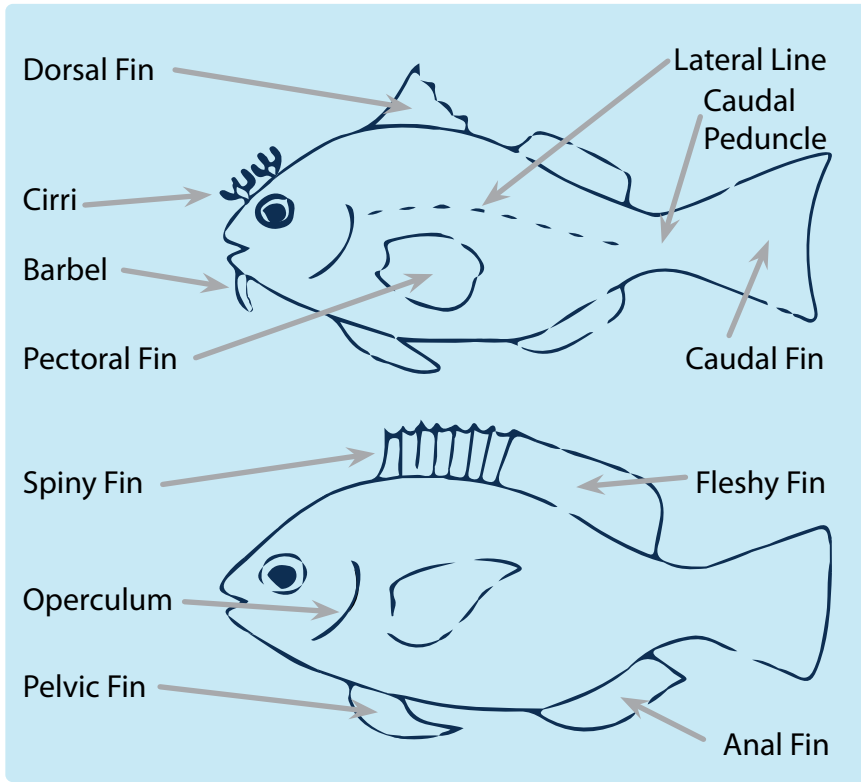


# SODWANA BAY REEF GUIDE

Fish I.D. Guide • Species List • Dive Sites

# FISH IDENTIFICATION QUICK REFERENCE

## Fish Anatomy



## Behaviour

More information than how an organism looks will help with it's identification.

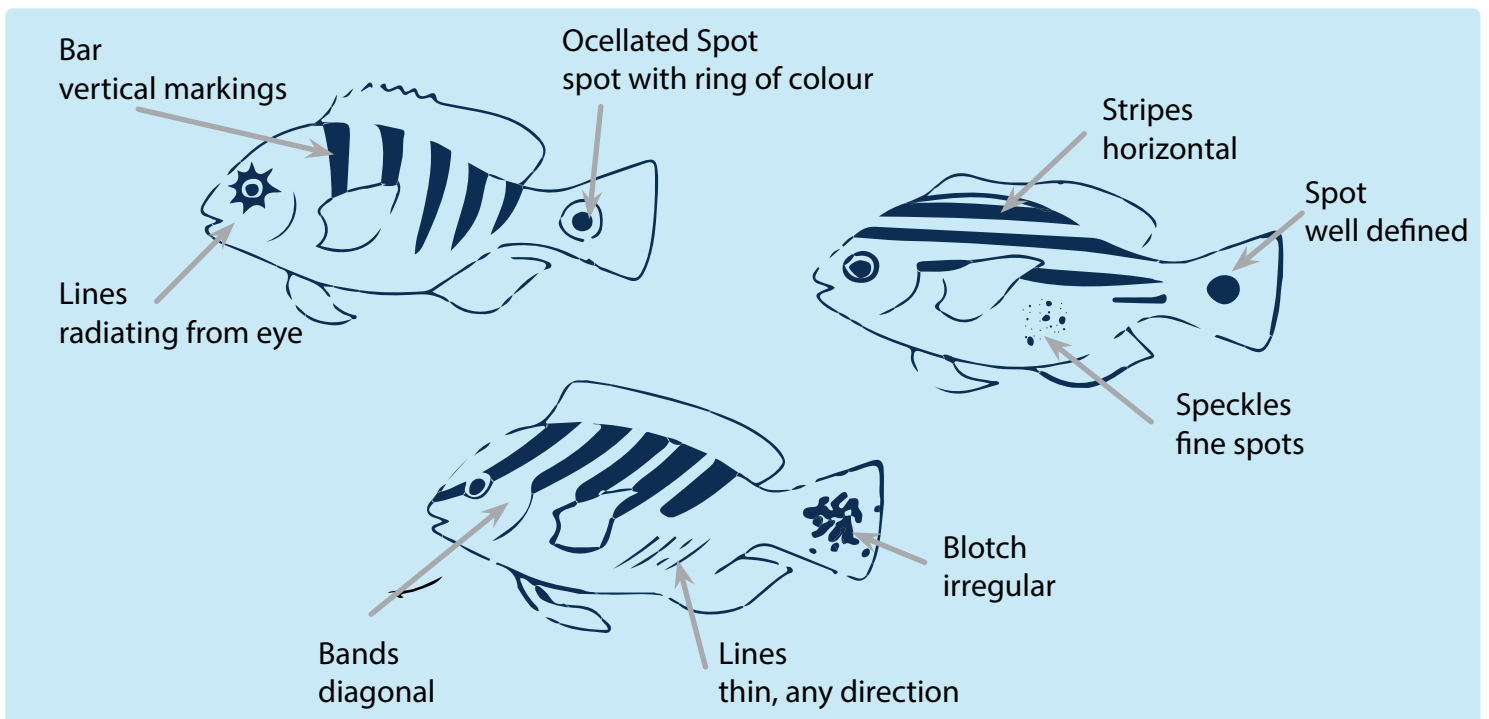
Try to observe the following:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
on the reef	solitary
above the reef	pairs
mid-water	small groups
on the bottom	large schools
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Character</u>
hiding	territorial
swimming	agressive
hunting	shy
eating	docile
patrolling	lively
sitting	curious

