

SOUTH AFRICA: MARINE RESEARCH WORK EXPERIENCE INTERNSHIP

This is a programme for interns working in the unique marine environment at the tip of Africa - home to one of the densest populations of Great White Sharks in the world. It is the breeding area of the endangered Southern Right Whale and home of one of the threatened colonies of the African Penguin, as well as resident populations of Dolphins, Seals and thousands of Seabirds.

South Africa has everything ...sun, sparkling warm and clear oceans, and the most beautiful golden beaches you will ever see ... stretching for miles, mountain climbing, biking and hiking, outstanding Game Reserves where you can see wild animals in their natural habitat, sharks, whales and dolphins, and the amusing Cape Fur Seals, elegant restaurants, barbecues and beach parties! But most of all, South Africans are the friendliest and most hospitable people in the world - without a doubt! If you're invited to dinner ... don't eat for a week beforehand because you'll be overfed, especially if it's a barbecue.

WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into South African life and culture.
- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
- An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**



SUMMARY FACTFILE

Start Dates	All year round - You choose your start and finish dates.
Duration	From 4 weeks (minimum) and up to 1 year, subject to visa restrictions. All programmes start on the 1 st of each month.
Requirements	Previous research experience or academic study is usual for individuals entering the programme, but it is also open to non-graduates who wish to develop their interest in the marine environment and its conservation.
Price	For up-to-date prices, please check our website www.travellersworldwide.com
What's included	▶ All accommodation ▶ First night in a hotel in Cape Town (usually) ▶ Meeting you at the Airport ▶ Transfer to your accommodation ▶ Full pre-departure support ▶ Local in-country team support and backup ▶ 24-hr emergency support.
What's not included	Flights, Food, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance), Return transfer to airport.
Who can do this Project?	All projects are open to all nationalities. You need to be aged between 18 and 70+



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

Unique year-round opportunities to work with Great White Sharks, Southern Right Whales (from July-December) and the other marine species in the seas at the southern tip of Africa. These programmes include significant time spent on our three boats (*see photos on right*). Every boat is accompanied by a resident marine biologist. The ocean around Dyer Island offers significant opportunities for research as it is home to the most dense population of Great White Sharks. Also from July-December each year the bay is a vitally important breeding habitat for large numbers of the endangered Southern Right Whale. Additionally, there are resident populations of thousands of seals and sea-birds as well as resident dolphins.



We offer two different programmes working with the Conservation Trust and MD, it's eco-tourism partner, and being involved in Marine Research and Conservation, one for *Interns* and one for *Volunteers*. The Internship and Volunteer schemes offered on this project are unique in this marine area as they offer specific opportunities to Research Interns working on specific academic projects and who wish to stay for a longer time, and to Volunteers who are seeking short-term experience.



Research interns have significant boat-based opportunities for data collection and are offered a curriculum specifically adapted to their individual needs. All Research Interns are mentored by marine biologists from the team who are working with a number of universities.

Volunteers work with the resident team of marine biologists and experienced boat captains in eco-tourism and on a number of on-going research projects involving sharks, whales, seal, African Penguins and dolphins. For more information about the volunteer programme, visit: <http://www.travellersworldwide.com/08b-south-africa/08-sa-multi-marine.htm>

The number of places on both schemes is limited to ensure that every participant gains the most from their time with us.

THE MARINE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The Conservation Trust, a registered charity working to protect and conduct research in this unique marine environment, and its eco-tourism partner, MD Tours, has developed a unique photographic record of thousands of dorsal fins of Great White Sharks allowing the identification of individual animals. This will now be incorporated in the worldwide database being developed by Bristol University, UK.

Further on-going research projects include the tagging of African Penguins to study their feeding habits and ranges as well as studies looking at their breeding habits. These results are being used to inform decisions about the development of marine protection areas. We assist with other studies on the large colony of Cape Fur Seals; the Southern Right whale and the dolphin population. We also provide a rescue service for birds, seals and marine animals in the area.

An individualised programme is developed for each participant. Our programme offers different learning streams to interns primarily here to gain field research experience. The Internship programme is a minimum of 1 month that will start on the 1st of each month. You'll work the same hours as the Marine Biologists and will also be working mainly on the research boat with a shorter time on the shark cage diving vessel. You'll work with all the marine animals and mammals, not just the Great Whites, but the majority of your work will be with Great Whites). You'll assist with

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tagging and tracking. With tracking you might be required to be on the boat for 24 hours to 48 hours at times (however long it takes to track the shark). You'll also participate in all lectures. After trips, you'll be doing data and photo identification. In brief...

