

eco tourism specializing in dolphins * volunteer programs * whale viewing * accommodation * holistic retreats

DOLPHIN ENCOUNTERS
ponta do ouro
cetacea charters lda

mozambique
Ethical Marine Mammal Tourism

www.dolphin-encounters.co.za | info@dolphin-encounters.co.za | in support of www.dolphincare.org | Mozambique +258 84 330-3859

FOR THE LOVE OF DOLPHRIENDS!
PIONEER & LICENSED OPERATOR
RESEARCH MOTIVATED
FOUNDED 1994
DOLPHIN CAREAFRICA

In 2010 Dolphin Encounters and her sister research company DolphinCare-Africa lost everything to a fire that burned down all the operational facilities. For the past 2 and a half years we have been accommodating our guests at lodges within Ponta until such time as we could find the 'right' property. After looking at many spaces and coming up with countless and non-fruitful plans, we finally were offered a beachfront property that we could re-develop our rustic dolphin inspired lodge - and this is the beginning. The beginnings though are not that rustic, each room is on-suite with sea view and inspired by our dolphins. Upstairs there is a central kitchen where Tina, our in-house chef prepares brunches and dinners (on request), and a dining and educational area that overlooks the ocean. Rainy days finds you well entertained with a collection of interesting and eye-opening movies, as well as informative information by ways of our growing library. A hop, skip and jump through the coastal forest finds you on the beach, mere meters from the moody indian ocean.

SPECIALISING IN DOLPHINS!

Welcome to our wonderful world of Wild Dolphins! Dolphin Encounters was born in the December of 1994 and is the longest, most experienced wild dolphin swim operator along the African eastern sea-board.

Since time immemorial dolphins have captivated the hearts of men and woman the world over. In Ponta do Ouro, the southern most bay of Mozambique, our hearts have been captivated too.....

Dolphin Encounters caters for the discerning dolphin enthusiast who is looking to experience dolphins for what they truly are - wild and free! It is a profoundly uplifting and adventurous holiday that is suitable for single travels, family holidays, holistic dolphin retreats and people who want to experience something truly humbling. The experience can be powerfully moving and a catalyst to change in ones life. Various options are available to encounter our dolfriends and range from min 4 day encounters, month long volunteer programs, three month internships and our 2,5 hour day visit aquatic surfari!

We have been taking people to interact with wild dolphins since the mid '90's and work in the sphere of eco-tourism that funds research, conservation and educational programs by facilitating in-water encounters with wild dolphins. We believe that dolphins are naturally curious who choose to socially engage with humanity, we call this conscious interaction and this is the ultimate wild dolphin swim experience. Bo, a now adult female introduced our founder to this behavior in '99, since then a number of dolfriends have been identified who choose to socially engage. Our long-term relationship with the dolphins together with a well developed code of conduct sees bouts of co-existence that allows us to observe the dolphins in the most intimate way - one on one in the big blue.

The Dolphins of Ponta are a gregarious and friendly population of dolphins that have become habituated to man. Resident/semi Inshore Bottlenose dolphins together with the Indo-Pacific Humpback dolphin are both cross border species who are regularly sighted moving between the Kosi Bay Sanctuary and the Ponta Partial Marine Reserve. Both are coastal dolphins which means they spend much time traversing the shallows where they can be found most days frolicking in the surf, resting, foraging and socializing. Through our photo id-project we are able to establish a population of some 300 individuals. Dolphins not only recognize themselves and others within their societies, but recognize human individuals too and share a special bond with frequent visitors. Unfed and un-coaxed, the dolphins choose to socially engage with us because they WANT to. The Dolphins of Ponta have featured extensively in the media and have been brought into peoples homes via Carte Blanche, 50/50, Sky News and a number of other television programs both locally and abroad. They have featured in full length documentaries and movies and have over the years given much joy to those who visit them in their watery realm.

