

A scuba diver is seen from below, swimming towards the surface in clear blue water. The diver is positioned in the upper center of the frame. Below the diver is a large, colorful coral reef with various types of coral in shades of pink, purple, yellow, and orange. Several small orange fish are visible near the coral. The sun is shining from the top center, creating a bright glow and ripples on the water's surface.

SCUBA@




DISCOVERY AWAITS

TAILORED SCUBA EXPERIENCES CREATIVELY
CRAFTED WITH A DASH OF ADVENTURE



Contents

04	Who we are
06	Unrivalled Expertise
08	Experience Experts
10	Safety First
12	Sustainability
14	Unique Experiences
18	Meet the Team
24	Where to Dive
28	Sodwana Bay
30	Aliwal Shoal
32	Protea Banks
34	Port Elizabeth
36	Plettenberg Bay
38	Cape Town Kelp Forest
40	Cape Fur Seals
42	Cape Blue Shark & Mako Shark
44	Ponta do Ouro
46	Tofo
48	Bazaruto Archipelago
50	Madagascar
52	Zanzibar Island
54	Pemba Island
56	Mafia Island
58	Kenya
60	Lake Malawi
62	Contact Us



Who we are

GoVacation Africa is a full service destination management company, specialising in inbound travel with offices in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Uganda and Madagascar. From these offices we service neighbouring destinations such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Malawi and Rwanda.

We offer professional services and client specific consultation to both the individual

and group leisure travel segments. GoVacation Africa is part of a global brand with decades of business travel experience in key international markets.

Through on-the-ground experience and detailed insights into the nature of the world travellers needs and expectations, GoVacation Africa offers best practice and complete professionalism for all your African travel dreams.

OUR EDGE

Unrivalled Expertise

A **LEADING** African inbound tourism company with a reputation for aspirational travel experiences that exceed travellers' expectations.

A collective **PASSION** for the underwater world. A business built on scuba diving **ABILITY** and travel **KNOWLEDGE** within the team. Through credible **CONNECTIVITY** within the South African diving industry and a deep desire to share the **MAGIC** that lies beyond, a giant stride was made.

TAILORED scuba experiences creatively crafted with a dash of **ADVENTURE** and a world of excitement by a team of knowledgeable diving professionals.

The **DIVE** packages can be combined with self-drive or scheduled tours and cater to seasonal scuba **BUCKET LIST EXPERIENCES** such as the Sardine Run. Alternatively, enjoy group tours, diving the hot spots along the African coastline.





OUR EDGE

Experience Experts

The SCUBA@GoVacation Africa team are passionate ambassadors for diving in Africa as qualified PADI and RAID divers themselves. Their collective experience and ability are what your next underwater adventure needs.

The business is built on a solid foundation of product, process, and technological innovation. SCUBA@GoVacation Africa has no market edge without passionate people and their creativity, flexibility, skill, and experience. Couple the people with the GoVacation Africa business footprint and you have the powerful association of great relationships which equals brilliant rates!

A full-page background image showing a group of divers underwater. The scene is illuminated by a bright light source from the right, creating a strong silhouette effect on the divers and a large, dense school of small fish swimming towards the left. The water is a deep blue color.

PEACE OF MIND

Safety First

- All the dive destinations have reputable PADI dive centres with high benchmarks for both equipment and instructors
- Global health and safety standards are followed
- Carefully thought-out incident, crisis and emergency plans are in place
- Information is on hand regarding the relevant hyperbaric chambers in each destination
- All boats are accredited through the local authorities with emergency oxygen, first aid kits and GPS onboard
- All dives are accompanied by professional and experienced local dive guides



SUSTAINABILITY

**We care.
We grow.
We prosper
together.**

We are responsible and accountable for the role we play in the countries in which we operate; economically, socially and environmentally. Our accountability is lived through the DNA of our core business values and our company culture.

SCUBA@Govacation Africa supports Endangered Wildlife Trust's Conservation of the Endangered Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin Project.



