



South Africa - 8 days 7 nights Sardine Run from Wavecrest, 2021



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*Eastern Cape
8 Days / 7 Nights*

*Reference: Accommodated
Date of Issue: 10 July 2020*



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Introduction

The Sardine Run Expedition is a unique wildlife encounter, following the annual sardine migration along South Africa's beautifully rugged coastline. Typically, the annual migration of the sardines from their beginnings in the Southern Cape to being sighted off shore on South Africa's Wild Coast starts in June each year. As the shoals of sardines move northwards up the coast the size of the sardine shoals tends to grow, ultimately forming the 'greatest shoal on earth'. This amazing journey attracts a multitude of predators that track and follow the Sardines' migration, exploiting this localized and abundant food source. It is hard to describe the excitement of the Dolphins, numerous bird species, whales, Cape Fur Seals and sharks as they 'hunt' the sardines. You can actually hear the excited squeals of the thousands of Common and Bottlenose Dolphins as they travel in large breaching waves to pursue their prey, long before you see them. Attracted by the Sardines, game fish such as Shad and Garrick pursue the sardine shoals and provide another food source for the dolphins. Contributing to the noise and surface action are the birds, Cape gannets, Albatross (yellow nose and black browed), Terns and Petrels, diving into the shoals of Sardines from a great height. Humpback Southern Right and Brydes Whales can also be seen in pursuit of this moving feast.

Below the surface the action continues with the sharks (Copper, Dusky, Blacktip, Whitetip, Bronze Whalers and Bull sharks) feasting on the sardines and other marine life. The Cape Fur seals actually sleep with one eye open, ready to react should they see a large shark in their vicinity.

The dolphins and sharks look for opportunities to herd the Sardines into balls, this is the sardines natural reaction to feeling threatened as they perceive there to be safety in numbers. These 'bait balls' vary in size and frequency, with the action on some of the larger ones lasting hours.

The shoals of sardines are spotted by the telltale signs of dolphins splashing at the surface or by flocks of birds diving into the water. From Mpame we are also able to use the elevated hills to look for miles to see the activity. The boat is positioned slightly in front of the action so that by the time divers enter the water the marine activity has drifted to their position. Experience recommends that the majority of time in the water is spent on snorkel as this gives the speed and flexibility to enter and exit the water easily and therefore not miss out on the fast moving action. If activity of sufficient size is encountered SCUBA is used.

As the vast majority of the in water activity can be conducted with ease on snorkel this makes the Sardine Run an accessible and exciting marine expedition for non-divers and divers alike. As long as participants are comfortable snorkeling they will not miss out on the action. This makes it a great adventure for the whole family.

After several weeks of migrating northwards, the sardines swim out to sea and are carried along the inner edge of the Agulhas current back to the southern Cape to spawn. It must be mentioned at this point that the Sardine Run is a natural phenomenon; therefore the exact timing cannot be predicted. Typically the best times to see the 'run' is June to July

On the Sardine Run, after a light breakfast we launch the boat and spend the day at sea looking for the Sardine Run "action". Typically you will be at sea from around 8am till 3pm daily depending on the sea conditions and the activity seen. With a surf launch, long boat rides and the amount of time spent at sea we recommend that clients ensure their fitness to participate (an average level of fitness is sufficient). Packed lunches and hot and cold drinks will be served on board. When the sardines are spotted, depending on whether they are fast moving or not, we will decide to either snorkel or scuba dive. A full dinner will be served in the evenings with the menu changing daily.

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Day 1	Wavecrest Hotel and Spa	Eastern Cape	FB	7 Nights

Key

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Price

38295 ZAR per person sharing, approximately \$2275 USD

Single supplement add 2695 ZAR, approximately \$165 USD

- 30th May to 6th June
- 6th June to 13th June
- 13th June to 20th June
- 20th June to 27th June
- 27th June to 4th July
- 4th July to 11th July

