

## 21 things to do for a Hope Spot

### TAKE A SEA PLEDGE: Do One Thing for Algoa Bay



1- **Enjoy the sea...** The best way to feel responsible for our environment is by loving it. Go **swimming** in the waves. Take long **walks** on the beach. Take a **surf** lesson. Why not try out your balance on a Stand-Up Paddle board? For the more adventurous, learn how to kite surf or surf-ski! Or remember your younger years and **make a sand castle...**



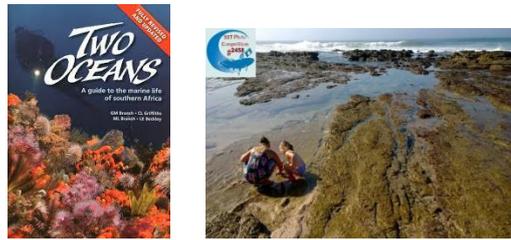
2 - Explore the amazing underwater world and its incredible creatures: **take a mask and a snorkel** and swim around the old slip way or at flat rocks. Or try a deeper dive with scuba gear!  
([www.prodive.co.za](http://www.prodive.co.za) or [www.odipe.co.za](http://www.odipe.co.za))



3- **Take pictures.** Although considered clichés, sunsets over the sea horizon remain breath-taking, as do sunrises and their promises. Take pictures of your kids splashing in rock pools or catching crabs, or of that old fisherman in the sunset. And share your clichés...



**4 - Turn over a small rock at low tide and wonder at the diversity of animals** that don't even have vertebras and are hiding under that rock! Take the time to remember that they evolved long before the dinosaurs. But be careful to replace the rock exactly how you found it, not to damage the homes



**5 - Do your own beach clean-ups.** Your dogs will enjoy it, and the shores and inhabitants will thank you



**6 - Learn about seabirds,** we have more than 50 species breeding or visiting our shores in Algoa Bay.

**7 - Be environmentally conscious when shopping.** Avoid, for example, buying over-packaged items. Reduce the use of plastic and recycle at home. It will eventually decrease the amount of plastic ending up in turtles' stomachs (see <http://www.greencycle.co.za> and <http://www.thewastetradecompany.co.za/>)



**8 - Talk about the sea and its conservation to those around you.** Not everyone is aware of the issues and their solutions, and often a few words to friends can change lives around us



**9 - Pick up flying plastic** in the street when you can. If you don't, it will probably end up at sea

**10 - Eat only fish that are green on the SASSI list** ([www.wwfsassi.co.za](http://www.wwfsassi.co.za)) or send the name of the fish as a text message to the number **079-499-8795**

**11** - Look for **shell middens** left behind by the first human inhabitants of our shores



**12** - **Take a boat ride** to enjoy the thrill of speed over the water, the feel of the salty and wet spray of the waves, hear the breath of the whales, and watch the waddle of the penguins



**13** - **Watch dolphins playing in the waves**

**14** - **Beach comb**. Take the time to look at the complexity of the beauty of a shell. Why not make art with drift wood or what you find?



**15** - Animals are fascinating, but also look carefully at other little things that give colour and vibrancy to the sea shores, such as **lichens** on the rocks, brave **daisies** and other plants on the dunes, and **seaweeds** in the rocky shore pools.



**16 - Be a citizen scientist!** Report your observations of any species of plants or animals that you wonder about on [www.ispot.org.za](http://www.ispot.org.za); upload your underwater pictures to [www.reefdiversity.co.za](http://www.reefdiversity.co.za); look out for turtles (<http://cmr.nmmu.ac.za/Sea-Turtle-Citizen-Science-Initiative>); help completing atlases ([http://adu.org.za/citizen\\_science.php](http://adu.org.za/citizen_science.php))

**17 - Take a trip to Bayworld** to marvel at their shell exhibition ([www.bayworld.co.za](http://www.bayworld.co.za))

**18 - Go fishing!** But responsibly. Respect size and bag limits, tag and release is even better. Contact SAIAB if you want to participate to their scientific program ([www.saiab.org.za](http://www.saiab.org.za), Dr Paul Cowley). Don't leave your fishing lines behind, and remove the ones you see. Talk to fellow fishermen about responsible fishing



**19 - Go to SAMREC** and learn about African penguins and other seabirds ([www.samrec.org.za](http://www.samrec.org.za))

**20 - Report wounded or oiled seabirds** to SAMREC (041 583 1830). Report whales dolphins or seals ashore, alive or dead, or these animals in trouble at sea to Bayworld stranding line (071 724 2122) or to Raggy Charters (073 15 222 77). Report rings of dead birds and their location to Dr Lorien Pichegru (078 844 3863). Save these numbers in your cell phone!

**21 - Watch Mission Blue movie** (<http://mission-blue.org/mission-blue-film/>)



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<http://www.sst.org.za/what-we-do/hope-spots/algoa-bay-hope-spot>

<https://www.facebook.com/algoabayhopespot>