Unique Experiences

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY WITH KRISTOF GOOVAERTS

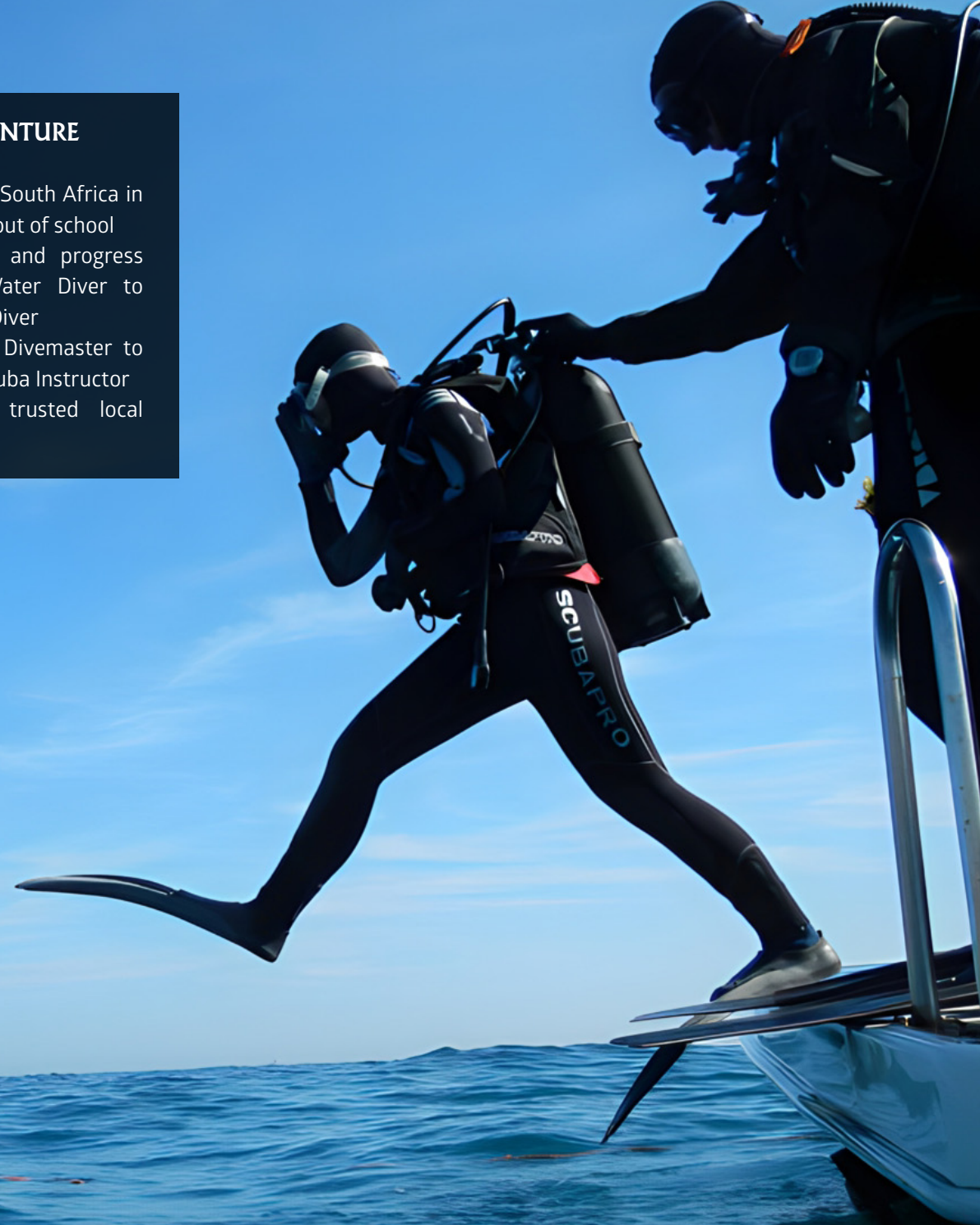
- Workshop includes underwater photography and post-trip photo editing
- Collaborate with fellow divers to enhance photography skills
- Led by Kristof, a two-year underwater photography enthusiast
- Focus on South Africa and the beauty of its underwater world
- Kristof's experience with rebreather diving enhances his photography
- Aims to inspire non-divers to explore underwater and change perceptions about sharks
- Specializes in shark, wreck, and portrait photography

RESEARCH PROJECT

- Join a research team on your scuba diving holiday
- Discover the reasons behind sharks' ocean travel
- Learn about shark breeding and where they raise their young
- Dive with sea turtles and contribute to local research
- Engage in ocean conservation and educate yourself during your dives

GAP YEAR ADVENTURE

- Travel through South Africa in your first year out of school
- Learn to dive and progress from Open Water Diver to Master Scuba Diver
- Advance from Divemaster to Open Water Scuba Instructor
- Partner with trusted local providers



