



OUR MISSION

Cape RADD (Research and Diver Development) facilitates marine research and provides scientific diving and practical field biologist training for conservationists, scientists and dive professionals.

WELCOME TO CAPE RADD!

Hello and welcome to Cape RADD! We are a team of dedicated and passionate marine scientists and dive professionals. Cape RADD specializes in scientific SCUBA diving and freediving as approaches to data collection on the marine ecology of South Africa. We facilitate training courses for individuals or groups who want to learn more about the marine environment, conservation and research, through hands-on field experience and diver development. Cape RADD courses include training in multiple data collection and field operation techniques, and theoretical workshops and presentations from field biologists and dive experts.

Research topics include species abundance and diversity, kelp forest ecology, and fish and elasmobranch behaviour. Cape RADD's research projects aim to culminate in publications in the scientific community and to spread awareness on public platforms in order to promote conservation and share our passion for the marine world.





THE CAPE RADD STORY SO FAR

Mike and Dylan have been working in the field of marine biology for the better part of a decade. They first met in South Africa on a research internship back in 2009 after completing their undergraduate degrees and quickly became good friends and research colleagues. Since then, they have both worked on their own research interests and assisted with a number of student scientists from around the world, studying and honing their specific areas of expertise and passion for the marine world.

At the end of 2016, after experiencing a number of 'internships' and working as field biologists, dive professionals, and marine guides, Mike and Dylan decided to partner up and use their own experiences and skill sets to create a marine course specifically catered for people with a combined passion for marine wildlife conservation, scuba and freediving and adventure. This was the conception of Cape RADD.

THE CAPE RADD STORY SO FAR, CONTINUED...

The following year was spent tirelessly writing a marine course which would benefit students and dive professionals alike, making sure specific, relevant and applicable skills would be taught and our students would gain a rewarding, stimulating and most of all, fun month of diving and marine biologist field skills.

We are now reaching out to our fellow ocean lovers who want to experience some of South Africa's incredible wildlife and spend some time learning new field biologist and dive skills and seeking an adventure of a lifetime along the amazing coast of Cape Town. We would love to share our passion and knowledge for this area of the world and its unique and wild nature.





LOCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

The Cape RADD headquarters are situated in Simon's Town, False Bay; nestled in an area of spectacular beauty that features stunning beaches, incredible marine life, and a mountainous backdrop - just 40 km from Cape Town's city center. Our headquarters are 50 m from Cape Town's most sheltered dive site, Long Beach, perfect for diver training, and equipment testing. The coast of South Africa is a well-known hot spot for marine diversity, boasting numerous shark, cetacean, seal and fish species, as well as kelp forests, natural reef systems and artificial habitats in the form of shipwrecks.

