



# The Humpback Super Groups off the Cape

## General information

South Africa probably does not need a long introduction. Located at the southern tip of the African continent, the country is a true natural paradise. Apart from breathtaking landscapes, it is home to a big variety of animals. While lions, elephants and leopards roam in the big national parks further north, especially the cape region is home to a big range of marine animals such as whales, dolphins, sharks or seals, as well as many different species of sea birds. Of special interest to us are the humpback whales, which gather in big groups close to Cape Town every year between November and March and provide a true natural spectacle.

Climatically the cape region captivates with pleasant temperatures, which move between 25 and 30 degrees Celsius during the day in the humpback whale season. On the water it can still get chilly surrounded by wind and waves, which requires good clothing.

We are based in the small coastal town of Yzerfontein, about an hour north of Cape Town by car. The marina, which we use as a starting point for our whale tours, is also easy to reach. With a bit of luck, you can catch a glimpse of the whales already from shore. Always keep your eyes open.

## Whales

South Africa is home to whales all year round. While the elusive Bryde's whale can be seen along the coast every month of the year, Southern Right Whales visit the country's coast from June to December to mate and give birth in these sheltered bays. Humpback Whales are also visitors. However, for the last decade an interesting phenomenon has been observed, the Super Groups! Interestingly the whales seem to find a lot of food around the Cape between November and March, leading to big feeding frenzies involving up to 200 animals in a single group! These aggregations are the biggest known meetings of Humpback whales in the world, and they are happening just at our doorstep. Being surrounded by blows is a truly unique experience.

Apart from the Humpback whales we also come across other species of whales, seals and a lot of sea birds.

For the search of the whales, we use a powerful RIB, that allows us cover great distances if needed. Also, we are working with the only licensed operator in the region, so there will not be any other commercial whale watching boats around.

Please note that we watch the spectacle from the safety of the boat. We are not swimming with these whales.

## Accommodation

There is the option to stay together with the crew in a nice, shared house. However, there is also a big range of options with Airbnb and guesthouses. We are happy to advise if you would like to stay in Yzerfontein for multiple days.

Yzerfontein is a small coastal town with about 1'200 inhabitants, offering great opportunities to gaze at the ocean or relaxing beach walks. It also offers a couple of cozy restaurants.



## Meals

Before the trip we welcome you with a hearty breakfast close to the port in Yzerfontein. While at sea, we serve snacks and drinks and after coming back we round up our adventure with a nice lunch. If you decide to stay at the shared house together with the crew, all meals will be catered for.

## Transport

We are happy to organize you a transport from Cape Town to Yzerfontein. However, we would advise to rent you own car in order to stay flexible.

## Other activities

There are not many countries that offer such a variety of things to do like South Africa. Since you might have travelled far to experience the humpback whales, why not making most of the trip by extending it?

Cape Town itself is a very interesting city, offering a lot of different activities such as climbing (or riding up to) the Table Mountain or visiting Robben Island, the prison where Nelson Mandela spent a big part of his life. Just south of Cape Town begins the region of the Cape of Good Hope, allowing for magnificent views and nice walks in the national park.

The famous Garden Route is a very scenic road, leading from Cape Town all the way to Port Elizabeth, passing wonderful coastal towns such as the unofficial whale capital of the world, Hermanus. Along the Garden Route also Private Game Reserves can be found, allowing for great safari experiences, while the big Kruger National Park in the north invites you to stay for a few days as well.

## Our program

We welcome you at 6 o'clock in the morning close to the port in Yzerfontein. During breakfast, we brief you about our adventure ahead. What you can expect of the day, what wildlife we hope to encounter & safety onboard.

As soon as everybody is ready, we head out to sea! We never know what we encounter, but our chances to see big numbers of humpback whales are great. Sometimes we find them just minutes after setting off, other times it can take some time.

We come back to port in Yzerfontein around lunch time. While enjoying a light meal, we talk about our sightings and share the day's footage with you.

It is up to you, how many days you would like to join us on the water. Whether it is one day, two days or more, we are flexible to host you upon availability.

## Arrival

The international airport of Cape Town (CPT) offers direct connections to a range of airports in Europe and Africa. Through a connection in Dubai or Abu Dhabi, also big cities in Asia are easily connected to South Africa. From Cape Town, Yzerfontein is easy to reach by car.





## Equipment & Clothing

The weather along the west coast can vary quite a bit! When the sun is out, the temperatures can reach 30 degrees Celsius. However, with rain and fog, it can get quite chilly! Therefore, please make sure you have a warm jacket with you for the days out at sea. Wearing layers is definitely a good idea! Also, a hat and sunblock should not be forgotten. We provide you with a rain/ splash suit for a protective outer layer.

## Visa

For most nationalities, South Africa can be visited without a Visa and you can stay up to 90 days.

## Travel advice

Travel advice for South Africa of the UK government can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/south-africa>

Information on vaccination can be found on the website of the CDC:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/south-africa>

## Insurance

Travel, liability and health insurance are the responsibility of the participants.

## Included:

- English speaking tour guide on site
- Boat tours
- Breakfast, snacks, lunch
- Footage of the day

## Excluded:

- Flights
- Accommodation (stays with the crew can be offered upon availability)
- Transport to and from Yzerfontein (we are happy to help you organize it)
- Alcoholic Beverages
- CO2 tax for your journey (recommended)

## Dates

### 2023

December 2023

### 2024

January 2024

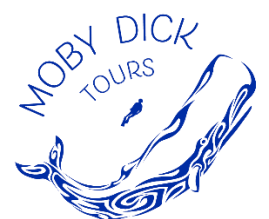
December 2024

### 2025

January 2025

You can choose your day(s) to join us (upon availability).

**All tours are subject to a minimum of 4 participants.**



## Prices

Price per person per day: ZAR 4'500.- (approximately USD 235.-),  
Accommodation options or organized transports would have to be discussed.

Please note that this trip is not organized by Moby Dick Tours, but by our partners in South Africa, Whale Expedition SA.

**We are happy to receive your inquiry at [info@experiencegiants.com](mailto:info@experiencegiants.com) or through our website.**

