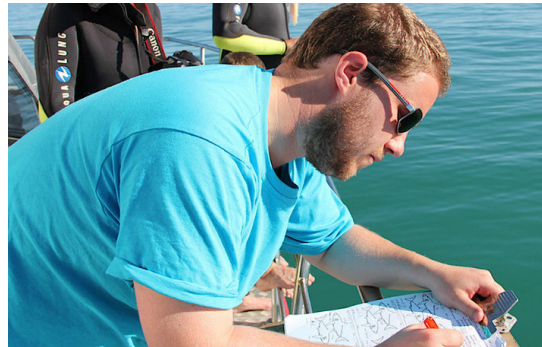
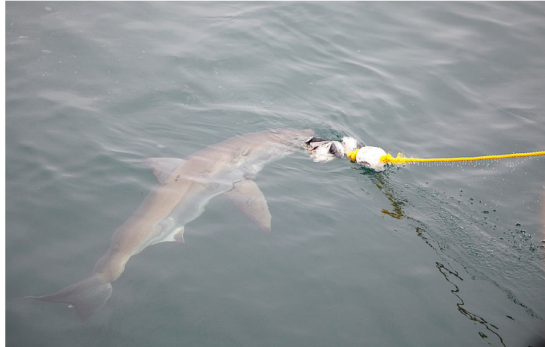


Shark Project

An ocean-based project which aims to unite scientific research and public participation in the protection of South Africa's great white shark. Volunteers are primarily here to work closely with sharks and tourists and in doing so increase awareness of these wonderful creatures.



Highlights

- Work on eco-tourism vessels with leaders in the industry, assisting tourists and educating them about conservation.
- Dive with great white sharks and see them in their natural habitat.
- Experience the Marine Big 5 wildlife: sharks, whales, dolphins, penguins and seals.
- Learn about shark behaviour, biology and ocean conservation.
- Learn to suba dive (additional costs apply).
- Take part in amazing tours and excursions outside of the project.
- Make new friends from all over the world.

Overview

Location	Gansbaai, Kleinbaai, South Africa
Duration	from 2 weeks
Dates	all year round from mid-January to mid-December
Requirements	upper intermediate level of English Skills: physically fit and able to swim
Minimum age	18
Documents	enrollment form, curriculum vitae, letter of motivation, passport copy, proof of medical insurance and a doctors note
Date of arrival	Monday
Date of dep.	Monday

Project Information

The project is focused on shark-cage diving, whale watching and boat-based eco-marine tourism. It is based in Kleinbaai, a small harbour town, part of Gansbaai in the Western Cape of South Africa. This area is known as the best place in the world to see Great White sharks in their natural habitat and it is also a hot spot for the breeding and mating waters of the Southern Right whale. The project works closely with a number of conservation bodies to address conservation challenges and improve living conditions for local communities and to raise awareness about wildlife conservation.

The project offers you an incredible opportunity to experience a wide range of South African marine wildlife: sharks, whales, dolphins, penguins and seals. You will learn about shark behaviour, biology and ocean conservation, fin-ID studies, great white shark wound healing, great white tagging and trapping, and water sampling. You will have informative presentations and you will take part in exciting community projects too, i.e. beach clean ups, education, etc.

The project allows you access to a diverse area of learning and gives you holistic insight into the challenges and opportunities involved in eco-tourism and ocean conservation at the tip of Africa.

Your Role

Duties on the boat:

- Report for duty 1 ½ hours before boat is scheduled to launch.
- Clean and dry the boat in the morning and afternoon (before trips and after).
- Check equipment for diving - chum, bait, food, coats, etc.
- Assist in laying and retrieving of the anchor and cage.
- Assisting in dive operation (you will get the chance to dive yourself).
- Education and care of clients and client interaction.
- Constant and vigilant shark spotting and bait watching.
- Clean wetsuits and put them away.
- Storeroom duties - needs to be kept clean daily.
- Assist crew and skipper.
- One trip usually takes a total of 6 working hours, two trips about 8 working hours.

You will receive details of your trips each evening for the next day. You are expected to go on the boat at least for 15 days out of 30 days (min. 15 trips and max. 30 trips, weather permitting). For any time off or sickness you need to contact the volunteer coordinator immediately. The project team tries to get you out to sea every possible day, so please stay in touch with your coordinator if this is too much for you.

The project runs 7 days a week as they are completely dependent on the weather. If the weather does not allow the boat to go out to the sea, then you will be taken on one of the following excursions: Hermanus (shopping, wine tours), Betty's Bay (penguin colony), Cape Agulhas (meeting of the two oceans).

It is important to note that this description serves as an example only. The daily tasks and challenges depend on the weather and the season. Everything at the programme is dependent on the weather. If there are no sea days, lectures, excursions or conservation work will be arranged. The final job description can therefore vary from the above substantially.

Accommodation

You will be accommodated at the International Marine Volunteer Centre, which is located in Kleinbaai directly at the project. This lodge is equipped with 4 chalets that accommodate between 4 and 6 people per chalet (twin shared rooms). Each chalet has a bathroom (with toilet, shower and basin), kitchen and living area as well as daily living essentials. There is a manager on site for after hour emergencies. There is also a very spacious living area in the main hall with a pool table, a cash bar, communal indoor braai and kitchen area that can be used. The lodge has a big, safe swimming pool, a garden, a dartboard, a football table, a table tennis table and an activity hall. Walking or cycling to the office is safe and easy and will only take between 10 and 15min (1.4km). Minibuses are available to transport you to and from the hub of activities.

Your laundry gets taken to the Laundromat weekly, which costs about ZAR 15 per kg.

Prices

Project fee 2017

2 weeks: € 1.283

4 weeks: € 2.137

8 weeks: € 3.844

Additional week: € 427

Included

- Project placement
- Transfer on arrival from your accommodation in Cape Town and a departure transfer to Cape Town airport
- Project accommodation (shared room, breakfast, lunch only when on the boat)
- A donation to the Dyer Island Conservation Trust if you stay for 4 weeks
- Orientation
- Welcome pack (2 T-shirts, a cap, hire of a jacket)
- Presentations and related activities
- Trips on the boat (weather permitting)
- Programme materials
- Electronic certificate (printed copy on request)
- Transfer to day trips on no-sea days
- Local support including a 24 hour emergency number

Not included

- First night's accommodation at backpackers in Cape Town and possibly last night if flight leaves before 19.00
- Lunch (if not at sea) and dinner (self-catering)
- Local transport
- Spending money
- Towels