

GO **DIVE**
MOSEL BAY

SHARK PROGRAM

Get involved with innovative and dynamic marine conservation projects relevant to the preservation of Southern Africa's marine life, while building a career in SCUBA.

 **Mossel Bay, South Africa**

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SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO SCUBA@GODIVE.CO.ZA



WELCOME TO GO DIVE

Go Dive Mossel Bay is an education-oriented dive school located in the beautiful Garden Route of South Africa. We are a team of award winning NAUI Instructors and passionate marine biologists and conservationists, dedicated to preserving the oceans.

Elton Polly is the founder of Go Dive, and an award-winning NAUI Instructor. He has trained dozens of divemaster and instructor candidates over the years. He is currently the International Advisor for NAUI Africa, where he counsils many dive operators and instructors within the African continent on NAUI standards and guidelines.

Elton started the Go Dive Mossel Bay (Divemaster) Internship in 2018 to assist SCUBA divers with career development and encourage more divers to get involved in marine conservation. In 2020 Go Dive's Divemaster Program merged with White Shark Africa's Eco Program giving our students a well-rounded experience in SCUBA diving, eco-tourism, and shark conservation.



Introducing, the Shark Program



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THE SHARK PROGRAM

Each program starts on the 1st of the month and ends on the 27th. The program runs from Mondays to Fridays with the weekends off, leaving you some time to relax and explore. If, like most participants, you feel that one month isn't enough time, we do also accept bookings of two to three months.

The program is open to anyone with a real interest in SCUBA diving, sharks, and the marine world. This program is ideal for those who wish to be involved in something rewarding, educational, exciting and overall enjoyable. Anyone studying biology, marine biology, zoology, oceanography, eco-tourism, environmental conservation, animal husbandry, wildlife filming, etc. will find the program particularly beneficial. This program is perfect for SCUBA divers looking to develop their careers in the field.

We also cater for passionate conservationists who would like to change the misconception of great white sharks due to negative media. We feel it is important to engage the clients of the cage diving trips in a positive way that helps them to better understand these animals.

The program schedule is structured, and we try to adhere to it as far as the weather and sea conditions allow. All SCUBA dives/courses will be scheduled based on sea conditions following a daily report from our instructors.

The minimum age to participate is 18 years. All SCUBA diving participants must sign a NAUI Medical Form to ensure they are fit for diving. SCUBA participants must also have DAN Insurance.





NAUI DIVEMASTER

Theory of Diving

Diving theory will be done in the classroom or online with an e-Learning code dependent on course structure and instructor judgement. Each course, from Open Water to Divemaster, has theory that must be completed prior to course qualification. Classroom theory is typically done on your own time or bad sea days when we are unable to dive.

Practical Dives

To become a Divemaster, you must have **at least** 60 logged dives. Roughly half of these dives are practical (training) dives to be completed throughout your courses. A **minimum** of 2 months is required to complete all training dives. 3 months is best for those needing to reach 60 dives.

Please note we are constantly adjusting our schedules with the weather and tides. Diving days are not decided until the evening before. All courses and diving activities are weather dependent therefore the student should allow themselves the maximum amount of time to complete this training (3 months).

Duties / Tasks

Being a Divemaster is about more than just leading dives. You have a safety responsibility to your clients, your company/agency, and the public. This role also offers you the perfect opportunity to educate others about marine conservation efforts.

Each intern will have duties such as: boat maintenance, gear maintenance and servicing, briefing clients, rinsing client gear, filling cylinders, maintaining a clean and organized gear room, marketing to local businesses, social media marketing, assisting instructors with TSD and Open Water courses, educational outreach, presentations, etc.

Required Courses

Open Water SCUBA Diver
Advanced Open Water SCUBA Diver
Rescue Diver
Enriched Air Nitrox (EANx) Diver
Master SCUBA Diver
First Aid for Diving Professionals
Divemaster



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Seabird & Penguin Rehabilitation

Go Dive students volunteer weekly at the Seabird and Penguin Rehabilitation Centre (SAPREC), assisting with the care and upkeep of the birds and their enclosures. Interns gain hands-on experience in basic husbandry skills, including daily health observations, disinfecting pens, pool cleaning, and sand maintenance. When possible, they may also participate in best practices for rehabilitating and releasing birds back into the wild. For those staying a minimum of three months and showing strong interest, additional opportunities such as feeding and safe handling sessions can be arranged.

NAUI Clean Ocean Diver Workshop

This workshop will involve a lecture on plastic pollution with Keep Fin Alive, a practical element to learn how to safely and effectively remove fishing line from reefs, information on what's involved in deep clean diving, an intense specialty dive briefing, and a deep clean dive at a known problem spot. As part of the national Strandloper Project, we have set up a transect that allows us to build a data set on ghost fishing gear collected. We analyze fishing pollution gathered from the site to help strengthen our goal to establish mini protected areas.

