

# AFRICAN SHARK

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## eco charters

False Bay, Simon's town "Home of the flying great white shark"

### FACT FILE

African Shark Eco-Charters is a dynamic, professional eco-conservation great white shark diving company that operates from Simon's Town, only 40 minutes from Cape Town. Our shark trips offer insight into the predation and breaching behavior of the Great White Shark. Our eco-friendly shark cage diving operation contributes hugely towards the conservation of the Great White Shark while simultaneously protecting the well-being of the local community through their various social initiatives and has been accredited with by "Fair Trade in Tourism"

Guests can be assured that their cage diving experience is managed in an ethical and socially responsible manner.

### WHAT MAKES AFRICAN SHARK ECO-CHARTERS UNIQUE!

- No price increase! Same amazing trip, same quality at 2010 price.
- We operate from Simon's Town- Only 40 min from Cape Town.
- No diving experience necessary. We snorkel and use scuba gear.
- Only 2 at a time in the shark cage. Small groups of 8-12 people only.
- We are the only False Bay operator to be accredited by "Fair Trade in Tourism". Your shark cage diving experience is managed in an ethical and socially responsible manner.
- We are an eco-sensitive operation attracting serious shark lovers, photographers, film crew as well as guests wanting a quality trip.
- Experience Shark cage diving and breaching all on one trip.
- Our trips are longer. Spend more time with the great white sharks, dive for longer, and have a more enjoyable trip.
- False Bay is home to the breaching great white sharks. It is a protected bay and we are not as affected by bad winter storms as are some other areas.

### WHAT IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR TO INTERACT WITH GREAT WHITE SHARKS?

We would consider our high season to be from mid-April to end of August. This is the ideal time to view breaching and predation by Great Whites. This is also be a great time for shark cage diving. We have a very high success rate, however with all wild animals, shark sightings, activity, predation activity and breaching can vary from day to day, and even during the height of the peak season there may be days when we do not see any breaching or predatory events. **Guests need to made aware of this so, as they do not arrive with unrealistic expectations.**

September is in between high and intermediate season with an 80% success rate. We have an Intermediate season from February - March. Sightings are from 50%. We will focus on Shark cage diving and surface viewing. If you are lucky you could witness a great white breach during this period.

Our Low Season is from October-January. Great White sightings are less than 50%. I would thus recommend our awesome BLUE WATER PREDATOR TRIPS during summer.

## DESCRIPTION OF AIRJAWS SHARK TRIP (12 Pax Max)

The AIRJAWS trip is a combination of shark cage diving and shark breaching trip. No dive experience is needed. We use scuba gear.

**06h45:** Meet at Simonstown Pier. Our boat is the Blue Pointer 2. You will be welcomed aboard and a full safety briefing is given as well as the expected weather forecast for the day. An overview is given about what the trip entails and what is to be expected.

- **07h00:** In pre-dawn darkness we depart for Seal Island. (About 20 minutes away). **7h35 to 12h30:** Arrive at Seal Island. Seeing dawn breaking over the Island and False Bay is truly breath-taking. The first 2 hrs is the ideal time to witness the great white's natural predation interaction with the seals, which can often lead to the great white shark exploding out of the water with such intense shear force in pursuit of its prey. It is something that you will remember for the rest of your life! All guests are brief on what to be on the lookout for as well as information regarding seal movement and the sharks hunting behaviour.
- When the natural predation activity has quieted down we try for a short decoy tow using a fake cut out carpet seal where we attempt to get the great whites to breach. Towing of the decoy allows for the best photographic opportunity. Being eco-sensitive we only do this for a limited period.
- We do an inspection lap of the island giving information on the animal and bird life that is found on Seal Island as well as a history of the island and structures that are to be found on it. Choosing the best spot to anchor up with regard to wind and swell direction.
- The cage is lowered into the water to free up the working area on the deck. A bait line is put in the water as well as the carpet seal decoy. Every precaution is taken not to injure the shark. We do not feed sharks, nor touch sharks. We are NOT an adrenalin operator.
- No dive experience is needed. We use scuba gear. The average dive time per guest is a 20-30 minutes. One of the several on board guides will interact with the clients during the course of the trip to supply information and answer any questions the guest may have. [http://www.ultimate-animals.com/shark\\_diving.htm](http://www.ultimate-animals.com/shark_diving.htm)
- You will still have excellent views of the Great White Shark should you chose not to dive.
- We have a cooler box, with muffins, sandwich rolls (cold meats as well as a vegetarian option) as well as, something healthy; fruit juice, bottled water, fruit and something not so healthy; coke, crisps, sweets and chocolate.
- **12h00:** We start to head home to Simonstown. This may be earlier depending on shark and weather conditions.
- **12h45 onwards:** Payment is made after the shark trip at our bookings office. A complimentary coffee voucher is offered as well as a discount at Harbour view restaurant should you wish to have some lunch.

