



"Whales Tails"

11th Anniversary Newsletter – Feb/rMarch 2010



From your Tour Director



Happy New Year! It's the start of a new decade (and the Year of the Tiger) and time for all those whale-enthusiasts to make your dream of swimming with the humpbacks in Tonga realised!!

Tupou, (my Tongan daughter) and I had 4 weeks in Asia – spending Christmas & New Year with my son Geoff, his wife

Xiao Ling and my gorgeous grandchildren Nicole and Patrick in Taipei, followed by a side trip to Thailand for 8 days! Early February, Tupou has returned to Tonga for school (for the moment anyway!) as we await her Legal Guardianship to be approved! So it's a happy time for us!

11th Anniversary of Whaleswim Adventures!

YES! We are celebrating 11 years of guiding our whale – passionate guests in the exquisite blue warm waters of Tonga, to swim with the gentle giants of the ocean. What a year to join us – it will be a special one!!

Tonga 2009. . .

I arrived in Vava'u just 1 day before Helen (Tour Leader & Chief Organiser Extraordinaire!) she was a great help unpacking and setting up everything ready for our first groups arrival!! Our first tour group in July had the best encounters with Mums and calves - an excellent start to a fantastic 'whale-filled' season!

July & August was bit soggy! August is usually 'the dry season' in Tonga – BUT some days it was cloudy, rainy and windy – our guests were great as they really 'got' that they were there for the whale encounters! The weather vastly improved for Sept & October and the humpbacks continued to be friendly, co-operative and curious as always and we swam with them on 69 days out of 72 days on the water!



The extra delightful experiences were seeing a Manta ray 'breach' (left) - thanks to Sam Collins who was camera ready at the time - just a few metres from the boat and our photography group swam with

Short Fin Pilots whales on several occasions too.



WhaleSwim Adventures/Dolphin Pacific Diving Team 2009 (missing-.Darren, Andy & Mark, who came to Vava'u later in the season!)

Tonga 2010 season. . .

Our tours are filling up. . . . In fact, 3 are already full and 2 tours have just 1 or 2 spaces remaining. If you intend to join us in 2010, I suggest that you make your decision what dates suit you and book it, while you still have some choices of dates and tours.

Enjoy our newsletter and I look forward to sharing the wonders of Vava'u and the amazing South Pacific humpback whales with you. See you there!

Rae

What makes WhaleSwim Adventure tours different and the best in Tonga!!!

- 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 each night 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 3rd 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 3rd 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.

After 10 years experience, our whale-passionate 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!

WhaleSwim Team 2010

In our office in New Zealand, **Lynda Johnson** keeps the home-fires burning by taking care of all tour bookings. 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.



Darren Jew – 'professional wildlife photographer extraordinaire' is back with us again to guide our Photography groups in 2010. Darren first joined us back in 2002 then again 2008 & 2009, we are thrilled and so are some guests, who are joining us for the 3rd time this year!

Darren was named the 2009 Canon/AIPP Australian Science, Environment and Nature Photographer of the Year - again. www.darrenjew.com



Helen Smith – hails from Sydney Australia. She works with "Sydney Harbour Federation Trust" where she practices her excellent organizational skills! Helen will be on our Team in Vava'u again this year from mid-July to mid- August 2010.

Carmen Ellis - The newest member of our Team in Vava'u for this 2010 season and beyond! She is crazy about animals and especially humpback whales – just like the rest of us! Carmen has been working at Dubbo Zoo for the past 5 years as an animal carer. She lives on the Central Coast of NSW with her husband Matt and 2 gorgeous daughters, Carmen will be with us in Vava'u as Tour Leader, from mid August to late September 2010. See her comments later in the newsletter.



Tupou Tongia - Pou is 13 (nearly 14) years old, and soon to legally become my 'Tongan daughter'. At present she lives in Tonga and is an avid 'whale & ocean-lover'! She will join us on our boats on as many days as possible – when she is not at school. She had wanted to swim with the whales since she was 6 years old and finally did it in 2007 when she was 11! You will enjoy her passion and enthusiasm for the sea and all that live within it!



Al, Jenny, Kam & Hobbes (the dog) at Dolphin Pacific Diving.

We work as a close-knit Team with the gang from Dolphin Pacific Diving since 2002 and we look forward to continuing to do that for many years to come!



