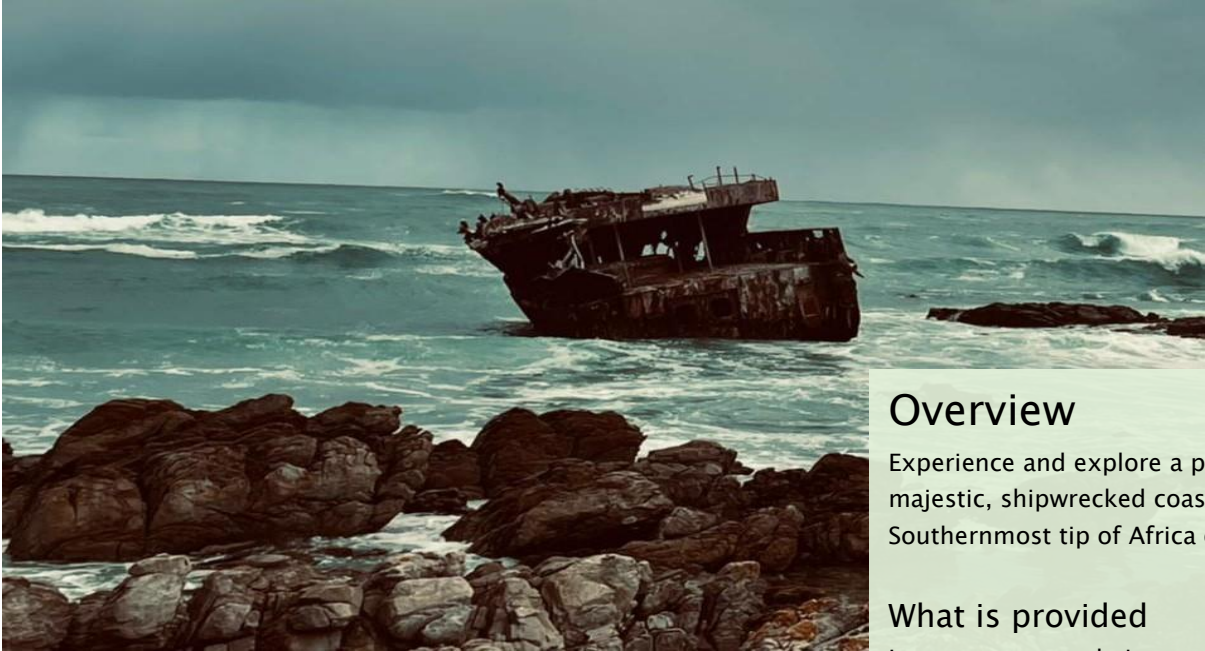




# Silent Steps

## TIPWRECK TRAIL



Join us on a 5-day, 4-night, 60km hiking adventure on the shores of the shipwrecked Indian Ocean, where hundreds of shipwrecks are strewn on the ocean floor- an underwater museum. One of these being the Brederode, owned by the Dutch East India Company, discovered untouched and before unseen, in 1998- 213 years after she sank in 1785, on her return voyage from China and Batavia, carrying a cargo of porcelain, tin, spices, tea, satin and gold. Eighty crew members made it to shore but 12 unfortunately went down with the ship. Come and share in some history, discoveries, fables and stories- all whilst hiking on some of the most pristine beaches this country has on offer.

The Tipwreck Trail starts and ends at the Southernmost Tip of Africa, at Cape Agulhas, situated 224km from Cape Town. Guests who are flying in to Cape Town can book the Silent Steps shuttle, from Cape Town International to L'Agulhas, at an additional cost of R1000 per person return.

This 60km trail, with sleepovers at Agulhas Rest Camp (Agulhas National Park) and Arniston, meanders a rocky coastline with unspoilt sandy beaches stretching as far as the eye can see. For the convenience of our hikers, we stay at the Agulhas Rest Camp for three nights, with transfers to the various departure points. The last evening, we stay at Arniston Beach Cottages, in the quaint and unassuming fishing village Arniston.

If you are looking for a hike that is not too challenging yet breathtakingly beautiful, loaded with information and history, well-structured and well organised, where you overnight in 3-star accommodation and treated like royalty by the Silents Steps crew, then this hike is for you!

### Overview

Experience and explore a part of the majestic, shipwrecked coastline of the Southernmost tip of Africa on foot!