SARDINE RUN: THE GREATEST MIGRATION

- Annual phenomenon from February to September along South Africa's east coast
- Sardines migrate against the Agulhas current on the continental shelf
- This massive migration attracts predators like Brydes whales, sharks, birds, and dolphins
- Coincides with humpback whale migration, creating an incredible experience
- Other marine life includes mantas, mola-mola, and occasional orcas
- Draws nature enthusiasts, professional photographers, documentary makers, marine biologists, and adventure seekers
- Primarily experienced through snorkeling, with scuba used when the baitball is static

Meet the Team

SABINE BLEHLE

Sabine has been inspired by the underwater photos and stories shared by her colleagues. As an adventurer on land, she has decided to join the underwater world of exploration and is qualified as a PADI Advanced Diver, as well as a Rescue Diver, with deep diving, navigation, and Nitrox, boat diving, fish identification and drift diving expertise.

SABINE PFEIFFER

Sabine has been diving since 2006. Her diving adventure started in Germany with a PADI Open Water course eventually qualifying as a certified PADI Rescue Diver.

She finished her PADI Dive Masters in 2020 and completed the RAID Sidemount course in January 2021. Sabine is a qualified Deco 60 diver and has obtained her dry suit qualification.

An underwater photograph showing two large sharks swimming in the foreground, with divers visible in the background. The water is clear and blue.

NICKI GIBSON

All her life Nicki has been a lover of the wild. Growing up in Johannesburg, her exposure to this was limited, her corporate career was becoming stifling and she knew there was always something more and better waiting for her. In December of 2012 at the age of 30, she was taken on holiday with her best friend and diver, and took a dip in the pool as a Discover

Scuba Dive candidate and fell in love. Right there and then, she said out loud, "I'll be moving here within the next year". True to her word, by April of 2013 she had moved to the coast, still continuing in her corporate career, feeling better by being close to the ocean. Within 2 years her life evolved and her path took her straight into the dive industry where she has subsequently advanced herself into becoming an Instructor.

A photograph of four women standing outdoors in front of a brick wall and greenery. The woman second from the left is holding a pair of black diving fins and a diving mask. They are all smiling at the camera.

CHARLIE

Charlie just loves scuba diving. He started his Open Water Course this year and is in the meantime a qualified PADI Advanced diver. Exploring the underwater world is always an adventure for him as each dive is different and you never know what you see.

His favourite diving destination is Mozambique, which has unspoilt coral reefs and an abundance of aquatic life. He is excited for his next underwater adventure.

REBECCA SUTTIE

Rebecca has qualified as a PADI advanced diver with the following specialties: night diver, navigation and deep diver. Her next goal is to add wreck, shark and nitrox specialty to her diving journey. As well as South Africa, Rebecca has dived in Mauritius.

She loves diving because it relaxes her, like meditation, as well as enjoying it to chase the bubbles under water. "It is extraordinary to follow the fish and swim around coral and see the marvelous creatures that you can find."



CHRISTELLE UECKERMANN

Christelle qualified as a PADI Open Water diver in 2018 after falling in love with diving as soon as she explored the underwater world. Christelle compares the experience to flying and she enjoys feeling like she is part of the marine life.

"It feels like everything moves slower underwater compared to the rat race we are living in. A place to relax and meditate".



WHERE TO DIVE

South Africa

South Africa – known for iconic Table Mountain, superb wines, and the 'Big 5' safari experience. Lesser known are the phenomenal dive locations with a scuba experience likable to that of the country's people; diverse, colourful and vast.

Tropical reefs in the northeast and temperate rocky reefs in the west, there is something for everyone and all levels of experience. A unique location at the meeting point of the warm Agulhas and cold Benguela currents.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Marine Big 5
- Epic seascapes
- Colourful coral reefs
- Coldwater dives including kelp forests and sharks
- Warm water dives including tropical reefs
- Night dives