- Majority of sea time spent aboard Lwazi (the dedicated research boat) conducting white shark research with some time also spent aboard Shark Fever (cage diving vessel) collecting data and dorsal fin ID's on sharks sighted.
- Tracking of white sharks which may involve sleeping at sea (tracking is a 24hr+ process) will be involved as a part of the internship.
- The research vessel will launch when conditions allow and you will be scheduled for at least one of those trips.
- If there is space on the cage diving vessel then you may be scheduled on it for the time you are not on the research boat.
- You'll be expected to help in collecting and entering data on sharks sighted/tracked on both boats to ensure the research database is kept up to date.
- The internship is tailored to your research objectives and data collection, and your mentor from the research team will help you ensure your research objectives are achieved.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP:

- Experience at sea, on research and eco-tourism boats
- Photographing dorsal ID's and observing behaviour
- Identification of individual animals through newly discovered dorsal fin recording, measurement and markings
- Where possible, tagging of sharks from a research vessel. (Note: Tagging will be done by a professional but interns will be fully involved in the methods used to attract the sharks.
- Manual tracking of sharks over several days
- Boat safety and seamanship – learning how to maintain standards and equipment needed for the operation as well as basic skippering experience.
- Monitoring of other marine animals in the area, and learning about hierarchy in the ecosystems
- Participating in animal rescue when required



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Research Interns have mentored learning about:

- Shark behaviour and biology in lectures and demonstrations such as dissections
- Assessing and recording animal behaviour
- Learning about climatic conditions and seamanship
- Recording environmental conditions
- The history of shark behaviour
- Photographing and documenting marine wildlife
- Ocean conservation



YOUR TIME AT SEA:

Every effort will be made to maximise your time at sea collecting data and conducting research from Lwazi and the two other vessels of our eco-tourism partners including:

Tracking White Sharks: 24-hour tracking shifts follow sharks for as many days as conditions allow and data collection requires. Tracking needs you to spend a night at sea as shifts are rotated between crews. As part of a

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tracking team you will handle the VR100 and directional hydrophone (the equipment that picks up and processes the signal from the tagged sharks) as well as controlling the boat (while overseen by the skipper). Tracking of sharks is a unique experience allowing you to follow the shark as it patrols, rests and, most excitingly, as it hunts.

Note: Participation in tagging and tracking cannot be guaranteed as this is dependent on various factors.

Cage Diving: Cage diving is a vital aspect of white shark conservation when professionally conducted under guidance from marine biologists. Responsible cage diving minimizes the impact on the shark's behaviour and promotes their conservation. From this experience you will help our international guests learn about white sharks in their natural environment. As a crew member you will be expected to assist clients into wetsuits, explaining the methods of cage diving as well as chumming and decoy handling. You will also log each shark and record behaviour as well as photographing dorsal fins and other identifying characteristics such as scarring.

'Chum Trips': Chum trips assess populations of sharks by bringing them close to the boat. The methods involved are the same as those employed by cage diving vessels. By attracting sharks we collect dorsal fin IDs, and tag sharks with acoustic transmitters. During chum trips aboard a research vessel your tasks will include chumming (being in charge of the fish oils used to attract white sharks), photo identification, data collection, bait handling and decoy handling.

Other Work at Sea: Opportunities will arise to work with the other marine life including whales, dolphins, African Penguins, Cape Fur Seals and numerous sea birds.

LAND-BASED DUTIES:

At the end of a day's field research you will electronically capture data. Interns also play a part in the day-to-day upkeep of records and write blogs. The research team is always available to discuss collaborations on projects and publications.

LEISURE TIME:

Our Research Intern programme is not a holiday. It is designed to provide you with the opportunity to gain as much experience and knowledge as possible from your time with us. The nature of the sea requires maximum flexibility in scheduling.

On "no-sea days" the diverse local environment offers opportunities for field trips to nature reserves, research centres and interaction with local research organisations. Additionally, there is a vibrant social life and opportunities for tourism to local seaside vacation centres. Cape Town is about 2½ hours away by road.

One of the exciting aspects of this project is that you may be fortunate enough to spot all the '**Marine Big 5**' :

- **Shark** – The Great White
- **Whale** – Southern Right, Humpback and Brydes'
- **Penguin** – African
- **Seal** – Cape Fur
- **Dolphin** – Bottlenose, Common and Humpback

LOCATION:

The program runs out of **Gaansbaai**, South Africa. Fieldwork will take place around **Dyer Island** and possibly other shark locations. Dyer Island (known as Shark Alley!) is possibly the best place in the world to see Great Whites. Gaansbaai is a seaside village, which depends on fishing and tourism for its survival. It is situated approximately two hours south east of Cape Town.

