



Marine Dynamics x Shark Trust Auction prize

An Exclusive Marine Experience

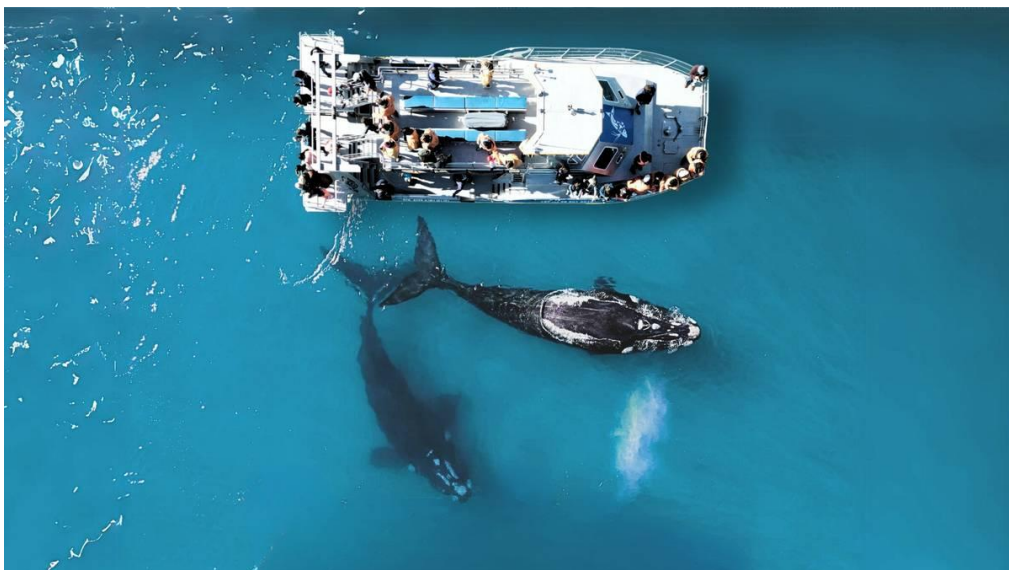
3 Days | 2 Nights | A Journey into the Deep

Imagine three unforgettable days immersed in the wonders of the ocean, coming face to face with extraordinary marine wildlife, meeting the people working to protect it, and discovering the natural beauty and rich heritage of South Africa's Overberg coastline.

The Marine Dynamics Exclusive Marine Experience invites you to discover the ocean beyond the ordinary. Combining extraordinary wildlife encounters, award-winning responsible tourism, hands-on conservation experiences and authentic Cape hospitality, this is an invitation to explore, connect and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Marine Dynamics is a multi-award-winning marine ecotourism company based in Gansbaai, South Africa, close to the southernmost tip of Africa. Our commitment to the ocean extends beyond creating exceptional wildlife experiences. Through our close relationship with the Dyer Island Conservation Trust (DICT) and the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary (APSS), we actively support marine research, wildlife rehabilitation, conservation education and initiatives that help protect our precious marine ecosystems.

This is your opportunity to experience responsible tourism in action, where every encounter brings you closer to the natural world and the people dedicated to protecting it.



DAY 1 | HISTORY, WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION

Arrival | Welcome to Gansbaai

Your journey begins in the beautiful coastal town of Gansbaai, one of South Africa's most remarkable marine environments.

Settle into your accommodation at the legendary Great White House, where an authentic Cape Dutch-style thatched-roof cottage offers a warm and characterful retreat. Known for its welcoming atmosphere and celebrated seafood, the Great White House provides the perfect base for your coastal adventure.

Take a moment to unwind before discovering the history and natural wonders of this extraordinary coastline.

Marine Big 5™ Safari | Meet the Ocean's Remarkable Residents

Step aboard a Marine Dynamics vessel for an unforgettable marine wildlife safari in the waters surrounding Dyer Island and Geyser Rock.

Accompanied by a marine biologist, discover the remarkable diversity of this marine ecosystem as you search for the Marine Big 5™:

- Sharks – Discover the extraordinary biology and ecological importance of these misunderstood ocean predators.
- Whales – Witness these magnificent giants of the sea in their natural environment, when present.
- Dolphins – Watch for these intelligent and energetic marine mammals as they travel through the coastal waters.
- Cape fur seals – Observe the lively seal colony at Geyser Rock, an important part of this marine ecosystem.
- African penguins – Learn about South Africa's critically endangered African penguins and the conservation challenges facing the species.