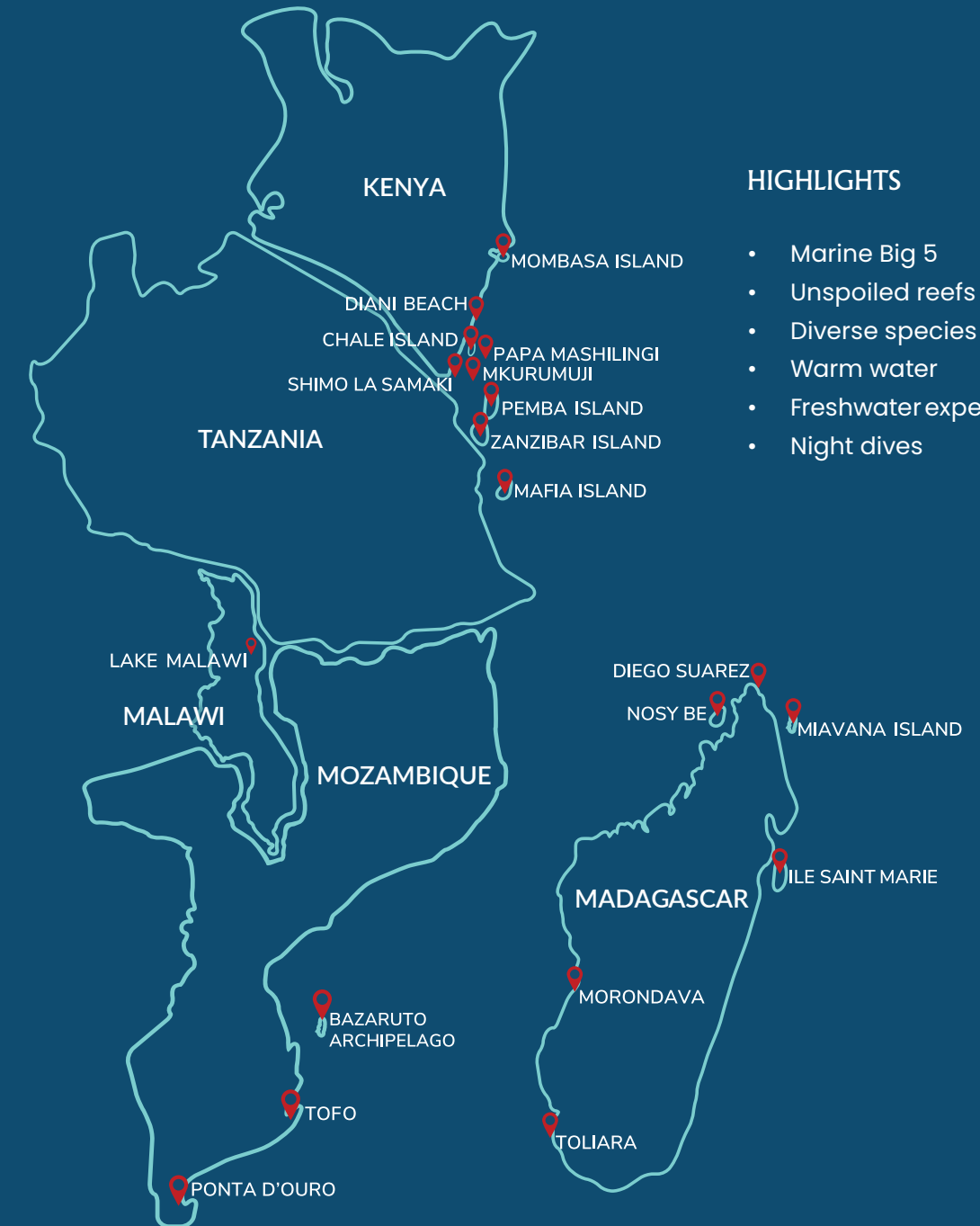


WHERE TO DIVE

Africa

The SCUBA@GoVacation Africa footprint in Africa allows divers to combine diving in South Africa with diving in Mozambique, Lake Malawi, Kenya, Madagascar and the islands of Tanzania (Zanzibar, Pemba, Mafia.)

East Africa is well-known for its abundant wildlife, wide-open spaces, and pristine tropical beaches. Kenya and Tanzania are regarded as the main destinations, with similar products available either separately or in combination. These destinations can be easily combined with a safari. Get the 'Big 5' of both worlds!



HIGHLIGHTS

- Marine Big 5
- Unspoiled reefs
- Diverse species of fish
- Warm water
- Freshwater experience
- Night dives

SOUTH AFRICA

Sodwana Bay

Sodwana Bay is a fantastic year-round diving destination located within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. This stretch of coast is home to a diverse array of unspoiled coral reefs teeming with Indo-Pacific fish and invertebrates.

