



# ROCKTAIL BEACH CAMP



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Rocktail is South Africa's most pristine and exclusive tropical beach experience.

The Indian Ocean's warm tropical waters allow hard and soft corals to thrive, support a massive diversity of vibrant colourful fish life, and even host gentle giants such as whale sharks, humpback whales and various dolphin species.

Deserted golden beaches are perfect family playgrounds and nesting sites for gigantic sea turtles, while the lush shade of the coastal dune forest hides a delightful, welcoming camp, and countless small mammals and birds.

Few sections of the South African coastline are as inviting or unspoilt.









# THE ROCKTAIL EXPERIENCE

At Rocktail, the ocean and beach play a huge part in your experience along with a mix of coastal forest exploration, local cultural interaction and just pure holiday relaxation for you and your family.

Rocktail is most well-known for its nearly 40km of untouched, golden beaches, and exclusive coral reef diving experiences. The fact that it lies within the Maputaland Coastal Forest and Marine Reserve means that it is perfectly positioned as an authentic, back-to-nature experience. The annual nesting visits from gigantic leatherback and loggerhead turtles are proof of its untouched aspect. In fact it is one of only two places in Africa where leatherback turtles breed, and one of three nest sites on the continent for loggerhead turtles.

Watching these ancient behemoths during October to March as they laboriously dig deep in the sand to lay their eggs, or the tiny hatchlings as they scramble down to the safety of the ocean, is as much of a privilege as diving the pristine offshore coral reefs. While Australia's Great Barrier Reef hosts an amazing 1 500 fish species, the reefs of Maputaland are home to some 1 200 tropical reef species!

Aside from diving, activities include swimming and relaxing on the beach, snorkelling at Lala Nek, guided and unguided forest walks and birding in the Maputaland Coastal Forest, surf or rock fishing (no tackle provided). Slightly further afield are longer trips to Lake Sibaya and Black Rock and even a game drive and breakfast at Tembe Elephant Park. At Gugulesizwe, a joint venture between Wilderness Safaris and the community, Sangoma visits, Zulu dancing, quad-biking and star-gazing can all be enjoyed.

But this is a beach holiday too; for those who wish to relax around the camp, there is a swimming pool and sun deck, and the opportunity to go for long, languid walks on an endless, sandy beach, free of human activity, with just the crashing waves for company.







## OUR CAMP

Between Kosi Bay and Sodwana Bay is an area that is pristine, remote and without any development – and Rocktail Beach Camp lies in its centre. The secluded camp is situated within the coastal forest just behind the forested dunes that occur along Maputaland’s coastline; it’s a 20-minute walk through dappled shade to the warm Indian Ocean and one of the most incredible beaches in all of South Africa.

