

A Langabaan Interlude

By

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Wendy and I managed a ten day get away to Cape Town at the end of April to stay with friends. Ten days of perfect weather. Five days in Cape Town and five at Langebaan Lagoon.

Situated 120 km up the west coast, it forms part of Saldhana Bay. The lagoon itself covers 20 km² and is up to 4 km wide in places. We stayed in a private self-catering with owners downstairs and guests in a two bedroom flat above. From their front steps to the water's edge is only six meters. We were able to moor the duck to a buoy just in front of the house so were saved the hassle of launching every day.

We were unfortunately flying blind as neither of us had been there before. We did however try very hard but even the locals returned home with empty hatches so I can say the going was tough. The water was a rather cold 14 degrees so when you first start wading you speak with a squeaky voice then numbness sets in and you don't worry anymore. We fished a lot from Pete's duck witch got us around very ably on this huge piece of water.

It appeared that we were here at the wrong time being springs. Word has it that neaps are a better tide because there is less water movement during the tide change.

The bay experiences direct wave action from the sea through a huge mouth, whereas the lagoon only has tidal action due to its situation.

An average depth of the areas we travelled in was about eight meters in the lagoon but the bay is twenty in sections. When the tide pushes in or pulls out we found a lot of huge clumps of weed rolling in and out and they foul the anchor rope or your lines badly.

The species of fish you can expect to catch readily here in season are sandshark ,shad up to 4kgs on a good day ,stumpnose, galjoen ,snoek (in the bay) ,various species of small sharks ,yellowtail ,garrick ,white steenbrass ,cape moonies and kob. There are a lot more but these are the species that are attracted to a fly. The predominant flies are clousers and charlies mainly in chartreuse or white or a combo of the two.

We hope to be able to get here again next year perhaps at a different time to coincide with fishing season but will the fish play our game or not. We have also discussed that if we can go down next year we might do a trip to the Breede River which by all accounts is also a great venue.

While we were in Cape Town we had the privilege of spending two hours or so with Craig Thom in his little acre of heaven attaché to his home. Picture this ,arrive at a quaint wood and glass door that leads into Netbooks full of reading matter enough to make your eyes water .Lets go upstairs and have a mug of fresh coffee says Craig and leads the way. We have just arrived at Stream X. This shop contains fly fishing thingies of all shapes and sizes and makes our local tackle shops look quite empty. I bought a few items here that I haven` t seen for ages. If you are battling to find stuff give him a call and you will have whatever in a day or two. Thank you, Craig for a very pleasant morning.

Hopefully Pete, now local in Cape Town can get up here again and learn a few tricks for next time and I can also read up a bit more on the venue.