Sodwana Bay reefs have the most southern coral reef formations in Africa. The stunning hard and soft corals grow on a sandstone base structure that is unique among true coral reef structures. Reefs are flat with low pinnacles, shallow drop-offs, and gullies and range in depth from 6m to 100m due to the sandstone base structure. The reefs are unique as their coral is built on sandstone and the remains of ancient dunes. It is believed that the reefs of Sodwana are 4000 years old!

Divers will discover more than 1200 fish species and about 95 hard and soft coral, sponges and other invertebrates. Divers will have the chance to find turtles, rays and sharks on any of the dive sites.





SOUTH AFRICA

Aliwal Shoal

Aliwal Shoal is well-known for its abundance of marine life and two shipwrecks. Jacques Cousteau, a French naval officer, explorer, and conservationist who researched and studied all aquatic life, named it one of his top 10 sites in the world.

On a single dive, divers will be able to see up to seven different types of rays and seven different species of sharks. Eels, turtles, dolphins, and whales are all examples of marine life found here.

The reef is the crown area of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) that allows life to thrive. Ragged-tooth sharks are often spotted between August and November during their mating season.

This single large reef stretches for about 3km with a variety of dive sites at varying depths with something for all skill levels. An ideal learning environment for new divers, adventurous tech divers, and those interested in pursuing a diving career.

SOUTH AFRICA

Protea Banks

Protea Banks is found 7.5km out to sea from Shelly Beach on South Africa's south coast. The reef is 6km long and 800m wide, and it is found at a depth of between 27 – 40m. A fossilized sandbank rising from 60m.

Since the 1970s, Protea Banks has provided a source of income for generations of local fishermen, while scuba divers have come face to face with sharks and game fish since the early 1990s.

Protea Banks is one of the richest tuna grounds in the world, which explains why Zambezi (bull) sharks frequent it. All year long they patrol the reef in search of food.

Schools of scalloped hammerheads swim up and down the reef, sometimes hundreds of them, sometimes thousands! The great hammerhead, which can be shy, is also found on the banks, either as a lone hunter or in small groups of three to five sharks.





SOUTH AFRICA

Port Elizabeth

Gqeberha, previously known as Port Elizabeth has a great diversity of marine species, including whales, dolphins, squid, and jackass penguins, illuminated by beautifully coloured soft corals.

Algoa Bay is also home to the ragged-tooth shark and the largest breeding colony of African penguins and Cape gannets in the world. A gateway to the renowned garden route in South Africa, with a collection of 5 big game reserves in the immediate vicinity. Beautiful beaches, restaurants, hotels, shopping centres and many more attractions to enjoy during days off from the underwater world.

With some of the best sardine run sightings along the coast, where thousands of dolphins chase shoals of fish into tight bait balls, resulting in a feeding frenzy that attracts penguins, sharks, whales, seals, game fish, and sea birds. This incredible phenomenon is well-known among photographers, divers, and adventure seekers from all over the world.

SOUTH AFRICA

Plettenberg Bay

Plettenberg Bay is home to a large colony of Cape fur seals and one of the few places in the world to enjoy diving with these unique mammals.

Off Robberg Beach, the seals are often seen playing in the waves. During their breeding season, which runs from July to December, southern right whales frequent the bay. Bryde's whales are around throughout the year, with the summer months being the busiest. Between July and December, humpback whales pass by.

The bottlenose dolphin and the endangered humpback dolphin frequent Plettenberg Bay throughout the year. Pansy shells are native to the shoreline and are symbolic of the town. At low tide, the unusual flower-shaped seashell can be spotted on the beach.

A city surrounded by mountains, majestic beaches, and indigenous forests, Plett is known for its superb natural beauty. An ultimate seaside break with many outdoor and adventure activities for the entire family – a popular tourist destination!





SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town Kelp Forest

Pyramid Rock, one of the more popular kelp forest sites, is a good place to see the broadnose sevengill shark or cow shark.

The maximum depth is only 12m, making it ideal for beginner divers. The shallow depths and picturesque setting make this an ideal location for photographers wanting to capture sharks in their natural habitat.

Cow sharks congregate in the shallow channel that runs between Pyramid Rock and the shore. If sharks are present, the aggregation can hold up to 30 sharks. Aside from the main attraction, the kelp forest is a lovely place to explore, its understorey teeming with life.