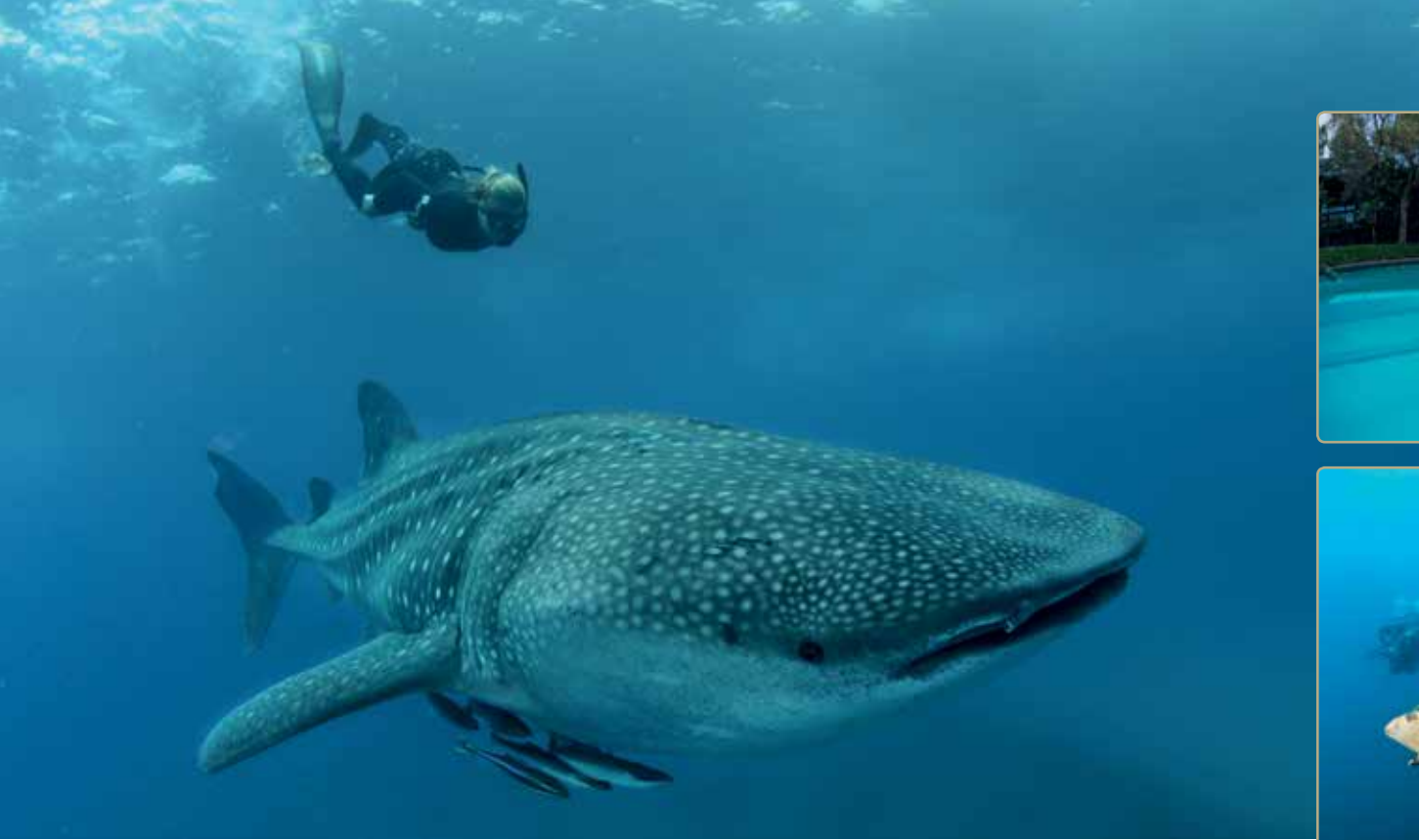
The camp boasts 17 en-suite rooms, seven of which are family suites each with a shared bathroom and two bedrooms. A honeymoon suite has wonderful views over the ocean and forest. There is a central dining and lounge area with large wrap-around veranda and a raised deck with wide views extending out to the ocean. A large pool, loungers and curio shop complete the main area.











## THE IDEAL DIVING DESTINATION

Rocktail is considered the premier dive site in South Africa. Not only is the diving conducted within a Reserve and World Heritage Site along pristine reefs, but divers have the luxury of knowing that they alone have access to these sites and are the only underwater visitors along this stretch of the coastline. No wonder then that Rocktail has been voted within the Top 10 Best Dive Sites in the World a number of times.

The fully accredited dive centre and diving operation at Manzengwenya and Island Rock respectively is highly professional; weather and sea conditions permitting, dive excursions take place on one or more of the 16 offshore reefs, after which divers return to the beach for a picnic breakfast. Then, after waiting for enough time to dive safely again, a second dive can take place.

The reef systems along the Maputaland coast are home to both soft and hard corals as well as huge numbers of fish species, such as the butterflyfish and triggerfish families, interspersed with clown triggerfish, moorish idol, bannerfish, fire goby and scissortail. Sharks are sighted at intervals, including great hammerheads, tiger sharks, blacktip reef sharks and the enormous whale shark. During summer, large numbers of pregnant spotted ragged-tooth sharks swim ponderously through the area. The site most often frequented by these sharks is only in 10m of water and as such can be enjoyed by both divers and snorkellers.