## Tail Shape



## Patterns & Markings



# Sodwana Bay Dive Sites



## Key



### Jesser Point

Max: 1m



This rocky ledge shelters Sodwana Bay from the relentless action of the waves. At low tide large pools open up, becoming safe enough for beach-goers to swim and snorkel. The rock pools provide shelter to various marine creatures, especially for juveniles. Convict surgeonfish, Moray eels, Rays, Lionfish, and a host of other interesting critters can be found.

spot Mantas and Whalesharks passing by. In summer (December – February), the female Ragged-tooth sharks congregate here to gestate. This gives divers an exciting experience with these docile animals.

### Quarter Mile

Ave: 9m, Max: 14m



Just off Jesser Point, Quarter Mile offers a colourful shallow dive. Stingrays, Turtles, and Giant guitarfish are common sightings here. Its exposed nature also presents opportunities to

### Stringer

Ave: 11m, Max: 13m



It consists of two close together rocky outcrops, surrounded by sand. Large game fish frequent this area, which doubles as a nursery for juvenile fish. You are likely to come across large and small critters such as Frogfish, Anemonefish, Ghost pipefish, Rays, Moray eels and all three types of Sea turtles. Look closely for Paperfish and juvenile Emperor angelfish. Manta rays often pass by and can be resident. This is a truly world class dive on days when there's weak current.

# 2 MILE REEF

This is the largest reef complex in Sodwana, over 1.8km long and 900m wide. There are many options for divers of different abilities. It has an amazing topography, allowing dives to flow from one dive site to another.

## Northern 2 Mile

### Wayne's World

Ave: 14m, Max: 16m



A slightly deeper dive and relatively flat, this site is ideal for a drift dive or in rougher conditions. Like many places here, a variety of soft coral can be found, with amazing color on this dive. Look out for the 'Turtle Cave', where one is often found sleeping.

### Simon's Cave

Ave: 13m, Max: 18m



Keep a lookout for the shy Royal angelfish hiding in the small gullies and under overhangs. If the current and surge allow, there is a swim through about 5m long where the Whitetip reef sharks are known to rest. This reef has large colonies of anemones, and Racoon butterflyfish often school here. The hard and soft corals make it colourful and varied.

### Pinnacles

Ave: 10m, Max: 12m



Named for a group of pinnacles that are fun to swim through, you will find an array of fish like the Zebra seabream. Paperfish have been seen on the edges of the small sand patches dotted along this route. A feature on this route is known as the 'Old Woman Pinnacle', which rises up to 5m.

### 4 Buoy

Ave: 9m, Max: 12m



All around the sand patch you will find groups of fish hiding under overhangs and in swim-throughs. Pass under the big overhang to a cleaning station and a Honeycomb moray eel.

Carry on through gullies with 3m ledges. Small crevices, windows, and overhangs play home to nocturnal fish such as Soldierfish, Squirrelfish, and Porcupinefish. On the sand you can look for the juvenile Rockmover wrasse and Bluespotted ribbontail ray.

### Cat Reef

Ave: 9m, Max: 14m



Game fish are commonly seen coming through from the seaward side. The diversity of hard and soft coral provides shelter for small fish like Chocolate dips, Sea goldies and juvenile Butterflyfish to name just a few.

## Central 2 Mile

### Coral Gardens

Ave: 10m, Max: 13m



Coral Gardens is known for the variety of hard and soft corals that carpet the reef. Its flat topography makes it ideal for drift diving in a strong current. Combine it with Grand Central for a beautiful dive. Brightly coloured nudibranchs are plentiful and sighted easily by observant divers.

