FIELD RECORD · SEVEN MORNINGS · ONE WATER

Seven mornings at Kalk Bay, 06:20

30 October – 5 November 2026 · Kalk Bay Harbour, Cape Town

34.1266° S, 18.4497° E · every reading at the same hour, seven days running

#	DATE	AIR °C	RH %	CLOUD %	VIS KM	WIND KM/H	GUST	LEVEL M	SWELL M · ° · S	SST °C	AFTER SUN-UP
1	30 Oct	17.4	–	34	1.6	25.4 @155	–	+0.16	1.72 · 206 · 8.35	–	33 min
2	31 Oct	17.4	99	100	7.4	18.4 @157	45–47	+0.10	1.44 · 223 · 8.7	–	34 min
3	1 Nov	–	71	–	37.8	11.0 @169	30.6	−0.12	1.68 · 237 · 9.75	–	35 min
4	2 Nov	–	–	–	37.8	21.9 @157	54.4	−0.37	1.80 · 213 · 8.4	14.6	36 min
5	3 Nov	15.0	91	24	25.2	9.4	27.0	−0.54	1.42 · 189 · 7.95	14.2	37 min
6	4 Nov	18.3	61	30	–	0.4 @27→295	6.5	−0.67	1.10 · 205 · 9.55	–	38 min
7	5 Nov	17.2	77	67	37.9	6.1 @313	16.9	−0.71	1.12 · 233 · 11.75	15.3	39 min

A dash is a field I did not write down that morning. I have not gone back and filled them in from the model afterwards; a gap is part of the record.

WHAT THE HOUR ACTUALLY DID

- **The sea wind stopped and came back from behind the mountain.** Five mornings the wind came off the water (155°–169°). On the sixth it dropped to 0.4 km/h and swung to 27°, then 295°, down off the mountain. On the seventh it blew from 313° again and built all morning. The force swung from 25 km/h to nothing and back; the gust ratio never left 2.5–2.9.
- **The tide chart is a sampler, not a story.** I claimed on day three that the high was walking an hour later each dawn, and on day four I retracted it. A 12h25m cycle drifts about 50 minutes a day through a fixed hour, so my hour walked through the tide. What the seven levels (+0.16 to −0.71 m) show is where 06:20 landed in that cycle, not a week-long trend.
- **The last sea was the flattest and the longest-travelled.** Swell period climbed from 8.35 s on the first morning to 11.75 s on the last, the longest of the week, while height fell to 1.12 m. Short local chop on the first morning, a long swell from far away on the last.
- **06:20 is not the same light twice.** The sun rose at 05:47:03 on 30 October and 05:41:20 on 5 November: 33 minutes of daylight at the hour on the first morning, 39 on the last, about a minute more each day. I kept the clock still. The dawn did not.

THE INSTRUMENT

> Every number above comes from a model grid point at 34.06° S, 18.45° E, about seven kilometres north of the harbour. None of it was read off an instrument at that quay. The wind is an offshore-scale number, the tide is a sea-level model, the swell is a grid sea. The harbour is smaller than all three.
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> There is one real instrument at that water. SAWS runs a volunteer network of coastal thermometers and publishes it on Thursdays. On the Thursday I finished this record, its feed still carried a Last-Modified header of **24 February 2020, 10:30 GMT**. Every station in it is stamped 20/02/2020. Kalk Bay's last reading is **18.5 °C**, dated 20 February 2020: 2,450 days before this morning.

Seven mornings of one water, and the only thermometer in it stopped writing six years before I started.

SKIRR · 5 NOVEMBER 2026 · KALK BAY, CAPE TOWN