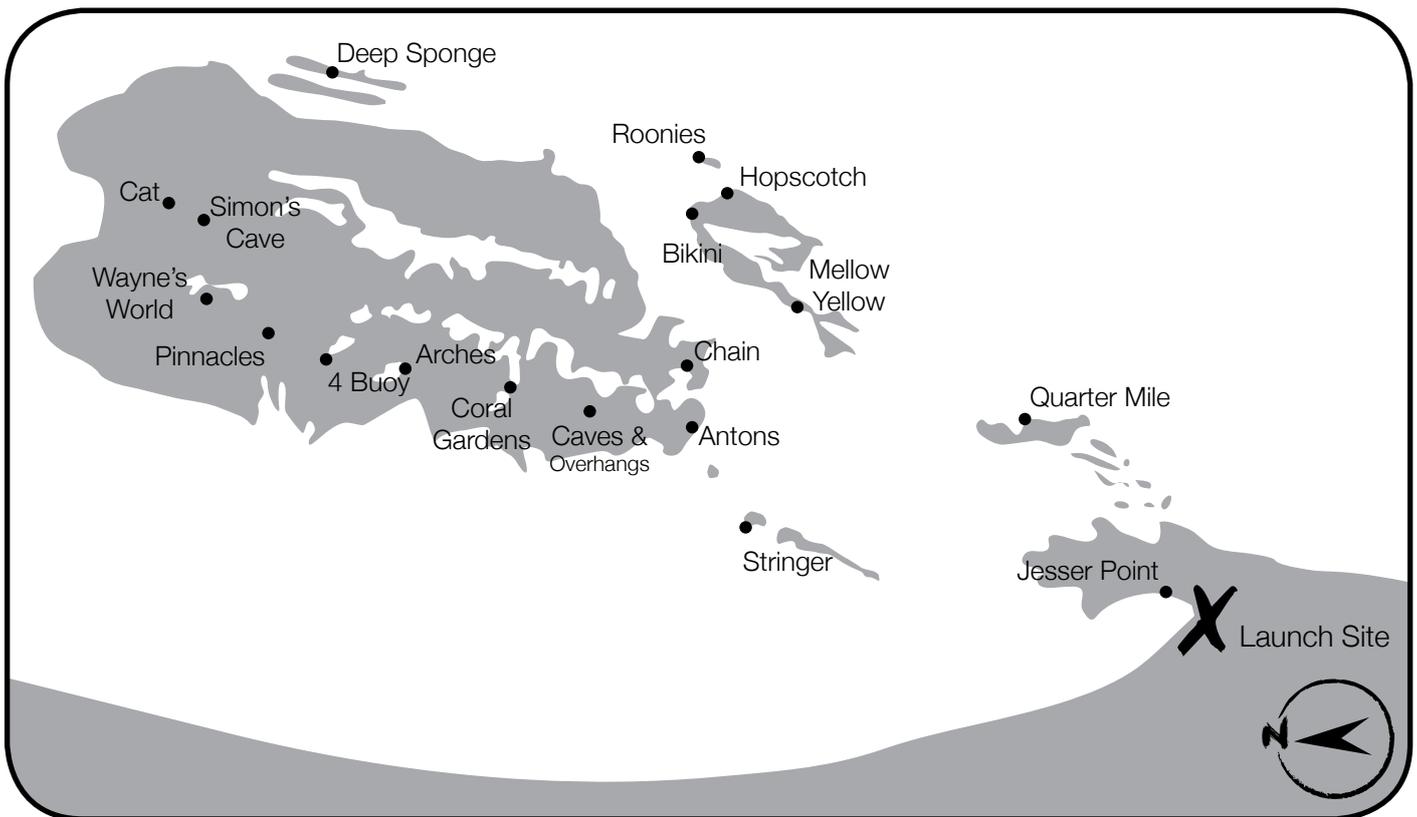


Sodwana Bay Dive Sites



Key



Open Water



Deep Specialty



Photo Opportunity



Advanced Open Water



Dived



Snorkelling Site

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 non-divers 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 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. Mantas often pass by and can be resident. This is a truly world class dive on days when there's weak current.

2 Mile

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 amazing topography allowing dives to flow from one site to another.

Northern 2 Mile

Wayne's World

Ave: 14m, Max: 16m



A slightly deeper dive, and relatively flat, this site can be ideal for a drift dive or rougher conditions. Suffice to say, a large 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 Whitetip reef sharks are known to rest. This reef has large colonies of anemones, and Raccoon 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

Caves & Overhangs

Ave: 10m, Max: 16m



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.

Chain

Ave: 15m, Max: 17m



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 still in very good condition. Chain has a vast number of Carpet anemones, while the elusive Razor wrasse and Ribbon eels have been spotted on occasions.