### Arches

Ave: 9m, Max: 13m



This site consists of ledges with boulders that form arches in a variety of shapes and sizes. One arch in particular, at the beginning, is large and quite spectacular. While going through you will see a large school of Pencilled surgeonfish. Between the large overhangs schools of Bluebanded snappers, Trumpetfish and the occasional Black beauty snapper are spotted.

### Deep Sponge

Ave: 28m, Max: 32m



Deep Sponge lies parallel with 2 Mile but 500m further out to sea. A lovely deep dive that offers divers massive vase shaped sponges and interesting marine life. Game fish are common over and around this area. A good option when a strong surge is present on 2 Mile, however, only open to advanced divers.

## Southern 2 Mile

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### Caves & Overhangs

Ave: 10m, Max: 16m

OW



Caves and Overhangs offer incredible coral formations consisting mostly of Plate and Staghorn corals, which together with the rocky substrate form numerous small caves and swim-throughs. The fish life is abundant, and almost anything can be seen which makes this site a very dynamic and colourful dive.

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### Chain

Ave: 15m, Max: 17m

OW



This reef attributes its name to a ship's anchor chain that lies across it. The chain has become part of the reef and is now difficult to spot. This reef has beautiful topography and is not dived often; therefore the corals are abundant and in good condition. Chain has a vast number of Carpet anemones, while the elusive Razor wrasse and Ribbon eels have been spotted on occasions.

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### Antons

Ave: 13m, Max: 16m



OW



Antons' large profile makes it popular with divers. Nutrients are carried and pushed onto the reef by a predominantly north-south current, where large schools of fish hang. Slingers, Christies and Humpback snappers enjoy the feast. Don't miss the Slender beardman on the northern sand patch. Meanwhile, look for the Sea Apple, a relative of the Sea Cucumber. The Giant Moray also makes a pleasant surprise. Large pelagics like Bigeye kingfish are often seen hanging near the surface in large bait balls. Large organisms like Turtles and Manta rays are also found feeding around the reef.

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## Out to sea of 2 Mile

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### Hopscotch

Ave: 22m, Max: 25m

ADV



A series of small scattered ledges provide interesting topography where the elusive Ribbon Eel and Frogfish can be spotted. Schooling Coachman and many shoals of Goldies add

colour to this site. Bommies and Turbinate coral can be enjoyed as you look for the tiny critters that make this an interesting dive. Don't just keep your head in the reef; you'll miss the Mantas, Sharks, and large game fish.

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### Bikini

Ave: 18m, Max: 22m



ADV



Bikini is a macro photographer's playground. Try spotting the Ghost and Scribbled pipefish, Garden eels, or juvenile Boxies. This delicate reef is an important cleaning station, packed with Durban dancers, Banded boxers, and other Cleaner shrimps. This attracts many adult and juvenile Moray eels (including Black cheek, Starry, and Geometric morays). Don't miss one of the bigger visitors, who regularly make use of the cleaning facilities. Look overhead to spot Sharks, Turtles, Rays, and Manta Rays, which are often seen here.

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### Mellow Yellow

Ave: 16m, Max: 18m

OW



On the southern end of Bikini, it's named after the large shoals of yellow fish found there. It is a narrow reef with gullies, overhangs, and small ledges, where Paperfish and various cleaner shrimp can be spotted. Juvenile Palette surgeonfish and Twobar humbugs hug the large table coral. Octopus and Mantis shrimp are other special additions to the site.

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### Roonies

Ave: 27m, Max: 32m



ADV



Looking for some deeper action? Roonies has it! Located 'out to sea' of 2 Mile, Roonies is 30m dropping to 35m. Diving at this depth, time is obviously limited. Not a problem on Roonies, as everything is condensed into a small area. Giving divers the opportunity to experience everything with little effort. Get stuck into looking for the rare, but territorial Long Nose hawkfish, or try your luck at finding the resident Seahorses. As Roonies is a deep dive, keep your eyes peeled for some of the larger pelagic fish on your ascent and safety stops. Its not uncommon to bump into some of our Billfish and Sharks whilst de-gassing after a great dive!



# FURTHER REEFS

Explore beyond Two Mile for the opportunity to see the bigger creatures - Dolphins, Manta Rays etc.... These reefs can offer some unique experiences with marine life not found anywhere else in Sodwana Bay.

## Hotspot

Ave: 25m, Max: 32m



Discovered by spear fishermen looking for game fish that lurk in the deep waters, it consists of a ledge, which provides a great patrol area for big game fish in search of prey. Various crustaceans can be found along the bottom. See what is using the Black Tree coral as shelter. Lionfish are sometimes spotted on the small pinnacle just off the ledge. Sharks, Potato bass, and various Rays (e.g. Eagle rays, Manta rays) may accompany you on your dive.