Ponta do Ouro, the point of Gold is a treasure of bio-diversity that has recently been declared protected in Mozambique. Six months of the year (June to Nov) sees the annual migration of the humpback whale take place. The sheer enormity and beauty of these creatures leaves one speechless. Whalesharks and Manta Rays are occasional visitors and snorkeling over our shallow reefs offer views of a multitude of different fish life, corals and turtles. The area is a hub of water-sports activity that has been made famous by world class diving, surfing and marine mammal tourism. Restaurants & tourist shops abound and in-season Ponta transforms herself into a buzzing tourist mecca. A 4 x 4 is required to get to Ponta. Recreational jetski's are not permitted within the PPMR and restrictions are being put into place to minimize their occurrence within this marine protected area.

The Dolphin Ethos

Educational and ethical practice have been the foundation of Encounters since its inception and is used as a scientific data collection and educational platform that gives participants a special insight into the realm of the wild dolphin through a program that resonates with them as non-human persons; individuals that all have their own unique personalities, are self-aware, conscious, cultural and social.

The program contributes significantly to the dolphins wellbeing through longterm monitoring and ethical marine mammal tourism campaigning. As part of our long term commitment to the dolphins, we have been active in promoting the sustainable growth of dolphin tourism in the area and our work has lead to the conservation management of the species through MPA restrictions and regulations. *Please note: "Marine Park Fees" are NOT included in the price of activities. We are awaiting tariffs that will come into effect.*

Participants follow the specially developed dolphincare in-water code of conduct in order to create a safe and calm space for social engagement between species.

All programs support our research and conservation efforts. Please visit www.dolphincare.org to find out more.

Reservations: Dolphin Encounters Booking Office

Email: bookings@dolphin-encounters.co.za

Web: www.dolphin-encounters.co.za

Telephone: +258 84 330 3859

Angie Gullan (founder & director)

FOR THE LOVE
OF DOLPHRIENDS



Purposeful Holidays
Family bonding
Self nurturing
Empowering

Start days Mondays & Thursdays subject to dolphin diary



OPTION ONE – DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER Swim on the Wild Side 4 to 7 days

Our signature tours take you on an educational dolphin experience that has been specially designed for in-water observations and interactions. Facilitated over a minimum of four days the program is structured and includes pre-training with snorkeling & dolphin friendly swim code of conduct, interesting conservation & research presentations, tribe t-shirt, image downloads, membership & early morning encounters with the dolphins. Founder Angie and skipper Mitchel will guide your encountour together with biologist Diana. This is a highly commended program that almost certainly guarantees a bout of conscious interaction between them and us! Encountours are limited to 10 participants and block booking discounts are available. Special needs and pregnancies are catered for. Please enquire about custom made encountours.

Holistic Dolphin Encountours

Specialized retreats are hosted throughout the year by supporting holistic practitioners. One can expect to participate in activities that include but are not limited to meditation, animal communication, yoga, energy work & the likes. Please consult our web page for info & scheduled dates. Contact us should you wish to facilitate your own dolphin retreat!

Please note: Encountours are preferred not offered during peak season from the 16th December to 7th January and during the easter holiday season.

DOLPHIN DIARY

Providing arrival dates are Mondays or Thursdays we can accommodate most dates. Due to min launching requirement of 4 the dolphin diary is available to aid with individual bookings. Consider flexibility on your dates just in case you have to extend by a night or two due to weather.

R2880 – 3 night 3 launch encountour bed and brunch

Start days, first Monday of the month



OPTION TWO – VOLUNTOUR & INTERN Hands on 30 to 90 day program

Our volunteer program offers a unique opportunity for volunteers and interns to gain hands on experience with a focus on dolphins. For some it is a month long journey that finds oneself tuning into mother nature through both giving back and really diving in. This is the ideal breakaway for those who would like to spend some soul time with the dolphins and their marine environment.

Some of your responsibilities as a volunteer / intern will be assisting and participating in encountours, data capturing, land based observations, skeleton reconstruction and education.

It is a sabbatical, gap year, photographic & knowledge based adventure that finds you accommodated on the beach in Ponta do Ouro at Dolphins base station that perches majestically upon the ridge overlooking the entire bay! The perfect dolphin and whale observation platform. We offer three month internships for students who wish to further their studies in marine mammal science & eco-tourism.