The breaching of a whale or the exuberant leaping of dolphins as they move through the water is a common sight; over 30 species are recorded in these waters. The advent of winter heralds the arrival of humpback and southern right whales in the seas off Rocktail, while bottle-nosed and humpback dolphins are resident.













## SEA TURTLES – A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

The Rocktail area hosts an annual spectacle that has remained unchanged for thousands of years. Every summer, hundreds of leatherback and loggerhead turtles complete their breeding cycle and emerge from the Indian Ocean to lay their eggs on this stretch of coastline – incredibly most returning to the exact beach on which they themselves hatched!

A few weeks later, hundreds of tiny turtles break free from the sand and make the perilous dash down to the beckoning waves; those that survive will return to the same beach on which they hatched to continue the cycle of life.

Between October and March, Turtle Season starts at Rocktail. Wilderness guides share nightly patrols and monitoring with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, while part of the annual concession fees that Rocktail pays go toward the wages of the seasonal turtle scouts who are employed at this time of year to guard the turtle nests and help patrol the beaches.

Guests visiting Rocktail in summer are able to interact with the guides patrolling the beach at low tide at night in search of nesting turtles. The sight of a 750kg leatherback heaving herself up and down the beach to lay her eggs must rate as one of the most moving wildlife experiences anywhere – often inspiring guests to donate funds or even ‘adopt’ their very own turtle.

*(Note: there is only one drive per day, with maximum ten guests on a first come first serve basis.)*







## A PERFECT FAMILY HOLIDAY

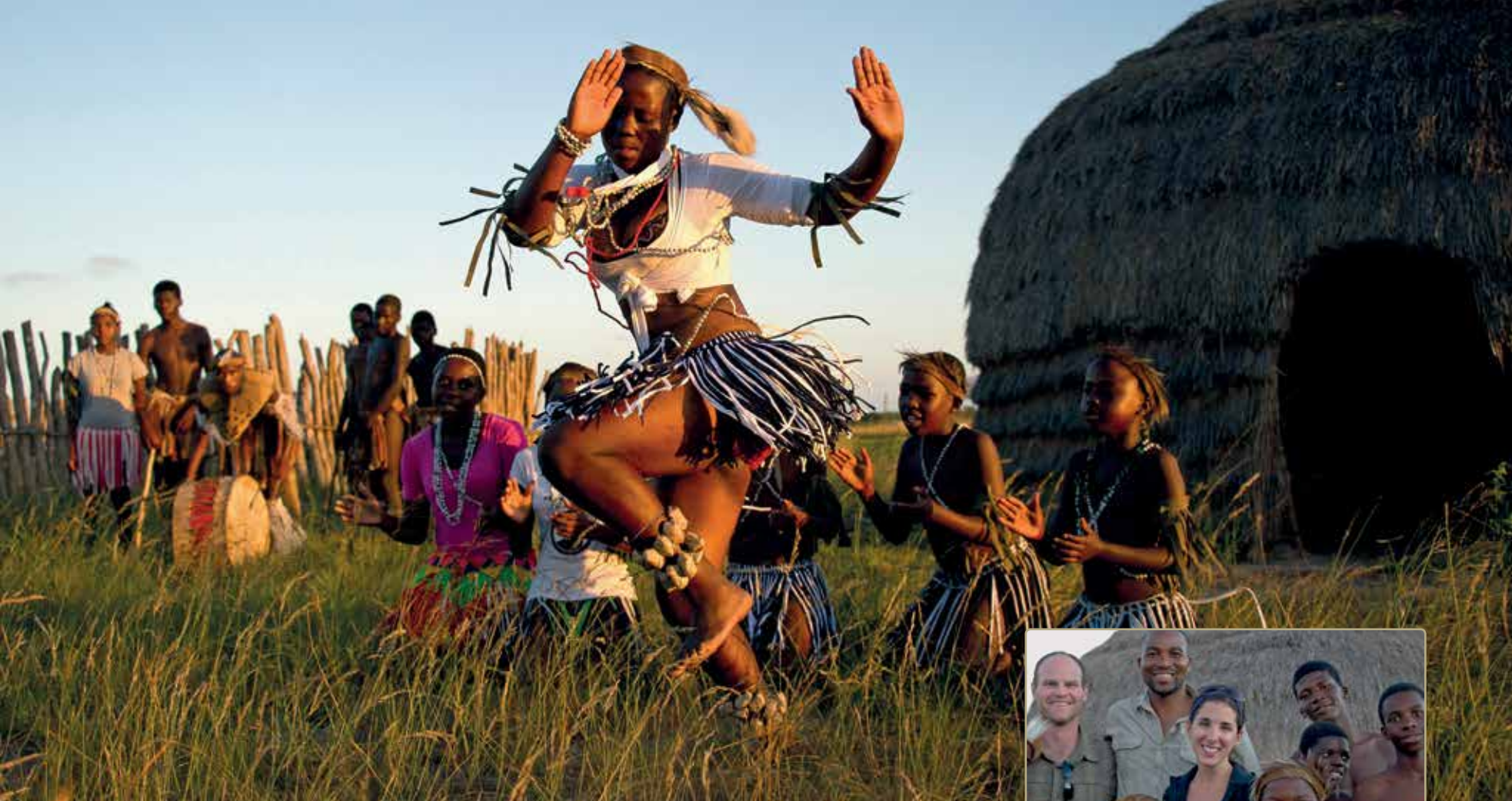
Rocktail Beach Camp is the ideal destination for families with children of any age. A range of activities, freedom of space, warm and hospitable staff (including babysitters), a relaxed camp environment and dedicated children's playroom mean that our guests are able either to take time to pursue their own activities or to leave their children in the care of our team while enjoying some down time.