Species Identification & Ocean Literacy

The goal of this project is to develop the skills needed to become a fully rounded underwater naturalist and guide. With the majority of SCUBA training focused on responsible diving and ensuring the safety of yourself and your buddies, this part of the program centers around building a foundation of knowledge about the environment in which you will be diving. Divers who have an interest in this side of the program can use this foundation as a platform to gain more specialized knowledge.

Coastal Clean Ups

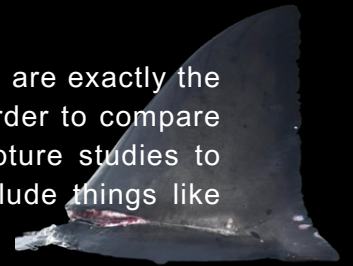
The volume of plastic waste in our oceans and on our beaches grows annually. Unfortunately, so does the number of marine animals and seabirds that are killed from entanglement and consuming this debris. Our goal is to help keep our favorite dive companion creatures safe from plastic harm. At the same time, we will be gathering valuable data, which is fed into national and international databases, helping us to understand the typical waste found in order to tackle the main problem plastics. This project is in partnership with Keep Fin Alive and Ocean Conservancy.



RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

Population Dynamics (Fin ID)

The dorsal fin of a Great White Shark is kind of like a fingerprint. No two are exactly the same. We take high resolution photos of a white shark's dorsal fin in order to compare each and identify individual sharks. Fin ID data feeds into mark-recapture studies to quantify the trends and population size of white sharks. We also include things like pigmentation, scars and amputations found all over the body.



Sustainable Fishing / Benthic Shark Tagging

This part of the program is in partnership with the Oceanographic Research Institute who are the tagging authorities here in South Africa, and Salt Life Fishing, a local ethical fishing charter. We use traditional tagging methods to keep track of population growth and movement. This data is supplemented with genetic samples and is used to DNA barcode the different species of shark we encounter. Because we do not like to strictly target sharks whilst fishing, we have coupled this project with another; sustainable fishing practices. Students will learn about sustainable fish species in the bay and the ethical fishing techniques to catch them.

Note: We DO NOT catch, tag or sample Great White Sharks.



Nudibranch Surveys

Nudibranchs (sea slugs) are one of the most diverse marine invertebrates in the world. More than 5,000 species exist and many more have yet to be described. Spatial and temporal data will be collected using a 'search per time' method where every nudibranch observed will be photographed, measured, and recorded.



Reef Surveys

Underwater visual surveys will be carried out using the roving method. Interns will learn how to accurately identify and record species in field and input them into the ongoing database. We are also using baited remote underwater videos (BRUVs) to examine differences in species assemblages when divers aren't present in the water. Interns will be involved in deploying and retrieving the BRUVs, followed by video analysis and species identification.



SKIPPERS TRAINING

Becoming a Skipper in South Africa

To become a skipper in South Africa, you will need a certain number of logged boating hours for experience. How many hours will depend on the license you are applying for. This log needs to be confirmed and signed by a qualified skipper to be valid.

Skippers Training

During your stay with us, you will have the opportunity to work alongside our skippers to gain this valuable seamanship experience and complete your log.

Once your log is complete, we will book your exam appointment with a SAMSA registered examiner, right here in Mossel Bay. Our skippers will then help you prepare for your exam. Writing this exam is **optional** and will be at your own expense.

Seamanship Experience

Apart from time at the wheel of our semi-rigid dive boat, you will also learn how to prepare the boat, check the safety equipment and weather conditions, safely deploy and retrieve the anchor, and many other crucial skills you will need to be a competent member of crew.

Seamanship Skills

All interns will be involved in the following seamanship activities: man overboard, marine firefighting, first aid for seafarers, abandon ship, low visibility procedures, GPS operations, nautical terminology, boat handling, equipment troubleshooting, navigation and chart work, and many more.

Did you know? – A Divemaster qualification and SAMSA skippers ticket are huge advantages when applying to work on Super Yachts abroad.

