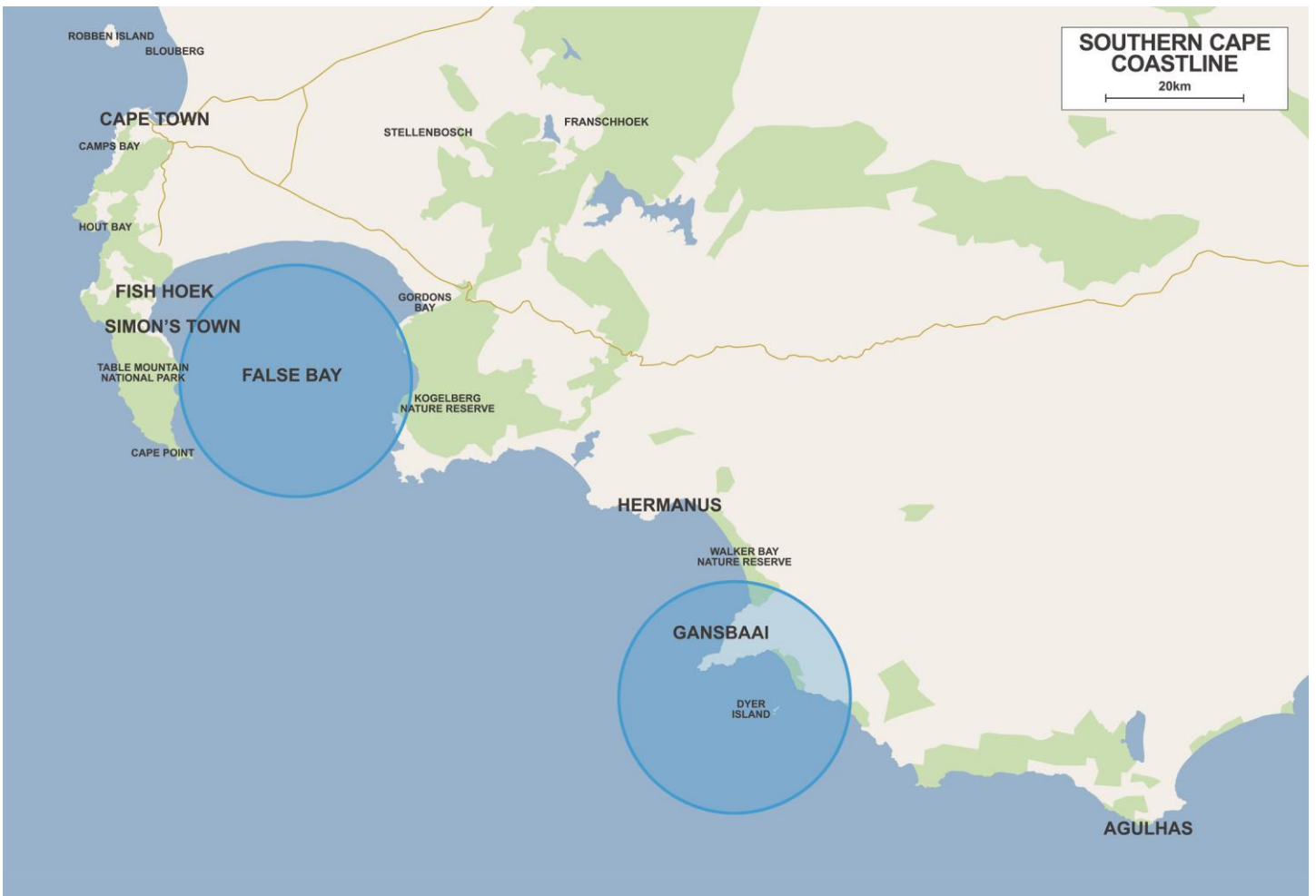




SHARKACTIVITIES



GREAT WHITE SHARKS

False Bay - Cage Diving and Great White Shark Breaching

False Bay is unique in that it is one of the very few places in the world where shark breaching takes place - that is when Great White Sharks hunt seals and launch themselves clean out of the water in their pursuit of their prey. It is spectacular to witness and happens frequently in a morning, but only during a short and very defined season, between June and end August/early September.

False Bay has the following shark activity seasons:

Welcome to Africa!