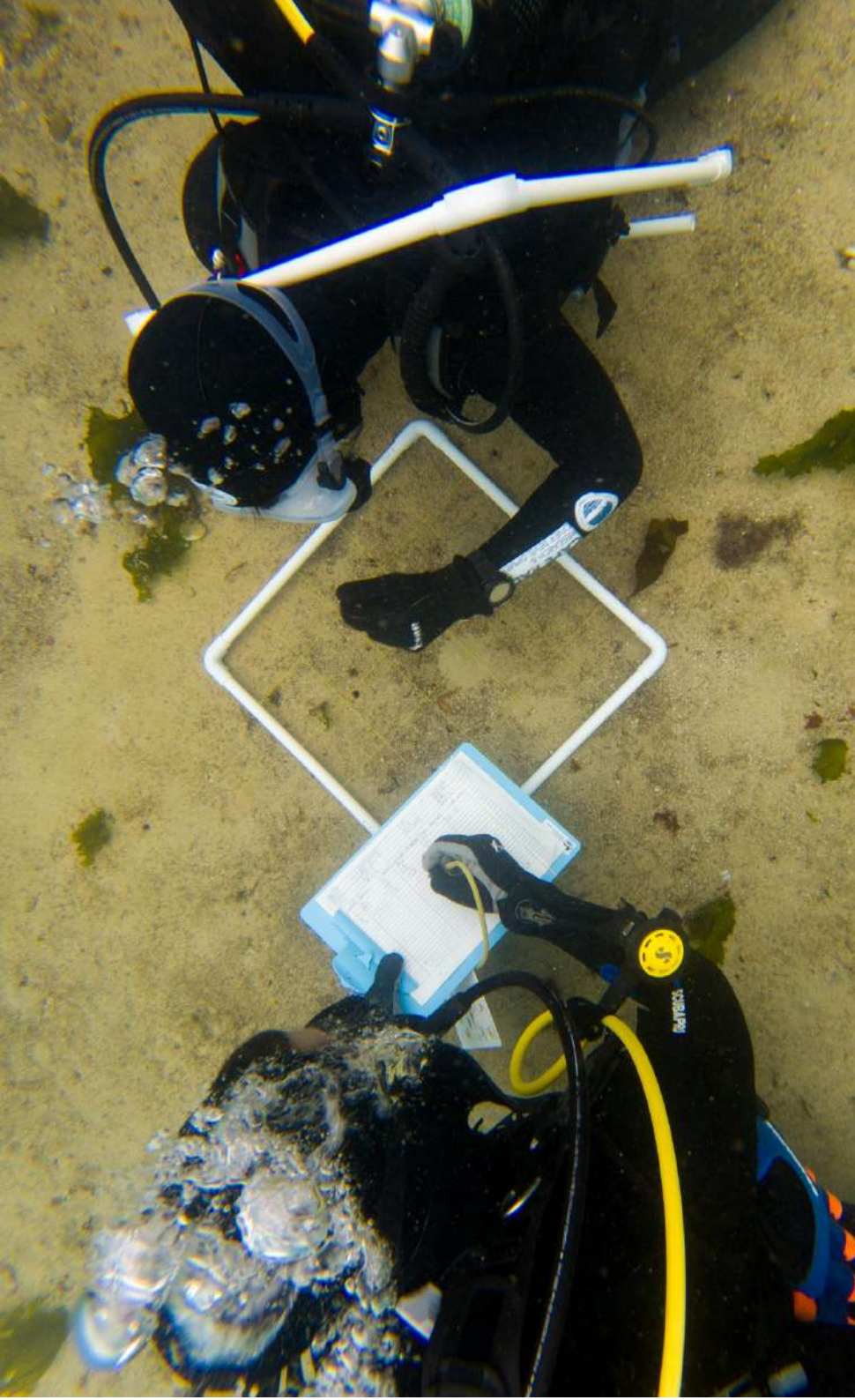
The biodiversity of the region can be attributed to the oceanographic conditions and habitats created by the meeting of two major ocean currents, the cold Benguela current which travels down the West coast and the warm Agulhas or Mozambique current from the East coast. This location gives us access to both the Atlantic and Indian side of the Cape Peninsula and offers a fantastic variety of habitats and species to observe, study and conserve.

False Bay is one of the most varied and diverse areas in the world for marine life and plays host to an abundance of species large and small, from an eclectic array of colorful nudibranchs, sponges and sea anemones to mega-fauna species including the humpback whale, the seven gill shark and of course the iconic white shark. The False Bay area offers superb dive sites and a mixture of marine habitats from rocky reef, soft corals and wreck diving to kelp forests and off shore blue water diving.

As a Cape RADD student you will enroll in a fascinating and hugely rewarding program that will give you a hands on experience and meaningful contribution to the marine research projects taking place.

The field training and diver development program gives you an opportunity to be involved with valuable research projects, collecting vital data and gaining knowledge and understanding of the techniques, methods and challenges experienced in the field whilst working alongside field biologists and dive experts. Throughout this course you will also complete theoretical workshops on subjects relating to your practical training.





WHO IS THE FIELD COURSE FOR?

This program is perfect for the student or graduate with a biology or conservation interest looking to gain extra knowledge and field experience, learn new skills and build some real life experience on your CV. This is also the ideal course for a dive professional, newly trained dive master or dive instructor who would like to add more knowledge, dive skills and scientific insight to your repertoire allowing you to give so much more to your dive clients in the future.

However, all levels of experience and background from keen conservationists or SCUBA divers who want to gain a deeper understanding of the marine environment to biologists looking to gain knowledge and field experience to pursue a career in their chosen scientific field will benefit from this course.

If you would love to get involved but are not qualified to dive, that's not a problem, you can enroll in our PADI open water training course to be arranged at an extra cost prior to the start of your course.

The Cape RADD training program is a fantastic life experience, enhances career development and supplies students with great knowledge and skills which can be applied in a broad spectrum of careers.

IT'S NOT ALL WORK...

As well as your field biologist training, diving and data collection with Cape RADD, you will have the opportunity to explore and experience the beautiful city of Cape Town and its surroundings. Located only 40 km from the city center, you can climb the iconic Table Mountain, check out the incredible beaches, or just relax at the waterfront marina at one of the many restaurants and bars. Over the weekends you will have the opportunity to go further afield; maybe on a guided safari trip to a local game reserve, a world famous wine tasting experience in one of the wine regions or a visit to Robben Island to reflect on African history in the prison where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 27 years. There is so much to do and see in Cape Town!