On one of the main research sites, Dyer Island, many other wildlife species can be viewed from the boat. It is the breeding ground for Jackass Penguins, Cape Cormorants and Gannets, whilst Geyser Rock opposite, is a breeding mecca for Cape Fur Seals and currently home to approximately 20 000 seals. In season Whales and an occasional Dolphin can be spotted. This is a perfect habitat for the Great White.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

Your accommodation will be in a large, comfortable and well-appointed house in Kleinbaai.

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You will stay in a shared dorm room and you have the use of a bathroom, a kitchen, lounge area, and courtyard braai area. The house is situated within a short (10 minute walking) distance from the 'The Great White House', which is the project office and meeting point for tourists. There is a shop and cafe as well.

Internet is available for you to use at the MD office at the Great White House. There are also two internet cafes in the town.

Food is not provided on this project. However, the local supermarket stocks a variety of food and there are kitchen facilities in the house for cooking. You'll need to take additional funds with you to cover the cost of meals. At the time of writing this, a very loose guide of how much you're likely to need is R1,000 per month (roughly £100, eating sensibly and cheaply) to R1,500 (roughly £150, on which you should be eating fairly well). (These exchange figures correct at time of writing.)



VISAS:

For most nationalities visas are not required for a stay of 90 days or less. If you do require a visa, we will liaise with you about your visa requirements, and make the visa process very easy.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.

INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:

You will be met at the airport by our Cape Town Manager, Jim Morel, or one of our staff, who will take you to your accommodation and introduce you to everyone.

They will also take you to your place of work and introduce you there. Our SA team is on call 24/7 if necessary, and are always there to help you in many different ways. Of course, they are in regular contact with you.

COSTS:

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation | ✓ UK administration |
| ✓ Food | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Meeting you at the airport | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline | ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support | |

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [Bridge The Gap Foundation](#). This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.



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COUNTRY PROFILE:

South Africans are the friendliest and most hospitable people in the world - without a doubt! If you're invited to dinner ... don't eat for a week beforehand because you'll be overfed, especially if it's a barbecue. Wine is cheap and good. The salads are to die for.

Cape Town at the risk of upsetting other cities, this is the most beautiful city in the country, if not the world. It has been voted the world's third most popular holiday destination ... and it is worthy of that title. Here we have work experience placements (including an Adventure Tourism placement that is ... wow!), teaching and sports projects, and some excellent marine conservation projects with sharks and whales. We also have some unbelievably good care projects, working with children with autism or mental or physical impairments - extremely worthwhile and satisfying projects!

The Western Cape region includes Knysna, George and Plettenberg bay. These small towns lie on the world-famous Garden Route and are conveniently placed halfway between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. Here we have very worthwhile teaching, care and conservation projects (you haven't lived until you've seen dolphins jumping the waves close to the shore!), as well as one or two work experience placements. This is a very social environment where the majestic Outeniqua Mountain lies to the north and the Indian ocean to the South, giving the town a very moderate Mediterranean climate.

KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) is home of some of the most stunning Game Reserves in the world. This is glorious country, exotic, tropical, at once arid and unbelievably lush. Here Travellers has exciting conservation

projects on Game Parks, working with animals and plants, and also our monkey rehabilitation project. We have a superb rural teaching placement working with Zulu children and an equally excellent Care project. KZN is the place to be for the true African experience.

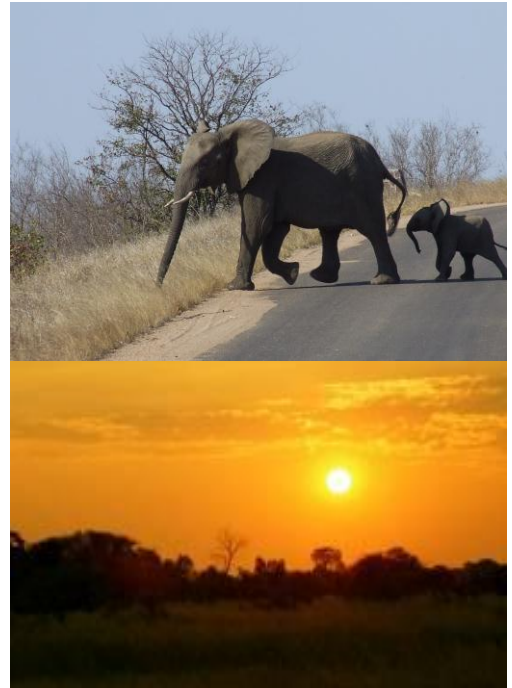
Port Elizabeth is given the title of the 'Friendly City' by locals, Port Elizabeth (or simply 'PE') is a major tourist attraction. Lying alongside Algoa Bay on the south eastern coast, PE has a stunning shoreline and longer hours of sunshine than anywhere else in South Africa. With water sports galore, PE is a beach lover's paradise! Here you can work hands-on with lots of different animals or learn how to survive in the busy on our *Discover Conservation* course.

