



# "Whales Tails"

Newsletter March 2008



## From your Tour Director . . . .



Hello to you all!  
At the end of each season in Tonga, I get so excited about sharing the season's highlights with you all and can't wait to get back to New Zealand to write the newsletter. BUT, each year, I seem to hit the ground running, with the next seasons, tours to cost and schedule and all their contents to book – then

Christmas and the summer holidays (down under) are upon us, then this year, a new Booking Manager to train (you will meet Lynda later in the newsletter!) and here it is March and have just got to it!

Running all aspects of this small and intimate eco-tour business, is a pleasure and I feel blessed to be living my passion and being able to share it with so many great people from around the world. Even after 9 years, I sometimes still can't believe it!

### Our season in Tonga 2007

I arrived in Vava'u for the 3 month season mid-July to be greeted by the usual 'new seasons arrivals' from the Antarctic. This always is a great time to be there to swim with the whales, the humpbacks arrive from late June and congregate around Vava'u for a few weeks before dispersing off to other island groups PLUS there are fewer whale-watching boats on the water than in the middle of the season, so we tend to get more time in the water with them!  
**SO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER BOOKING OUR 25 JULY – 4 AUGUST 'PARADISE ISLANDS EXPERIENCE' TOUR!**



**This photo was taken on 25 July 2007 – we spent over 2 hours with these 3 male humpbacks – as you see – they smiled for the camera – it was a great feeling!**

We had guests from as far away as France, USA and the UK and as always, lots of Australians, who are always great fun! The weather was not great this season, but the whales don't care and our guests were real troopers on wet and windy days. It was certainly unusual weather for the 'dry' season in Tonga!!

For the first time, we encountered 'entangled' whales on 2 different occasions and another was spotted by crew on another boat on another day. This happens during migration – usually from long-lines, fishing nets or lobster pot lines up the coast of New Zealand. See more info later in the newsletter.

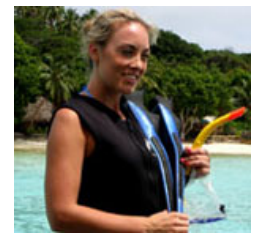
There were many more tourists in Vava'u this season to swim with the whales – it seems more and more people around the world are hearing about this amazing experience. Unfortunately, the tourism infrastructure in Tonga is not yet

set up to cope and that many people. After spending hundreds or even thousands of dollars to get there, some visitors experienced disappointment with either their whale experience or not being able to get in the water with the whales at all for different reasons. We had many people wanting to get on our boats as our reputation locally is way up there! BUT we were fully booked and sadly could not take any extra guests. This is why we offer 'packaged' tours. With the local Day Trip price at TOP\$250 per person without lunch and no guarantee to swim with the whales, our tours are a bargain with so many inclusions and we guaranteed the 'stated' days on the water with the whales. Unlike other Pacific Islands, Vava'u is not a cheap place to stay or to drink and eat either. To avoid disappointment I recommend that you seriously consider joining one of our tours with our professional and experienced team to insure the best possible experience with the humpback whales in Vava'u.

Having the best reputation locally and internationally we host TV crews and travel journalists each season. . . .

### Television Shows!

We had a great Irish film crew, Gerald (Director), Catherine (on left-Presenter – at Blue Lagoon Resort) and Mark (camera man), from the TV series "No Frontiers" join us for 5 days in October and the show was televised in Ireland on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008. They were in Africa early last year filming wildlife and met up with the Australian 'Getaway' film crew. They told them that swimming with us and the humpback whales in Tonga was the best program they ever filmed – so Catherine was on the phone to me as soon as she got back to Ireland to book the crew! If you missed it, they will be televising it again during the Irish summer, so stay tuned – we will let you know when! To watch the program online go to <http://www.rte.ie/travel/nofrontiers/20080101.htm>



**The Whaleswim Adventures program on the Australian travel show 'Getaway'** screened again in Australia as among the 'BEST ADVENTURES' show – you can watch the show on their website at <http://getaway.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=87143>

then click the **Watch Video** icon just beneath the whale photo. It's a great video and shows the kind of encounters you may experience on your tour with us. PLUS some footage at Blue Lagoon Resort, one of the wonderful resort our guests stay at.