Throughout the journey, your onboard marine biologist will share insights into marine behaviour, scientific research and the conservation challenges affecting these waters. Every trip is unique, and wildlife sightings depend on natural conditions.

Discover the History of Danger Point | The Story of the Birkenhead

Visit the historic Danger Point Lighthouse and discover the story of HMS Birkenhead, which sank off this treacherous coastline in 1852, claiming hundreds of lives. The courage of the soldiers who stood firm while women and children were evacuated first became known as the Birkenhead drill. Today, the lighthouse continues to guide vessels along this rugged coastline, standing as a reminder of the lives lost at sea and the importance of maritime safety.

A moving encounter with our maritime history, where the power of the ocean and the courage of those who faced it are never forgotten.

Afternoon | Behind the Scenes at the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary

Step into the world of seabird rehabilitation at the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary, established by the Dyer Island Conservation Trust.

The sanctuary provides specialised care for injured, ill and distressed African penguins and other seabirds, with the aim of rehabilitating and releasing them back into the wild whenever possible.

Enjoy an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit to learn how the dedicated rehabilitation team cares for these remarkable birds. Discover the work involved in their recovery, from initial assessment and treatment to rehabilitation and release.

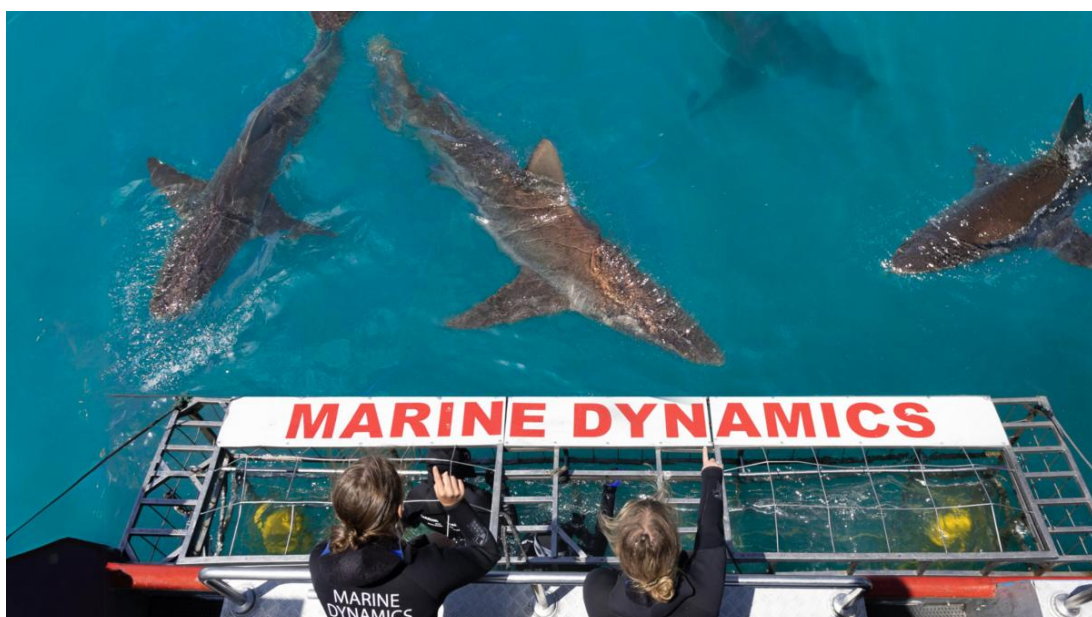
Meet some of the sanctuary's feathered residents and, where appropriate and permitted by the rehabilitation team, observe their feeding.

This personal encounter offers a deeper understanding of the pressures facing African penguins and the practical conservation work being undertaken to give them a better chance of survival.

Evening | Dinner by the Fire at the Great White House

Return to the Great White House for a relaxed evening and a delicious dinner served beside a cosy fire. Enjoy the warmth of authentic Overberg hospitality, reflect on your first day's adventures and share stories from your encounters with the ocean and its remarkable wildlife.