If divers do not see any cow sharks, they can keep an eye out for spotted gully sharks, pyjama catshark, puffadder shy shark, leopard shy shark, and the dark shy shark. Sharks are not always present so do enquire about sightings when booking to avoid disappointment.

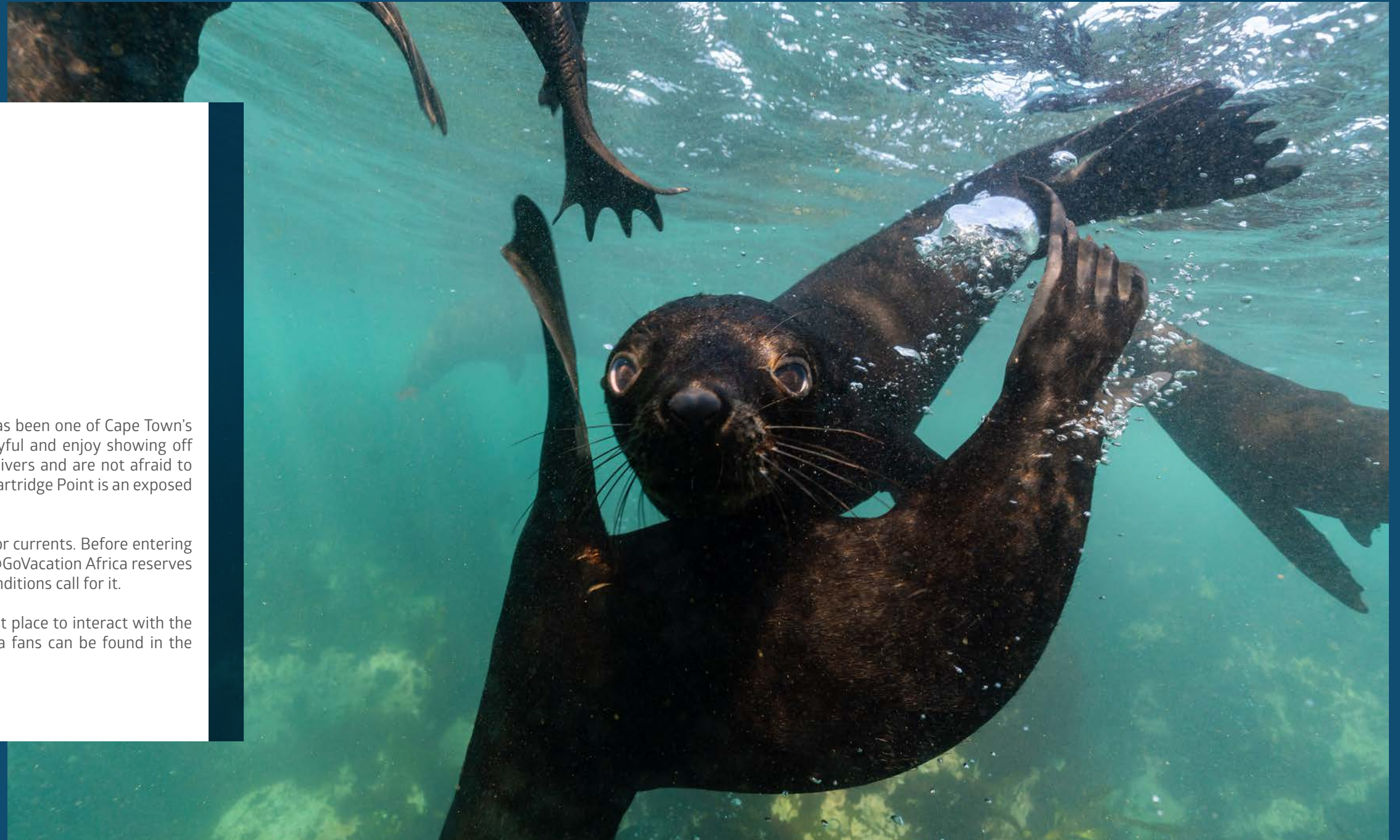
SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town Cape Fur Seals

The Cape fur seal dive is a fun and interactive dive that has been one of Cape Town's signature dives for over two decades. Seals are very playful and enjoy showing off their acrobatic abilities to divers. They are at ease with divers and are not afraid to jump in the water in large groups to investigate and play. Partridge Point is an exposed haul-out spot for seals.

The water at the site can be rough at times due to waves or currents. Before entering the water, a careful assessment will be made and SCUBA@GoVacation Africa reserves the right to divert the divers to a more protected site if conditions call for it.

