



IT'S PARADISE

Ugu South Coast Tourism (Pty) Ltd

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For immediate release

June 2016

The Greatest Shoal on Earth

The sardine run of southern Africa occurs from June through to August when billions of sardines move northward along the east coast of South Africa. Their sheer numbers create a feeding frenzy along the coastline. The run, containing millions of individual sardines, occurs when a current of cold water heads north from the Agulhas Bank up to Mozambique where it then leaves the coastline and goes further east into the Indian Ocean.

Researchers estimate the sardine run could give the East Africa's great wildebeest migration a run for their money in terms of mass, however little is known of the phenomenon. It is believed that the water temperature has to drop below 21 °C in order for the migration to take place. In 2003, the sardines failed to 'run' for the third time in 23 years. While 2015 saw a great shoal arrive on our shoreline, and fisherman's nets sagged under the weight of our silvery friends.

The shoals are often more than 7km long, 1.5 km wide and 30 metres deep and are clearly visible from air and land. Thousands of diving gannets and dolphins were spotted off the Eastern Cape this past week. This could mean the "Greatest Shoal on Earth" is not far from our beautiful coastline, although the Kwa-Zulu Natal Sharks Board have said it is still too early to confirm if our silvery friends will be visiting us in their masses this year, we are waiting on the shores with "baited" breath.

While our oceans are abuzz with activity during our winter months, so are our beaches and sports arenas. Each year the sunny and safe South Coast offers a jam packed calendar of events and activities to enjoy. This is the perfect time for our upcountry friends to pack their bags and head down to visit us on the Kwa-Zulu Natal South Coast, we can boast perfect sunny winter days with temperatures still averaging around 20 degree's celcius, it is a great way to escape the chilly upcountry winter.

Paradise is waiting for you.

To keep an eye on the ocean for our silvery fish please contact the Sardine Hotline on 083 913 9495 and for a full events calendar please visit www.tourismsouthcoast.co.za



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Ends
Word count: 369
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Photo: Supplied
SO 5.10 (Q4 2015/2016)