R14 600– 30 night with multiple encountours & meals

Most days subject to four & sea state



OPTION THREE – DOLPHIN OCEAN SURFARI Day Visitor Option (2,5hrs)

Our casual option is an exciting marine based educational tour that is offered throughout the week and is based on availability and demand. The 90 minute boat trip covers the three lower bays of southern Mozambique and offers boat based viewing of dolphins with the possibility of an in-water encounter. If you have a group of 4 people we can take you on a potentially life changing experience of dolphins, sea and reef. Snorkel over beautiful reefs and encounter some of Mozambique's Aquatic Big 5. Whales are seen regularly during season (jun to nov) whilst opportunistic sightings are had of our other special species that include whale sharks, mantas and turtles (season and conditions dependent). Prior to your outing you will receive a pre-launch briefing with the dolphin care code of conduct that includes species introduction, behavior and safety precautions while in the open ocean.

Due to the nature of wild dolphins & weather, in-water encounters with the dolphins cannot be guaranteed.



R350 per adult
R300 under 12 from 5

R315 block booking of 10
Min 4 peeps or the funds thereof



Inspired by the dolphins, for the dolphins....

The Dolphin Beach Camp is situated in the residential area of Ponta do Ouro towards Malongane and offers three twin/double sleeper rooms with sea view and direct beach access. We are situated ten minutes walk from the center of the village and main swimming beach. We accommodate 6 guests at a time whom are looking to encounter the dolphins of Ponta.

Constructed out of wood this beautiful little paradise has been decorated with a splash of trendy hipness encompassing all that is dolphin! Due to its unique atmosphere, energy and location the space caters for dolphin seekers, researchers & volunteers alike seeking a quite, soulful, non-intrusive hideaway with direct beach access. The elevated house perches majestically on the ridge offering spectacular views of Ponta Bay and opportunistic sightings of dolphins and whales. Each morning welcomes in a new sunrise over the vast Indian ocean, where coffee and tea is had by encounter participants while scouting for our finned friends before heading out to sea.

Upstairs the two sea facing bedrooms are linked by an open kitchen and lounging area with a large deck that overlooks the ocean. One twin room is available downstairs with sea view and shower.



Our resident chef Tina prepares healthy and yummy brunches which are ready and waiting when we return from our early morning dolphin encounters. One can expect a healthy spread of fruits, yoghurt, muesli, muffins and a cooked meal while gazing out over the ocean looking....Dinners can be arranged on block bookings of 6. There is a fully equipped kitchen with osmosis machine for drinking water, fridge/freezer and electric stove/oven to prepare your dinners if required. Tea and coffee available. Rooms come with linen, mosquito net, fan and bath towels. Please bring beach towels.

Bottlenose Dolphin Room

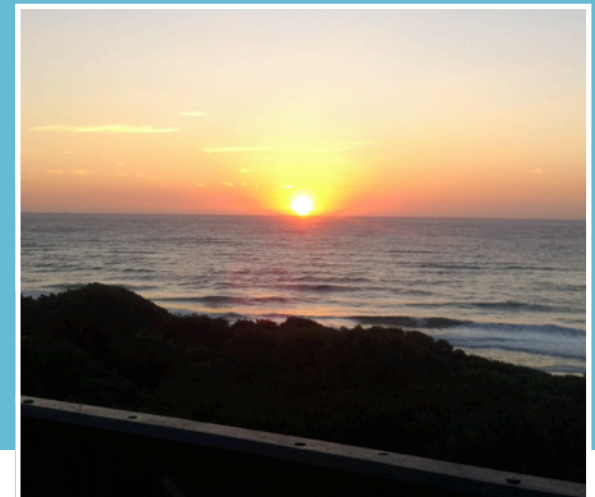
The sea facing room comprises of a double bed with en-suite bathroom that has a bath. Sleeps two people.

Humpback Dolphin Room

The sea facing room comprises of a double or twin bed/s with en-suite bathroom that has a shower which is connected to the main living area. Sleeps two people.

Spinner Dolphin Room

The private, downstairs sea facing room comprises of a double bed with en-suite bathroom that has a shower. Sleeps two people.