## Pothole

Ave: 9m, Max: 14m



The 4m diameter pothole contains a variety of interesting marine life. Carefully enter to explore the 3m ledge, and low overhangs surrounding you. You may even spot the Bar-tail moray and crustaceans. While waiting your turn, also look round the outside edge of the pothole, keeping your eyes open for Sharks and Marbled electric rays. Continuing south from the 'Big Pothole', follow a route that takes you amongst a series of ridges, which are surrounded with life.

## Ribbon

Ave: 16m, Max: 19m



It consists of two small rocky outcrops similar to Stringer, and attributes its name to the uncommon Ribbon eel found around its edges. A special feature is the redcoloured tentacles of one Magnificent anemone. Devil firefish and large Scorpionfish are sighted regularly. Large, diverse groups of fish are abundant and because of this, large predator fish such as Barracuda, Kingfish and a variety of sharks make an appearance. This is a very interesting dive offering great opportunities for photographers.

Launch Site

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## Lettuce

Ave: 25m, Max: 31m

ADV



Named after the abundant Lettuce coral on the reef. This deep dive (max 31m), is spectacular for finding some unique fish like the Tiger angelfish. Hanging above the Lettuce coral formations are various types of Damselfish, which provides them with protection from predators. The close proximity to the 'Canyon' makes it a good opportunity, for non-deep specialized divers to see Zambezi sharks, including your large pelagic fish like Barracuda, Spotted eagle rays and Manta rays, when 'in season'.

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## Gotham

Ave: 40m, Max: 42m



DEEP SPEC



Aptly named after Gotham City (Batman's Turf), due to the schooling Batfish which often hang above the reef. Visitors to this reef require a Deep Speciality certification. Diving on the ledge is a 40m dive, and the reef drops down much deeper! Experience is a must for Gotham, and divers are restricted to no deeper than 40m. Tons can be seen on Gotham - including Batman himself! This will all depend on your susceptibility to Nitrogen Narcosis. All in all, a great dive for those who enjoy deeper waters!

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## Snappers' College

Ave: 22m, Max: 25m

ADV



This seldom dived reef is named after the large amount of Snappers schooling here. Blue Banded, Dory, and Humpback snappers are but a few found amongst the big shoals. Diving along a small ledge, look out for: Paperfish, Moray eels, Cleaner shrimp and juvenile Boxfish. Numerous Black corals are dotted along the ledge with a large 2m Whip coral, making this dive site quite unique. Look out for a tawny nurse shark too!

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## 7 Mile

Ave: 16m, Max: 22m



ADV



This is the most popular of the further reefs and is listed as one of the world's top dive sites. Most dives will be lead at a depth no deeper than 20m to ensure a longer bottom time. What makes

this reef so popular is its ability to produce the biggest variety of fish species including Blacktip reef sharks, schools of pelagic fish, huge Moray eels and plenty of Sea turtles. With the number of fish species, spectacular drop offs and coral formations, abundant soft coral life, and the chance to sight some incredibly large fish, 7 Mile is not to be missed.

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## Ramsey's

Ave: 14m, Max: 18m



OW



This pristine reef is named after Dr. Peter Ramsey, who conducted research regarding coral growth on the Maputaland Reef Complex. It's a great opportunity for Open Water qualified divers to explore a reef further than 2 Mile. Ramsey's is home to lots of juvenile fish – the juvenile Emperor angelfish is a great example of its colour differences between its adult and juvenile form.

One dive route is the ledge that runs inshore varying from 1-4 m high. Numerous Devil firefish, a variety of Moray eels (e.g. Starry moray), Tube anemones, and Pipefish make this a fantastic and unique dive. Otherwise, whilst diving over the reef you will find stunning topography similar to 'Caves & Overhangs', with enjoyable swim-throughs. It is another reef that offers great photo opportunities.

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## 9 Mile

Ave: 18m, Max: 22m



ADV



As one of the furthest sites in the Sodwana Reef Complex, the highlight is the huge Green Tree coral. It stands about two and a half meters high, and is surrounded by hundreds of Goldie's. It forms a unique feature amongst all the reefs in Sodwana Bay. This is a great multilevel dive, with a spectacular system of swim-throughs, overhangs, and caves. The crevices play home to Moray eels, and Tube anemones. Potato bass and Brindle bass are often found relaxing under overhangs. Keep your eyes open for various sharks and the hidden surprises such as Frogfish, Scorpionfish, and colourful Nudibranchs.

Check off what you see after your dive. How many did you get?