The amphitheatre, a shallow section of the reef, is the best place to interact with the seals. Beautiful marine life, swim-throughs, and large sea fans can be found in the reef's deeper sections.





SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town Blue Shark & Mako Shark

Divers travel up to 25 nautical miles off Cape Point to see blue sharks. Calm and inquisitive creatures they will approach divers and snorkelers in most cases. They feed on squid and a variety of fish with large eyes to help them hunt in deep waters. They can grow up to 3.5m in length however most are between 1 – 2m in length. Graceful with long pectoral fins the Blue Shark is the most common shark on the planet.

Shortfin Mako sharks are among the fastest swimming animals in our oceans, allowing them to prey on tuna, gamefish, and other shark species. Shortfin Mako sharks can grow to be over 4m long and weigh up to 700 kg. An incredible shark to see eye-to-eye!

This tour is open to scuba divers, free divers, and snorkelers, and there will be plenty of pelagic birds and other species to see.

MOZAMBIQUE

Ponta do Ouro

Ponta do Ouro is a charming small town in southern Mozambique, just 10km from the South African border. Beautiful white beaches, lush dune woods, incredible diving, and an endless azure sea await divers here.

One of the more popular dive sites due to its amazing high wall topography is 3 Sisters with depths of 24m. Explore fish life such as the long nose hawk fish (unique to this site only), angler fish, garden eels, crocodile fish, eggshell shrimps, and a massive resident honeycomb eel as well as many different types of nudibranchs make this a great site for all types of underwater photography.

If shark diving is on the top of divers' lists, then Pinnacles (30-35m) a world-renowned shark diving site is the dive. Tiger, bull, black tip, silver tip, dusky, spinners, java, leopard, grey reef, and the gracious hammerhead sharks can all be discovered here. An absolute must for any diver's logbook.





MOZAMBIQUE

Tofo

An array of exciting marine life will greet you in Tofo. All 5 species of turtles, 2 or more species of dolphin, 2 species of manta, many stingray species (including the extremely rare small eye stingray), and many species of shark (white tip reef, grey reef, whale shark, leopard sharks and the occasional hammerhead, bull, great white and tiger).

Tofo's deep and shallow settings are home to a diverse range of macro-organisms. You'll be gazing up for the giants and looking down for the critters such as frogfish, shrimp species, crabs, and innumerable nudibranch species. All these species can be found throughout the year.

Whale sharks don't have a season – they can be seen throughout the year. They fluctuate in numbers depending on the number of plankton in the water. Humpback whales are the only species with a definite season in Tofo and can be seen from June to November. Peak months are August and September.

MOZAMBIQUE

Bazaruto Archipelago

The Bazaruto Archipelago has world-class dive sites with barely a soul in sight. Explore 5 of the best local dive sites with knowledgeable, qualified guides. Just 5 minutes away, Neptune Reef is a haven for trigger, lion, and crocodile fish, alongside octopus and honeycomb moray eel, with a maximum depth of 5 meters making it ideal for beginners.

The 2-mile reef dive site is the most popular dive location, with plenty of dive sites to explore. The coral reefs start at a depth of 5m and slowly descend to a maximum depth of 22m, making it possible to see large school of reef fish, turtles, rays, and reef sharks, as well as occasional visits by dolphins, dugong, and humpback whales.

Manta Ray Reef on North Point has spectacular concentrations of anemones sheltering both nose strip and two bar clownfish. The reef is often frequented by green turtles and rays.





Madagascar

Madagascar has world-class, unspoiled reefs with a diverse range of species in this magical underwater world. Influenced by the tides, experience drift dives with big schools of fish or quieter dives to spot small, unusual creatures. The water is warm all year-round.

The reefs are some of the healthiest on the planet and the 30 plus dive sites give divers the opportunity to dive underwater pinnacles, coral garden plateaux's, reef walls, muck and sponge gardens.

Life on the reef changes seasonally. Huge schools of yellowtail barracuda and mating Octopi can be seen in winter and spring. Divers can expect to see seahorses, pipe horses, reef sharks, different types of rays, nudibranchs, flatworms, sea slugs, crocodile fish, sea moths, whale sharks, humpback whales, and dolphins on surface intervals and underwater if you are lucky.

SCUBA@GoVacation Africa adapts the dives to the experience and preferences of the divers.

