

Your Itinerary

1042B Paradise Islands Adventure – a Tongan Experience 5 – 13 September 2012

Get ready for a great time with the WhaleSwim™ Adventures Team
and the South Pacific Humpback Whales of Tonga!!!!

Wednesday 5 Sept	12.00pm	Welcome Lunch – Briefing & Welcome lunch
	2.00pm	Check in & Board catamaran 'Thalassa' – boat briefing
	7.00pm	Dinner
Thursday 6 Sept	7.00 – 8.15 am	Breakfast
	8.30 am	Board "Makaira" - Boat & How to Swim with the Whales Briefing - out with the whales, lunch & snorkeling
	4.15 pm	Arrive 'Thalassa' out in the whale nursery.
	7.00pm	Dinner
Friday 7 Sept	7.00 – 8.15 am	Breakfast
	8.30 am	Board "Makaira" - out with the whales, lunch & snorkeling
	4.15 pm	Arrive 'Thalassa' out in the whale nursery.
	7.00pm	Dinner
Saturday 8 Sept	7.00 – 8.15 am	Breakfast
	8.30 am	Board "Makaira" - out with the whales, lunch & snorkeling
	4.15 pm	Arrive 'Thalassa' out in the whale nursery.
	7.00pm	Dinner
Sunday 9 Sept	8.30 – 9.30 am	Breakfast – pack bags & collect bar bill
		Day at Leisure
		Transfer to Port Wine Guest House
		<u>Traditional Tongan 'Umu' (Feast) at Port Wine Guest House</u>
Monday 10 Sept	7.00 – 8.00 am	Breakfast
	8.15am	Transfer to Dolphin Jetty
	8.30 am	Board "Makaira" - whales, lunch & snorkeling
	5.00 pm	Arrive Dolphin Jetty – transfer to Port Wine
		Free evening – to explore a variety of cafes & restaurants in Neiafu.
Tuesday 11 Sept	7.00 – 8.00 am	Breakfast
	8.15am	Transfer to Dolphin Jetty
	8.30 am	Board "Makaira" - whales, lunch & snorkeling
	5.00 pm	Arrive Dolphin Jetty – transfer to Port Wine
		Free evening – to explore a variety of cafes & restaurants in Neiafu.
Wednesday 12 Sept	7.00 – 8.00 am	Breakfast
	8.15am	Transfer to Dolphin Jetty
	8.30 am	Board "Makaira" - whales, lunch & snorkeling
	5.00 pm	Arrive Dolphin Jetty – transfer to Port Wine
	7.00pm	Farewell Dinner
Thursday 13 Sept	7.00	Breakfast – pack bags and check out
		End of tour – arrange transfers to airport

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

Our boat and skipper are chartered from 8.30am – 5pm each day. It is a 20 – 50 min boat trip to/from “Thalassa’ out in the whales nursery, therefore the boat pick up times have to allow for this.



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.

You need to be in Vava'u before Lunch time on Wednesday 5 Sept, so if you are traveling **from Auckland Air NZ or Australia with Pacific Blue on Tuesday 4 Sept – you will 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 Mon 3 Sept.

You will be met by one of our WhaleSwim team in Vava'u transferred to the town of Neiafu. You are free to have breakfast, explore the town, visit the local market, shop and check out the special WhaleSwim t-shirts available at Cindy's Tropical Tease shop. At 12.30pm we meet for a Welcome Lunch and briefing for the rest of your time with us and the whales. **Around 2.30pm** you can check in and board the catamaran . During your 4 days on “Thalassa’, you will spend a night at different safe anchorages among the beautiful islands of Vava'u.

During the 6 days on the water, 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 your accommodation with plenty of time for a snorkel or kayak, shower and relax before dinner.

Tour includes: Welcome Lunch, 4 night's accommodation at the Port Wine Guest House with a traditional Tongan Umu Feast & 4 night's aboard the 46ft catamaran “Thalassa’ with all meals, 6 boat trips to the whales with lunch, education and guidance in the water, snorkeling pristine reefs and caves, 1 day at leisure, airport to resort transfers in Vava'u, airport to airport transfers in Vava'u and Tongatapu.

Tour does not include: International airfares to Tonga and domestic airfares in Tonga, breakfast & lunch on Wed 5 Sept, lunch & activities on leisure day, 2 evening meals, travel insurance, snorkeling equipment and wetsuit/vest, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Cost: Twin Share only: AUD\$3,850 per person



Rae and the WhaleSwim Team 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-day and AUD\$700 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 skipper, staff or other group members. No refund will be given.*
- *Days on the water are strictly 8.30 am 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 bookings of 8 people on our 12-guest tours and 6 people on our 8-guest tours are 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*

Contact the WhaleSwim Team in Neiafu Vava'u

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