**Australia's ABC "Foreign Correspondent" & NZ's TVNZ "Sunday"** program screened a story "Kill Whales or Swim with them?" produced by Shannon Jones late in 2007. Shannon was aboard our boat for several days and interviewed some of our guests, our Photography Guide, Scott Portelli and our humpback whale researcher, Libby Eyre.



You can view some of the footage at <http://media.smh.com.au/?rid=35613&sy=smh&source=undefined> Her story gives you a good idea of what we do and the local issues with the whales in Tonga. It really worth a look!

That's it from me!!

Enjoy our newsletter and I look forward to sharing the wonders of Vava'u and the humpback whales with you soon.

**Rae Gill**

**Tour Director, WhaleSwim Adventures**

## Why WhaleSwim Adventures is the ONLY tour company to join for your "Swim with Humpback Whales" Experience in Tonga!

### What makes us different!!!

- WhaleSwim Adventures is the **ONLY** whale-swimming eco-tours in Tonga.
- **ONLY** tours with guides experienced in whale behaviour and trained in safety practices.
- **ONLY** tours with boat crew with First Aid and Dive Rescue qualifications
- **ONLY** company that does Humpback Whale education and prepares guests to swim with the whales so whales are not harassed and guests are safe.
- **ONLY** tours with nights based on beautiful paradise islands out in the whale nursery.
- **ONLY** tours that take care of guests from the moment they arrive in Tonga til they leave. (Getting around Tonga is not an easy feat at times!)
- **ONLY** tours that provide FREE filtered drinking water . . . to keep our guests well & saves 1000's of plastic bottles going into the environment
- **ONLY** company that donates 10% of profits go to whale conservation and educating Pacific students for further education in Marine Sciences
- Being the most professional and trusted tour operators in Tonga, Whaleswim Adventures is always chosen as the **ONLY** tour business to be filmed for travel programs such as 'The Great Outdoors' Channel 7, travel program Australia, 'Getaway' Channel 9, Travel program Australia, 'Great Ocean Adventures' UK, 'Foreign Correspondent' ABC Australia, 'Along the International Dateline' Germany, 'No Frontiers' Travel program Ireland.
- As an eco-tour business, our focus is always on taking care of the environment and supporting the local culture during our tours; we are the **ONLY** tour company that contributes to the local communities, schools and the hospital by donating much needed books and stationery, reading glasses and medicines. We also ask our guests to get involved and contribute by bring educational supplies instead of 'tipping' (which rarely helps communities in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries).
- **ONLY** tours that include meals, taxis to restaurants – therefore **NO HIDDEN COSTS!**
- We cater for special diets (as much as we can in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country!)
- **ONLY** packaged tours that have a Videographer aboard for a day filming YOU with the whales - DVD of 'a day with the whales' available for purchase.

### In Summary



After 9 years experience our whale-loving Team makes sure the whales we swim with are happy to have

us in the water with them, we are totally focused on both YOU and the WHALES having the best and safest experience of each other every day over the days you are with us. Swimming with humpback whales is not like whale watching from the boat! The humpback whale are in the wild – some whales are curious and allow you in the water with them others don't. We honour this!

If you want to experience your whaleswimming with a company that really cares and is dedicated to making sure YOU have a hassle-free holiday and the possible best experience swimming with whales in Vava'u – then we do!

## HUGE THANK YOU'S!

A special heart-felt thanks to all our guests who carried and sent books, stationery and medicines for the kids in Tonga in 2007- some had to pay excess baggage fees too! You may never realise what a huge contribution you have made to so many kids in Vava'u, when a better education may be the only way that gives them more 'choices' in their lives. MALO 'AUPITO! (THANK YOU!)

### The WhaleSwim Team for 2008

We have a few new members in the team this season!

In our office in New Zealand, **Lynda Johnson** joins us to take care of our tour enquiries and your bookings. Lynda grew up in Dallas, Texas, USA and has lived in NZ for 20+ years. She joined us in Tonga in 2006 to meet our Tongan Team members, to get to know what we do and the logistics of getting you easily around Tonga and Vava'u. So you will be well taken care of.



**Scott Portelli** – who has been our Photography Tour Guide for the past 5 seasons, is off to film the wildlife and beauty of the Arctic while we are in Tonga, so **Darren Jew** – 'professional wildlife photographer extraordinaire' is back with us to guide our Photography groups, after 5 seasons. Darren was named the 2007 Canon/AIPP Australian Science, Environment and Nature Photographer of the Year.