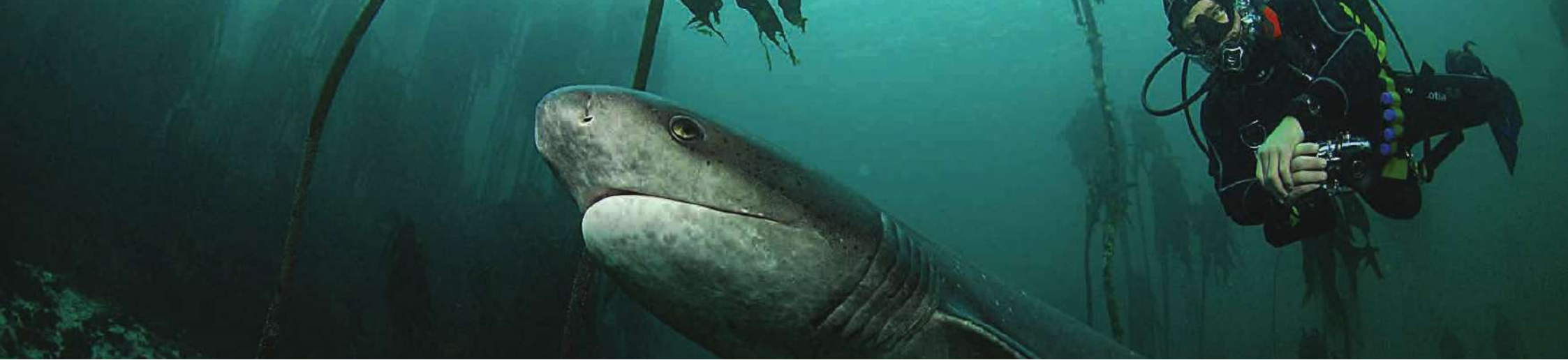


WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO LEARN AND EXPERIENCE DURING THE FIELD COURSE?

Here is a sample of what you can expect to gain from taking part in the Cape RADD course:

- Experience in working with field biologists and dive specialists
- Experience and understanding of a broad spectrum of research methodologies
- Practical insight into data collection techniques and analysis
- Comprehensive knowledge of the fish, invertebrates and coral species
- Understanding of threats and challenges to the local marine environment and researchers
- Experience in giving fun and educational conservation presentations – to tourists and local children
- Community outreach participation
- Further PADI dive qualifications, an advantage in Marine Science





WEEK 1:

This week focuses on dive training, all students will undergo a dive refresher and a receive a thorough introduction to the program.

- Induction and orientation
- Module on research methodologies and techniques
- Substrate identification, fish identification, invertebrate identification.
- Acclimatization/refresher/fun/research dives

WEEK 2:

This week introduces more of the Cape RADD research projects and involves survey dives and project background for the relevant research projects. Modules on research tools (R/GIS) begin.

- GIS workshop
- Research project/ survey dives
- Research vessel expedition
- Presentation selection and planning for Cape RADD Marine Night.
- Database input/ BRUV video analyses training

WEEK 3:

- Research project/ survey dives
- Research vessel expedition
- R workshop
- Informal presentation for Cape RADD Marine Night
- Introduction to free diving course
- Database input/ BRUV video analyses

WEEK 4:

- Research project/ survey dives
- Research vessel expedition
- Workshops (Biological knowledge, research techniques)
- Beach Clean
- Wrap up party: Braai(BBQ) and presentations

EXPERIENCE/ QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: No experience or qualifications required, however an interest in Marine Sciences, Oceanography or related subject is recommended OR Dive Professionals (Dive Master, Dive Instructor).

NATIONALITIES: This program is open to all nationalities (subject to visa requirements.)

TYPICAL HOURS: Monday-Friday; 6-8 hours per day; Weekends free for personal time and activities.





WHAT'S INCLUDED?

