



Thema: Wassersport in Südafrika

**“This makes
them very
furious!”**

Wolfram Reiners is a world-class kiteboarder, the fastest sailor ever to fly under the German flag and the holder of the National Outright Speed Sailing Record for Germany. Remarkable, since, as he told us, he saw a kiteboarder for the first time in 2004. Much has changed since. Today, this exceptional sportsman with a PhD in Psychology, runs a Kiteboarding School in one of the Meccas of the sport: Cape Town. In perfect wind conditions, off some of the world's most breathtaking beaches, both beginners and professionals from all over the world between the ages of 10 and 70 are instructed by the experts of KITEKAHUNAS.

When I asked Wolf Reiners about the origin of the name of his Kiteboarding School, he responded: "Well, google it." Outch. This amiable Kahuna (I googled it) does not have time for chit chat. He is on the move, flying over the waves of the Atlantic Ocean. And he is serious about his vision of doing more than simply acquaint learners with the sport. "We used to do the usual 3-day IKO beginners course, but after a while I discovered that many students were not really interested in the sport, but were instead curious about doing something arbitrarily new and adventurous and often only wanted to be cool," says Wolf: "What I had in mind, was operating a school for students who are really serious about advancing in the beautiful sport of kitesurfing." This is the vision upon which KITEKAHUNAS- Advanced Kitesurfing School- was established in 2008. With an international team of six to eight training athletes, the school welcomes learners of all ages, mainly from Europe and the Americas. Wolf: "KITEKAHUNAS operates between mid-October until one week after Easter, in April- December and January being the peak season." Though the curriculum can be varied according to individual needs, a two-week crash course forms the core programme: "Our crash course is designed for people who really want to learn kitesurfing. They can come to Cape Town and leave as real, independent kitesurfers after a two-week holiday," assures Wolf.

Perfect Surfing Conditions

For wave kitesurfing enthusiasts there is no better spot to experience the thrill than Cape Town. Wolf: "Here we have the ideal conditions for learning and exercising wave kitesurfing, which is safer and quicker to learn than freeride or freestyle kitesurfing. This is why everyone starts out with wave kitesurfing." Apart from the beginners' crash course, the school also offers advanced freeride/freestyle courses in jumps, rotation and unhooked tricks, these KITEKAHUNAS Wave Camps have become particularly popular. Wolf explains: "Our Wave Camp is an unforgettable experience for one or two weeks of wave kitesurfing. To give our participants complete peace of mind, accommodation and transport are included. All water sessions are supervised by experienced wave kitesurfers and individual lessons can be arranged in-between." The Wave Camps offer nothing less than wave kitesurfing in some of the best wave spots and wave downwind passages in the world, unless you are unlucky to hit a no-wind day (a chance of around 10%), in which case KITEKAHUNAS arranges a variety of excursions, including a safari to view the "Big Five," paragliding tandem flights

over the picturesque Cape Peninsula, guided tours through the city of Cape Town, visits to wine farms in the region, or trips to the famous most southern point of Africa, Cape Point. All these excursions are included in an already astoundingly low price, accommodation included, where participants can choose between two options. Wolf: "We offer holiday apartments in our KITEKAHUNAS Beach House as well as the neighbouring Luxury Kitesurfing Guest House, which are both located right on Sunset Beach." The Luxury Guest House offers a few extras, as Wolf explains: "We have a kitchen with a health food chef. Meals can be ordered in the morning according to your wishes. Most rooms have a view to the beach, which is a mere 40 meters away."



Wolfram Reiners founded KITEKAHUNAS in 2008, a mere four years after having fallen in love with the sport himself

For those with enough energy left after a hard day's surfing, Cape Town offers an unrivaled variety of night life thrills, as Wolf tells us: "There are thousands of things to do. During the day, you could simply relax in a restaurant or pub, or lie on the beach and see Cape Town's beautiful people. The nightlife is abundant, basically around the clock. So it's no wonder that the city has been elected by the members of the world's biggest travel community, 'Tripadvisor,' as the best destination in the world, for several years in a row now." Advanced students usually bring their own equipment, Wolf tells us, whereas beginners mostly purchase their equipment during their kitesurfing beginners crash course: "Buying equipment in South Africa is cheaper than in Europe and the USA," he says: "We advise our students during the

first three days of their course- during which time we provide the equipment- and we offer new or used equipment at a special price for participants. We can guarantee the best prices, or your money back, should you find a better offer."

Competitive Dolphins

Wolf has nothing but contempt for unfounded rumours about the danger of shark attacks off the South African coast: "There is NO problem with sharks at our kitesurfing beaches. The stories about shark attacks mostly stem from European media seeking attention. All we know is that sharks have never been a problem for any kitesurfers here in Cape Town. Our school kids even learn surfing during their sport education at these beaches and there has never been a single incident with sharks." Having said that, encounters with the abundant sealife are something participants can look forward to during their training courses at KITEKAHUNAS: "We have a very rich marine life around Cape Town," says Wolf: "due to the clean water. During kitesurfing, you

meet seals almost every day. If you are lucky, you will kite with dolphins, and if you are very lucky, you will encounter a big whale, which is always magic. All of them- seals, dolphins and whales- are big fans of kitesurfing. Often, they stop and watch!" Especially dolphins playfully compete with kitesurfers: "Here they sometimes win," Wolf says, "but when they try to get into a competition with who can jump higher, they obviously lose. This makes them very furious!"

André Fox

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On no-wind days, KITEKAHUNAS organises excursions for participants of the Wave Camps, like going up Table Mountain and enjoying an unforgettable view of the entire Cape Peninsula