit to famous Danger Point Lighthouse.
- There will be a co-ordinator that will take care of you during your stay. Should you experience any problems, you will have someone to turn to.

What is not included in the cost?

- Flight ticket
- Medical and travel insurance
- Excess baggage
- Use of telephone
- Food (you will need ± 200 GBP / 360 USD / 2500 ZAR for one month)
 - **Meals and cooking:** You will be responsible for purchasing your own provisions and preparing your own meals, except the boat lunch on the dive boat, which is provided.
- Lodging for the first night after arrival in Cape Town and the night before departure. We can arrange affordable back packer lodges from 15 GBP to 20 GBP / 30 USD to 50 USD / 200 ZAR to 350 ZAR per night)
- Personal activities:
 - We can also arrange various activities as listed below:
 1. Agulhas and surroundings tour (southern most tip of Africa)
 2. Paintball: ± 9 GBP / 15 USD / 110 ZAR for 100 balls and 2 hours
 3. Horse riding – R
 4. Quad Biking ± 15 GBP / 28 USD / 200 ZAR for 1 hour. ± 25 GBP / 40 USD / 300 ZAR for 2 hours.
 5. Kayaking – R
 6. Skydiving: ± 116 GBP / 200 USD / 1400 ZAR
 7. Bungee Jumping at Bloukrans with car rental –
- Depending on the applicant habits and lifestyle, we usually suggest adding to their monthly budget 125 GBP to 250 GBP / 215 USD to 430 USD for their souvenirs, excursions, food, entertainment and other personal daily needs.

Estimate prices:

- Beer: ± 80p / 1.40 USD / 10 ZAR
- Glass of wine: ± 1.25 GBP / 2.14 USD / 15 ZAR
- Burger & chips: ± 3.33 GBP / 5.70 USD / 40 ZAR
- Pizza: ± 4.16 GBP / 7.14 USD / 50 ZAR
- Cigarettes: ± 2 GBP / 3.57 USD / 25 ZAR
- Bread: ± 8p / 1.40 USD / 10 ZAR
- Milk: ± 6p / 1.14 USD / 8 ZAR
- Underwater camera (disposable): ± 14.16 GBP / 20 USD / 140 ZAR

What do I need to bring?

- Towel
- Pocket money
- Personal journal or notebook
- Camera
- Sun hat
- Sun block
- Some old clothing that can be worn at sea
- Old shoes for use on the boat (water boots will be provided)
- Your own snorkel/mask and flippers. (We can loan or rent gear should you wish not to carry extra gear.)
- Rain jacket
- Warm clothing for evenings / boat.
- Polarized sunglasses

We will supply all the necessary dive equipment.

F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)

- **When is the best time of year for shark cage diving?**

The best time of year for shark cage diving is in the South African autumn/winter months (May to September), although we still have fantastic sightings in our spring/summer months.

- **Location?**



- Gansbaai is about 180 km SE from Cape Town CBD and about 40 km SE from Hermanus
- No specific vaccination or medication is needed before coming to South Africa as we are far from Malaria areas and there are no strange African diseases which you could pick up (that is if you respect the same safety rules as anywhere else in the world).
- Tap water / fresh food and meat produce is safe for human consumption
- For more information on HIV & Aids visit: www.aids.org.za

- **Your first day?**

We shall collect you from Cape Town and take you on a scenic drive to The Great White House in Kleinbaai where our office is based. You will be greeted by the program representative, who will then introduce you to the crew and the other people you will be working with. You will have the opportunity to go on the boat should weather permit.

After your return we will be watching the DVD that was made on your trip. You will then have the opportunity to spend time with our Marine Biologist and skipper that will explain your duties and responsibilities for the program. The program representative will give you a welcome briefing with house rules etc.

The program representative will take you food shopping as well as to the crew house where you will be staying for the period of the program. You will then have time to settle in and relax. We will arrange for a dinner or South African barbeque (braai) where you will meet and socialize

with some of the crew and other volunteers. Here you can ask all the questions that you have and become more comfortable with your surroundings. You will receive information about the launch time for the next day.

The following morning you will have to meet the crew 1 hour before the launch at the Great White House for a briefing and you will then be going on the boat as a tourist, where you will have the opportunity to dive and see what it is like for the guests who come on the boat daily.

We will then work out the itinerary for the weeks to come as we then need to know what you want to do on days off or no sea days.

- **Where will I stay?**

Accommodation is in a comfortable, private self-catering 4 bedroom (8 sleeper) home, in the immediate area. Here you will be able to relax in your spare time, and mix with fellow volunteers. You have to be willing to share a room with another volunteer. You will not be more than 2 people in one room.

The house is within walking distance of the coast, and Kleinbaai. Provisions can be purchased in nearby Gansbaai.

The Western Cape enjoys a temperate climate, with the majority of its rainfall in the winter months of July and August. However, our pleasant winter days compare favourably to European summer days.

House keeper will clean once a week.

Panel heating throughout the house.

- **Duties on the boat?**

On the white shark dive boat (Shark Fever), who often do two trips per day, you will work with the tourists, assist the crew with baits, chum, cage, dive gear and cleaning. Here you will gain very good boat and team experience. You will record data and you will assist in logging this data. On the whale boat, you will assist the tourists but your main task will be data collection and observations. We are particularly interested in bite marks on seals, birds and dolphin. You will also be looking out for entangled animals.