Overnight: Great White House, Gansbaai.



DAY 2 | SHARKS, SEALS AND THE MAGIC BENEATH THE SURFACE

Today is dedicated to extraordinary marine encounters and a deeper understanding of the work involved in protecting our oceans.

Morning | Face to Face with Bronze Whaler Sharks

Prepare for an exhilarating experience as you head out aboard Slashfin for a shark cage-diving encounter. Enter the cage and experience the underwater world alongside bronze whaler sharks, observing their movements and remarkable adaptations at close range.

With the Marine Dynamics team on hand to guide you, discover more about shark biology, behaviour and their essential role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. The experience also opens the door to an important conversation about shark conservation. Learn about the pressures facing shark populations, the impacts of commercial fishing and the challenges of changing outdated perceptions of these essential ocean predators.

Through Marine Dynamics' ongoing shark advocacy and conservation efforts, discover how responsible marine tourism can help build understanding, support scientific research and strengthen the case for protecting sharks. An encounter that challenges perceptions and brings you closer to understanding one of the ocean's most remarkable predators.

Swimming with Seals

The adventure continues aboard Calypso, our powerboat, as you journey towards Dyer Island and the surrounding waters. Experience the coastline from a different perspective, discover the island's significance as a wildlife habitat and gain a closer appreciation of the marine environment that Marine Dynamics and the Dyer Island Conservation Trust work to protect.

Meet the Cape Fur Seals | An Underwater Encounter

Prepare to enter the water and experience the playful world of Cape fur seals. In suitable conditions, enjoy an unforgettable snorkelling encounter with these curious and energetic marine mammals. Watch their graceful movements underwater and experience the natural curiosity that makes sharing the water with them so special.

With guidance from the experienced team, discover more about their behaviour

and the role they play in this extraordinary marine ecosystem. This is a chance to immerse yourself in the underwater world and appreciate marine wildlife on its own terms.

All water-based activities are subject to weather, sea conditions, safety requirements and wildlife behaviour.

Afternoon | Cape Agulhas – The Southernmost Tip of Africa

After a morning of extraordinary marine encounters, enjoy a leisurely scenic drive to Cape Agulhas, the southernmost tip of the African continent. Visit the historic Cape Agulhas Lighthouse and take in the rugged coastal scenery where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet. Stand at the iconic southernmost point of Africa, capture a photograph to remember and discover the maritime history of this remarkable coastline. It is a fitting moment to pause, take in the vastness of the ocean and appreciate the natural wonders that make South Africa so extraordinary.

Evening | A Taste of the Overberg

Return to the Great White House to relax after a remarkable day on the ocean. Enjoy another evening of good food and Cape hospitality, with time to reflect on your experiences and the conservation stories behind them.

Overnight: Great White House, Gansbaai.



DAY 3 | THE ART AND WONDER OF NATURE

Morning | The Grootbos Florilegium

Your final day takes you from the marine environment to another of the Overberg's extraordinary natural treasures. Visit the Grootbos Florilegium, an exceptional botanical art collection celebrating the remarkable diversity and beauty of the Cape Floral Kingdom.

Through detailed botanical illustrations, discover the extraordinary plant life of this region and the artistic dedication involved in documenting its natural heritage.

The experience offers a different perspective on conservation, revealing how art, science and a deep appreciation of nature can come together to preserve knowledge and inspire future generations.

It is a fitting conclusion to a journey celebrating the interconnectedness of our natural world, from the smallest botanical detail to the vast marine ecosystems beyond the coastline.



Three days. Two nights. Extraordinary encounters. A lasting connection to the natural world.

This is the Marine Dynamics Exclusive Marine Experience: a journey designed to leave you with a heart full of wonder, a deeper appreciation for our oceans and a renewed love for the natural treasures we must protect.

Trip Terms and Conditions

Winning bidder must be over 18

Trip does not include travel/transfers to and from Gansbaai, South Africa

Travel insurance not included

Trip activities and accommodation are provided by Marine Dynamics – all t&cs of their trips apply

All excursions are weather dependent

No cash alternative will be offered

The Shark Trust is not responsible for any aspect of this trip and cannot assist with booking, or any issues that may arise