

SOUTHERN AFRICA: DIVE CALENDAR

AREA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SOUTH AFRICA: SOUTH (Cape Area) Water temperature: 8°C – 15°C (Atlantic Ocean) / 12°C – 20°C (Indian Ocean)												
Great White Sharks	Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Blue
Southern Right Whales	Red	White	White	White	White	Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White
Chokka Squid Run (Port Elizabeth)	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White
Humpback Whales	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Dolphins	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Cape Fur Seals	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
SOUTH AFRICA: CENTRAL (Protea Banks & Aliwal Shoal) Water temperature: 17°C – 26°C												
Tiger Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	White	White
Hammerheads	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White	White	White	White	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Ragged-tooth Sharks	White	White	White	White	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White
Zambezi (Bull) Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Black-tip Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White	White	White	White	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Sardine Run	White	White	White	White	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Blue	White	White	White	White	White
Humpback Whales	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Dolphins	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
SOUTH AFRICA: NORTH (Sodwana Bay & Rocktail Bay) Water temperature: 20°C – 27°C												
Ragged-tooth Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Dark Blue
Whale Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Blue	Blue	White	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Dark Blue
Mantas	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Turtles	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Dolphins	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
MOZAMBIQUE: SOUTH (Ponto d'Ouro & Ponta Mamoli) Water temperature: 20°C – 27°C												
Ragged-tooth Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Dark Blue
Whale Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Blue	Blue	White	White	White	White	White	White	Blue	Dark Blue
Mantas	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	White	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Turtles	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Dolphins	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
MOZAMBIQUE: CENTRAL (Ponta da Barra, Pomene, Vilanculos/Bazaruto) Water temperature: 24°C – 29°C												
Whale Sharks	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Mantas	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Humpback Whales	White	White	White	White	White	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Dolphins	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
KEY to viewing seasons	Out of season: highly unlikely			Low season: little chance			Mid season: good chance			High season: excellent chance		

This calendar is not a definitive list of when the various animals will be in their different places, but it does help you to narrow your choice down to time of year and area, to give you the best possible chance to see your dream... Apart from the above, there are numerous reef fish and other interesting marine creatures to see. The reefs in South Africa and southern Mozambique are actually fossilised sand dunes covered with delicate soft corals making an incredibly colourful backdrop. The true tropical reefs begin around central Mozambique, in the Pomene area where you will see Table and Staghorn corals as well as the more colourful soft corals.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: CLIMATE

CLIMATE: Southern Africa lies south of the equator and its seasons are opposite to those of the UK (i.e. our winter is their summer, and vice versa)

BOTSWANA (Capital City: Gaborone)

This vast country forms part of the Kalahari Desert and has a typical desert to semi-desert climate with little rainfall. What little rain there is falls mainly between November and March but is sporadic. The south and western regions of Botswana get very little rain indeed, even in its 'wet' season. Best time to visit is between May and September when cooler weather prevails and it even gets quite chilly at night.

Francistown (central Botswana)

Monthly Rainfall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Comfort Factor & temperature	31°C	31°C	30°C	29°C	26°C	23°C	24°C	26°C	30°C	32°C	32°C	31°C

MOZAMBIQUE (Capital City: Maputo)

This is a large country with 1,200 miles of coastline and a tropical climate. There is a single rainy season from November to March. Temperatures along the coastal lowlands vary: conditions can be warm and pleasant thanks to sea breezes, or hot and sweaty during the rainy season when humidity is high.

Maputo (south Mozambique)

Monthly Rainfall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Comfort Factor & temperature	30°C	30°C	29°C	28°C	27°C	25°C	25°C	25°C	26°C	27°C	28°C	29°C

SOUTH AFRICA (Capital City: Pretoria)

Its pleasant climate is a major asset to South Africa: only the low-lying areas in the north, along the borders with Zimbabwe and Mozambique, have a tropical climate with related high temperatures and humidity. In the south, the coastal lowlands around Cape Town have a Mediterranean-type climate with hot summers (September to May) and warm, rainy winters. The eastern coastlands and the low veld of Durban and Natal have a subtropical climate with most rainfall falling between October and April, which is also the period of higher temperatures and humidity. In the eastern interior and high veld (Johannesburg and Pretoria areas), summers are rainy and warm and winter days are mild although temperatures can drop at night. Rain falls between November and April.

Cape Town (south South Africa)

Monthly Rainfall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Comfort Factor & temperature	26°C	26°C	25°C	23°C	20°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	21°C	24°C	25°C

Durban (central South Africa)

Monthly Rainfall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Comfort Factor & temperature	28°C	28°C	28°C	26°C	25°C	23°C	23°C	23°C	23°C	24°C	25°C	27°C

ZAMBIA (Capital City: Lusaka)

Zambia combines the heat of the tropics with a high plateau topography and this altitude keeps temperatures moderate. The rainy season (November to March) is the hottest period of the year and is usually preceded by a period of very warm, dry weather in September and October. Cooler but dry conditions prevail between May and August. For Victoria Falls, to see the falls at their dramatic best, visit just after the wet season when the rivers are at full capacity.

Lusaka (central Zambia)

Monthly Rainfall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Comfort Factor & temperature	26°C	26°C	29°C	26°C	24°C	23°C	23°C	25°C	29°C	30°C	29°C	26°C

Key to Climate

Monthly Rainfall	0-5mm	5-25mm	25-75mm	75-150mm
Comfort Factor (temperature)	Comfortable	Hot but tolerable	Very hot, sticky	