**Annah Evington**, will (hopefully and fingers crossed!) be back to guide a few of 2 groups during August, **Kris Madden** (2007 Australian Travel journalist of the year!) - will be



back in the Team for the 4<sup>th</sup> season during Sept/October. The new members of the Team are Aussie, **Sam Johnstone** and Kiwi **Janet McIver** who were both guests last year, **Chrissy Jephcott**, (another Aussie) who has been a guest for the past 3 seasons will join us for 3 weeks during August, and **Sarah Coleman**, a Kiwi who was one of our Martine Sciences students 2 years ago.



Like me, they have all fallen in love with Vava'u, our Tongan families and of course, the magnificent humpback whales, they re-organise their lives and



some take their annual leave (plus some without pay!!) from their 'real jobs' to be there with us! And let's not forget, our local 11 year old Tongan 'whale & ocean-lover' – Tupou Tongia, will join us on



our boats on as many days as she can. She has wanted to swim with the whales since she was 6 years old and finally did it last year! You will enjoy her passion and enthusiasm for the sea and all that live within it!



We all look forward to sharing great days on and in the water with you and the magnificent humpback whales!! (Tupou on her first swim with the whales!)

**Lynda, Darren, Annah, Kris, Sam, Chrissy, Janet, Sarah, Rae and Tupou**

## From our Team. . .



**Darren Jew**  
**Wildlife Photographer**  
**2007 Canon/AIPP Australian**  
**Science, Environment and**  
**Nature Photographer of the**  
**Year**

*Threatened Species Category*  
*winner, ANZANG Nature and*

*Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards 2006*

### Shooting whales, in the nicest possible way.

Your first few glimpses of humpbacks underwater will be saved in your mind forever. If you want to share your experiences with others back home you might want to consider bringing a camera along on your WhaleSwim Adventure. Different people want different things from their photography, so here are some tips for helping you save those experiences on that other type of memory!

No matter what level of picture-taking experience you have, there is a digital camera that will be the right choice for you. Generally speaking, if you have never taken a picture underwater, put yourself one level down the experience ladder from where you consider yourself as a land-lubber-photographer. Remember that being in the water with the whales you will be out of your usual element, so a camera that is a little easier to operate than you are used to is a good choice.

**If you're an absolute novice**, and any image that shows something that looks like a whale is your goal you could consider a couple of single-use / disposable waterproof film cameras. The next step up from here would be one of the new waterproof digital camera, or a point and shoot digital camera with a simple waterproof housing built by the camera's manufacturer. If you own a digital point and shoot camera already, check to see if there is a housing available for your model. The most limiting factor for these cameras is their lack of a wide-angle lens meaning you will have difficulty getting all the whale in the shot, but you will get great shots of faces and tails when they swim by.

**Keen Happy Snappers** might want something more than a simple point and shoot camera, and there are a couple of specialist manufacturers producing housings for the more advanced all-in-one digital compacts. You will be spending a bit extra but the advantage of these systems is that you can usually add an additional wide-angle lens converter to the outside of the housing, giving you a much greater field of view and more chance to get the whole whale in the picture. Consider the following options

**Land-based SLR shooters** might be tempted to go all-out and purchase an expensive housing for their camera. Making the most of the quality your camera is capable is a big commitment in many areas - expense, learning-curve, handling and operation. Without significant practice and being totally at-ease with your gear's preparation and use, you do risk spoiling your trip. You might instead consider stepping one rung down the ladder for our underwater pics, to a housed compact with a wide-angle converter.

**Experienced Underwater shooters** should simply bring their wide-angle kit.

**No matter which kit you bring**, it won't include flash, as you are not allowed to use flash near the whales.

Consider purchasing through a specialist underwater camera dealer who understands what you want to do.

Whatever you decide, don't let the photos overtake the enjoyment of the experience of being up-close and personal with the whales. Keep It Simple and take time to look over the camera and be face-to-face with our blue-water friends. See you in Vava'u!