Intermediate Season: February - 14 April
Cage Diving and Surface Viewing only

High Season: 15 April - end May
Shark Cage Diving plus possibility of breaching and natural predation

Peak Season: June - end August
Shark Cage Diving plus breaching and natural predation

Intermediate Season: 01 September - 15 September
Cage Diving and Surface Viewing

Closed: 16 September - 31 January

All tours depart 07h00 and return at 12h45

Afternoon tours run between April and September for cage diving and surface viewing only (13h15 - 16h45)

Advantages of False Bay Great White Shark experience:

- Only 40 minutes from Cape Town hotels
- Later pick up times, between 5 am and 6 am
- Location means that the shark experience can be combined with a half day Peninsula Tour
- Only two boat licenses issued, so a more exclusive experience
- Scuba gear is used - no qualification is necessary. The scuba equipment remains on the board and only the scuba hose enters the cage allowing the guests to enjoy the dive without the cumbersome, heavy tanks and gear.
- The only area to experience breaching (when the Great White Shark launches itself out of the water in pursuit of seals). This is at its peak between June and August, and doesn't occur much out of these months

Disadvantages of False Bay Great White Shark Experience

- No shark experience in summer, between September and January
- More expensive than the Gansbaai experience
- Limited availability

Gansbaai - Cage Diving ONLY

Shark cage diving takes place here throughout the year. In summer months (November - March), the boats anchor closer to shore and in winter around Dyer Island. Water visibility is worse in summer and it can be a longer wait for sharks to approach the boat, but sightings are pretty regular year round.

Transfer time to Gansbaai from Cape Town is 2.5 - 3 hours. Pick up times from Cape Town vary according to the tides and weather conditions and are **only confirmed the day prior**. Morning pick up times are generally between 5:00 am and 5:30 am. The programme is loosely as follows:

By 08h00: arrival at Gansbaai for breakfast and conservation and safety briefing

9h00: launch and out on the water anything from 2-6hours (depending on the sightings and the weather conditions)

12h00: back on land for de-briefing and soup and drinks

13h00: Depart back to Cape Town

15h30: Arrive in Cape Town

Note: The above is based on shared transfers from and back to Cape Town. In **December**, which is hugely busy, pick up times can be as early as 03h30 in order to collect clients from all the Cape Town locations. We strongly recommend booking a private transfer at extra cost to circumvent this.

Advantages of a Gansbaai Great White Shark experience:

- Guaranteed year round sightings
- Well priced
- A number of reputable operators offering good availability
- From June - November, whale sightings are also common

Disadvantages of a Gansbaai Great White Shark experience:

- Early pick up times and longer transfers from Cape Town (watch out for December pick up times!)
- Larger numbers on the boats and in the cage (up to 10 at a time in the cage)
- Snorkels only, so time under water is determined by how long clients can hold their breath
- Shark breaching rare
- Pretty much a full day excursion so difficult to combine with anything else.
- A more commercialised experience

Welcome to Africa!

RAGGED TOOTH SHARKS AND TIGER SHARKS

Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks - KwaZulu Natal

The South Coast of KZN is blessed with two vast offshore reef systems. Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks (5 and 8km offshore respectively). These reefs attract sharks of all shapes and sizes so if you are looking for the big stuff outside of the cage - this is where it's at. These are both scuba diving locations, so no cages at all.

Aliwal Shoal: With its many caves, gullies and pinnacles, this dive spot provides a seasonal residence for hundreds of ragged-tooth sharks. From June to October it is not unusual to find yourself in the presence of several, large and fully mature specimens, with many of them circling a sandy Amphitheatre shaped depression known as The Cathedral. 40 minutes from Durban, accommodation near here is limited but can easily be reached from Durban hotels. Diving depth is about 25 metres and manageable for Open Water 1 divers.

Protea Banks: known for its Zambezi sharks and recent baited dives on Protea have seen as many as twelve Zambezi (Bull) sharks mixing freely with divers. Hammerhead, ragged-tooth, black tip and tiger shark sightings are also a highlight. Due to its depth and current, divers must hold Advanced certifications with a minimum of 20 logged dives to dive safely on Protea Banks. About 90 minutes from Durban, there are some accommodation options near to the dive site.

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	REGION
Dolphins													Entire Coastline
Ragged Tooth													Aliwal Shoal/ Protea Banks
Zambezi (Bull) Shark													Aliwal Shoal/ Protea Banks
Tiger Sharks													Aliwal Shoal/ Protea Banks
Sardine Run													KZN South & North Coast
Whale Season													KZN South & North Coast

Welcome to Africa!