The Cape Peninsula has a Mediterranean climate with well-defined seasons. Summer temperatures are mild, with an average maximum of about 26°C (79°F). Winter lasts from May to September. The months are cool, with an average minimum temperature of 7°C (45°F). Most of the city's annual rainfall occurs in wintertime, but due to the mountainous topography of the city, rainfall amounts for certain areas can vary dramatically. The Peninsula gets frequent strong South-Easterly winds, locally known as the 'Cape Doctor', because it blows away pollution and cleans the air!

THINGS TO DO IN: SOUTH AFRICA

In **Cape Town** and surrounding regions, you're spoilt for choice! There are too many to mention, but here are just a few favourites:

- **Table Mountain:** Climb or take the cable car up the majestic Mountain for panoramic views of the city.
- **Cape Point Nature Reserve** is a great place to visit to see the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet.
- **Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens**, home of unique flora and fauna. The 'Fynos Kingdom' here is endemic to this part of the world and South Africans are very proud of it!
- **Robben Island** is where SA ex-president, **Nelson Mandela**, was imprisoned for 27 years is a ferry boat ride away.
- **V&A Waterfront:** Spend a day - or a few - in the picturesque and vibrant V&A Waterfront and feel the atmosphere of the Cape with live music, numerous malls, restaurants and craft markets. This place really hums!



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- **Extreme Sports:** Abseiling, sandboarding, scuba-diving and mountain biking, Cape Town has it all for the adrenalin junkies.
- **Wine Tasting in Stellenbosch**, home of South Africa's favourite and award winning vineyards. It's also outstandingly beautiful.

In the **Cape, around the Knysna area**, there's an amazing choice - these are just some of them:

- **The Garden Route**, possibly the most beautiful stretch of coastline in the world.
- **Outeniqua Choo Tjoe:** Explore the coast on this fascinating steam train journey.
- **The Cango Caves**, a truly awesome cave system and a must on your sightseeing list.
- **Whale Watching** in Plettenberg Bay and the Whale Crier of Hermanus.
- **Oudtshoorn**, home of the ostrich farms.
- **The Drostdy**, the graceful building that houses a museum.
- **The George Museum.**
- **The Old Slave Tree**, a 186 year old oak tree with a chain embedded in its trunk - a reminder of a history best forgotten.
- **The Crocodile breeding farm.**
- **The Bado Kodogo Bird Farm** with 400 aviaries and 150 different species.
- **Victoria Bay and Herold's Bay**, renowned for surfing, bathing and fishing.
- **Two superb Golf Courses** and numerous other sports facilities, including flying, gliding, squash, horse riding, tennis, hiking and mountain biking.



In **KwaZulu-Natal** (known as KZN for short), you're surrounded by

- **Big Five game parks** (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino) - Umfolozi-Hluhluwe, Phinda, Tembe, Pongola, Mkuzi.
- **St Lucia** is beautiful with its Crocodile Centre and Wetlands.
- **Numerous nature parks.**
- **Fantastic Beaches** for swimming and diving.
- **Durban** a lively city where South Africans go to have fun.
- **The San Art park** for a collection of astounding rock paintings.



WHY GO WITH TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- ✓ Professional work experience placements
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- ✓ Excellent support - second to none in the industry
- ✓ Accredited projects helps **appeal to future employers**
- ✓ Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions prior to, during and after your **trip of a lifetime!**
- ✓ Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our **EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.**
- ✓ 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- ✓ Free pick up from the nearest airport.

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VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

The sharks have been awesome. The largest one I've seen so far was a 3.5m shark nicknamed "Slashfin" because her dorsal fin is cut. She looks a lot bigger up close, I can tell you! Got to see a "predation" as well - a shark take out a seal. Was all over in a matter of minutes, just a pool of blood on the surface to tell the tale. Also saw a Southern Right whale out on the water which was pretty cool. Andrew Burge

HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we'll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

We do hope you'll join us and are confident that you'll find this an incredible experience. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions - we'll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers – please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

Make a Difference – Get Involved!

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