### What is provided

- Luxury accommodation
- All meals including restaurants meals (Excluding meals on day 5)
- Shuttle service during the hike
- Wine tasting
- Entry fee at the Lighthouse
- Silent Steps promotional items

### What is not provided

- Drinks, cooldrinks and other beverages
- All Park fees
- Snacks & Ice
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner on day 5

### You must bring

- Small back pack
- Wild Card, if you have one
- Water if you don't drink tap water
- Bottles for water during your hike
- Cool box for your drinks
- Snacks
- Sunscreen
- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit





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### DAY 1 (7KM)

Rest Camp to Agulhas Lighthouse and Southernmost tip of Africa:

We meet at the SANPARKS office in Main Road L'Agulhus, opposite Potpourri coffee shop. From here we depart, in our own vehicles, to the Rest Camp where we unpack and prepare for our first short but very scenic 7km hike from the Rest Camp all the way to the Agulhas Lighthouse. We will climb the 71 steps leading to the top of the second oldest working lighthouse in Africa, operational since 1849. It is here, 31metres in the air, on top of a lighthouse overlooking the shipwrecked coastline, where our adventure begins. Once back on terra firma, we hike down to the Southernmost Point of Africa, along a wooden footpath, where you will have a photo opportunity before we head back, by shuttle, to the Rest Camp, close to Suiderstrand. En-route we stop at the wreck of the Meisho Maru, a Japanese fishing vessel which ran aground on the rocks during a storm in 1982. Early evening, we will enjoy a hearty supper prepared at the Rest Camp.



### DAY 2 (9KM)

Rest Camp to Aasfontein:

Armed with a freshly prepared breakfast pack, water and sunscreen, we will have an early morning departure to Aasfontein, some 9km from the Rest Camp.

Today's hike takes us along the coastline, past a National Heritage Site (Lord se Huis), over a short section of pebble beach and a bit of soft sand before we reach Brandfontein beach. The latter section is about 7km long and by the time we arrive there, we will have the tide in our favour and will walk on hard sand all the way to Aasfontein. The Silent Steps shuttle will await your arrival. From here we travel to Strandveld Vineyards, 39km from Aasfontein.

A brunch awaits us, especially prepared for us by a lady in the area, as the Vineyard does not have a restaurant. Brunch is followed by the tasting of 7 of Strandveld Vineyards' delightfully drinkable wines and the sharing of history about this very interesting area, before we make our way back to L'Agulhas past Struisbaai and a visit to the fascinating stingrays in the harbour.





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### DAY 3 (14km)

Struisbaai to De Mond:

Today we enjoy a scrumptious English breakfast and depart to Struisbaai, 15km from the Rest Camp. Here we commence our 14km beach hike to De Mond Nature Reserve- a Ramsar Wetland since 1986. A picnic, prepared by our support crew, will await you under the Yellowwood trees. We travel with the shuttle back to The Rest Camp for an afternoon of leisure, rest or swimming in a natural tidal pool. Supper will be enjoyed at one of the local restaurants in L'Agulhas.

### DAY 4 (16.6km)

De Mond- Arniston:

Today we pack our bags after our last night's stay at The Rest Camp and travel with our own cars to De Mond Nature Reserve. Hikers who travelled with their own cars to L'Agulhas, will follow the bus in convoy to De Mond, where the cars will be left for the duration of our hike today. We will transport you back from Arniston to your car later the afternoon, once we completed our hike. We will start our hike no later than 08h00. Breakfast packs will be supplied for today's hike. From De Mond we hike all the way to Arniston. Today is a 16.6km beach hike, including hiking on one of the longest, uninterrupted and pristine beaches in the Southern Hemisphere. Today can become challenging if the tide turns, which will result in a short section of hiking over dunes. As we near Arniston, we will pass the Waenhuiskrans Cave, which is only accessible during low tide. We hike all the way to the Arniston Hotel for a light lunch on the veranda overlooking the turquoise ocean. Tonight, we stay at the Arniston Beach Cottages and have a surprise supper awaiting us in the Arniston Village. Arniston's original name is Waenhuiskrans (directly translated, it means Wagon House Cliff). The name derives from the famous cave and the belief that a wagon, with a full span of oxen, can turn around inside. The name Arniston derives from the association with the English East Indiaman, the Arniston, (at the time operating as a transport/ hospital ship for the Royal Navy) which wrecked at Waenhuiskrans, on the razor-sharp Agulhas reef during a storm, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1815, which left only 6 survivors.

### DAY 5:

Early departure today for those who need to go to the Airport, the rest can sleep in and depart at 10:00am. Breakfast at the Arniston Hotel is an absolute must and so is visiting the wreck of the Arniston during low tide, 5km north of the Hotel.





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### Hike Rating:

Hikers should be fit enough to walk 17km in 4 hours. The hike is rated a 2/5, where 5 is extremely difficult

### Please Note:

- We are acutely aware of our footprint on our environment
- We save water
- We save electricity
- We support local business
- We buy local produce when/ where we provide meals
- We support the development of local talent and skills
- We leave only our footprints behind



*Experience and explore the majestic, shipwrecked coastline of the Southernmost tip of Africa, on foot!*



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