



Whales at Infanta and our trip to Madagascar

Hopefully Spring is on its way and with it warmer weather and heaps of fish, although not that the past winter has been terrible. Clear days and chilly nights around a roaring fire are not unpleasant. We have only had one really bad storm and one patch of freezing weather.



The whales arrived in June in numbers, with over 50 adults with their calves, one can watch them cavorting in the bay at any given time. This is really magnificent sight, they should stay until the end of October.

Business wise this winter has been as quiet as normal. As expected the World Cup did not have any material effect on our area. We did manage to have some visitors from Chile, USA, and England, who said that they had a great time in South Africa, they even managed to catch some fish and enjoy the whales. In fact 2 of the Americana were due to go home at the beginning of August and are still here!



We managed to organize some time off and headed for Madagascar for some scuba diving, hot sun, birding, and a wonderful 4x4 trip down the South West Coast of the island. We complain about our roads here, you have no idea how difficult it is to travel on the roads there. On one nine hour stint we managed to cover 125kms. There were many rivers we had to ford, but nothing like our Breede River. Back to the present. The South African Shark Conservancy were looking for sharks again, but obviously none were found in the cooler winter water. Marine and Coastal Management have done their winter fish count and tell us that the river is still healthy.



Due to the large amount of mullet around we have spotted 4 otters having a wonderful time eating fish, there is a seal in the river, and the dolphin is still around. We have also spotted a osprey, which we have not seen for 2 years.

Fishing has been very patchy with some excellent catches, and then nothing worthwhile for a number of days. Now is time to be optimistic for the new season which could begin at any time.. I see one of the local Kob experts made a exploratory trip on the last spring tide, looking for the big one, I believe that he caught a 4kg Kob. There have recently been some reasonable catches of Kob in the sea.

The renosteveld is looking stunning, there are flocks of blue cranes on the farm lands, and it seems the botebok have had a offspring. Surprisingly the eland have been visiting, it is not normal at this time of year that they come close to us. The genet still pops in for dinner most evenings.

Our staff have been busy doing maintenance on the boats and lodge, and everything is looking spick and span. The aloes were not at their best this year, must be due to the lack of winter rains.

Witsand is holding a Baby Whale Festival on the 24th of September, this promises to be great fun, it is the only festival in our area, so all the locals come out to have a good time.

For those of you who bring your own boats, good news the conservancy has reduced the price of boat licenses by 20%

The last bit a new information is that the scientists now think that not all the spotted grunter migrate north, but we now have a permanent breeding population off our section of the coast, very interesting.

Tim & Hilary



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