I am very blessed with the wonderful close friendships we have built with our present Team in Tonga, many have worked with us since 2002. We all look forward to



sharing great days on and in the water with you and the magnificent humpback whales!!

Rae, Darren, Helen, Carmen, Tupou, Al, Jenny, Hobbes (the dog), Kam & the boat crews at Dolphin Pacific Diving

Photography Advice by Darren Jew Wildlife Photographer

ANZANG Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards 2009, 2006 & 2007.

2007 Canon/AIPP Australian Science, Environment and Nature Photographer of the Year Threatened Species Category winner.

Shooting whales, in the nicest possible way.

We had some fabulous opportunities during our two photo tours in 2009. We had every encounter you could wish for – from quite moments with trusting mums and calves to the excitement of larger chasing pods – all captured by our small groups of very keen photographers! Not all those in our small groups are photographers, often we have partners along, and sometimes WhaleSwimmers that just want the small group experience – everyone is welcome. Already we have a few whale-swimming photographers from previous seasons booking again for 2010... the humpbacks are addictive!



Last season we also had some amazing encounters with the Vava'u Island Group's resident pod of short-finned pilot whales around North Bay. This is always an added bonus everyone's trip, and is always remembered as a highlight. We're hoping to again come across these amazing animals out on the water this year.

For those needing new a new camera for the trip, some exciting things have happened in the camera market in the last 12 months. At the top end of the market, the release of a number of digital SLR cameras that record high definition video as well as high megapixel still images, means shooters now have the ability to capture the best of both worlds in the one kit. Canon were first off the mark with the EOS 5DmkII at the end of 2008, followed by the EOS 7D and the pro model 1D MKIV announced at the end of 2009. Nikon also offers video on their latest DSLRs. These new hybrid cameras are now being taken very seriously by the video production industry, and are particularly suited to high end underwater shooting. There are a number of housings available to suit these cameras, in various levels of quality and price.

If you like the idea of shooting with a housed digital SLR but don't like the idea of buying one, I will have my Seacam-housed Nikon D200 available for rental again this year. You'll need to be book the system in advance of your trip, and it's hired out on a first-come, first-serve basis. The camera is ready, waiting for you on the boat each day, I provide instruction on its use and I maintain it overnight, so it's all pretty simple! Please contact me for full details.

At the other end of the scale, Olympus's monopoly on the "tough" camera market (simple compact cameras that are water/snow/shock proof) has been challenged by Panasonic with the release of their own range of sturdy compacts. The advantages of the Panasonic version include a wider-angle lens (to get the entire whale in the picture), and also Full HD video capability. Both manufacturers are also offering housings to take their cameras beyond their 10 metre limit. A nice advantage of housing a waterproof camera is if the housing leaks, you've got that extra protection! If you're booked on any of WhaleSwim's tours, please don't hesitate in contacting me for more specific advice on what camera would be best for you.

So, if you'd like to have the maximum number of in-water whale encounters, learn all there is to know about photographing whales, and have a great time to-boot, then grab one of the remaining Photo Tour spaces and I'll see you out with the whales!

Darren

Check out his website! www.darrenjew.com

What's happening in Tonga!!

February 14/15 2010 - Cyclone Rene hits Vava'u

As I write this newsletter, the residents of Vava'u are cleaning up after being battered by 230km an hour winds in the early hours of the morning. There are no reports any fatalities or injury. The main damage is to trees and crops and some buildings have lost their roofs. Power is still out but the internet is back on. Our boat jetty at Dolphin base, came loose and floated off (see photo below) – its being repaired & 'attached' today! Our boats were moored up the harbour, sheltered from the NW winds, neither broke their moorings.

The challenges the local Tongan people face is the loss of their crops. As a 'subsistence' culture, they rely on their family plantations for food. Tree crops such as coconuts, bananas, avocados, mangos and breadfruit have been stripped of their fruit, leaving only their root crops as their main food source. Oversea aid will assist these families greatly over the coming months by shipping in emergency dry and canned goods. If you would like to assist in any way at all – email me for information.



Neiafu during Cyclone Rene



Our jetty floating nearby



Trees uprooted



Roofs blown off



A Wonderful New addition to our Team in Vava'u!

Congratulations to Kam (our skipper) and his wife Nome, are now very proud parents of 'Frederick Latu' born by Caesarian on 28 January 2010! Both Mum and baby are doing greatand proud first Dad, Kam. . . Well, he just can't take the smile off his face!

