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## MARINE BIOLOGY PROGRAM DATES

29 May to 11 June / 26 July to 09 July / 24 July to 06 August

### PROGRAM COSTS

**\$ 3 390** - US Dollar / **€ 2 950** - Euro

**Please note:** we use the US Dollar as our base currency, as such the EUR price may change at anytime due to exchange rate fluctuations.

Only 8 spaces are available in each group, to give you the best experience possible! We work on a first come first served basis, so book early to avoid disappointment!

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST**

## ABOUT THE ECOLOGY PROGRAM

The **Discover Eden Marine Biology Program** is specifically designed for those who are either studying or working in the marine conservation field. With a wide range of field-based components interspersed with topical theoretical discussions and workshops. This short course gives you the hands-on experience you have been looking for to see what being a marine biologist is all about.

This activity packed program addresses topics such as **shark**, **seal**, **bird** and **cetacean** research and conservation, the global **ocean plastic pandemic**, the interface between development and **coastal conservation**, and combines field work on beaches, in the water and boat-based research.

Food, accommodation and ground transport are all included in this package.

**Please note:** Due to the unpredictability of nature and the weather, the days and activities stated below may be switched around or substituted to give you the best experience possible.

# COURSE OUTLINE

## DAY 1 ARRIVE

Your friendly Discover Eden Guide will pick you up at **Cape Town International Airport** in the Western Cape Province. We will then make our way to our overnight accommodation at a guest house in a quiet residential suburb not too far from the airport. You will be able to freshen up before dinner and chat, getting to know your fellow students that are on the tour with you.



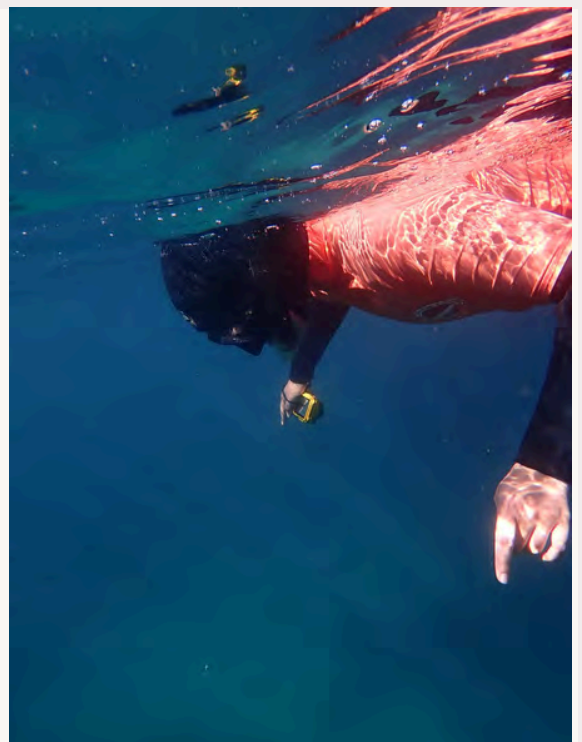
## DAY 2 TWO OCEANS AQUARIUM

Today you will partake in an **orientation** where we will explain everything that lies ahead. After the orientation you will go to the **Two Oceans Aquarium** where you will be taken on a special 'behind the scenes' tour of the aquarium by one of the aquarium biologists, after which you will have time to explore at your own pace. You will have the rest of the afternoon to explore the famous **Victoria and Alfred Waterfront**, one of South Africa's most visited cultural and historical attractions.



