Swimming with Seals Tour Information:

Activity Description

Experience the excitement of meeting one of the ocean's most charismatic animals, the Cape Fur Seal, on an expert-guided seal-dive adventure with Marine Dynamics, South Africa's leading marine-ecotourism company.

Depart from the Great White House in Gansbaai and board a comfortable dive vessel for a scenic 20-minute ride to Dyer Island. Along the way, enjoy spectacular views of the marine reserve and the chance to spot seabirds and even dolphins or whales.

You'll dive at Hospital – and Batchelor Rock, part of the famous Geyser Rock Seal Colony — home to over 60,000 Cape Fur Seals and one of the most vibrant marine ecosystems along the South African coast. Under the guidance of trained crew who specialise in reading seal behaviour, you'll spend 20–30 minutes in the water observing their playful movements as they glide and twirl around you.

Floatation devices are provided for rest breaks, and your guides remain close throughout to ensure both your safety and the seals' welfare. All participants wear full protective wetsuits, gloves, and booties/flippers to stay warm and protected.

After your dive, enjoy a 20-minute cruise back to shore and warm up with optional hot showers (R 60) or a meal at The Great White House Restaurant, where a full menu and local hospitality await (own account).

Safety and conservation come first: Marine Dynamics maintains strict wildlife-interaction protocols, trained safety staff, and on-board medical kits. If sea or animal behaviour conditions are unsuitable, trips will be rescheduled or refunded.

Whether you're an ocean enthusiast or first-time snorkeller, this small-group adventure offers an unforgettable, responsible way to experience South Africa's vibrant marine life up close — while supporting ongoing conservation and research through the Dyer Island Conservation Trust.

Duration
Approx. 1.5 hours (including boat transfer and dive time).

Group Size
Maximum 10 participants per trip.

Age & Skill
Minimum 12 years old. All participants must be competent swimmers.

Meeting Point
The Great White House, Gansbaai (Marine Dynamics HQ).
Free parking is available. Check in 30 minutes before departure.

What to Bring
Towel, sunhat, sunscreen, swimsuit, and water bottle.

Facilities
Changing area, restaurant and shop on site.

Good to Know
- Diving sites are selected according to daily sea and animal conditions.
- All equipment is sanitised and checked before each trip.
- No touching or feeding of wildlife is permitted.
- Activity may be cancelled or postponed in bad weather for safety reasons
- Bring a camera or GoPro if waterproof; photo options available on request.

Rabies Awareness

There have been a small number of reported cases of rabies within the South African seal population. Before each trip, our guides will inform all guests of the current situation at the seal colony and what to expect. Our team works together — from spotters and skippers to guides and swimmers — to ensure a safe and responsible experience.
Participants will wear a thick 7 mm wetsuit during the swim, which provides additional protection against potential bites.
In the unlikely event of a nibble or bite, medical facilities in Gansbaai and the Hermanus Mediclinic are fully equipped with the necessary rabies vaccines. Rabies can be fatal if not treated.
Highly experienced guides are always in the water, monitoring seal behaviour, and the vessel remains close at all times.
If, on the day, you choose not to enter the water, you may still enjoy the seals from the boat and participate in a viewing-only experience with the skipper.
Your safety is our primary concern.