Kids' guided activities include:

- Intertidal discovery of the coastal rock pools
- Forest walks in search of birds, small mammals and tasty fruit
- Shell collecting, fish netting, swimming, and dune and body boarding
- Snorkelling with fish and octopus in shallow waters
- Seasonal beach walks in search of turtle hatchlings







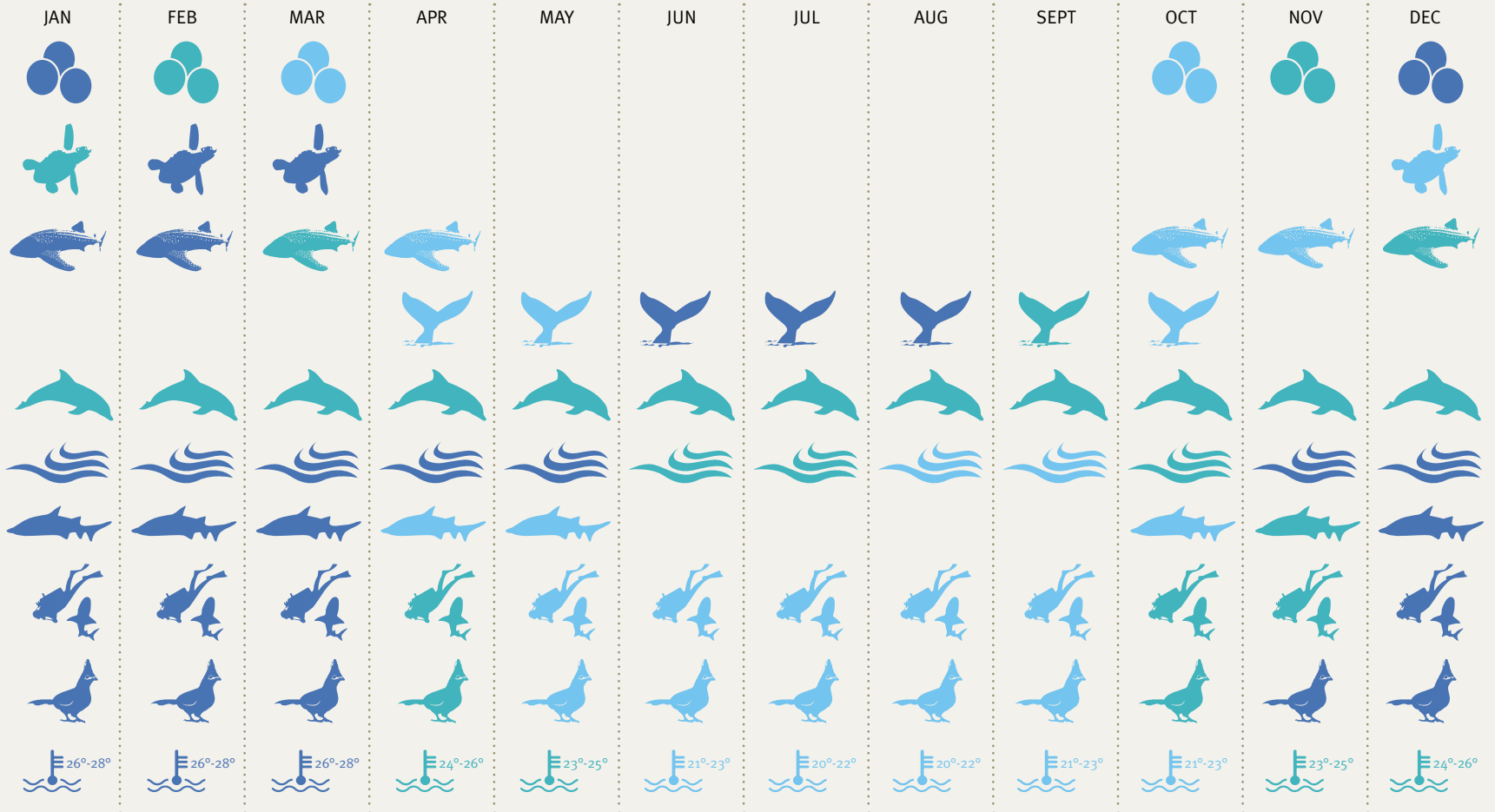
## ZULU & TONGA CULTURE

One of the first joint ventures in South Africa between community, a conservation authority and an ecotourism enterprise was that of Rocktail Bay Lodge, which involved Wilderness, the surrounding Mqobela and Mpukane communities and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority. Rocktail Beach Camp succeeded the Lodge and enhanced the original model by creating a new, long-term structure that enables the community to participate more meaningfully.

Some 2% of the entire community are permanently employed at the camp, and guests are, as part of their activities, offered guided visits to the Mpukane community and the joint-venture Gugulesizwe Cultural Village in the rural coastal grasslands. Here, authentic aspects of Zulu and Tonga culture and tradition can be observed through dance, architecture, food, traditional lifestyles and language.