# MARINE FISH



- Threadfin butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon auriga*
- Bennett's butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon bennetti*
- African butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon dolosus*
- Saddled butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon falcula*
- Gorgeous gussy  
*Chaetodon guttatissimus*
- Raccoon butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon lunula*
- Whitespotted butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon kleinii*
- Chevron butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon madagaskariensis*
- Maypole butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon meyeri*
- Limespot butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon interruptus*
- Purple butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon trifasciatus*
- Vagabond butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon vagabundus*
- Yellowhead butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon xanthocephalus*
- Longnose butterflyfish  
*Forcipiger flavissimus*
- Black Pyramid butterflyfish  
*Hemitaurichthys zoster*
- Coachman  
*Heniochus acuminatus*



- Emperor angelfish  
*Pomacanthus imperator*
- Semicircle angelfish  
*Pomacanthus semicirculatus*
- Old Woman angelfish  
*Pomacanthus rhomboides*
- Tiger angelfish  
*Apolemichthys kingi*
- Threespot angelfish  
*apolemichthys trimaculatus*
- Royal/Regal angelfish  
*Pygoplites diacanthus*
- African pygmy angelfish  
*Centropyge acanthops*
- Dusky cherub  
*Centropyge multispinis*
- Coral beauty  
*Centropyge bispinosa*



- Moorish Idol  
*Zanclus cornutus*





- Pencilled surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus dussumieri*
- Powder-Blue surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus leucosternon*
- Palette surgeonfish  
*paracanthurus hepatus*
- Bluebanded surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus lineatus*



- Brown surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus nigrofuscus*
- Elongate surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus mata*
- Lieutenant surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus tennentii*
- Convict surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus triostegus*
- Sailfin tang  
*Zebrasoma desjardinii*
- Twotone tang  
*Zebrasoma scopas*
- Yellowfin surgeonfish  
*Acanthurus xanthopterus*
- Lined bristletooth  
*Ctenochaetus binotatus*
- Spotted tang  
*Zebrasoma scopas*
- Orangespine unicornfish  
*Naso elegans*
- Bluespine unicornfish  
*Naso hexacanthus*






- Turncoat hogfish  
*Bodianus axillaris*
- Saddleback hogfish  
*Bodianus bilunulatus*
- Diana's hogfish  
*Bodianus diana*
- Lyretail hogfish  
*Bodianus anthioides*
- Bluespotted tamarin  
*M. cyanoguttatus*



- Clown coris *oris aygula*  
C
  - Queen coris *oris formosa*  
C
  - African coris *oris cuvieri*  
C
  - Birdfish  
*Gomphosus caeruleus*
  - Rockmover wrasse  
*Novaculichthys taeniourus*
  - Bluestreak cleaner wrasse  
*Labroides dimidiatus*
  - Checkerboard wrasse  
*Halichoeres hortulanus*
  - Goldbar wrasse  
*Thalassoma hebraicum*
  - Crescent tail wrasse  
*Thalassoma lunare*
  - Lined wrasse  
*Bodianus trilineatus*
  - Tripletail wrasse  
*Cheilinus trilobatus*
- 
- Bandtail cardinalfish  
*Ostorhinchus aurens*
  - Short-tooth cardinalfish  
*Ostirhinchus apogonoides*
  - Flower cardinalfish  
*Pristiapogon kallopterus*
  - Broadstriped cardinalfish  
*Ostorhinchus angustatus*
- 
- Yellowfin goatfish  
*Mulloidichthys vanicolensis*

- Twosaddle goatfish  
*Parupeneus trifasciatus*
  - Band-dot goatfish  
*Parupeneus macronemus*
  - Blacksaddle goatfish  
*Parupeneus rubescens*
  - Goldsaddle goatfish  
*Parupeneus cyclostomus*
- 
- Clown triggerfish  
*Balistoides conspicillum*
  - Redfang triggerfish  
*Odonus niger*
  - Boomerang triggerfish  
壽 Su *amen bursa*
  - Halfmoon triggerfish  
壽 Su *amen chrysopterus*
  - Picasso triggerfish  
*Rhinecanthus aculeatus*
  - Orangestriped triggerfish  
*Balistapus undulatus*
  - Titan triggerfish  
*Balistoids viridescens*
  - Indian triggerfish  
*Melichthys indicus*
  - Striped triggerfish  
*Xanthichthys lineopunctatus*
- 
- Guineafowl puffer  
*Arothron meleagris*
  - Blackspotted puffer  
*Arothron nigropunctatus*
  - Whitespotted puffer  
*Arothron hispidis*