Antons

Ave: 13m, Max: 16m



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.

Out to sea of 2 Mile

Hopscotch

Ave: 22m, Max: 25m



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.

Bikini

Ave: 18m, Max: 22m



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 Mantas, which are often seen here.

Mellow Yellow

Ave: 16m, Max: 18m



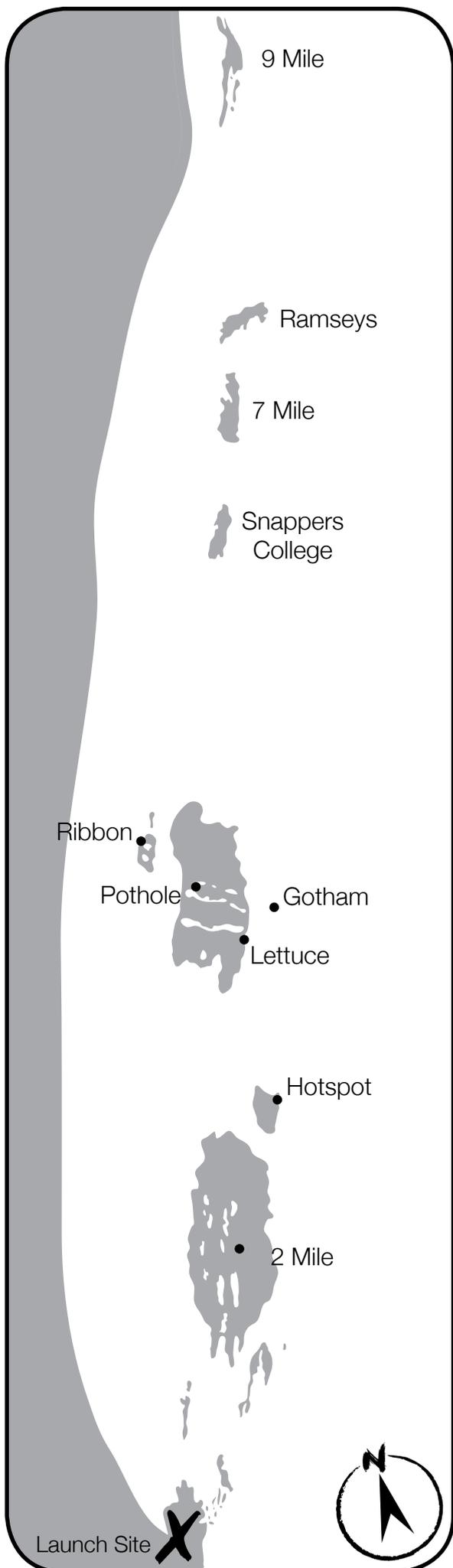
On the southern end of Bikini, it's named after the large shoals of yellow fish found there. It is a narrow reef with gullies, overhangs, and small ledges, where Paperfish and various cleaner shrimp can be spotted. Juvenile Palette surgeonfish and Twobar humbugs hug the large table coral. Octopus and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

Roonies

Ave: 27m, Max: 32m



Looking for some deeper action? Roonies has it! Found 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 Seahorse. As Roonies is a deep dive, keep your eyes peeled for some of the larger pelagic fish on your ascent and safety stops. It's 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 spot the bigger creatures - Dolphins, Mantas etc... These reefs can offer some unique experiences with marine life not found anywhere else in Sodwana.

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 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 reef systems similar to Stringer, and attributes its name to the uncommon Ribbon eel found around its edges. A special feature is the red coloured 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.

Lettuce

Ave: 25m, Max: 31m

AOW



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 Mantas, when in season.

Gotham

Ave: 40m, Max: 42m



DEEP SPEC



Aptly named after Gotham City (Batmans 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, the reef drops down much deeper! Experience is a must for Gotham, and divers are restricted to no deeper than 40m. Lots 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!

Snapper's College

Ave: 22m, Max: 25m

AOW



This newly discovered reef is named after the large amount of Snappers schooling there. Blue Banded, Dory, 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 unique.

7 Mile

Ave: 16m, Max: 22m



AOW



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 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.

Ramsey's

Ave: 14m, Max: 18m



OW



This pristine reef is named after Dr. 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 the differences between its adult form.

One dive route is the ledge that runs inshore varying from 1-4 m high. Numerous Devil fire fish, 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 and Overhangs, with enjoyable swim-throughs. It is another reef that offers great photo opportunities.

9 Mile

Ave: 18m, Max: 22m



AOW



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 Sharks and the hidden surprises such as Frogfish, Scorpionfish, and colourful Nudibranchs.