NIGHT DIVES

Plunge below the surface after the sun sets and immerse yourself in a different world on the reef. The change from "day shift" to "night shift" allows the opportunity to see things differently and experience alternative behaviours in our underwater friends. Experience sea hares and nudibranchs or see octopi and slipper lobsters.

TANZANIA

Zanzibar Island

Below the surface of Zanzibar's mesmerizing turquoise waters lies a captivating world that beckons scuba divers from around the globe. Here, you can swim alongside vibrant schools of fish, share the waters with graceful sea turtles, and occasionally, be entertained by playful dolphins. Explore sunken shipwrecks, now transformed into living art canvases adorned with colorful corals and teeming marine life.

Venture into the intricate coral gardens, where seahorses and a rainbow of reef fish hide among the vibrant formations. Dive operators in Zanzibar cater to divers of all experience levels, ensuring that everyone can partake in the magic of this underwater paradise. Dive in and discover the enchantment that awaits beneath the waves of Zanzibar.





TANZANIA

Pemba Island

The diving around Pemba Island in Tanzania is breath-taking. Untouched coral reefs surround the entire island making Pemba one of the top dive sites in the world.

One of the healthiest coral reefs in the Indian Ocean and a water temperature averaging 26°C with the best visibility in East Africa of 30-40m. Beautiful deep and crystal-clear waters. The mangrove forests contribute to a biodiverse and healthy ecosystem. Walls drop off from an average of 12m down to 50m with some going even deeper.

Discover green turtles, Napoleon wrasses, eagle rays, tuna, and kingfish. Reef sharks and whale sharks can be spotted on occasion. Shark dives are often remote and deep, so the conditions and skill levels of the divers will be taken into consideration.

Many dive sites have cleaning stations, characterized by the high biodiversity of shrimps, moray eels and other critters. Spot dolphins and whale sharks, or if lucky, humpback whales breaching the surface.

TANZANIA

Mafia Island

The dive centre is situated in the Marine Park in Utende, which is southeast of Mafia Island. Chole Bay is a designated marine park, and all visitors pay a daily entrance fee. Offering a wide variety of activities and excursions including diving, snorkelling and land-based tours.

Divers enjoy daily double dives during low or high tide and sometimes it is possible to offer a third-night dive, depending on the tide. All double dives have a surface interval on the boat with tea, coffee, and biscuits before going on to do the second dive. This means that divers need to plan to be out of the water for 4-6 hours, depending on the sites that you are visiting.

Witness turtle hatching on Juani Island, just off the coast of Mafia. A unique location to see tiny green and hawksbill turtles dashing for the sea. Between June and September, environmentally friendly conservation tours can be arranged.





Kenya

Kenya's southern coast offers incredible dive sites and reefs to explore. Diani Beach boasts a community of turtles, a purpose sunk shipwreck, and from November until February, a chance to meet whale sharks.

600m from the mainland, Chale Island is a fantastic getaway, perfect for those that like remote locations. Pure escapism with nature at its most spectacular.

Papa Mashilingi, the Swahili name for whale shark, offers divers a gentle drift dive with an array of corals and schools of fish. The majestic manta ray can also be seen.

Mkurumuji offers an interesting reef formation. These 'teeth' on the reef are home to a whole host of fish life and supply an insight into the inhabitants at slightly deeper depths.

Shimo La Samaki is the perfect dive site for divers that love underwater photography. This site involves exploring the caves, canyons and overhangs that make it a macro photography lover's paradise.

Lake Malawi

Take an underwater adventure in Malawi's massive freshwater aquarium. One of the more famous freshwater dives in the world. There are more species of colourful cichlid fish here than any other lake on the planet.

The large Lake Malawi is ideal for all levels of divers, but especially for those just starting or learning new skills. What makes it so wonderful for the beginner is that it has little current and no swells. An attraction of diving Lake Malawi is the interesting rock formations. The lake has a depth of 700m, but most diving takes place above 20m.

The best time of year to dive in the lake is from September to December. Divers will see endemic cichlid species begin their complex mating rituals. It is fascinating to watch their mouths brood. Whether it's a first freshwater dive or one of many, dives in Lake Malawi will undoubtedly leave you with unforgettable memories.





CONTACT US

Drop us
a line

Tel: +27 11 676 3338 / 3086

Web: www.go-vacation.co.za/scuba

Email: scuba@go-vacation.co.za

SCUBA@