Included

7 nights en-suite accommodation with dinner, breakfast and packed lunch

Transfers from East London airport

6 days Sardine Run from an exclusive location

Experienced skippers and divemaster

Excluded

Airfares

Tips and drinks

Insurance

Day 1: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa, Eastern Cape

Eastern Cape

As South Africa's 'wild' province, the Eastern Cape features magnificent stretches of untouched beach, peaceful river estuaries, lush forests, breathtaking mountain vistas, and the arid Karoo Desert landscape. Nelson Mandela Bay (Port Elizabeth) serves as the province's primary commercial and industrial centre as well as a gateway to the popular Garden Route where visitors can enjoy ancient forest walks, surfing in the world-renowned surf spot of Jeffrey's Bay, and even bungee jumping from the world's highest bridge bungee above the Bloukrans River. Beyond the Garden route lie some spectacular malaria-free wildlife reserves including the remarkable Addo Elephant National Park, now the only place in South Africa where you can see the Big Seven - elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo, leopard, whale and shark. Further east, don't miss the Wild Coast region which, as it is far less developed than the rest of South Africa, offers visitors a glimpse of rural African village life.

Activities

Upon arrival in East London you will be transferred to Wavecrest Hotel, on the stunning Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape.

Overnight: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa

Walk along kilometres of sparkling white beaches, go canoeing and boating on a pristine estuary, discover indigenous dune forests that ring with the sounds of birds, swim in a wild and warm ocean, and watch pods of playful dolphins and migrating whales moving by. This is Wavecrest Hotel, jewel of the South African Wild Coast, and famous for its friendly hospitality and offering all the ingredients for a wonderful holiday.

ROOMS

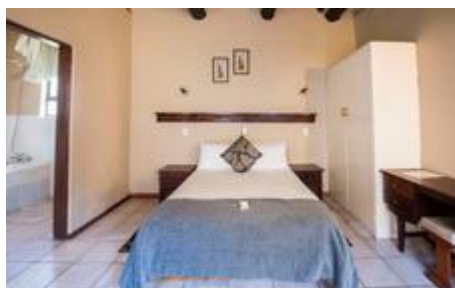
Wavecrest's 30 en-suite units include sea-facing and garden chalets, traditional free-standing rondavels and family rooms. Wavecrest's restaurant and bar has a deck with wide views of the estuary, the sea and the beach beyond. During the day, it's the place to gather, with a cold beer and long lazy lunches.

SPA

After an active day, relax and revitalize yourself with your choice from our extensive menu of beauty therapies and spa treatments. Our well-trained therapists will pamper you in the tranquil therapy room.

POOL & HOT TUBS

The swimming pool and hot tub are sunk in to the deck and offer a great place to refresh yourself down during the day and into the evening.



Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 2: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa, Eastern Cape

Day Itinerary

After a light breakfast we launch the boat and spend the day at sea looking for the Sardine Run "action". Typically you will be at sea from around 8am till 3pm daily depending on the sea conditions and the activity seen. With a surf launch, long boat rides and the amount of time spent at sea we recommend that clients ensure their fitness to participate (an average level of fitness is sufficient). Packed lunches and hot and cold drinks will be served on board. When the sardines are spotted, depending on whether they are fast moving or not, we will decide to either snorkel or scuba dive. A full dinner will be served in the evenings with the menu changing daily.

Activities

Sardine Run

Sardine Run

Every winter, hundreds of large swirling shoals of sardines migrate from the cool Cape waters north east to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. One of the greatest migrations on earth, the Sardine Run attracts sharks, dolphins, seals, cormorants, Cape Gannets and sometimes even penguins, albatross and Orcas. Also occurring at this time is the annual migration of Humpback Whales. This natural event takes over the ocean, resulting in a breathtaking scene. This event can be viewed on the stage itself on board a boat, from above on a plane, or at the shore, where simply sticking a hand into the ocean could lead to the slippery sensation of fish scales brushing against human skin.

**Basis**

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 3: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa, Eastern Cape**Activities**

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Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa, Eastern Cape

Activities

Sardine Run

Sardine Run

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**Basis**

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 5: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa, Eastern Cape

Activities

Sardine Run

Sardine Run

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Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 6: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa, Eastern Cape

Activities

Sardine Run

Sardine Run

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Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 7: Wavecrest Hotel and Spa, Eastern Cape

Activities

Sardine Run

Sardine Run

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Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 8: End of Itinerary

Activities

Transfer back to East London airport

Transport

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
		East London Airport [ELS]	Wavecrest Hotel and Spa		Transfer
		Wavecrest Hotel and Spa	East London Airport [ELS]		Transfer
