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## **2020 Sardine Run**

# **Port St Johns, South Africa**

**29 June – 05 July**

*Accommodation at the 4\* Luxury N'Taba River Lodge and Spa*



## The Sardine Phenomenon

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Millions of sardines migrate along the east coast of Africa following a cool inshore current, which is known as the Sardine phenomenon. Super pods of Common Dolphins can be seen chasing shoals of fish into a tight bait ball, which results in a feeding frenzy attracting dolphins, penguins, sharks, whales, seals and sea birds. This incredible phenomenon is famous with photographers, divers & adventure seekers from around the globe.

## About Port St. Johns

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Port St. Johns is situated in the heart of the Wild Coast and offers a unique beauty to the Sardine Run experience. The river cuts a huge gorge through the dramatic hills to the coast and the town itself is a unique mix of various cultures. Known for its stretch of rugged coastline, indigenous forests, beautiful estuaries and wide-open beaches.

## Where you'll be staying

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Nestled between towering cliffs and set in amazing Tropical gardens on the banks of the Umzimvubu River, N'taba River Lodge offers the finest mixture of Wild Coast hospitality and hugely comfortable rooms.

The 4-star lodge is a nature lover's dream... just enjoying the river flowing past. With the diversity of the rugged landscape, the sheer beauty of the area and dense vegetation that surrounds the lodge, bird watching enthusiasts will be held a captive audience throughout their visit, not to mention the opportunity for amazing photographs.



## TOUR ITINERARY:

**June 29** - Arrive in Mthatha airport (UTT), Transfer to Hotel, early evening expedition briefing: 1st night in hotel

**June 30** - 6:00am Breakfast, 6:45 transfer to launch site, load boat (8m semi-rigid RIB), 7am - 15:00 Ocean safari Day 1, Refreshments and lunch on boat. Arrive back and transfer to hotel, dinner

**July 1 , 2, 3** - 6am breakfast, 6:45am transfer to boat, Ocean Safari 7am - 3pm, dinner

**July 4** - Last day on boat : 6am breakfast, 6:45am transfer, 7am - 3pm on boat, transfer back to hotel. Last night in Hotel

**July 5** - Breakfast, checkout, transfer to UTT airport in Mthatha, flight to JNB Johannesburg

## Flight Information

### June 29

JNB UTT

SA8751 6:15 7:30 South African airlink

SA8757 12:00 13:15 South African airlink \*\*\* Recommended

SA8755 15:50 17:05 South African airlink

Transfer will be arranged for 13:30 - after the SA8757 flight

### Sunday July 5

UTT JNB

8760 16:35 17:50 South African airlink \*\* Recommended for overseas connections from JNB

8756 17:30 18:45 South African airlink

1448 17:40 19:10 South African Airways Express

Transfer will be arranged to arrive at UTT in time for 16:35 flight



## Tour Includes:

- Group Transfer from UTT to Hotel and return \*
- 6 Nights' Accommodation
- Breakfast Daily
- Lunch packs on diving days
- 5 Days at Sea (weather permitting)
- 8m Semi Rigid Dive Boat (SAMSA Licensed 40 miles offshore)
- Hire of 12L Tanks and Weight belt
- Airfills
- Experienced Skipper & Guide
- Filming Permits

## Tour Excludes:

- Flight
- Dinner and Drinks
- Equipment Hire
- Travel & Dive Insurance
- Additional sightseeing & activities

**\* I will arrange a transfer for all of us as a group on the 29th June from Mthatha (UTT) airport to the hotel and back on the 5th. If you are arriving at a different times than the rest of the group or different airport, transfer will be at your own expense and arrangement.**





From the Dive Operator:

### **Diving versus Snorkeling**

Snorkeling is ideal, as the sardine bait balls often move quite fast and with snorkel gear it is easy to gain quick entry and exit on the boat. This also allows the boat to keep up with the action. If a bait ball is big enough and static there will be the opportunity to enter the water with scuba and observe the action from below.

### **Is it guaranteed?**

The Sardine Run is a natural phenomenon which is caused by the movement of currents and certain weather patterns, therefore it cannot be guaranteed to see sardines, however regular close up encounters with sharks, dolphins, whales and sea birds guarantees this to be a lifetime experience.

### **Location of the Sardine Run Action**

A combination of shared aerial information, local spotters, fishermen and ocean users in the area to locate information regarding Sardine Run action.

### **Equipment provided**

Air fills included

12l Dive Tanks (Din/Int) & Weight Belts Provided

Additional Equipment is available for rental (5mm wetsuits, booties, fins, masks, BC's, Regulator, 15L Tanks)

### **Temperatures**

Day Time Temp: 10 – 25 degrees Celsius

Night Time Temp: 6 - 12 degrees Celsius –

Mornings and late afternoons are cold, so dress accordingly.

Beanies, warm jackets recommend.

Water Temp: 18 – 21 degrees Celsius

Wetsuit: 5mm 2 Piece/7mm, Gloves & Hoodie