Tonga Earth, Art & Booking Office

A Shop with a Difference – where you can book local tours and activities, purchase quality gifts such as Jenny's locally made natural coconut soap & body crèmes and her one-off pieces of exquisite (pearls & precious stones) jewelry with a Polynesian flavour.



Jenny also sells my modern exquisitely designed range of postcards - humpback whales, island, reefs local culture etc. AND for a lasting memory of

your encounters with humpback whales – I have printed some of my best images onto high quality canvas and stretched them onto frames – the prices range from T\$30. They are light and easy to pack in your suitcase.

You can find Jenny's Tonga Earth shop in the new shopping arcade, on the main street of Neiafu, across from the Bank of Tonga Westpac bank.



Some of the Comments from our 2009 WhaleSwimmers!



"Finally! After a decade of waiting, I was about to fulfill my ultimate dream of swimming with the Gentle Giants of the deep. My expectations were high and my experience exceeded defiantly exceeded those.

It was a mother and calf resting at the surface.

As our group slowly swam towards them you could hear a collective gasp and small squeals (through masked faces and snorkels) of delight and amazement.

One eye of the mother curiously and calmly watching these strange objects in seal suits that hovered above her and her sleeping newborn calf.

The first thing that hits you is the sheer enormity of these mammals, you think you have an idea of their size when seeing them from above but until you're in their realm under the water can you totally appreciate it.

It was amazingly calm and surreal to be under the water in the presence of these amazingly beautiful animals and I was humbled and privileged to have shared their magical world.

This was to be the first experience of many to follow, each completely different but as amazing and exhilarating as the last. The image and emotion of this encounter has left an imprint on my mind and soul that will last forever!"

Carmen Ellis, NSW Australia



Hi Rae,

I joined one of your tours in late September and have been meaning to send you a note - thank you SO much, it was such a wonderful experience to swim with the humpbacks and pilot whales. I told absolutely everyone I came into contact with to check out your website and consider going on a tour in 2010. At least two of my colleagues at Greenpeace were seriously considering going next year. I'll remind them to book it now if they still intend on going. It's such a great thing you're doing for the whales.

Zoe Porter, Greenpeace Australia



Hi everyone, so sorry it has taken us so long to get it all in one sock!!! Isn't day to day life ordinary NOW? We really did have such an awesome holiday, many thanks to ALL of you, we think you are all amazing people and feel totally blessed to have had such a magical time with such a gorgeous bunch of whale loving humans! We certainly know what " warm and fuzzy inner glow" means now don't we.

Natalie & Stephen NSW Australia

STOP PRESS!!

2011 Tours to Tonga - Book your Flights to Tonga from USA UK & Europe EARLY! The Rugby World Cup will be held in NZ during September 2011 and some flights are already full. The Air NZ 'direct flight' from UK via Los Angeles to Tonga travels on to NZ. The other alternative is British Airways to LA and Air Pacific from LA via Fiji to Tonga. See our [Getting to Tonga](#) page for details.

What to expect on our tours!

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 April and begin to arrive in Vava'u from late June/early July and hang out there 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 in numbers from mid-July until early November.**

Sometimes weather and mysterious forces beyond our control can mean the whales, aren't showing themselves for a day or the weather is rough and it's not safe to have guests in the water, but most days, 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 several days – to maximise the number of opportunities for spending time with our gentle giant friends.

We work with the best skippers in Vava'u; they love the whales, know their behaviours 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 4 day tours (designed for a short-break or as an 'add-on for those already coming to Tonga,) 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. **Over the past 2 seasons, there were just 2 or 3 days out of 72 days on the water that we didn't swim with humpback whales!! This was mainly due to rough weather on those days.**

ALL THIS AND WHALES TOO!



This is the 11th season that WhaleSwim Adventures has operated tours to swim with the whales in Vava'u. 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 & Coral Gazing!



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 being in the water really...



Exploring Underwater caves



One of the other great activities we include is snorkeling in the ancient but wondrous limestone caves in several of the islands of Vava'u. Swallows Cave & Mariners cave – both very different - you can snorkel into Swallows and Mariners you need to free-dive through the entrance about 1m under the surface and 2.5 metres in to an exquisite cavern. Once inside – looking back out to the light is magical!

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...



Scuba Diving

If scuba is another of your passions 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 in Vava'u at Dolphin Pacific Diving divedpd@kalianetvav.to

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.