Darren

## SOME OF THE MANY LETTERS & COMMENTS FROM OUR 2007 GUESTS

Dear Rae,  
We feel very fortunate to have chosen a tour with Whaleswim Adventures. Booking arrangements online were seamless and we were always kept up-to-date via email.

Conduct each day out on the water was definitely "best practice" and an example to all operators in the industry providing these services. The strict guidelines in place were never breached. We never felt at risk or that our presence was detrimental to the whales welfare.

The intimacy of observing for ourselves the underwater behaviour of whales is a meaningful and rewarding experience.

We recommend Whaleswim Adventures to our family and friends and hope to bring them with us next time.

**Michelle & Shane - Australia**

Hi Rae,

We would like to thank you for letting us into your world to experience the wonder and aw inspiring feelings of swimming next to the whales. They are such magnificent creatures, gentle, placid and accepting of our presence. We came away with mixed emotions of joy and sadness. Joy for the time spent in the water and sadness to be leaving to return to the hectic work environment.

We are sorry that we didn't get to speak to you very much on the day you came out on the water with us, and are very grateful in having you meet us in person at the airport in Vava'u.

Once again thank you for the experience.

**Cliff Collett and Tracy Callanan - Australia**



### Dear WhaleSwim

A truly spiritual, privileged experience, we still can't quite believe we saw what we saw. Very humbling, swimming with such majestic creatures. A dream come true, I thank the whales for letting us into their world, and I thank Annah & Nic for making it real, and Kam off course!. I thank God we can experience this, it makes me even more passionate in working out just what difference we can make in our small way to preserve these fantastic creatures for future generations.

**Peter & Fiona O'Sullivan - England**

### Dear Rae, Annah, Nic & Kam,

THANK YOU so very much for a fabulous trip!! I had THE TIME of my life! It was truly an absolute dream come true! The whales were just beautiful! I can't believe I finally got to swim with my humpbacks! Annah & Nic you were just great and I will envy you always!! I can't say Thank you enough!!! I hope to see you again! Scott had a wonderful time too!

**Michelle Gosnall & Scott Post - USA**

### ENTANGLED HUMPBACK WHALES

On 24 July 2008, while whale watching on the southern side of Kapa island in the Vava'u group, we spotted an entangled female humpback whale in a very bad way. Due to a rope wrapped around her body just behind her head, restricting her movement, and she was unable to get rid of the thousands of sea lice on her skin (see photo left) - this added to her very lethargic state (as that many sea lice on her body can infect her blood).





As mentioned in Rae's introduction, entanglements happen during migration – usually from long-lines, fishing nets or lobster pot lines up the coast of New Zealand.

We took photos and sent them to the entanglement rescue team in Australia. A generous offer from IFAW was made to fly in the team to attempt to disentangle this distressed animal unfortunately she disappeared overnight and was not seen again. The NZ Department of Conservation are aware of this problem and hopefully can take some action to avoid this happening in the future as the increase of our South Pacific humpback whale population is very slow in comparison to the Australian east & west coast humpback whale populations.

**TONGA – SOME FACTS!**  
**Whales . . when?**

We are often asked 'when is the best time to come – when will we see the most whales?'

The whales start heading north from Antarctica from mid-April and are in Vava'u from late June/early July right through to late-October. We like to give them a chance to settle in, and for calves to be born and introduced to the world before we start our trips. There is no 'right time' over the season – the whales are there throughout. However, they all seem to congregate in Vava'u late July and early August before they start to disperse off to other island groups, so that a great time to be there and there are fewer boats around at this time, compared to the middle of the season.

Sometimes weather and mysterious forces beyond our control can mean the whales, aren't showing themselves for a day or two, and sometimes there are more whales around than we can believe. It's nature and wild animals at work and there does not seem to be any time or guaranteed predictor for whale-watching during the season. This is why we take groups over a course of days – to maximise the number of opportunities for spending time with our giant friends.

We work with some of the best skippers in Vava'u, they love the whales, know their behaviours well and work together to ensure that, when they are there, we find the whales, and have the best chances to swim with them. We have excellent encounter success rates throughout the season, and while we have had great luck with our 3 day tours (designed as an 'add-on for those already coming to Tonga, or for those with very limited time), coming on any one of our 7 or 9 day tours at any time during the season will of course give you the very best chance of multiple encounters.