## DAY 3 TO 6 FOUR DAYS OF MARINE SCIENCE IN CAPE TOWN

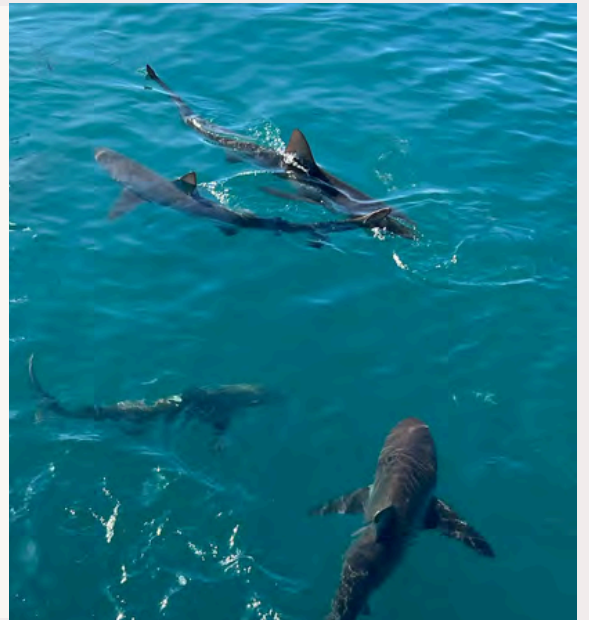
Spend an incredible 4 days getting to grips with the science behind **marine biology**. Starting with the basics of citizen science projects and moving to advanced marine studies, you will cover a range of topics presented by **top marine scientists**. Immerse yourself in **free-dive** research in a marine biodiversity hotspot, learning the techniques needed for your future career. We might also conduct a shark egg beach search or participate in a **rock pool biodiversity** survey. On route to Gansbaai we visit a critically endangered African Penguin breeding colony.





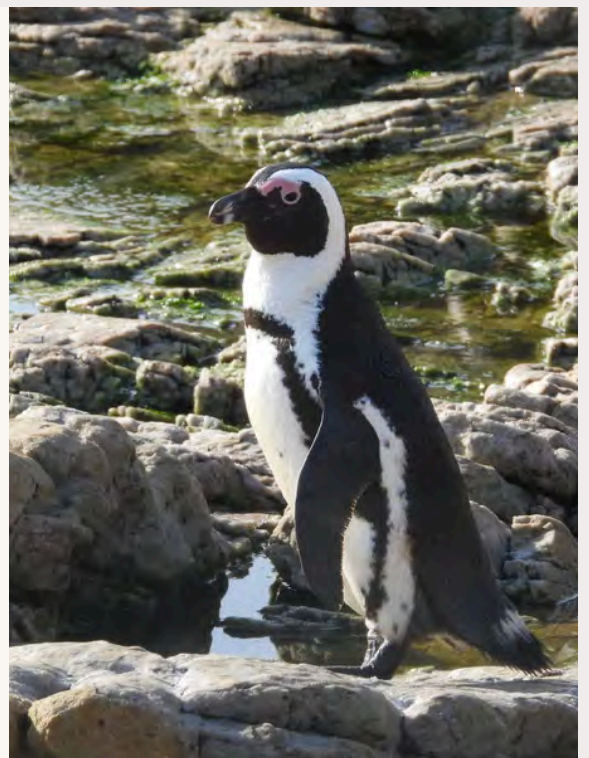
## DAY 7 GANSBAAI & SHARKS

The next 2 days will be spent with **marine biologists** who work for an organisation that is heavily involved with **marine conservation** in their area. You could take part in activities such as **shark tagging** on a boat or from shore, a **snorkeling** survey or a dissection, an estuary survey or other conservation-based activities. You will also be receiving lectures from the biologists. (Please note that these activities are dependent on weather, tides and availability)



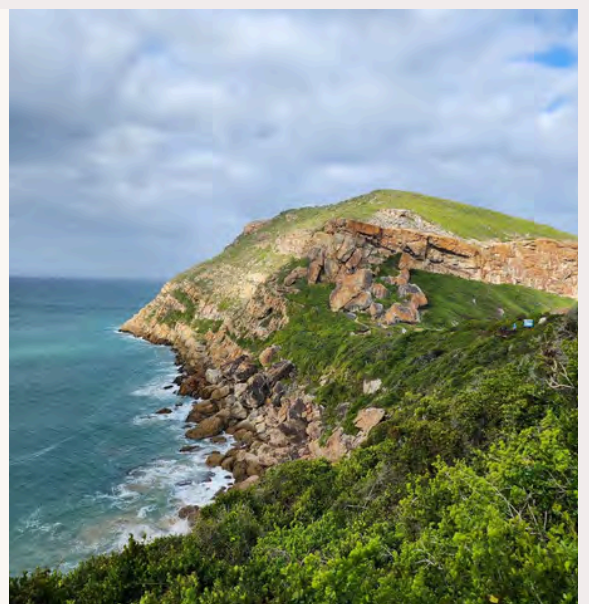
## DAY 8 PENGUIN & SEABIRD SANCTUARY AND BIG 5 MARINE BOAT TRIP

In the morning you will be visiting a world-class **African penguin and seabird sanctuary**. Here you will be given a tour of the centre and given a talk by one of the conservationists about the endangered African penguin and other seabirds that they have under their care. You will assist in the morning routine at the centre and watch the **penguin feeding**. In the afternoon you will head to sea with the marine biologists on a **marine Big 5 boat trip** to look for whales, dolphins, sharks, seals and penguins!



