



THE GREATEST SHOAL ON EARTH

The Sardine Run at GweGwe Beach Lodge

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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. Our highly experienced marine guides, Matt & Jade Stanford, return each year specifically for the Sardine Run, bringing extensive knowledge of the ocean, local conditions and the behaviour of the marine life encountered during this remarkable migration.

When?

01 June to end July annually

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 on a daily basis (weather dependent)
- Early-morning departures following a light breakfast
- Approximately 4–5 hours spent on the water, tracking sardine activity and marine life
- Freediving opportunities with our expert marine 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 and 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 and e-biking
- Kayaking, canoeing, SUP and surfing
- Spa treatments and hot tub
- Exploring Mkambati Nature Reserve

Ease & Flexibility

GweGwe makes the Sardine Run experience simple and flexible:

Transfers, activities and logistics are handled by GweGwe Reservations: reservations@gwegwelodge.com

- Fly-in access available
- Seat-in-boat options allow 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)

Important Notes and Who the Experience Is For

- Boating is generally suitable for ages 12–75 years and involves a through the surf launch
- Best suited to adventurous, reasonably fit guests who are confident swimmers and comfortable in open water. Not recommended for guests who are uncomfortable at sea, prone to motion sickness, or have limited swimming ability
- The Sardine Run activity is wildlife-driven and sightings cannot be guaranteed
- All boating and in-water activity is weather and sea-condition dependent
- All guests will be subject to a mandatory snorkelling assessment at the lodge before entering the water

Combinations

- Ideal to combine with a safari experience before or after the Sardine Run. Contact reservations@gwegwelodge.com for further information