**ALL THIS AND WHALES TOO!**



This is the 9<sup>th</sup> season that WhaleSwim Adventures has been taking people to swim with whales in Vava'u and the beautiful islands of The Kingdom of Tonga. We take pride in offering a very special adventure holiday opportunity, and delight in taking people from all over

the world to share, not only in the wonder of being in the water with the magnificent humpbacks, but in the beauty of these unspoiled Pacific islands.

**Tropical Fish spotting**



While our focus is on getting our guests out seeing and swimming with the whales, we also know some of the best snorkeling spots and beachcombing bays. Come lunchtime on the boat – unless the whales are running hot and we just

can't tear ourselves away – we often make our way to one of the many lovely islands that make up the Vava'u Group (50 of them!) and weigh anchor for an hour or so. A quick bite to

eat and most people are ready to jump into the blue waters once again, this time to visit the long term fishy residents of the many reefs and bombies nestling up against the islands. We are always more than happy to offer a guided tour of these coral communities, and help you spot some of those more reclusive or micro size marine critters – in fact, we just love to do it! Any excuse to get into the water really...

**Combing beaches**



For those who would like to get a bit of sand between their toes after lunch, a quick swim over to a coconut tree covered white sand fringed atoll gives

you the chance to step into that dream holiday brochure... Drifting along a beautiful tropical beach, looking for shells, playing castaways, gazing out over the multi-hued blue waters, imagining living there forever...

**Outriggers in Paradise!**

Imagine this... gliding across crystal clear waters, amazing reefs rich in sea life just below the surface. You are paddling a Polynesian-style outrigger canoe to an uninhabited island to camp the night under the starry Tongan skies. On your way you'll probably meet some turtles, a few dolphins, watch frenzied birds feeding on unsuspecting tuna, and at the right time of year, see migrating humpback whales up close.

Paddle outrigger canoes by morning, explore islands and snorkel reefs during the afternoon, and enjoy local seafood and the Tongan culture by night.



This is **Outriggers in Paradise** and we highly recommend that you add this experience to your activities in Vava'u. Book a 3-hour Sunset Cruise, a 1-day Island Discovery Tour, an overnight Under the Tongan Stars tour or a 3 night Getaway Tour. If you are on a 3-day WhaleSwim – then add an Under The Tongan Stars tour to complete your holiday of a lifetime.

<http://www.outriggerstonga.com/>

**Scuba Diving**

If scuba is your passion we can point you in the right direction too. There are many excellent dive sites among the islands, and a couple of really good dive operators, including one offering a diverse range of technical



dives for the more advanced scuba people. Water visibility is generally great – with 20 to 40m vis not unusual, and there are a really wide range of dive options, including caves and swim-throughs, wall dives, stunning long reef dives, plus pinnacles and pelagics. Dives are often to the haunting accompaniment of whale song – and, if you are very lucky, the supreme dive experience - humpbacks passing by! Depending on your resort location, we may be able to help you arrange a dive trip on your 'WhaleSwim leisure day', but if are keen to dive a few times, we'd recommend that you give yourself a few extra days in Vava'u before or after your WhaleSwim tour. Dive gear is available for hire.

Contact Alistair <http://www.dolphinpacifictdiving.com/>

**Land tours**

The main island of Vava'u offers some spectacular coastline vistas and the chance to really see what simple island life is really about. Visit island plantations (vanilla,



kava, taro, papaya, banana, coconut), see village life, explore remote beaches and generally get the feel of real life in the South Pacific. A land tour, with one of our helpful drivers, or as part of a hired quad bike tour, is a great way to spend a day. We can help you arrange a land tour on your lay day if your resort is on, or close to the main island, or stay a couple of extra days and get to know Vava'u.

## Marketi

To marketi, to marketi, where you'll find lovely handicrafts really made by the locals. While on the main island of Vava'u we encourage you to visit the local market. This is the true working marketplace, where the villagers come to buy and sell their fruit and veges, to load the boats full of food to take home for the Sunday feast, to meet and chat, and to offer their authentic basket-ware, tapa cloth, jewelry, sculptures and artworks, and local delicacies for sale to visitors. We love this market and know many of the craft-makers now – it's the real deal!