# ROCKTAIL BEACH CAMP – SEASONAL EXPERIENCES



Excellent

Very Good

Good

Loggerhead & Leatherback Turtles laying

Turtle hatchlings viewing

Waleshark viewing & diving

Humpback whale viewing

Dolphin viewing

Sea clarity & calmness

Ragged-tooth shark diving & courses

Other shark species & diving

Bird viewing

Sea Temperature





## ACCESS

Kindly note that you are welcome to leave your 2x4 vehicle in a secure location at Coastal Cashews. Four-wheel-drive transfers from Coastal Cashews to camp leave at 10h30, 14h00 and 16h00 daily.

### DRIVING TIMES

To/from Durban airport: ± 5 – 6.5 hours  
To/from Richards Bay: ± 3.5 – 5 hours  
To/from O.R. Tambo International Airport: ± 9 – 10 hours  
To/from Coastal Cashews: ± 30 minutes

### FLYING TIMES

To/from Nelspruit: 1 hour  
To/from Durban: 1 hour 30 minutes  
To/from Johannesburg: 1 hour 50 minutes  
To/from Skukuza: 1 hour 10 minutes  
To/from Sabi Sands: 1 hour 10 minutes

### AIRSTRIP DETAILS

27°16'00"S 32°45'00"E



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**30**  
YEARS