



Hippo and Crocodile Estuary Cruise

Tour Overview

Experience one of South Africa's most iconic wildlife encounters on the St Lucia Estuary. This relaxing and educational two-hour boat cruise offers exceptional close-up sightings of hippopotamus, Nile crocodiles, and abundant birdlife in their natural habitat. The St Lucia Estuary is home to one of the largest hippo populations in Africa, with hundreds of animals inhabiting the waters and surrounding banks. As you cruise along approximately 7km of estuarine waterway, your knowledgeable guide will share fascinating insights into the ecosystem, animal behaviour, conservation efforts, and the unique biodiversity of this protected area. Guests witness hippos surfacing nearby, crocodiles basking in the sun, African fish eagles calling overhead, and a variety of birds and other wildlife along the shoreline.

This cruise combines comfort, wildlife, photography opportunities, and conservation-focused tourism – making it suitable for families, photographers, cruise passengers, and nature enthusiasts alike.



Times & Seasons

Operated Year round

- Summer season: 08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00
- Winter season: 10:00, 12:00, 15:00
- Private charters available on request.

Inclusions

- 2-hour guided estuary cruise
- Professional skipper and qualified guide
- Onboard restroom facilities
- Access to bar (drinks for own account unless pre-arranged)

Additional Info

- Suitable for all ages
- Wheelchair accessible
- Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed (although hippo sightings are highly likely)
- Operates in most weather conditions; extreme weather may result in cancellation
- Guests are advised to bring sun protection and cameras

Vessel & Capacity

Advantage Cruiser - Double Deck Vessel

Capacity: 80 Passengers

- Spacious design for optimal wildlife viewing
- Comfortable bench seating
- Upper deck for panoramic views and photography
- Onboard toilet facilities
- Onboard bar
- Wheelchair accessible
- Shaded lower deck

Ideal for

- ✓ Families
- ✓ Cruise ship passengers
- ✓ Educational groups
- ✓ Bird watchers
- ✓ Photographers
- ✓ FIT & group travel

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Whale Watching St Lucia



Tour Overview

Experience the thrill of encountering the giants of the ocean on a boat-based whale watching safari from St Lucia. This exhilarating two-hour ocean adventure takes guests into the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, where migrating Humpback Whales travel along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline. Guests often witness spectacular whale behaviour including breaching, tail slapping, spy-hopping and mothers travelling with calves. Along the way, sightings may also include dolphins, sea turtles, flying fish, pelagic seabirds and other marine life. Your experienced skipper and qualified marine guide provide fascinating insights into whale behaviour, migration patterns and marine conservation while ensuring a safe and unforgettable ocean experience. This tour includes an exciting surf launch through the waves, adding an element of adventure before heading out to sea in search of these magnificent animals.



Times & Seasons

Season: 1 June - 30 November

Weather and sea conditions permitting

Times: 07:00, 09:00, 11:00, 13:00

Private charters available on request.

This tour is 2 x hours on the ocean, but will take 3 x hours of your time to include the ride on the whale train to the beach and back

Inclusions

- ✓ 2-hour guided whale watching tour
- ✓ Qualified skipper and marine guide
- ✓ Safety briefing and life jackets
- ✓ Interpretation on whale behaviour and marine ecology

Additional Info

- Minimum age: 8 years
- Not suitable for pregnant guests
- Not recommended for guests with serious neck or back injuries
- Tours are weather and sea-condition dependent
- Whale sightings cannot be guaranteed, but are highly likely during the season

Vessel & Capacity

Max Capacity 11 Passengers per boat. Ensuring a personalised and intimate whale watching experience.

Advantage Charter I & Free Spirit Charter II

- Purpose-built for ocean conditions
- Powerful twin engines for safe offshore travel
- Comfortable seating with excellent viewing angles
- Licensed and compliant whale watching vessel
- Equipped with safety gear and communication systems

Why choose Advantage?

- ✓ Licensed boat-based whale watching operator
- ✓ Experienced local skippers and marine guides
- ✓ Small group sizes for better viewing
- ✓ Safe surf-launch experience
- ✓ Operating within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site
- ✓ Fully licensed and insured

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Whale Watching Richardsbay

Tour Overview

Experience the wonder of the annual Humpback Whale migration along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline with a boat-based whale watching safari launching directly from Richards Bay Harbour.

Richards Bay offers an excellent vantage point to observe these magnificent marine mammals as they pass close to the coastline. Guests spend approximately two hours at sea searching for whales and observing their natural behaviour. Sightings often include breaching whales, tail slapping, spy-hopping, and mothers travelling with calves. Other marine life frequently encountered includes dolphins, seabirds, sea turtles and occasionally sharks or other pelagic species. Departing from the sheltered harbour provides a comfortable launch without surf conditions, allowing guests to enjoy a smooth start to the adventure before heading into open ocean waters.

Our experienced skippers and qualified marine guides provide engaging commentary on whale behaviour, migration patterns and marine conservation, making this both an exciting and educational ocean experience.



Times & Seasons

Season: 1 June - 30 November

Weather and sea conditions permitting

Times: 08:00, 10:30, 13:00

Private charters available on request.

Bus transfer between St Lucia and Richardsbay is included in the price of the tour.

Inclusions

- ✓ Transfer between St Lucia & Richardsbay Harbour
- ✓ 2-hour guided whale watching tour
- ✓ Qualified skipper and marine guide
- ✓ Safety briefing and life jackets
- ✓ Interpretation on whale behaviour and marine ecology

Additional Info

- Travel time from St Lucia to Richardsbay is calculated on 70 min per trip to and from.
- Not suitable for pregnant guests
- Not recommended for guests with serious neck or back injuries
- Tours are weather and sea-condition dependent
- Whale sightings cannot be guaranteed, but are highly likely during the season

Vessel & Capacity

Max Capacity 11 Passengers. Ensuring a personalised and intimate whale watching experience.