## Nightlife in Neiafu

Port of Refuge, the deep water harbour in Neiafu (Vava'u's main town) is famed throughout the sailing world as one of the South Pacific's storm refuges, and one of its more colourful ports. Funky little harbour-side bars and restaurants, and a few beers with sailing folk from around the world can make for a fun night out. Watch out for the late-night kava drinking session invitations though – even highly dedicated whale-swimmers have been known to find it might hard to wake up and get on the boat in the morning.



## More boating

While in Neiafu, hire a little tinnie with an outboard or hire a local Tonga boat, a kayak or Zego (waterbike) and head out to nearby island to do a bit of extra-curricular snorkeling.

## Balmy chill time

Yes – there is all this to do, or you could just grab the hat and the sunscreen, find a shady spot on a beautiful beach and drift away on Tonga time.

## SOME HUMPBACK FACTS

Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are baleen whales (Suborder Mysticeti), meaning..... They are one of 76 cetacean species, and are marine mammals.

There are 3 separate populations of humpbacks, those living in the North Pacific Ocean, those in the North Atlantic Ocean, and those roving the oceans of the Southern Hemisphere – these include the whales that come up from the Antarctic to the east of New Zealand and on to Tonga each year.



Humpback whales are an endangered species and it is estimated that there are only 10,000-15,000 remaining world-wide. Average life expectancy is 45-50 years, and when fully grown they average 15-17m long and weigh 27 to 45 tonnes (females grow slightly larger than the males). The four-chambered heart of the average humpback whale weighs about pounds 195 kg - about as much as three average adult human beings.

Undertaking long seasonal migrations, humpbacks mate and calve in tropical waters during the winter and then travel to cold polar waters during the summer to feed. Traveling between 4 to 14 kph when migrating, humpback whales have incredible powers of endurance, with our Tongan whales journeying approximately 8000 km during their seasonal journey to the warm waters of Vava'u, with almost no rest along the way.

During their time in warm waters, adults do not eat, but live off their layer of blubber (fat); the young calves feed on rich mother's milk.

Breeding occurs mostly in the winter to early spring in the warm, tropical waters. The gestation period is about 11-12 months and the calf is born tail first and near the surface in

shallow waters. The newborn instinctively swims to the surface within 10 seconds for its first breath, where its mother using her flippers helps it. Within 30 minutes of its birth the baby whale can swim. The newborn calf is 4.3 m long and weighs approximately 2.3 tonnes. Twins are extremely rare (about 1% of births); there is almost always one calf. The baby is nurtured with its mother's milk (around 25 gallons per day) and is weaned in about 11 months.

A calf is born to a female once every 1-3 years, and they may stay together for a year or longer. Humpback whales reach puberty at 4-7 years old, and maturity at 15 years.

## JAPAN CONTINUES TO SLAUGHTER OUR PRECIOUS WHALES!

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE WHALES

We have plenty options on our website from emailing the pro-whaling countries representatives to signing petition. . .



Go to [www.whaleswim.com/whaleswim/whaling.html](http://www.whaleswim.com/whaleswim/whaling.html) or our conservation page at [www.whaleswim.com/whaleswim/conservation.html](http://www.whaleswim.com/whaleswim/conservation.html)

## IN SUMMARY . . .

*Thank you for your interest in our amazing expeditions!!*

**WhaleSwim Adventures** is now in our 9th successful year of expeditions.

**We are** the most professional inbound tour operator in Tonga and we work with the most experienced operators and guides in Tonga.

**We are** committed to continually striving to improve our product and service to you.

**We are** environmentalists, conservationists and contribute to the local communities in Tonga with recycling, education and by encouraging our guests to purchase Tongan handicrafts directly from the local villages or market.

**AND we love** the humpback whales of Tonga!

**REMEMBER! Tonga is becoming WELL-KNOWN as a 'swim with the whales' destination – there are more & more boats on the water and people traveling there each season. Unfortunately, one large international hotel chain has leased one of the beautiful islands in the whale nursery (which means many more people and boats) so it may easily become too difficult to safely 'manage' the number of people and boats in the area and still allow peace and non-harassment for the mothers and calves during the breeding season. We encourage you to come and experience it before this happens.**

**Our tours are ready to be booked NOW AND THERE ARE SPACES AVAILABLE ON MOST TOURS – see next page for all 2208 tours, dates and prices.**

**The WhaleSwim Team looks forward to sharing our extraordinary expeditions with you in 2008!**

*Love & Whale blessings to you all. . .*

**From the 2008 WhaleSwim Team  
Rae,annah, Darren, Kris, Sam, Sarah, Chrissy,  
Janet.**



## TOUR SCHEDULES 2008

Please consider the '1068A Paradise Islands Experience July 25 – Aug 4 tour' as this is a great time of the year to be there with lots of whales and very few other tourists! Many people think that the middle of the season is the best time to see most whales in the area – this is NOT necessarily so.

