



SHARK
— PROGRAM —

GO DIVE

MOSSSEL 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



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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, marine biologists and conservationists dedicated to exploring, educating and protecting our oceans.

Elton Polly is the founder of Go Dive and an award-winning NAUI Instructor with extensive experience in dive education and professional diver training. He has trained and mentored numerous divemaster and instructor candidates now working in dive operations worldwide. He is also the founder of Mossel Bay Marine Academy, a SAMSA trainer and examiner, and serves as the International Advisor for NAUI Africa, supporting dive operators and strengthening training standards across the continent.

Natalie Polly is Go Dive's Communications Director, overseeing all communications and admissions for the Shark Program. She works with prospective and current students, universities and partner organisations on applications, funding and academic credit, and also manages program partnerships and educational outreach projects. In addition, she supports students after their internships with university documentation, recommendations and career-related references.

Together, they started the Go Dive Mossel Bay Divemaster Program in 2018 to help divers develop careers while becoming involved in marine conservation. In 2020, the program merged with White Shark Africa's Eco Program, bringing together SCUBA diving, eco-tourism and shark conservation. The program has since expanded to include a wider range of conservation, research and professional development opportunities for interns.

Introducing, The Shark Program



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TABLE OF

Contents

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

01

DIVEMASTER

02

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

03

MARINE FIELD SKILLS

04

SEAMANSHIP & CREWING

05

COURSE BREAKDOWN

06

ACCOMMODATION

07

TOURS (OPTIONAL)

08

ELIGIBILITY & FEES

09

CONTACT

10



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PROGRAM



Shark Program

Each program begins on the 1st of each month and runs until the 27th, with activities scheduled Monday to Friday and weekends free to relax, explore Mossel Bay or simply enjoy some time off. While one month provides a comprehensive introduction to the program, participants can also book two or three months for a deeper and more varied experience.

The program is open to anyone with a genuine interest in SCUBA diving, sharks and the marine environment. It is particularly suited to students and graduates studying marine biology, biology, zoology, oceanography, environmental conservation, eco-tourism, animal husbandry, wildlife filmmaking and related fields, as well as divers looking to develop experience for a career in the diving or marine industry.

The program also welcomes passionate conservationists who want to learn more about sharks and contribute to improving public understanding of great white sharks. Through our conservation projects and interactions with cage-diving clients, participants have opportunities to share knowledge and promote a more informed and positive understanding of these important marine predators.

Our schedule is structured around the activities and projects planned for each month, but the ocean always has the final say. Diving and other sea-based activities are scheduled according to weather and sea conditions, with daily decisions made by our instructors based on current conditions.

Participation Requirements: The minimum age is 18 years. Participants must complete and sign a NAUI Medical History Form confirming fitness to dive and must have DAN Insurance. Previous diving experience is **not** required.



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Nauti **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.

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

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.



SHARK
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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.

Reef Clean-Up & Ghost Gear Removal

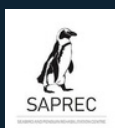
Students take part in the Clean Ocean Diver Workshop, led by the Earth Legacy Foundation, learning about marine pollution and how to safely remove fishing line and ghost gear from reefs. After an intensive dive briefing, students complete a supervised SCUBA clean-up at a known problem site. As part of the national Strandloper Project, we maintain a dedicated transect to document and analyse ghost fishing gear collected from the site, contributing to our long-term conservation goals.

Elasmobranch Population Monitoring

Interns contribute to ELMO Africa's national shark and ray eggcase database by collecting, identifying, and recording eggcases found along local beaches. Participants learn how to distinguish between species, record environmental data, and submit findings to support research into the distribution and breeding habitats of South Africa's oviparous sharks and rays.

Coastal Clean-Up

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.





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MARINE FIELD SKILLS

White Shark Monitoring & Ecotourism

Work alongside our partner cage-diving operators to assist with routine white shark monitoring and data collection. Interns learn to identify individual sharks, capture dorsal-fin identification photographs, record shark observations and document relevant environmental conditions during cage-diving operations. This hands-on experience provides insight into how long-term shark monitoring supports responsible marine ecotourism and conservation.

Sustainable Fishing / Benthic Shark Tagging

This project is conducted in partnership with the Oceanographic Research Institute and Salt Life Fishing. Students learn traditional tagging techniques used to monitor the movement and population trends of benthic shark species in Mossel Bay. The project is combined with sustainable fishing practices, teaching participants how to identify sustainable fish species and apply ethical angling techniques while contributing to marine conservation.

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

Cape Fur Seal Surveys

Mossel Bay is home to a large colony of Cape fur seals on Seal Island. Interns assist with regular surveys, recording seal numbers and identifying individuals that are injured, entangled in marine debris, or showing signs of illness. These observations contribute to ongoing monitoring efforts and help support conservation and rescue initiatives.

Reef Surveys & Species ID

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.

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SEAMANSHIP & CREWING

Practical Skippers Training

During your program, you'll work alongside our qualified skippers and gain practical experience at the helm of our dive boats. Learn boat handling, navigation, anchoring, safety procedures and vessel operations while building the practical experience required for your Skippers Ticket.

Sea-Time & Logbook

Build valuable, documented sea time throughout your program. Your qualifying hours are recorded and signed by a qualified skipper, giving you a practical record of your experience that can support future maritime qualifications and employment.

Crew Experience

Gain real-world experience as part of a professional marine tourism crew. Work alongside the team on our dive boats and with White Shark Africa, assisting with guest briefings, boat preparation, chumming operations, cleaning, equipment handling and client interaction.

Seamanship Skills

Develop practical skills including man-overboard procedures, marine firefighting, first aid for seafarers, abandon-ship procedures, low-visibility procedures, GPS operations, marine terminology, equipment troubleshooting, navigation and chartwork.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The program includes practical skippers training and logged sea time. A SAMS Skippers Ticket is not included, as licensing requirements vary between countries. Your training and sea-time experience can be used toward applicable qualifications in your home country. If you wish to get the SAMS Skipper's Ticket, we will arrange your exam.



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2021 Scuba COURSE BREAKDOWN

1 Month

Open Water SCUBA Diver
Advanced Open Water SCUBA Diver

2 Months

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

3 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 inquire for
Instructor (ITC) Program*



MEMBER



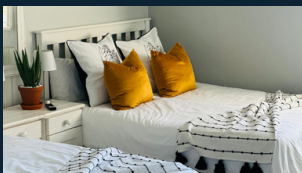
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Student Accommodation

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. Please see packing list found In the Welcome Pack.

Mossel Bay, South Africa



Searle's Manor, Mossel Bay

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: Clean Ocean Diver Workshop & Reef Clean **Afternoon:** Skippers Training/BRUV Deployment

DAY 5: Morning: Sustainable Fishing/Shark Tagging Trip **Afternoon:** Coastal Clean Up/SCUBA Training



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Weekend Tours

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 tours listed below will be scheduled for weekends.

The Mother City **Cape Town**



TOURING

Durban **Aliwal Shoal**



SHARK DIVING

Port Elizabeth **Schotia Safari**



WILD AFRICA

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**



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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.

2027 Tuition Fees

One Month Internship
\$3500 USD

Two Month Internship
\$6300 USD

Three Month Internship
\$7950 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



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Bookings & Contact

Apply for placement on our website: <https://godive.co.za/internship-application/>
Please allow 5-7 business days for pending application results.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Let's Chat.



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