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**South Africa - 8 days 7 nights Sardine Run from Buccaneers' Lodge, Chintsa, 2021**

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*Chintsa*

*8 Days / 7 Nights*

*Date of Issue: 10 July 2020*

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[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

## 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.

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| Start | Accommodation                  | Destination | Basis | Duration |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| Day 1 | Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers | Chintsa     | FB    | 7 Nights |

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**Key**

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

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**Price**

34,950 ZAR per person sharing, approximately \$2100 USD

- 16th May to 23rd May
- 23rd May to 30th May
- 30th May to 6th June
- 6th June to 13th June
- 13th June to 20th June
- 20th June to 27th June

**Included**

- 7 nights en-suite accommodation with dinner, breakfast and packed lunch
- Transfers from East London airport
- 5 days Sardine Run from an exclusive location
- 1 day Big 5 safari at Inkewnkwezi Game Reserve
- Experienced skippers and divemaster
- Cylinders and weights

**Excluded**

- Airfares
- Tips and drinks
- Insurance
- Dive equipment

**Day 1:      Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers, Chintsa**

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**Chintsa**

Situated close to the city of East London in the beautiful Eastern Cape Province, Chintsa is a hidden treasure along the Wild Coast of South Africa. It is made up of two small villages: Chintsa East and Chintsa West, which are separated by the Chintsa River Mouth. It features a pristine, unspoilt long stretch of white-sand beach fringed by dense lush vegetation scattered with a variety of wonderful places to stay ranging from luxury to budget accommodation. Chintsa offers visitors the opportunity to surf the waves, kayak along the river, enjoy a fishing excursion and soak up the African sun on the spectacular beach.

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**Day Itinerary**

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

**Activities**

Upon arrival in East London you will be transferred to Buccaneers Lodge, on the stunning Wild Coast of the

Eastern Cape.

### Overnight: Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers

A gem on the Wild Coast of South Africa, Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers has something for everyone - budget and luxury accommodation, adventure and relaxation. Come, stay, leave your heart in Africa.

Our beautiful property is situated on the Chintsa lagoon. and a short walk to the Chintsa beach. Along with our cute cottages, fabulous en-suite rooms and spacious campsite, we have a long list of facilities on the property to make your stay at Buccaneers more enjoyable.

Spacious grounds, a sparkling pool, volleyball court, ping-pong table, yoga room, canoes, boogie boards, book swap, parking, night watchmen, a Baz Bus stop, beautiful dam, plenty of birdlife, vibrant bar (with tv for sports events viewing), chilling spaces and restaurant areas, pool table, communal kitchens, etc etc etc.

#### WIFI

We now have limited free wifi in some of our communal spaces!

#### THE OBVIOUS

Free parking, free security cameras, free safe access, free linen and lots and lots of very, very free and divine Buccaneers love...



#### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 2: Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers, Chintsa

### 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

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### ***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.



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### **Basis**

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

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### **Day 3:       Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers, Chintsa**

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### **Activities**

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|-------------|
| Sardine Run |
|-------------|

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### ***Sardine Run***

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### **Basis**

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

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## Day 4:      Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers, Chintsa

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### Activities

Sardine Run

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#### *Sardine Run*

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### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

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## Day 5:      Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers, Chintsa

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### Activities

Sardine Run

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#### *Sardine Run*

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**Basis**

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

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**Day 6:       Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers, Chintsa**


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**Activities**

|             |
|-------------|
| Sardine Run |
|-------------|

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***Sardine Run***

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**Basis**

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

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**Day 7:       Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers, Chintsa**


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**Day Itinerary**

Today's activity can be taken any time during the week, depending on weather forecasts. If there looks like there will be a rough day at sea during the week, the safari day will be brought forward.



## Activities

Game drive in Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve

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### *Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve*

This world-class Eastern Cape game reserve in South Africa offers luxury and attention to detail on a Big Five safari. Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve has a prime location with a rich diversity of landscapes and a tidal estuary. The reserve is situated within an area of 100 square km encompassing 5 different biomes (vegetation types) which offer varied game viewing.

Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve near East London is home the Big Five game, Elephant, Lion, and Buffalo, Rhino and the elusive Leopard as well as many other fascinating animals both big and small. Due to its unique position adjacent to the coast, guests could also spot a Southern Right Whale along these shores in season.

There are 2 luxury camps with tented suites as well as a comfortable safari lodge and guest house for larger groups. The Emthombeni Restaurant at Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve offers high thatched roofs and rich stone flooring for an elegant African dining experience complemented by authentic African decor.



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## Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

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**Day 8:      End of Itinerary**

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## Transport

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### Transfers

| Date | Company | Pick Up                        | Drop Off                       | Time | Vehicle  |
|------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|----------|
|      |         | East London Airport [ELS]      | Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers |      | Transfer |
|      |         | Buccaneers Lodge & Backpackers | East London Airport [ELS]      |      | Transfer |

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