

Cape Town

with Kate Jonker

Cape Town, known as South Africa's Mother City, is a colourful and cosmopolitan travel destination. Surrounded by incredible scenery and tourist attractions such as Table Mountain, Robben Island and Cape Point, it is often overlooked by visiting divers who come to South Africa for the annual sardine run or to dive with sharks at Protea Banks or Aliwal Shoal.

Cape Town's natural beauty stretches far beyond the shoreline and is reflected beneath the waves, providing divers and photographers with a vibrant and diverse underwater playground. There are fascinating wrecks, glittering kelp forests and colourful reefs to be explored, offering underwater photographers with incredible wide angle and macro opportunities,

Wide Angle Photography

Many of the reefs have fantastic topography well suited for wide angle photography. Most reefs are covered in colourful marine life, anemones, sponges and soft corals in beautiful pinks, purples, yellows and oranges. Orange sea fans add

to the riot of colour on the reefs, which contrasts beautifully against the green, temperate waters. Reefs well worth visiting include Atlantis, Photographer's Reef and Whittle Rock in Simon's Town; Steenbras Deep in Gordon's Bay and Star Walls in Hout Bay.

The wrecks of Smitswinkel Bay in Simon's Town and in Hout Bay provide those with a lust for rust the chance to explore and photograph unique wrecks, many of which are covered in colourful soft corals, sponges and anemones. They also attract schools of fish, providing a confetti of silver glitter against the hulks of the wrecks themselves.

There are also numerous kelp forests to explore and these provide remarkable wide angle opportunities. The forests are home to many fish species, smaller sharks and seals.

*Divers on their way back from
Blousteen dive site, Gordon's Bay*

*Exploring Steenbras Deep in Gordon's
Bay*

*Canon EOS7d Mark II, Sea & Sea,
Dual Inon Z240s, Tokina 10 – 17mm
fisheye at 10mm, f8, 1/60. ISO 320*





Cape Fur Seal, Hout Bay

Canon EOS7d Mark II, Sea & Sea, Natural light, Tokina 10 – 17mm fisheye at 10mm, f4.5, 1/400. ISO 320

The reefs upon which the kelp forests grow are covered with vibrant jewel-like anemones, starfish, sea urchins, sponges and feather stars. There is nothing more beautiful than photographing the sun's rays as they filter through the kelp fronds, lighting up the reef below. Many of the reefs

such as Pyramid Rock, Castle Rock and D-Frame in Simon's Town and Blousteen in Gordon's Bay provide incredible kelp forest dives.

A trip to Cape Town would not be complete without a snorkel or a dive with the Cape fur seals. They are playful and inquisitive and a lot of fun

to photograph. The best dive sites to see these 'puppies of the sea' are Partridge Point in Simon's Town and Duiker Island in Hout Bay. Seals are plentiful in Cape Town and it is not unusual to have seals swoop down and inspect you at any of the dive sites in Simon's Town, Gordon's



Blue Shark, Cape Point

Canon EOS7d Mark II, Sea & Sea, Dual Inon Z240s, Tokina 10 – 17mm fisheye at 10mm, f11, 1/160. ISO 320

Bay or Hout Bay.

Dives "into the blue" to see the blue sharks and makos are very exciting. The dive boats take divers out to the edge of the warm Agulhas current some 20 nautical miles off