

Overview

The Sardine Run is one of the world's most extraordinary natural spectacles, and at GweGwe Beach Lodge it happens right on our doorstep. Each winter, vast shoals of sardines migrate along the Wild Coast, attracting dolphins, whales, seabirds and game fish in an unforgettable display of marine life. GweGwe offers a rare opportunity to experience this phenomenon from a remote, luxury base within the Mkambati Nature Reserve.

When?

June & July

Where?

- [GweGwe Beach Lodge](#), Mkambati Nature Reserve, Wild Coast, South Africa
- 31°17' 17.552" S 30° 0' 39.045" E

The Experience

- Boat launches and landings take place directly in front of the lodge (weather dependent)
- Early-morning departures following a light breakfast
- Approximately 5–6 hours spent on the water, tracking sardine activity and marine life
- Freediving opportunities with expert guides, conditions permitting
- Common sightings include (80-100% chance):
 - Bottlenose & Long Beaked Common Dolphin
 - Humpback & Bryde's Whale
 - Sharks: Dusky, Bronze Whaler, & Spinner
 - Seabirds: Cape Gannet, Cape Cormorant, Subantarctic Skua, Kelp Gull, Swift Tern, Sooty Shearwater, White-chinned Petrel, & Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross
 - Manta Ray
 - Loggerhead Turtles
 - Eastern Little Tuna

On Land

When not on the water, guests can enjoy:

- Guided walks and hiking trails
- Mountain biking
- Kayaking, canoeing, SUP and surfing
- Spa treatments
- Exploring Mkambati Nature Reserve

Ease & Flexibility

GweGwe makes the Sardine Run experience simple and flexible:

- Fly-in access available
- Seat-in-boat options allows you to book the experience without needing to charter a full boat or commit to multiple days of boating (max 8 guests per outing)
- All equipment is available at the lodge (wetsuits, masks, snorkels, fins, etc)
- Transfers, activities and logistics handled by GweGwe reservations (reservations@gwegwelodge.com)

Important notes

- Sardine Run activity is wildlife-driven and not guaranteed
- Weather and sea conditions may affect boating
- Boating suitable for ages 12-75 (involves a surf launch)

Who is this experience for?

- Suitable for all travellers – no prior experience required
- Guests seeking a truly unique and immersive ocean-based adventure
- A standout addition to any Southern African itinerary during the winter months

Combinations

- Ideal to combine with a safari experience before or after the Sardine Run
- Partner lodges include: Kwandwe, &Beyond Phinda, Shamwari