

SEAL SNORKELING

1 DAY | DAILY DEPARTURES



Discover the aquatic beauty of Cape Town's deep blue waters on a fantastic half day snorkeling with the seals adventure. Take a short Ocean Safari to interact with the "dogs of the sea", as they swim with you, between colourful seaplants and unusual fish. Enjoy an ocean safari with stunning mountains and Cape Town as a backdrop.

ITINERARY

- Meet in Hout Bay at the Seal Snorkeling Centre. Please arrive on time – we don't want you missing your trip!
- After a trip brief you will get your gear and wetsuit on and head for the sea.
- 45 minutes to 1 hour is spent snorkeling with the seals
- After some fun in the ocean we head back to the snorkeling centre to warm up.
- Changing rooms, hot showers and free Wifi are enjoyed by our guests. We have a lounge to relax in while you wait or warm up in after the dive.

Time Slots:

09h30 – 12h00

11h30 – 14h00

13h30 – 16h00

For more information, please look at our FAQ's page below.

RATES

R1100 – adults

R750 – boat rider (viewing only)

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WHATS INCLUDED

Snorkel with seals
Wetsuit & snorkel equipment
Two snorkel guides per group
Hot chocolate & biscuits
Hot showers & changing facilities

WHATS EXCLUDED

Items of a personal nature
Please bring sunglasses, hat and something warm.
We suggest clients who are prone to sea sickness to bring motion sickness tablets

FAQ'S

Covid-19 regulations

Please ensure that you arrive wearing a Covid-19 face mask and follow safety instructions as issued by our staff at all times.

Meeting Times

Please arrive on time – we do not want you to miss your trip! The time you booked online is the time to arrive.

Meeting Location

We meet at the Seal Snorkeling Center.

Trip Duration

About 2.5 hours. This includes 30 minutes to sign in and kit up, briefing and travelling to and from the Harbour and island. On average, visitors spend 45 mins – 1hr in the water.

Snorkeling Center

The Seal Snorkeling Centre is a converted house right near the harbour. It took us a long time to find a “Brick and Mortar” home for our Seal Snorkeling operation and we are proud of our building. Changing rooms, hot showers and free Wifi are enjoyed by our guests. We have a lounge to relax in while you wait or warm up in after the dive. It's a great place to be and we hope to share it with you.

Snorkeling conditions

The seal snorkeling site is very shallow (1 – 5m deep) and you will see the bottom clearly most days. This is the ocean so there can be small waves and a choppy surface. The water temperature varies from 8C – 13C. This means that the water is COLD ! The boat is always nearby and you can return to warm up if needed.

Experience needed?

You need to be able to swim confidently – please note that this is a SWIMMING ACTIVITY. For your own safety the skipper reserves the right to assess your swimming ability and to ask you to remain on the boat should they deem you unfit for this activity. Motion sickness is a problem for some – if you suffer from motion sickness this experience may not be for you. We recommend one motion sickness pill the evening before and one the morning of your trip if you are prone to seasickness and want to join us.

What is provided?

We provide all snorkeling equipment, a seal guide, transfer from the office to the harbour, boat ride, educational briefing, water, biscuits, hot chocolate and hot water to pour in your wetsuit after the snorkel, along with tea and coffee at the office and a HOT shower.

What is the best time to snorkel with the seals?

The best time is whenever you can and time allows! Summer is generally best – September to May. The most consistent and warmest conditions occur from December – February. From mid-March onward the seal pups are learning how to swim and are very curious in the water!

Age limits?

Children need to be 10 years or older to snorkel. It is important that you let us know if children are joining as part of your group, as we need to make sure that the conditions are not too rough. Boat viewers can be from 6 years old and upward.

Sea Sickness

Please take medication if you are prone to motion sickness. Once we are with the seals we cannot return until after the snorkel has finished, 1 and a half hours at sea.

Are there any sharks?

No, the island is situated on the cold Atlantic side of Cape Town where temperatures range between 8C -15 C. Great White Sharks prefer seal colonies on the east coast of South Africa. The shallow reefs and thick kelp forests prevent large sharks from coming close to Duiker Island. The well-established and long-running seal watching ships have not seen a shark at the island in over 20 years of operation.

Group size?

In line with Covid-19 regulations we have limited our capacity to 8 people per boat, unless booking as a family or as a group travelling together.

Seal viewing?

Yes, we charge a reduced rate for people who want to come look at the seals from the boat while the snorkelers are in the water. If you are booking as a boat rider it is suggested that you bring an all weather jacket with you for the trip, as the boat gets splashed!

Equipment?

We have fleece lined 5mm one piece wetsuits with hoods. We also provide 3mm vests, 3mm gloves, booties, fins and silicone masks and snorkels. Our equipment comes in a range of sizes to suit everyone. *Please note – no full face masks are permitted for this activity.

I wear glasses – can I join?

We recommend bringing contact lenses if you wear glasses, as the glasses will not fit under the snorkeling mask.

I am pregnant – can I join?

If you are less than 6 months pregnant and would like to join us, please indicate this on your booking and provide us with a doctor's note certifying that you are fit for physical activity.

Transport?

No. Any taxi company will happily transport you to Hout Bay harbour. There are also the City Sightseeing hop-on hop-off busses that operate a route from Cape Town to Hout Bay and around the peninsular. UBER is the cheapest and most reliable.

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Limitations

Please be aware that this is a swimming activity – for your own safety, the skipper reserves the right to assess your swimming ability and to ask you to remain on the boat should they deem you unfit for this activity. This is also a physically demanding activity, and may be unsuitable for some. We use ribbed inflatable vessels without ladders for this activity, which may make it difficult to get back into the boat. We cater up to size 3 XL wetsuits (130kg) – if you are unsure please send us an enquiry at the email listed on our contact page.

CONTACT US

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details:

General Enquiries & Reservations: info@detourafrica.co.za/

Website: www.detourafrica.co.za/

Phone: + 27 21 424 1115

WhatsApp: + 27 64 722 3617

Telegram: @DetourAfrica

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