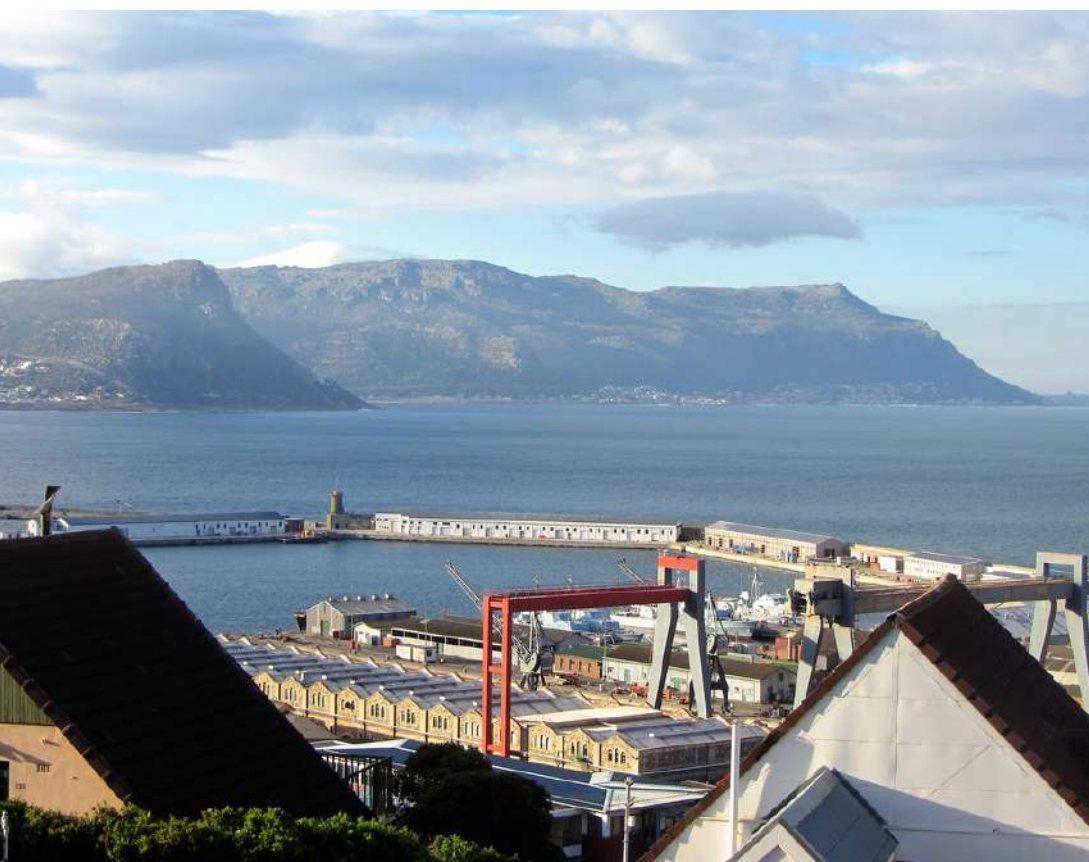
- 12X* shore dives
 - 14X* boat dives
 - 2X* research vessel expeditions
 - Equipment hire
 - 30 days accommodation (self-catered)
 - Transport between headquarters and accommodation
 - Airport transfer (on the day of arranged arrival)
 - Cape RADD course fees and Marine Protected Area permits
- * number of dives and boat trips are approximate, depending on weather conditions and other operational factors and may vary.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Flights
- Any necessary visas
- Food and drink
- Health and travel insurance which must cover SCUBA diving

ACCOMMODATION

Cape RADD partners with several select 5 star guesthouses between Glencairn and Simon's Town to accommodate our students. Each are central to Fish Hoek, Simon's Town, Kommetjie and Noordhoek and afford breathtaking views of False Bay. Various hiking and biking trails in the Table Mountain National Park are within close proximity. Simon's Town is a 5 minute drive away and offers activities such as shark cage diving, Boulders Beach penguin colony, SA Naval museum to name but a few. Cape Point Nature Reserve is just a little further along the scenic coastal route and is the celebrated meeting place of the Two Oceans. Simon's Town and Glencairn are perfectly situated to explore not only the scenic south but the Mother City, Cape Winelands and Whale Route.



FACILITIES

Cape RADD partners with Pisces Divers to share headquarters, facilities and equipment. The Pisces Dive center in Simon's Town has been operating as Cape Town's most popular dive center for over 20 years!

Pisces Divers is a true full-service dive center catering to divers of all experience levels. The large premises comprises of 200 square meters of shop space which includes a well-stocked retail space, a regulator servicing workshop with quick turn-around times, a large rental equipment section with a very broad range of Scubapro dive equipment, separate ladies and gents change rooms and bathrooms and lockers for clothes and personal effects while diving.

We have a 90 square meter mezzanine level comprising of a large 20 seater classroom where workshops and presentations will take place, and an instructor briefing and office area for dive briefing, data logging, and study space with internet access. There is also a custom designed 3 meter deep dive training pool which is salt-chlorinated and easy on the skin and eyes. There is also an outside hot water shower for rinsing off the sea water after a dive or pool training session.

We operate from two boats depending on the job in hand and number of students. We have an 8.2m Feral Rigid Inflatable Boat rated for 12 divers and two crew. We use the RIB for our inshore dives and training dives. We also have the option of a 9.7m Buttcats, which is similarly rated for 12 divers and two crew. The Buttcats are used for offshore pelagic birding and shark diving trips, and depending on student numbers it is used as our Research Vessel for various boat-based research project expeditions. Both boats are powered by Suzuki outboards and have Garmin radio and navigation systems.



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DIVE South Africa