## DESCRIPTION OF AFTERNOON SHARK TRIP (10 Pax Max)

During our afternoon trip you will be able to see the Great White Sharks from a point blank range and the best part is that this trip revolve around [shark cage diving](#). No diving experience is necessary. We use scuba gear.

**12h30:** Meet at African Shark Eco-Charters Shop

- Our boat is the Blue Pointer 2. You will be welcomed aboard and a full safety briefing is given as well as the expected weather forecast for the day. An overview is given about what the trip entails and what is to be expected.
- All guests are brief on what to be on the lookout for as well as information regarding seal movement and the sharks hunting behavior.
- We do an inspection lap of the island giving information on the animal and bird life that is found on Seal Island. We then choose the best spot to anchor up with regard to wind and swell direction.
- The cage is lowered into the water to free up the working area on the deck. A bait line is put in the water as well as the carpet seal decoy. Every precaution is taken not to injure the shark. We do not feed sharks, nor touch sharks. We are NOT an adrenalin operator.
- Then it's time to get up close and personal with the sharks. For more info on shark cage diving. [http://www.ultimate-animals.com/shark\\_diving.htm](http://www.ultimate-animals.com/shark_diving.htm) the average dive time per guest is a 20-30 minutes.

- One of the several on board guides will interact with the clients during the course of the trip to supply information and answer any questions the guest may have.
- You will still have excellent views of the Great White Shark should you chose not to dive.
- We have a cooler box, with muffins as well as, something healthy; fruit juice, bottled water, fruit and something not so healthy; coke, crisps, sweets and chocolate.

**16h20:** We start to head home to Simonstown. This may be earlier depending on shark and weather conditions.

### **BLUE WATER PREDATOR TRIPS - MAKO AND BLUE SHARK TRIPS ( 8 Pax Max)**

This adventurous trip takes you 15-25 miles off Cape Point in search of pelagic sharks such as the magnificent Mako and Blue Sharks. It is a 2.5 hour boat ride each way so the guests need to be comfortable going to sea and be informed of the duration of the trip.

The high season is November to May. Our success rate is over 80%.

A min. of 6 guests is needed for the trip to go.

All trips depart from Simons Town at 6.30am and return at 3/4pm. This trip is very weather dependant as we work offshore.

- Blue sharks are afraid of very little and are usually the first to approach diver and cage with a lot of interest, only satisfied after a close inspection that you are not a food item; this is great for photos and memories.
- Mako Sharks are the fastest swimming shark, and observing one is truly a fantastic experience. We also have a good success rate with diving with Tuna.
- All diving is in the cage and on snorkel. We use a three man cage but for comfort reasons we only allow 2 divers per dive. The water temperature can exceed 21`c.
- We do offer free diving (out of the cage). This is only for experienced divers and under the right conditions. This decision is taken by the skipper and will depend on sea conditions, visibility and numbers of sharks. All diving is on the surface and on snorkel.

We will get to see spectacular views of Cape Point. For *naturalist* wanting a bit of everything, then, this is a must. The moment we leave False Bay we start to see a multitude of pelagic birds including Skuas, Terns, Shearwaters, Petrels, Penguins, Gulls as well as the possibility of seeing several different species of Albatross i.e. Shy albatross, Black browed and Yellow-nosed albatross. Rarer sightings will include the Wandering & Royal albatross.

We very often see a variety of whale and dolphin species i.e Humpback, Southern Right, Sperm, Pilot and Brydes Whales, Common, Bottlenose, Dusky risso's dolphin can be seen. Large shoals of yellow fin tuna (up to 100kg) and long fin tuna are seen and can sometimes circle the boat.

This is a great adventurous trip and a perfect alternative in our summer when it's the low season for the Great White Sharks.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

##### **OPERATIONS AND RESERVATIONS:**

Owner and Skipper: Rob Lawrence +27 (0)82 567 8915  
 Owner and Reservations: Karen Lawrence  
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**MARKETING:** Smart Strategies  
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 Website: [www.smartstrategies.co.za](http://www.smartstrategies.co.za)

African Shark Eco-Charters operates out of Simon's Town, 40 minutes from Cape Town. Our payment office is: Shop WC13, Simon's Town Boardwalk Centre, St George's Street, 7975 Simon's Town. GPS Co-ordinates: S 34° 11.592' E° 18 25.930'. -34.193200; 18.432167.