Volunteer with White Shark Diving Company

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE at White Shark Diving Company and have an experience unlike any other in the great white shark capital of the world.

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Introduction

The programme is hosted in Gansbaai, roughly two hours out of Cape Town up the east coast. Here, a short distance from the mainland is an incredibly dynamic ecosystem known as Shark Alley, considered one of the best places on the planet to study great white shark behaviour and demographics.

Our volunteer programme offers a unique opportunity to be involved with groundbreaking research studying white shark behaviour, biology and ocean conservation. During your stay you will play a vital role in data collection and data management. You will also gain work experience on our white shark cage diving tourist boat, and will have ample opportunity to enter the cage yourself. You will see and learn about a wide array of other South African marine wildlife, and be involved in exciting projects aiding the surrounding community and environment.

Included in the package

- One night’s accommodation in Cape Town
- Transfers from and to Cape Town International Airport
- Transfers to and from Gansbaai
- Accommodation whilst on the programme
- Breakfast basics and lunch on working days
- Lectures
- Welcome pack (including information about the programme, warm top, caps, t-shirt, buff and DVD of bonus white shark footage)
- Waterproof deck boots to use for the duration of your stay
- Boat trips (minimum of 4 per month if weather permits)
- Opportunity to cage dive with white sharks
- Practical training in all running projects
- White shark data collection on cage diving trips
- Studying white shark behaviour and demographics
- Data analysis
- Elasmobranch and seal surveys
- Rocky shores surveys
- Marine debris surveys
- Outreach activities
- Training in boat-handling skills
- Some excursions organised on bad weather days

Not included in the package

Flight ticket, visas (we can assist with advice if necessary), medical and travel insurance, meals (other than basics provided for breakfast and light lunch on working days), any additional lodging in Cape Town prior to the programme or on departure, if required.
Note that any horse riding tours, SCUBA dives arranged, or equipment rented for surfing etc. will be at the volunteer's own expense. Personal excursions up the Garden Route or to other tourist attractions are also at your own cost, but don't hesitate to ask if we can assist with your planning.
Price & Application

$2,950 per month
$1,950 per 2 weeks

If staying for 2 months, 5% discount on the second month. If staying for 3 months, 10% discount on the third month.

To apply, you must send the application form provided along with your CV and a short letter of motivation as to why you would like to volunteer at WSDC to mary@sharkcagediving.co.za. Preference will be given to marine biology students or applicants involved in conservation initiatives.

Once accepted on to the programme you will be sent an information pack with additional details about the programme including where you will be staying, the research projects currently running, a rough idea of your daily schedule, further information on your arrival and departure, and also details of how to pay. A 50% deposit is required to secure your booking, and the balance of payment is due 14 days before arrival.

As we rely on good weather conditions, we recommend staying for a minimum of one month to obtain the full experience of working at WSDC and ensure you have adequate sea time. Start dates are on the 1st of each month. In December we only run a two week programme from the 1st – 14th.

*Terms & Conditions

All bookings should be made at least 30 days before the programme starts, although we suggest booking earlier due to the popularity of the programme.

Applications must be cancelled at least 30 days before the programme starts. If the volunteer cancels less than 14 days before the programme begins, a 100% cancellation fee will apply.