- Blackspotted puffer  
*Arothron nigropunctatus*
  - Map puffer  
*Arothron mappa*
  - Bi-coloured toby  
*Canthigaster smithae*
  - Model toby  
*Canthigaster valentini*
  - Exquisite toby  
*Canthigaster bennetti*
  - Honeycomb toby  
*Canthigaster janthinoptera*
  - Doublelined toby  
*Canthigaster rivulata*
- 
- Shortspine porcupinefish  
*Diodon liturosus*
  - Balloon porcupinefish  
*Diodon holocanthus*
  - Porcupinefish  
*Diodon hystrix*
- 
- Whitespotted boxfish  
*Ostracion meleagris*
  - Boxy  
*Ostracion cubicus*
- 
- Twostripe blenny  
*Plagiotremus rhinorhynchos*
  - Piano blenny  
*Plagiotremus tapeinosoma*
  - Golden blenny  
*Ecsenius midas*

- Nalalo blenny  
*Ecsenius nalolo*



- Yellowback fusilier  
*Caesio xanthonota*

- Bluestreak fusilier  
*Pterocaesio tile*

- Yellow-sash fusilier  
*Caesio xanthalytos*

- Twinstripe fusilier  
*Pterocaesio marri*



- Honeycomb moray  
*Gymnothorax faviginus*

- Blackcheek moray  
*Gymnothorax breedeni*

- Guineafowl moray  
*Gymnothorax meleagris*

- Starry moray  
*Gymnothorax nudivomer*

- Geometric moray  
*Gymnothorax griseus*

- Garden eel  
*Heteroconger hassi*

- Ribbon eel  
*Rhinomuraena quaesita*

- Zebra moray  
*Gymnothorax zebra*

- Salt and Pepper moray  
*Gymnothorax eurostus*

- Dragon moray  
*Enchelycore pardalis*

- Floral moray  
*Echidna nebulosa*



- Natal sergeant damsel  
*Abudefduf natalensis*

- Narrowbar damsel  
*Plectroglyphidodon dickii*

- Sergeant major damsel  
*Abudefduf septemfasciatus*

- Chocolate dip  
*Chromis fieldi*

- Golden chromis  
*Chromis ternatensis*

- Domino  
*Dascyllus trimaculatus*

- Twobar humbug  
*Dascyllus carneus*

- Blue pete  
*Pomacentrus caeruleus*

- Twobar anemonefish  
*Amphiprion allardi*

- Nosestripe anemonefish  
*Amphiprion akallopisos*



- Scribbled filefish  
*Aluterus scriptus*

- Blacksaddle mimic filefish  
*Paraluteres prionurus*

- Barred filefish  
*Cantherhines dumerilii*



- Devil firefish  
*Pterois miles*

- Broadbarred lionfish  
*Pterois antennata*

- Weedy scorpionfish  
*Rhinopias frondosa*

- Paperfish  
*Taenianotus triacanthus*

- Tasseled scorpionfish  
*Scorpaenopsis oxycephala*

- Raggy scorpionfish  
*Scorpaenopsis venosa*

- Yellow-spotted scorpionfish  
*Sebastapistes cyanostigma*



- Banded pipefish  
*Dunckerocampus boylei*

- Red-scribbled pipefish  
*Corythoichthys flavofasciatus*

- Ghost pipefish  
*Solenostomus cyanopterus*



- Longhead flathead  
*Papilloculiceps longiceps*



- Giant Frogfish  
*Antennarius commerson*



- Pineapplefish  
*Monocentris japonica*



- Peacock rockcod  
*Cephalopholis argus*

- Coral rockcod  
*Cephalopholis miniata*

- Redbarred rockcod  
*Epinephelus fasciatus*
- Bigspot rockcod  
*Epinephelus macrospilos*
- Potato bass  
*Epinephelus tukula*
- Marbled leopard rockcod  
*Plectropomus punctatus*
- Yellow-edge lyretail  
*Variola louti*
- Tomato rockcod  
*Cephalopholis sonnerati*
- Sea goldie  
*Pseudanthias squamipinnus*