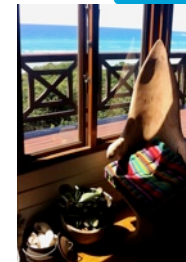
3 night 3 launch encounter bed/brunch R3000 LS
3 night 3 launch encounter bed/brunch R3150 HS

4 night 4 launch encounter bed/brunch R3780 LS
4 night 4 launch encounter bed/brunch R3980 HS

Bed & Brunch R500 per person sharing per night LS
Bed & Brunch R550 per person sharing per night HS
Single Occupancy @ R250 p/night

Dolphin Beach House can be booked for self catering provided the whole house is taken for min 2 nghts
High Season R2500 per night
Low Season R2000 per night

Dinners available on request on groups of 6 R220 p/p
Please bring beach towels.
Tea and coffee available.



Please contact us for block booking discounts, corporate getaways and holistic retreat ideas! STO at 10% applies.



*Long weekends are NOT conducive to good encounters due to increased tourism pressure on our dolfriends. Please try and book out of these peak long weekend dates. We understand that sometimes it is not possible however must stress its not called silly season for nothing:-)

O'LAR DO OURO – bed and brunch



O Lar do Ouro is situated a few minutes walk from the beach through the village. Relax within a charming environment of lush vegetation around “Um lar fora de casa”, your “Home away from Home”.

Situated away from the hustle and bustle of the village centre, this secluded guest lodge is peaceful & quiet accommodating only the select few. The perfect remedy for a good bout of dolphin rest and relaxation. The lodge is small - with only 7 rooms, comprising of either double, twins or three sleeper rooms. There is one 4 sleeper family unit. The fully air-conditioned rooms offer rustic luxury, with en-suite showers, verandah's and are serviced daily.

The fully licensed bar area overlooks the pool for those lazy afternoons in the sun where you can contentedly lie back and catch up on your dolphin reading or just sip cocktails! Tea and coffee is available throughout your stay. Janice and Terry are your hosts and brunches are generally served after the morning dolphin sessions. O Lar do Ouro is the ideal holistic venue, offering block bookings on small groups and a private and safe space to workshop. Rated wonderful by previous workshops! Please bring towels.



swim with the dolphins of ponta programs

PROGRAM TYPE	Adult	Child < 12
3 night 3 launch encountour brunch DOLPHIN LS	R3000,00	R2700,00
3 night 3 launch encountour brunch DOLPHIN HS	R3150,00	R2 835,00
3 night 3 launch encountour full board OLAR LS	R3 360,00	R3 024,00
3 night 3 launch encountour full board OLAR HS	R3 570,00	R3 213,00
3 night 3 launch encountour bed/brunch OLAR	R2 880,00	R2 592,00
3 launch encountour self lodging	R1 500,00	R1 350,00
4 night 4 launch encountour brunch DOLPHIN LS	R3 780,00	R3 402,00
4 night 4 launch encountour brunch DOLPHIN HS	R3 980,00	R3 582,00
4 night 4 launch encountour full board OLAR LS	R4 260,00	R3 834,00
4 night 4 launch encountour bed/brunch OLAR HS	R4 540,00	R4 086,00
4 launch encountour self lodging	R1 780,00	R1 602,00
7 night 4 launch encountour brunch DOLPHIN LS	R5 280,00	R4 752,00
7 night 4 launch encountour brunch DOLPHIN HS	R5 630,00	R5 067,00
7 night 4 launch encountour full board OLAR LS	R5 910,00	R5 319,00
7 night 4 launch encountour full board OLAR HS	R6 610,00	R5 949,00
7 night 4 launch encountour bed/brunch OLAR	R5 000,00	R4 500,00
30 Day Voluntour program full board	R14 600	p/p
30 Day Voluntour program full board (group of 4)	R12 400	p/p

miscellaneous

Dinners at Dolphin (set menu)(served at 6pm)(booked in advance)(min 6)	R220,00	R180,00
Dolphin Ocean Surfari 2,5 hrs 3 launch special (4) *possible in-water	R1000,00	R950,00
Dolphin Ocean Surfari 2,5 hrs *possible in-water	R350,00	R300,00
Dinner bed and brunch olar HS	R690,00	R621,00
Dinner bed and brunch olar LS	R620,00	R496,00
Bed and brunch olar	R460,00	R414,00
Single supplement R250p/n	R250,00	na
Return transfers Kosi Bay	R200,00	R200,00
Return transfers Maputo (car takes 4)	R3500,00	
Wetsuit hire (from dive charter)(cash on site)	R100 p/day	

Please note surcharges are applicable on groups less than 4. i.e.: two people would pay for for to cover costs of going to sea.