**Skippers ticket is not included in the program fee.
Please enquire for current rates.*

2026 SCUBA COURSE BREAKDOWN

One Month

Open Water SCUBA Diver
Advanced Open Water SCUBA Diver

Two Months

Open Water SCUBA Diver
Advanced Open Water SCUBA Diver
Rescue SCUBA Diver
Master SCUBA Diver

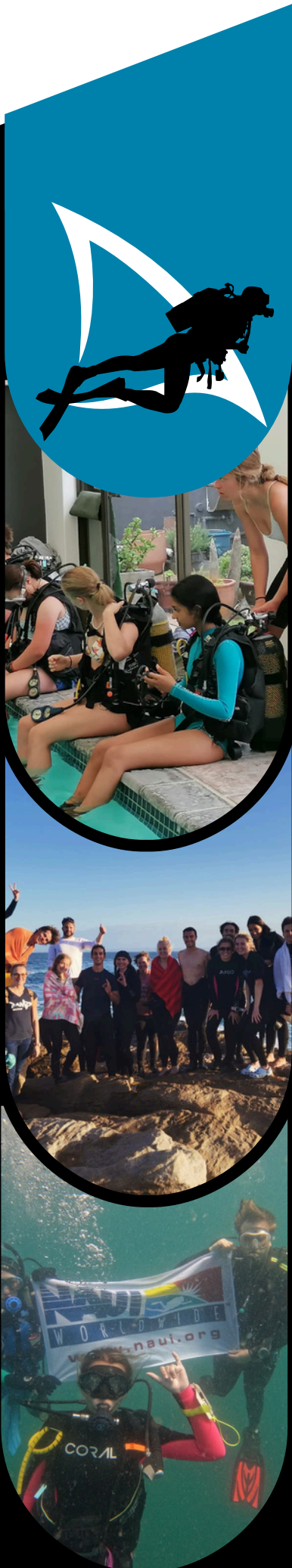
Three Months

Open Water SCUBA Diver
Advanced Open Water SCUBA Diver
Rescue SCUBA Diver
Master SCUBA Diver
Enriched Air Nitrox (EANx) Diver
First Aid for Diving Professionals
Divemaster

*Please enquire for
Instructor (ITC) Program*



The Shark Program





STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN MOSSEL BAY

Accommodation is **included** in the program fee. Throughout your program you will stay in self-catering dormitory style accommodation in central Mossel Bay. Searle's Manor is located within easy walking distance to the dive center, shops, restaurants, and the harbor. There are 2-3 rooms in each unit that are divided according to gender and have two - three beds per room. There is free Wi-Fi available, which makes staying connected with loved ones easy. There is also a communal kitchen and full bathroom in each unit. All bedding is provided.

Mossel Bay, South Africa



A Typical Week on the Program

- DAY 1:** Arrive in Mossel Bay. Induction to the program.
- DAY 2: Morning:** White Shark Cage Diving Trip – safety briefing, surface viewing and cage diving, including crew duties. **Afternoon:** Pool training/ocean SCUBA dive
- DAY 3: Morning:** Early morning White Shark Breaching Trip followed by SAPREC shift (seabird/penguin rehabilitation) **Afternoon:** Ocean SCUBA dive (training)
- DAY 4: Morning:** Drone survey/BRUV Deployment **Afternoon:** Coastal Clean Up/SCUBA dive
- DAY 5: Morning:** Sustainable Fishing/Shark Tagging Trip **Afternoon:** Skippers Training Session



TIME OFF TOURING

The Mother City
Cape Town

Durban
Aliwal Shoal

Port Elizabeth
Schotia Safari



Touring

Shark Diving

Wild Africa

Although people come here as participants in our program, we understand that they are also here as tourists, and for most, it is the first time visiting South Africa. During time off, weekends, or bad weather days, you will have the opportunity to enjoy excursions to some other locations of interest at your own cost. The above tours will be scheduled for weekends.

Garden Route Daily Tours

- Walk with Elephants – Indalu
- Horseback Safari – Botlierskop
- Wine Tasting – Reed Valley
- Bungee Jump – Bloukrans Bridge
- Plettenburg Bay Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Cango Caves & Wildlife Ranch
- Sky Diving Mossel Bay

**All tours are OPTIONAL
and subject to availability.
They are NOT included in
the program fee**



ELIGIBILITY & TUITION

Prices are per person and are subject to change until booking is secured by a deposit.

For accurate conversions please use XE Conversion per currency.

Please enquire for costs on extended periods of time.

Transfer fees are to be covered by student at the current rate.

2026 Tuition Fees

One Month Internship
\$3200 USD

Two Month Internship
\$5750 USD

Three Month Internship
\$7400 USD

Program Requirements

- ✓ All students must be 18 years or older to partake in the program
- ✓ All SCUBA students MUST complete a NAUI Medical Statement form to ensure you are physically fit for diving.
- ✓ All SCUBA students MUST have DAN Insurance. More information here: <https://www.dansa.org/annual>

Questions?
scuba@godive.co.za



BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

QUESTIONS?

For all questions regarding the Shark Program please email scuba@godive.co.za. Please allow 5-7 business days for pending application results.

LET'S CHAT.



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