Spaces available ( ) on 31 March

**#1068A Paradise Islands Experience 25 July – 4 Aug (10)**

**#1068B Paradise Islands Experience 8 – 18 Aug (8)**

**#1068C Paradise Islands Experience 5 – 15 Sept (6)**

**#1068D Paradise Islands Experience 26 Sept–6 Oct (8)**

**AUD\$3,700 pp twin share (total 12 spaces)**

10 nights/9 days – includes 7 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals (except lunch on 1 leisure day), education, guidance in the water with the whales & 2 days at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga and Vava'u.

**#1078A Paradise Islands Deluxe 8 – 16 August (4)**

**#1078B Paradise Islands Deluxe 22-30 August (2)**

**AUD\$3,850 pp twin share only (6 spaces)**

8 nights/7 days – includes 5 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals (except lunch on 1 leisure day), education, guidance in the water with the whales & 2 days at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga.

**#1018 Whales in Paradise 17 – 27 Aug 2007 (4)**

**#1018B Whales in Paradise 19 – 27 Sept (2)**

**AUD\$3,750 pp twin share (8 spaces)**

8 nights/7 days – includes 6 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals, education, guidance in the water with the whales & 1 day at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga.

**#1048B Paradise Islands Adventure 29 Aug – 6 Sept (6)**

**AUD\$3,300 pp twin share only (12 spaces)**

8 nights/7 days – includes 6 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals (except lunch on 1 leisure day), education, guidance in the water with the whales & 1 day at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga.

**#1038A Photography Tour 12 - 22 Sept (2)**

**#1037B Photography Tour 26 Sept – 6 October (3)**

**AUD\$4,750 pp twin share AUD\$5,120 single (5 spaces)**

10 nights/9 days – includes 8 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals (except lunch on leisure day), education, guidance in the water with the whales & 1 day at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga.

**3-Day WhaleSwim's** – (include in to your holiday in Vava'u)

**1058 A 5 - 8 August (12 spaces) (FULL)**

**1058 B 19 – 22 Aug (12 spaces) (8)**

**1058 C 16 - 19 Sept (12 spaces) (8)**

**1057 D 7 - 10 October (12 spaces) (10)**

**1068A & C Hilltop Hotel AUD\$1,200 pp twin share**

**1068B & C Blue Lagoon AUD\$1,650 pp twin share**

3 nights/3 days – includes 3 days on the water with the whales, 3 nights accommodation and all meals (at Blue Lagoon Resort only), education, guidance in the water with the whales. Breakfast & lunch only is included when staying at Hilltop Hotel.

**Our 2009 tour schedule** is now up on the website however prices cannot be confirmed until Nov/Dec 2008. To secure your space we ask you to BOOK the tour and a holding deposit of \$200 per person balance of deposit is to be paid until December 2008 when the tour prices are confirmed.

[www.whaleswim.com/tonga/tours\\_schedule2009.html](http://www.whaleswim.com/tonga/tours_schedule2009.html) you will be able to book these tours from mid May 2007

### CONTACT US AT WHALESWIM

We are always happy to assist with questions and information that you require so send us an email!

#### For all Enquiries & Bookings . . .

Lynda Johnson

[lynda@whaleswim.com](mailto:lynda@whaleswim.com)

Within Australia: Free phone: 1800 629 306

#### For Special Groups, Marketing, Media etc. . .

Rae Gill

[rae@whaleswim.com](mailto:rae@whaleswim.com) Tel: (+64) 9 372 7073

PO Box 551, Oneroa Waiheke Island, 1840 NZ

Within NZ Tel/Fax: (+64) 372 7073

Within Australia: Free phone: 1800 629 306

Website: [www.whaleswim.com](http://www.whaleswim.com)



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