

# Your Itinerary

## 1032C Photography Enthusiasts Tour with Darren Jew 31 Aug – 11 Sept 2012 (6 guests only)

<b>Friday 31 August</b>	Check in to Talau House – free day to relax and catch up on sleep! 6.30 pm Welcome & Tour Briefing 7.00pm Dinner
<b>Saturday 1 Sept</b>	7.00 – 8.00am Breakfast 8.15am Transfer to Dolphin jetty 8.30 am Board “Dream Catcher” and depart to the whales. ‘How to swim with the whales’ & boat briefing. Lunch & snorkeling 4.00pm +/- Arrive Dolphin jetty – transfer to Talau House 7.00 Dinner at Talau House
<b>Sunday 2 Sept</b>	8.00 – 9.00 am Breakfast <u>Day at leisure:</u> 4.30pm <u>Photography session with Darren</u> 7.00 Dinner at Talau House
<b>Monday 3 Sept to Saturday 8 Sept</b>	7.00 – 8.00am Breakfast 8.15am Transfer to Dolphin jetty 8.30 am Board “Dream Catcher” – whales, lunch & snorkeling 4.00pm +/- Arrive Dolphin jetty – transfer to Talau House 7.00 Dinner at Talau House or Neiafu
<b>Sunday 9 Sept</b>	8.00 – 9.00 am Breakfast <u>Day at leisure:</u> 4.30pm <u>Photography session with Darren</u> 7.00 Dinner at Talau House
<b>Monday 10 Sept</b>	7.00 – 8.00am Breakfast 8.15am Transfer to Dolphin jetty 8.30 am Board “Dream Catcher” – whales, lunch & snorkeling 4.00pm +/- Arrive Dolphin jetty – transfer to Talau House 7.00 Farewell Dinner at Talau House
<b>Tuesday 11 Sept</b>	Breakfast & completion of tour. Arrange transfer

We do our best to keep to this time-table; however this can sometimes be difficult in Tonga!



On your arrival in Tongatapu (Nuku'alofa) you will be met by our driver Edward (photo on left) and transferred to either the domestic terminal or your overnight accommodation you have booked with us and back to the airport for your domestic flight to Vava'u.

We recommend that you be in Vava'u before lunch time on Friday 31 August, so if you are traveling from Auckland Air NZ or Australia with Pacific Blue on Thursday 30 August – you need to be on the first domestic flight to Vava'u which departs at 8am – it is a 50min flight to Vava'u. If you are flying Air Pacific from Europe/LAX via Fiji, you will need to be on the new Nadi-Tonga/Vava'u flight on Thursday 30 August.

You will be met by one of our WhaleSwim™ team on arrival in Vava'u and transferred to Talau House. This season Darren will be staying with you at Talau House. All meals are catered for – however if the group would like to have dinner at a restaurant in town on occasion, that will be arranged. Tim & Theresa (your host/cook), are famous for their friendly hospitality and Theresa for fabulous food. They are the previous owners of Reef Resort. The apartment at Talau House is beautiful – (a reflection of Reef Resort design and quality). Four bedrooms and 2 bathrooms (quality fittings and wet shower), large living area has comfortable lounge furniture and a large 8-seater dining table, unusual artwork with a large fridge for beverages!

There are 3 decks overlooking the lush garden outdoor covered dining area with a BBQ – perfect for breakfast dining surrounded by an abundance of fruit trees i.e. papaya, bananas, passionfruit, limes etc plus an organic vege garden! It is situated not far from town in a quiet street overlooking the Vaipua estuary. A peaceful sanctuary after a busy day on the water!

During the 8 days on the water with the whales, we have a break for lunch and there will be opportunities for you to snorkel reefs and caves and on some days we have the opportunity to beach comb and explore beautiful uninhabited islands situated in the humpback whale nursery. You will also have the opportunity to snorkel through Mariners Cave and experience the wonders of Swallows Cave.

We are flexible on the time we take for lunch. We aim to get you back to Talau House with plenty of time for a shower an opportunity to edit and process your best photos of the day - before dinner.

**This tour has 6 participants** – 3 people in the water with the whales each swim plus Darren as your guide. This allows extra space in the water for photo opportunities and the 3 people topside can take surface photos and assist each other getting camera equipment safely on and off the boat.

**Tour includes:** 11 nights' accommodation Talau House and all meals, all post-whaleswim photo-sessions, 8 boat trips to the whales with lunch, education and guidance in the water, camera & photographic advice from Darren Jew (optional), snorkeling pristine reefs and caves, 2 days at leisure, daily transfers to/from jetty, airport transfers in Vava'u and between terminals in Tongatapu. PLUS a 900x600 canvas Giclée print of the image of your choice incl shipping. (Choose your own image, or one of Darren's)

**Tour does not include:** , International & domestic airfares, travel insurance, photography equipment, snorkeling equipment and wetsuit/vest, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, activities on leisure days.

**Cost: Per person: AUD\$4,960 per person**



**Darren & Rae look forward to sharing your expedition with the whales!!**

*WhaleSwim Adventures is an eco-tourism operator dedicated to the protection of the Tongan environment and the continued recovery and population growth of the Southern Pacific Humpback whale and the conservation of the environment and the culture in Tonga.*

## Terms & Conditions of Booking a WhaleSwim™ Adventures Tour

- Online Book your Tour reservations will be held for 14 days. The non-refundable deposit of AUD\$1500 for 7, 9 & 10-day and AUD\$750 for 4 day tours is required within 14 days to confirm a reservation.
- Payment (Australian Dollars only) in full is required 70 days prior to your WhaleSwim™ adventure and is non-refundable.
- Re-scheduling and substitution of guests is permitted with approval of WhaleSwim™ Adventures.
- A Liability Waiver must be signed by each guest & the original posted to our office, within 14 days of booking your WhaleSwim™ Adventures tour.
- Travel Insurance - which includes Trip, Airfare Cancellation and Accident - is mandatory, otherwise a No Liability Insurance Waiver must be signed.
- All rates and conditions are subject to change. If payments are not received at the designated times, WhaleSwim™ Adventures, reserves the right to sell those spaces in question with forfeiture of all monies to date.
- The booking is binding and all payments are non-refundable.
- Prices may change due to currency fluctuation, schedule changes or circumstances beyond the control of WhaleSwim™ Adventures
- All tours are paid for in Australian dollars only.
- These are ecological holidays, Whaleswim™ Adventures reserves the right to ask any participants to leave the group should he/she behave in a way that is insensitive to the whales, the environment, local people, our staff or other group members. No refund will be given.
- Days on the water are strictly 8.30am from Neiafu jetty to 5pm back at Neiafu Jetty .
- Should bad weather prevent our whale watching vessel NOT to go out on a scheduled 'whale watching' day, no refunds or an extra day whale watching will be offered by Whaleswim™ Adventures.
- Children under 13 years old are not accepted on our tours
- If the minimum booking of 5 people on our 6-guest tour is not reached 10 weeks prior to departure of each expedition, then WhaleSwim™ has the right to cancel the expedition and refund any monies paid to them or transfer guests to another expedition. Any airfares booked and paid for by the guest should be covered by their own travel insurance.
- WhaleSwim™ tours can only be referred through travel agents, and can only be booked directly with WhaleSwim™ Adventures

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