Buttercup Charter

- Purpose-built for ocean conditions
- Powerful twin engines for safe offshore travel
- Comfortable seating with excellent viewing angles
- Licensed and compliant whale watching vessel
- Equipped with safety gear and communication systems

Why choose Advantage?

- ✓ Licensed boat-based whale watching operator
- ✓ Experienced local skippers and marine guides
- ✓ Small group sizes for better viewing
- ✓ Safe surf-launch experience
- ✓ Operating within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site
- ✓ Fully licensed and insured



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Deep Sea Fishing Charter St Lucia

Tour Overview

Experience the thrill of deep sea sport and game fishing along the rich fishing grounds of the KwaZulu-Natal coastline, launching from St Lucia on board the renowned Free Spirit fishing vessel. The warm Indian Ocean currents and diverse marine ecosystem make this region one of South Africa's most exciting offshore fishing destinations. Guests head out to sea in search of powerful game fish including Marlin, Dorado (Mahi-Mahi), Tuna, King Mackerel, Barracuda and Sailfish, depending on the season. Your experienced skipper and crew use local knowledge, advanced fish-finding equipment, and top-quality tackle to maximise fishing opportunities. Whether you are an experienced angler or trying deep sea fishing for the first time, the crew will assist with techniques, baiting and handling catches. All bait and tackle are provided, and the focus is on trolling for game fish and billfish, offering an exhilarating offshore fishing experience. After the trip, catches can be cleaned, filleted and vacuum packed, and guests may even enjoy their fresh catch prepared at the Ocean Grill Restaurant in St Lucia.



Times & Seasons

Operated Year round

Times: 06:00 - 13:00 Launch times vary on weather conditions
Duration: Usually 5 - 8 Hours depending on weather conditions
Private charters available on request.

Inclusions

- ✓ Experienced skipper and crew
- ✓ All bait and fishing tackle
- ✓ Safety equipment

Exclusions

- Fishing license (required – available at the Post Office)
- Food and beverages

Additional Info

- Weather and sea conditions may affect departures
- Minimum numbers may apply for shared charters
- Game fishing focus – **no bottom fishing**
- Catch limits and legal size restrictions apply according to regulations
- Tag and release encouraged for billfish species

Vessel & Capacity

We only allow 7 anglers per charter to ensure good fishing opportunity and personal experience for all.

Free Spirit I & Free Spirit II

- Top-quality rods, reels and tackle
- Experienced skipper and crew
- Safety equipment and communication systems onboard
- Twin Suzuki 200hp engines
- State-of-the-art electronics and navigation systems
- Spacious fishing deck

Why choose Free Spirit?

- ✓ Experienced local skippers with extensive knowledge of St Lucia waters
- ✓ Modern Carrycat offshore fishing vessel
- ✓ Top-quality tackle and equipment provided
- ✓ Opportunity to catch some of the ocean's most exciting game fish
- ✓ Fish cleaning, filleting and vacuum packing available
- ✓ Option to have your catch prepared at Ocean Grill Restaurant



Marine Eco & Dolphin Cruise St Lucia

Tour Overview

Discover the incredible marine life of the Indian Ocean on an exciting Marine Eco & Dolphin Cruise departing from St Lucia. This ocean adventure focuses on observing wild dolphins and other marine life in their natural environment while exploring the beautiful coastline of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park region. Guests begin the experience with a thrilling surf launch through the waves, heading into the open ocean where pods of dolphins are often seen riding the swell. These energetic animals are commonly spotted in the waters along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline, providing unforgettable wildlife encounters. While dolphins are the primary focus of this marine safari, the ocean often reveals additional surprises. Sightings may include sea turtles, flying fish, pelagic seabirds, whale sharks, and other shark species depending on the season and sea conditions. Your experienced skipper and marine guide share fascinating insights into the marine ecosystem, dolphin behaviour, and ocean conservation, making this both an exciting and educational adventure.



Times & Seasons

Season 1 December - 30 May

Weather and sea conditions permitting

Times: 07:00, 09:00, 11:00, 13:00

Private charters available on request.

This tour is 2 x hours on the ocean, but will take 3 x hours of your time to include the ride on the whale train to the beach and back

Inclusions

- ✓ 2-hour guided marine eco and dolphin cruise
- ✓ Qualified skipper and marine guide
- ✓ Safety briefing and life jackets
- ✓ Interpretation on dolphin behaviour and marine ecology

Additional Info

- Minimum age: 8 years
- Not suitable for pregnant guests
- Not recommended for guests with serious neck or back injuries
- Tours are weather and sea-condition dependent
- Dolphin sightings cannot be guaranteed, but are highly likely during the season

Vessel & Capacity

Max Capacity 11 Passengers per boat. Ensuring a personalised and intimate marine eco experience.

Advantage Charter I & Free Spirit II

- Purpose-built for ocean conditions
- Powerful twin engines for safe offshore travel
- Comfortable seating with excellent viewing angles
- Licensed and compliant whale & dolphin watching vessel
- Equipped with safety gear and communication systems

Why choose Advantage?

- ✓ Licensed boat-based whale watching operator - which gives authority to approach Dolphins at sea.
- ✓ Experienced local skippers and marine guides
- ✓ Small group sizes for better viewing
- ✓ Safe surf-launch experience
- ✓ Operating within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site
- ✓ Fully licensed and insured