



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE *Aloes* AND *Sardines?*

The Sardine Run is an exhilarating annual winter event where millions of sardines embark on an epic migration from the chilly waters of the Cape to the inviting warmth of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). This incredible phenomenon transforms the KZN South Coast into a vibrant, action-filled feeding frenzy that draws in marine predators from all around!

Coastal folklore tells us that when the wild aloes (like *Aloe arborescens* and *Aloe thraskii*) burst into life with their stunning orange and red blooms along the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal coastlines, it's a sign that the spectacular Sardine Run is upon us. While these flowers don't directly lure the fish, both the blooming and the migration are set off by the same magical winter conditions: cooling water temperatures, invigorating cold fronts, and shifts in seasonal ocean currents.



Here are some interesting facts about the Winter Spectacle

The Migration:

Just as the aloes bloom, the world's largest biomass migration begins! Picture hundreds of millions of glistening silver sardines journeying north along the shoreline—it's a sight to behold!



The Feeding Frenzy:

This incredible sardine movement sets off a massive predatory event in our coastal waters. Prepare to be amazed as sharks breach the surface, dolphins leap and race, gannets dive with precision and migrating humpback whales swim by—nature's very own action film!



Local Netting:

For towns nearby, this thrilling event means beach seine netting comes alive, with fish captured and sold fresh right off the sand



Viewing Spots & Tracking

For the ultimate experience, head to popular viewing locations like Scottburgh, Umtentweni, Port Shepstone and Port Edward—get ready for the ocean frenzy of a lifetime!





When It Happens

Timing:

The action usually kicks off between May and July, but keep your eyes peeled, as it can occasionally stretch into August.



What You Can See

Bait Balls:

Witness dolphins and seabirds working in unison to corral sardines into astonishing swirling bait balls!



Marine Predators:

Get ready to spot thousands of sharks, playful dolphins, Cape gannets diving with grace, and imposing Bryde's whales following the sardine shoals to feast.



Whale Watching:

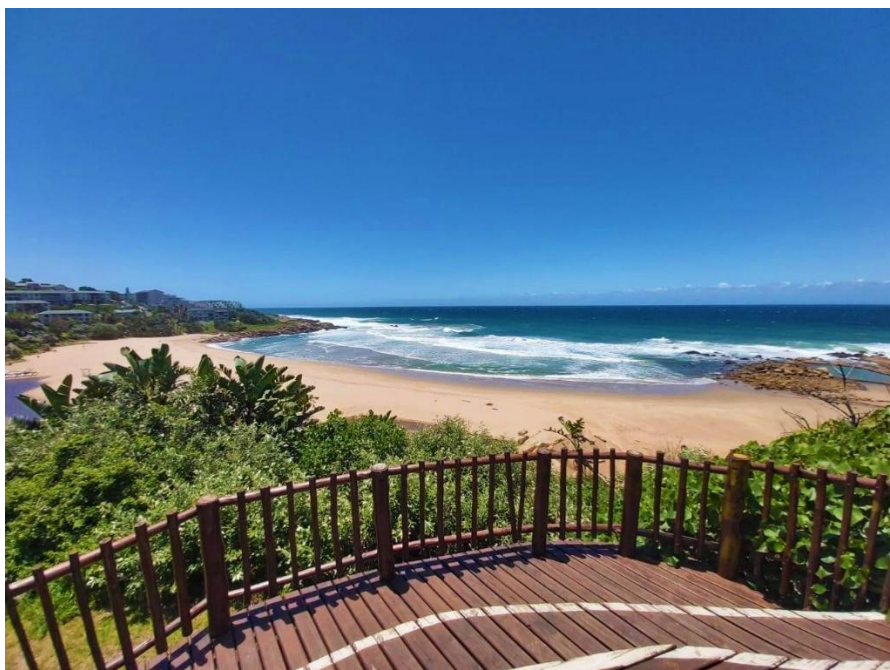
Don't miss out on the humpback whales that become highly active along the coastline during this thrilling migration window.



Action & Activities

Shore Viewing:

Enjoy the excitement as diving birds and splashing dolphins can be easily spotted from the numerous whale-viewing decks lining the coast.



Fishing:

Join the buzzing crowds of anglers and locals flocking to the beaches for exceptional game fishing, not to mention the thrill of helping to haul in commercial beach seine nets.



Diving:

For the diving enthusiasts, the KZN South Coast boasts world-class dive sites like Aliwal Shoal and Protea Banks, where you can join in on incredible Sardine Run diving excursions!



Don't miss your chance to experience this incredible marine spectacle—get ready for an adventure of a lifetime!