Please contact us for block booking discounts, corporate getaways and holistic retreat ideas! STO at 10% applies.

Transfers & Travel

All options are self drive to the Kosi Bay / Kwanganase border post - Northern KZN. 4x4's are required from the border to PDO & transfers are available at 11am. There are two secure car park areas (SA and Moz side) at R30 p/day. Clear customs/immigration and wait on the Moz side next to immigration office for your transfer. Temporary vehicle importation is required as is insurance if you want to bring your vehicle through the border to PDO. The cost is R160 and is **not applied** to vehicles being 'parked'. Please have all vehicle/trailer documents with you. Tourists are entitled to bring across the border: Foodstuffs to the value of \$US 200. ADULTS are allowed: 1L of spirits 2,5L (3 bottles) of wine 2 cartons (or 400) cigarettes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about sharks?

Since the establishment of the program we have never had any problems with sharks. This should not hold you back from a truly wonderful experience.

What happens if we cant go to sea on a day due to sea state?

Every effort will be made to double up a launch on one day. Alternatively an extended launch is done.

Why early morning and why don't you launch in bad weather?

Field trips take place at first light to avoid winds that often pick up during the course of the day. Due to the popularity of dolphin swims in the area, we prefer to be out there early before the other boat. Choppy sea state makes it difficult to spot dolphins, in-water observations become less in high seas due to large swell close to the coastline. Your safety & comfort is our responsibility when at sea.

Why are encountours preferred to be kept to 10 participants?

This is the amount of people we take due to comfortability and regulations. You are joined by a crew of 4 as well as intern/volunteer.

Why is there a minimum of 4 participants?

Although we aim is to be on the water as much as possible, we need to ensure we cover basic expenses.

If I have a big group, can you launch 2 boats at the same time?

No, we have one boat and follow a one boat policy. Only one boat may approach a pod of dolphins at any given time.

Will equipment hire (mask, snorkel, fins) be available at what cost?

Yes - there is gear and the cost is R60 per day supplied in sets.

Do we need wetsuits?

Suits are great for winter, lycra suits for summer. Used to keep off the sun and stinging organisms (blue bottles / jelly fish). Can be hired from dive charter in village.

How do we get to the launch area and back every day?

Participants are collected /dropped off each day before and after field trips/activities.

Do you cater for non-swimmers?

It is preferable that a fair level of swimming be had or at the very least make an effort. You will be taught to snorkel in a life jacket - you will enter into the water with a life jacket and life bouy. A helping hand will initiate you into the watery realm!

Dolphin Program Policy

Dolphin programs operate to strict guidelines. Guests are to ensure they follow the specially designed DCA in water code of conduct & ensure you are on time to avoid missing the program and inconveniencing others. Program launches are pre-booked for participants ensuring early morning slots. Our work revolves around a population of wild inshore bottlenose dolphins who are NOT fed or coaxed into interaction. We are NOT dealing with flipper and there are no guarantees. The touching or feeding of marine life is prohibited.

Travel Distances....