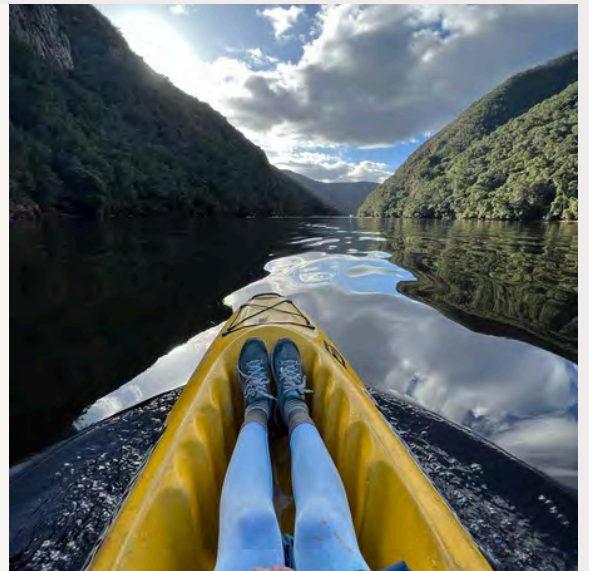
## DAY 9 GARDEN ROUTE DRIVE & ROBBERG HIKE

After breakfast we make our way along the scenic **Garden Route** to **Plettenberg Bay** which is your last stop for the tour. In the afternoon, hike the magnificent **Robberg Peninsula** Nature Reserve. Be on the lookout for **Great white sharks** from one of the best spots to see them from shore. See the large **Cape fur seal** colony from a different perspective and look for other marine life along the way.



## DAY 10 KAYAKING & SALT RIVER HIKE

Spend the morning exploring the beautiful **Keurbooms River** by kayak. See if you are lucky enough to spot the elusive **Cape clawless otter**! In the afternoon you will head to another magnificent spot, hiking the **Salt River** trail while learning about **shark conservation** and the impacts of on-shore fishing on species such as the Dusky shyshark and Pajama shark.



## DAY 11 KEURBOOMS ESTUARY SNORKEL & BRUV

In the morning you will get to immerse yourself in the waters of the fabulous **Keurbooms Estuary**, seeing what life we can find there. Deploy some **BRUV's** to monitor fish while you explore the estuary looking for **seahorses**, **seahares**, **nudibranches**, **starfish** and much more. In the afternoon you will download the data from the BRUV's and look through the videos to see what fish species are using the estuary.



## DAY 12 OCEAN SAFARIS & COASTAL CONSERVATION

Launching nice and early, this is a full morning at sea looking for and learning about the large diversity of **cetaceans** found along the southern Cape coastline. Enter the realm of **sustainable tourism**, learning about boat-based whale watching industry, the impacts it can have on the animals that sustain it, and chatting about local research ensuring the industry continues for years to come. After lunch, see up close the impacts that humans have on **coastal biodiversity** and learn about innovative coastal intervention work that enables local biodiversity to coexist with visitors on our beaches.





## DAY 13 FISH TAGGING & CAREERS TALK

In the morning you will get some hands-on experience with a **research technique** that is used widely in marine biology, fish tagging. Learn how to safely handle and tag fish and delve into the importance of this method of research. In the afternoon, sit and chat about **careers in conservation** with Dr Mark Brown, as he shares his experiences of mentoring marine and ecology students for over 20 years.



## DAY 14 DEPARTURE

Today is a sad day as we have to say goodbye. After breakfast we will take you to George Airport where you will start to make your way back home. We are sure this experience will benefit you throughout your career and will never be forgotten.