- Threadfin goldie  
*Nemanthias carberryi*



- Englishman seabream  
*Chrysoblephus anglicus*

- Slinger  
*Chrysoblephus puniceus*

- Natal stumpnose  
*Rhabdosargus sarba*



- Lemonfish  
*Plectorhinchus flavomaculatus*

- Whitebarred rubberlips  
*Plectorhinchus playfairi*

- Barred rubberlips  
*Plectorhinchus plagiodesmus*



- Longfin Batfish  
*Platax teira*

- Orbicular batfish  
*Platax orbicularis*

- Spadefish  
*Tripteron orbis*



- Firegoby  
*Nemateleotris magnifica*

- Scissortail dartfish  
*Ptereleotris evides*

- Pennant glider  
*Valenciennea strigata*

- Seawhip goby  
*Bryaninops yongei*



- Tricolour parrotfish  
*Scarus tricolor*

- Ember parrotfish  
*Scarus rubroviolaceus*



- Humpback snapper  
*Lujanus gibbus*

- Bluebanded snapper  
*Lujanus kasmira*

- Dory snapper  
*Lujanus fulviflamma*

- Emperor snapper  
*lujanus sebae*

- Black beauty  
*Macolor niger*



- Natal knifejaw  
*Oplegnathus robinsoni*



- Bluefin kingfish  
*Caranx melampygus*

- Rainbow runner  
*Elagatis bipinnulata*



- Blotcheye soldier  
*Myripristis murdjan*

- Immaculate soldier  
*Myripristis vittata*

- Tailspot squirrelfish  
*Sargocentron caudimaculatum*

- Epaulette soldier  
*Myripristis kuntee*

- Crown squirrelfish  
*Sargocentron diadema*



- Trumpetfish  
*Aulostomus chinensis*

- Smooth flutemouth  
*Fistularia commersonii*



- Spotted hawkfish  
*Cirrhichthys oxycephalus*

- Longnose hawkfish  
*Oxycirrhites typus*

- Freckled hawkfish  
*Paracirrhites forsteri*



- Dusky sweeper  
*Pempheris adusta*



- Slender baardman  
*Umbrina robinsoni*



- Thorny Seahorse  
*Hippocampus histrix*



- Prodigal son  
*Rachycentron canadum*

## SHARKS, RAYS, TURTLES, & WHALES



- Grey reef shark  
*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*
- Whitetip reef shark  
*Triaenodon obesus*
- Blacktip reef shark  
*Carcharhinus melanopterus*
- Leopard shark  
*Stegostoma fasciatum*



- Scalloped hammerhead  
*Sphyrna lewini*



- Spotted Ragged-tooth shark  
*Carcharias taurus*



- Great white shark  
*Carcharodon carcharias*

- Zambezi shark  
*Carcharhinus leucas*



- Whaleshark  
*Rhinocodon typus*



- Green sea turtle  
*Chelonia mydas*
- Loggerhead turtle  
*Caretta caretta*
- Hawksbill turtle  
*Eretmochelys imbricata*



- Manta ray  
*Mobula kuhlii*
- Shorthorned devil ray  
*Mobula kuhlii*



- Marbled electric ray  
*Torpedo sinuspersici*
- Bluespotted ribbontail ray  
*Taeniura lymma*

- Bluespotted stingray  
*Neotrygon kuhlii*

- Round ribbontail ray  
*Taeniura meyeni*

- Honeycomb stingray  
*Himantura uarnak*

- Sharpnose stingray  
*Himantura gerrardi*

- Diamond ray  
*Gymnura natalensis*



- Bullray  
*Pteromylaeus bovinus*

- Spotted eagle ray  
*Aetobatus narinari*



- Giant guitarfish  
*Rhynchobatus djiddensis*



- Bottlenose dolphin  
*Tursiops aduncas*

- Common dolphin  
*Delphinus capensis*



- Humpback whale  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*



- Orca  
*Orcinus orca*

# MARINE INVERTEBRATES



- Durban dancer shrimp  
*Rhynchocinetes brucei*
- Banded Boxer cleaner shrimp  
*Stenopus hispidus*
- Ghost shrimp  
*Cuapetes tenuipes*
- Hump-back cleaner shrimp  
*Lysmata amboinensis*
- Clear cleaner shrimp  
*Urocardidella antonbruunii*
- Five-spot anemone shrimp  
*Periclemenes brevicarpalis*
- Whip coral shrimp  
*Pontonides unciger*
- Squat shrimp  
*Thor amboinensis*
- Tiger Goby shrimp  
*Alpheus bellulus*



- Peacock Mantis shrimp  
*Odontodactylus scyllarus*



- Harlequin shrimp  
*Hymenocera picta*



- Spotted Porcelain crab  
*Neopetrolisthes maculatus*
- Yellow Hairy hermit crab  
*Aniculus maximus*

- Coral crab  
*Tetralia cavimana*



- Painted spiny lobster  
*Panulirus versicolor*
- Ornate spiny lobster  
*Panulirus ornatus*
- Longlegged spiny lobster  
*Panulirus longipes*
- East Coast Rock lobster  
*Panulirus homarus*



- Common octopus  
*Octopus vulgaris*
- Common cuttlefish  
*Sepia vermiculata*
- Ram's horn shell  
*Spirula spirula*



- Tiger cowrie  
*Cypraea tigris*
- Eggshell cowrie  
*Ovula ovum*



- Giant frogshell  
*Tutufa bubo*
- Orange spider conch  
*Lambis crocata*
- Rose-branch murex  
*Chicoreus palmarosae*

- Giant Clam  
*Tridacna squamosa*

- Cock's-comb oyster  
*Lopha cristagalli*



- African chromodoris  
*Chomodoris Africana*
- Hamilton's chromodoris  
*Chromodoris hamiltoni*
- Spanish Dancer  
*Hexabranhus sanguineus*
- Varicose phyllidia  
*Phyllidia varicose*

- Zulu tambja  
*Tambja zulu*

- Gloomy tambja  
*Tambja morosa*

- Golden nembrotha  
*Nembroth aurea*

- South African halgerda  
*Halgerda wasinensis*

- Gem nudibranch  
*Goniobranchus geminus*

- Pallid glossodoris  
*Glossodoris pallida*



- See-through phyllodesmium  
*Phyllodesmium sp.*

- Snakey bornella  
*Bornella Anguilla*

- Gas-flame cuthona  
*Cuthona sibogae*



○ Feather Duster worm  
Sabellastarte sp.