BORDER ENTRY POINT

Kosi Bay / Kwanganase: 8am to 5pm sharp!

maputo - ponta do ouro
4 hrs (120km 4x4 required)

johannesburg - kosi bay
9 - 11hrs (road works) 650km

durban - kosi bay
5 hrs (500km)

cape town - kosi bay

Fly from cape town to maputo, durban or richards bay
car hire or transfer to ponta

A map is available at. www.dolphin-encountours.co.za

Transfers from Maputo, Durban, Richards Bay to Ponta

Sandra: 00258 84 731 9049

LandLoverSafari's (+27) (0)834149323 Kobus

TRANSFER COSTS

Kosi Return: R200 p/p

Maputo Return: R3000 car takes 4
(please book direct with Sandra)

Book your flights to transfer during daylight hours

Overnight Stop Overs

Casa Mia Pongola Cathy: +27 83 228-1822

Toad Tree Lodge Hluhluwe +27 11 678 0972

Sodwana Bay Guest House +27 82 444 5841

What makes encountours different to other dolphin swim operators?

Dolphin Encountours was established in the mid 90's and have been consistently working with the resident dolphins ever since. It is the longest, most publicized dolphin swim program in the whole of the Indian Ocean. Encountours actively work at conserving our marine environment. By supporting us you directly fund our research.

What time does the encountour program start on day one?

At 13h00 sharp! Please ensure you are not late.

Can I expect to touch the dolphins?

No, they are wild animals and every attempt is made to be non-invasive.

Why are there scheduled start dates

Start days are set for Mondays & Thursdays and are scheduled throughout the year. Due to the minimum requirement of 4 people we have a set dolphin diary in order to aid individual bookings.

Where is O Lar situated?

Past Cafe on the way to the light house. It's is very quiet & away from the noise of the village center.

How far is it from the beach?

O Lar is situated 10 mins walk on the road.

How many people does O Lar accommodate & what are the sleeping arrangements?

O Lar has 6 double/twin rooms and then a family room sleeps up to 4, (two bedrooms sharing a bathroom) and then in double or twin rooms we can put extra bed for smaller children

Is there a private place at Olar for meditations / workshop talks?

Yes, there is a private lounge area & lots of outside space around the pool.

What time is check in and out?

Check-in time is 1pm & check-out 10:30am. If there are no guests in then early check in is possible as is later check out.

Can we bring our own drinks?

O Lar is fully licensed and you can drink the water. Bar prices are kept low just for you! Sorry - no drinks other than those for the beach:) Tea/coffee available 24/7 self service no extra cost.

Is there a fridge for participants snacks at Olar?

There is a communal bar fridge which, if snacks are small this can be made use of.

What do brunches comprise of?

Fruit, muesli, yoghurt, cereals, muffins and a cooked meal.

Booking procedure

A 50% non-refundable deposit is required to secure your space. The balance one month prior to arrival.

Key charges

There is a refundable R100 key deposit.

USEFUL INFORMATION

VISAS - SA passport holders do not require a visa to enter Mozambique, a R20 border tax is payable in cash on arrival. Foreign passport holders can expect to pay a fluctuating R700 at the border for a 30 day tourist visa. Passports must be valid for 6 months and have at least two un-stamped, blank pages.

DOLPHIN LAUNCHING POLICY - Whilst at sea you are the responsibility of the skipper and crew. As such Dolphin Encountours holds the right to cancel trips in poor sea conditions. Trips may be re-scheduled; doubled up or cancelled during high seas. Sessions are not refundable, however credits will be held for 6 months.

MALARIA - In the last 20 years none of our crew have contracted malaria and none take prophylactics, however the choice is yours. Natural remedies are available from most pharmacies. Peaceful sleep or citronella helps to keep the mossier at bay. Open flames are not permitted in the rooms.

GEAR - Please bring good quality closed heeled fins, a mask and snorkel. Wetsuits are recommended for those suffering from the cold and poor swimmers. Lycra or shark skins are great to ward off nasty stingers. Gear can be hired on site (R20 per item per day) however your own gear is better. Wetsuits can be hired from the adjacent dive companies.

Ages: Tours are suitable for children over 5, unless special arrangements are made. Our oldest guest was 80 however the sessions are not recommended for frail and fragile persons. One needs to be a fair swimmer. Only well behaved children are allowed.

Special needs: Special needs programs can be arranged, please contact us directly.

Pregnancy: Expectant moms are welcome to join the program however launching is very weather dependent. Opt for a weeklong stay to ensure you get all your dolphin launches in, cut off is 6 months.



DOLPHIN ENCOUNTERS PONTA