The Local Market

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 tinny 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.



TOUR SCHEDULES 2010

Spaces left () on 4 March 2010

#1060A Paradise Is Exp. 23 July – 2 Aug (4 spaces)
 #1060B Paradise Is Experience 27 Aug– 2 Sept (2)
 #1060C Paradise Is Experience 1-11 October (5)
 AUD\$3,900 - \$4,100 pp twin share 10 nights/9 days – includes 7 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals (except dinner on Sat night), education, guidance in the water with the whales & 2 days at leisure, airport transfers in Tonga and Vava'u.

#1010A Whales in Paradise 20 – 28 Aug (4)
 #1010B Whales in Paradise 7 – 15 September (5)
 #1010C Whales in Paradise 17 – 25 September (2)
 AUD\$4,150 pp twin share 8 nights/7 days – includes 6 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and most meals, education, guidance in the water with the whales & 1 day at leisure, airport transfers in Vava'u & Tonga.

#1040A Paradise Is Adventure 6 - 13 Aug (FULL)
 #1040B Paradise Is Adventure 24 Sept–2 Sept (7)
 From AUD\$3,600 pp twin share - 8 nights/7 days – includes 6 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and most meals, education, guidance in the water with the whales & 1 day at leisure Airport transfers in Vava'u & Tonga.

#1030A Photography Tour 8-18 Sept (1)
 #1030B Photography Tour 22 Sept – 2 Oct (4)
 AUD\$5,100 & \$5,200pp twin share
 AUD\$5,750 & AUD\$5,950 single room
 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.

4-Day WhaleSwim's
 1050 A 3 - 7 August (12 spaces) (1)
 1050 B 16 – 20 Aug (12 spaces) (8)
 1050 C 12 – 16 Oct (12 spaces) (2)

1050A Treasure Is Resort AUD\$1,200 pp twin share
 1050B Mystic Sands AUD\$1,650 pp twin share
 1050 C Treasure Is Resort AUD\$1,900 twin share
 4 nights/4 days – includes 4 days on the water with the whales, 4 nights accommodation and all meals (at Eu'eiki Island Resort only), education, guidance in the water with the whales . Breakfast & lunch only is included at Mystic Sands Beach Bungalows

If you prefer smaller groups
 Special Private Charters Available – min. of 4 or max. of 6 people during August for 4 days or more. . .

Contact Rae on rae@whaleswim.com

Our 2010 tour schedule is now up on the website however prices cannot be confirmed until Nov/Dec 2009. To secure your space we ask you to BOOK the tour and a holding deposit of \$100 per person balance of deposit is to be paid until Nov/Dec 2009 when the tour prices are confirmed.
www.whaleswim.com/tonga/tours_schedule2010.html
 you will be able to book these tours from 1 May 2009

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.

IN SUMMARY . . .

Over the last 11 years, sharing the humpback whale experience with many wonderful people from all over the world in the beautiful cobalt blue water of Vava'u has been the most fulfilling of my 63 years. I feel truly blessed to live my passion. Thank you!

Many people ask me, "What is it like to be in the water, so close to a huge humpback whale and her calf?" and each time I am lost for words. All I can say is that the 'experience' of swimming with unimaginably beautiful humpback whales is 'wordless'.

However, what I can describe in words is the many reactions to the experience. Overcome by a sense of deepest calm - gob-smacked (unable to speak or form words for some time afterwards), - smiling (so much that it makes your face hurt and it lasts for days) - uncontrollable joy & laughter - quietly overwhelmed - gentle sobbing - excited whooping and lots of hugging in joyful celebration of their profound experiences - to name just a few!

Vava'u really is a tropical untouched paradise –and the magnificent gentle giants of Tonga will certainly steal your heart!

The WhaleSwim Team looks forward to sharing our extraordinary expeditions with you in 2010!

Love & Whale blessings to you all. . .

**From the 2010 WhaleSwim Team –
Rae, Darren, Helen, Carmen & Pou.**

WhaleSwim Adventures is now in our 11th 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!

Our tours are ready to be booked NOW AND THERE ARE SPACES AVAILABLE ON MOST TOURS – see the previous page for all 2010 tours, spaces as well as the dates and prices.



Gob-smacking experiences!

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 . . .

For Special Groups, Film Crews, Marketing, Media etc

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