The boats often do one to four trips per day (Whale Whisperer), depending on the season and we will rotate you accordingly. Please note that we are working with the ocean and weather so it is almost impossible to maintain a strict schedule. You will have to be flexible, just as we are, but this is once again a very good learning opportunity.

- **What animals will I come in contact with?**

You will work very closely with white sharks and be exposed to the rest of our Marine Big 5™ - whales, dolphins, seals and penguins. The Southern Right whale comes into our waters to calf and mate and is most prolific during the months of August to November. Gesyer Rock is home to 60 000 Cape fur seals and Dyer Island a nesting place for the African Penguin and other seabirds

- **Will I dive in the cage?**

You will definitely have the opportunity to cage dive, although this will be skipper's call – depending on paying clients on boat, as well as weather and sea conditions. We will allow you to cage dive as much as possible.

- **What will I do on land?**

You will work with the tourists in the briefings, dressing them with jackets and life jackets, pack the boats, prepare the boats and equipment, wash and maintain equipment, log data and clean your accommodations. Lectures will be arranged as well as visits to community and/or conservation projects.

PLEASE NOTE:

Some of our participants arrive with the idea that they are on an extended holiday. While the atmosphere is relaxed and the work not hard, MD is running a professional operation, thus we expect everyone involved to be constructive, diligent and responsible. MD treats everyone as a responsible adult and if you are responsible, then there will be no need to enforce the rules. We have systems we work according to and we expect all to respect those systems. You as a participant are being provided with the wonderful and sought after opportunity of working with great white sharks and the other animals which make up their world and you will work with some of the most experienced white shark, whale and marine bird people in the world for an extended period. What we expect in return is that you do your best in your tasks and that you work as part of the team. What you get out of your time with MD is largely up to you. MD staff will provide you with as much information as you would like and they will willingly share their experience with you. What you gain as a person will depend on what you put in. We recommend that from the very start of your stay, you ask questions and take written notes.

We want you to understand that you are taken on as a responsible adult and we definitely do not want to police you. You may have as much fun and freedom as you like, as long as you are responsible. We have a very responsible job in making sure that you are safe at all times, thus we expect you to cooperate with us.

If we feel you are conducting yourself in a manner, which reflects poorly on MD, or in a manner, which may be potentially dangerous to yourself, your team or our clients, we will be forced to enforce our rules.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING VERY CAREFULLY

The program is open to all applicants. The applicant must understand the following. *MD* is a white shark diving company with an affiliation to research, education and conservation. We work with protected and endangered species which include white sharks, whales, dolphin, penguins and seals so we have to maintain standards that are beyond reproach at all times. Thus if we accept an applicant, that applicant must understand that he/she will be working under the full authority of the company, just as all other staff members do.

The applicant will be expected to work as one of the team in all aspects of the duties, which will include house work, cooking, boat work, maintenance, working with tourists, assisting tourists, working on the boats, assisting in collecting general data and assisting the boat captains.

We cannot guarantee that the applicant will be at sea every day, however, we will place the applicant on boat duty as much as possible. You must understand that we are dependant on weather and sea conditions. On average, the boats are at sea for 26 days per month.

If the applicant works hard and well in the team, he/she will have a wonderful experience working with the crew who are some of the best marine people in the world.

It is important to note that it is the applicant's responsibility to be able to work on the boats, in the house and as part of a team to a high standard. If we feel that the applicant does not work at a high standard, or simply cannot for whatever reason, we hold the right to ask the applicant to leave or we can diminish the applicant's time and responsibilities on the boat. This has to be so as we have to keep safety at a high level. If for whatever reason we ask an applicant to leave, there will be no refund and no debate or correspondence will be entered into.

For university students, your stay can be used as part of your fieldwork experience and you can obtain points. We can also supply a letter of reference for any participant.

When we have expeditions, we often do things such as a kelp dive and we include the volunteers in these activities.

MD has several projects committed to development, specifically focused at bringing previously disadvantaged people into contact with the ocean and its creatures. Participants are often involved in this and if you have a specific interest in this area, let us know and we will allow you to work with a school group on an outing or outings. This is very important and rewarding work. Please note that this is based around the schools schedule and vacations so working with these children cannot be guaranteed.

Language ability/ preference:

Must be able to understand and communicate in English. Any other language is a bonus to us and we would appreciate if you could communicate with e.g. German or Spanish guests in their home tongue

- **Payment and confirmation of booking**

1. After the Application is received by Marine Dynamics we will give you **feedback** within 5 days regarding approval or not.
2. After **confirmation of approval of the Application** and the possible date of doing the program, a 50 % deposit is needed to confirm booking. The balance is due 14 days before volunteer's arrival. Payment can be made into the following bank account:

*Marine Dynamics Tours
First National Bank, Hermanus, South Africa
Current Account
Bank Code: 200412
Zip Code: FIRNZAJJ
Account Number: 62093597965*

3. Confirmation of the dates and finalizing of program dates will then be made (or cleared out in the case where required dates cannot be approved)
4. Fax/email the confirmation of payment to tracey@sharkwatchsa.com
5. Marine Dynamics Tours will forward an invoice for the total amount.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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South Africa

Please visit our websites:

www.sharkwatchsa.com

www.whalewatchsa.com

www.dict.org.za

We live by our motto:

DISCOVER AND PROTECT