○ Christmas Tree worm  
Spirobranchus giganteus



○ Blue starfish  
Linckia laevigata

○ Orange-spot starfish  
Ferdina sadhaensis

○ Crown of Thorns starfish  
Acanthaster planci

○ Spiny Brittle starfish  
Ophithrix nereidina

○ Feather star  
Comanthus wahlbergii

○ Pincushion starfish  
Culcita schmideliana



○ Needle urchin  
Diadema setosum

○ Pencil urchin  
Prionocidaris pistillaris

○ Banded urchin  
Echinothrix calamaris



○ Noble sea cucumber  
Holothuria nobilis



○ Green Urn ascidian  
Didemnum molle

○ Blue Lollipop ascidian  
Eudistoma coeruleum



○ Sea Apple  
Pseudocolochirus unica



○ Magnificent anemone  
Heteractis magnifica

○ Beaded anemone  
Heteractis aurora

○ Tube anemone  
Cerianthus sp.

○ Leathery anemone  
Heteractis crispa

○ Haddon's Carpet anemone  
Stichodactyla haddoni

○ Adhesive anemone  
Cryptodendrum adhaesium

○ Bubble-tentacle anemone  
Entacmaea quadricolor



○ Divided flatworm  
Pseudoceros dimidiatus

○ Striped Mimic flatworm  
Pseudoceros sp.

○ Yellow-dotted flatworm  
Thysanozoon sp.



○ Barrel jellyfish  
Rhizostoma pulmo

○ Blue-bottle  
Physalia physalis



○ Staghorn coral  
Acropora sp.

○ Club-horned coral  
Pocillopora sp.

○ Honeycomb coral  
Favites sp.

○ Brain coral  
Oulophyllia sp.

○ Lettuce coral  
Pachyseris sp.

○ Whip coral  
Ciirhipathes sp.

○ Green Tree coral  
Tubastrea micranthus

○ Bushy Black coral  
Antipathes sp.

○ Fleshy soft coral  
Sarcophyton

○ Thistle soft coral  
Dendronephyta



○ Cup sponge  
Ircinia sp.

○ Encrusting turret sponge  
Haliclona tulearensis

○ Orange wall-sponge  
Spirastrella spinispirulifer

○ Turkey tail  
Padina boryana

○ Sailors' eyeballs  
Valonia ventricosa



# QUICK CHECKLIST

Try to complete these groups. Note their location and get them signed off by your dive guide.

## BIG 5

	Dive Site	Date	Verified By
Whaleshark	_____	_____	_____
Manta Ray	_____	_____	_____
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	_____	_____	_____
Humpback Whale	_____	_____	_____
Ragged-tooth Shark	_____	_____	_____

## Little 5

	Dive Site	Date	Verified By
Squat Shrimp	_____	_____	_____
Ghost Pipefish	_____	_____	_____
Boxfish (juvenile)	_____	_____	_____
Seawhip Goby	_____	_____	_____
Snakey Bornella	_____	_____	_____

## HIDDEN 5

	Dive Site	Date	Verified By
Giant Frogfish	_____	_____	_____
Raggie Scorpionfish	_____	_____	_____
Longhead Flathead	_____	_____	_____
Peacock Flounder	_____	_____	_____
Common Octopus	_____	_____	_____

## RARE 5

	Dive Site	Date	Verified By
Tiger Angelfish	_____	_____	_____
Emperor Snapper	_____	_____	_____
Dragon Moray	_____	_____	_____
Harlequin Shrimp	_____	_____	_____
Crowned Seahorse	_____	_____	_____

## FLASHY 5

	Dive Site	Date	Verified By
Emperor Angelfish (juvenile)	_____	_____	_____
Queen Coris	_____	_____	_____
Clown Triggerfish	_____	_____	_____
Peacock Mantis Shrimp	_____	_____	_____
Gas-Flame Cuthona	_____	_____	_____

Sodwana Bay has the most southern coral reef formations in Africa. They grow on a sandstone base structure that is unique to true coral reef structures. Our reefs tend to be flat with low pinnacles, shallow drop offs, gullies and range in depth from 6m to 100m and are relatively young at 4000 years old.

Sodwana has it all with 1200 fish species, a huge diversity of invertebrates, and wonderous seasonal visitors such as Humpback whales, Hammerhead sharks, and Manta rays!



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