



**Tour 5 Itinerary – Photography Tour – September Mothers and Calves
4th – 13th September 2019**

Wed 4	Thurs 5	Fri 6	Sat 7	Sun 8	Mon 9	Tues 10	Wed 11	Thurs 12	Fri 13
Water	Water	Water	Leisure day	Leisure day	Water	Water	Water	Water	Leisure Day

Have a question about your trip? Check out the Frequently Asked Question section of our website here: <http://swimmingwithgentlegiants.com/faqs/>

Tour Summary:

These gentle giants of the sea give birth in the tropical waters of Vava’u to ensure the safety of their new born calves. You will be witness to the bond between mother and calf and the unique behaviour that can only be experienced by observing these amazing creatures in their natural environment. Your day is filled with excitement and admiration only stopping to explore the coral gardens and abundant marine life that inhabits Tonga.

We usually spend around 7 hours on the water looking for and snorkelling with the whales, then additional time afterwards for visiting some other scenic snorkel spots. From 14:30 onwards (depending on the day) we explore locations such as Swallows Cave, Mariners Cave and Japanese Gardens coral reef.

Daily Itinerary:

Wednesday	7:00am	Pickup from your resort for your first day of whale watching & snorkeling.
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we try and stop in a number of snorkeling spots each day
	3:30-4:30pm	Return to your resort for a warm shower before you venture out for dinner in Neiafu.
Thursday	7:00am	Pickup from your resort for your first day of whale watching & snorkeling.
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we try and stop in a number of snorkeling spots each day
	3:30-4:30pm	Return to your resort for a warm shower before you venture out for dinner in Neiafu.

Friday	7:00am	Pickup from your resort for a day of whale watching & snorkeling.
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we try and stop in a number of snorkeling spots each day
	3:30-4:30pm	Return to your resort for a warm shower before you venture out for dinner in Neiafu.
Saturday	Leisure Day	Spend the day exploring the islands, snorkelling, diving, quad bike riding or just relaxing on a beach. There are plenty of activities to keep you entertained.
Sunday	Leisure Day	Sundays are a time for rest in Tonga and most places are closed except for the Café's. You can still spend the day exploring the islands, snorkeling near your resort or just relaxing on a beach.
Monday	7:00am	Pickup from your resort for a day of whale watching & snorkeling.
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we try and stop in a number of snorkeling spots each day
	3:30-4:30pm	Return to your resort for a warm shower before you venture out for dinner in Neiafu.
Tuesday	7:00am	Pickup from your resort for a day of whale watching & snorkeling.
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we try and stop in a number of snorkeling spots each day
	3:30-4:30pm	Return to your resort for a warm shower before you venture out for dinner in Neiafu.
Wednesday	7:00am	Pickup from your resort for a day of whale watching & snorkeling.
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we try and stop in a number of snorkeling spots each day
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Friday	Leisure Day	Spend the day exploring the islands, snorkelling, diving, quad bike riding or just relaxing on a beach. There are plenty of activities to keep you entertained.

Tonga Time:

The schedule above is a guide and things change often when you are on an Island in Tonga. The locals are on what we call 'Tonga Time', so don't be disappointed if the skipper is late, or your

meals are not served on time, or you don't get exactly what you ask for, just relax and enjoy this tropical paradise.

Activities:

We try to visit some of the most amazing snorkeling spots in Vava'u as we search for the whales, including untouched coral reefs, caves and lagoons. But if you haven't had enough after 8 days on the water there are always lots of other adventures:

- Scuba Diving
- Sailing
- Kayaking
- Deep sea Fishing
- Land tours
- Hiring a scooter

Preparation Checklist:

- Send me your **international and local flight details**. If you haven't booked these yet, now is the time to check your flights and connections to Tonga and make sure you have confirmed your domestic flights to Vava'u.
- Make sure your **passport** has at least 6 months left on it before coming to Tonga otherwise you may be turned back. Also check if there are any Visa requirements for your country of origin.
- Do you need to book **accommodation** on the main Island (Tongatapu) while in transit to Vava'u? Also if you are on a flight that arrives at 2am in the morning and you have an early flight the next morning, I suggest you stay in the Foyer at the Scenic hotel. They charge you \$20 but it is a lot more comfortable than the airport. Let me know if you need assistance.
- Have you booked your **accommodation** in Vava'u, if so please let me know where you are staying and when you will be checking in and out. Otherwise I can help you find the right place for you. Make sure that you have booked your accommodation either side of your tour if you are arriving early or staying longer.
- Have you got a **wetsuit** (Or wetsuit/sharkskin top if you prefer - this is purely for buoyancy and warmth if needed) we can provide Mask, Snorkel, Fins and Wetsuits on the boat if you need them.
- Send me your **dietary** requirements for lunches on the boat each day if you haven't already.
- Do you need advice about purchasing **camera equipment** or **housing** existing equipment? (Only applicable to those bringing a camera)
- Are you looking to go **diving, deep sea fishing, kayaking** or partake in any other activities on your leisure days or before and after your tours? I can help you organise this also
- Have you signed the **liability waiver** and sent this back to us?
- Don't forget **sea sick tablets** if you feel motion sickness.

At Swimming with Gentle Giants we think it is a privilege to snorkel with these amazing creatures and understand they are wild animals that deserve our respect. We are visitors in their environment and our encounters are often determined by the whales.

