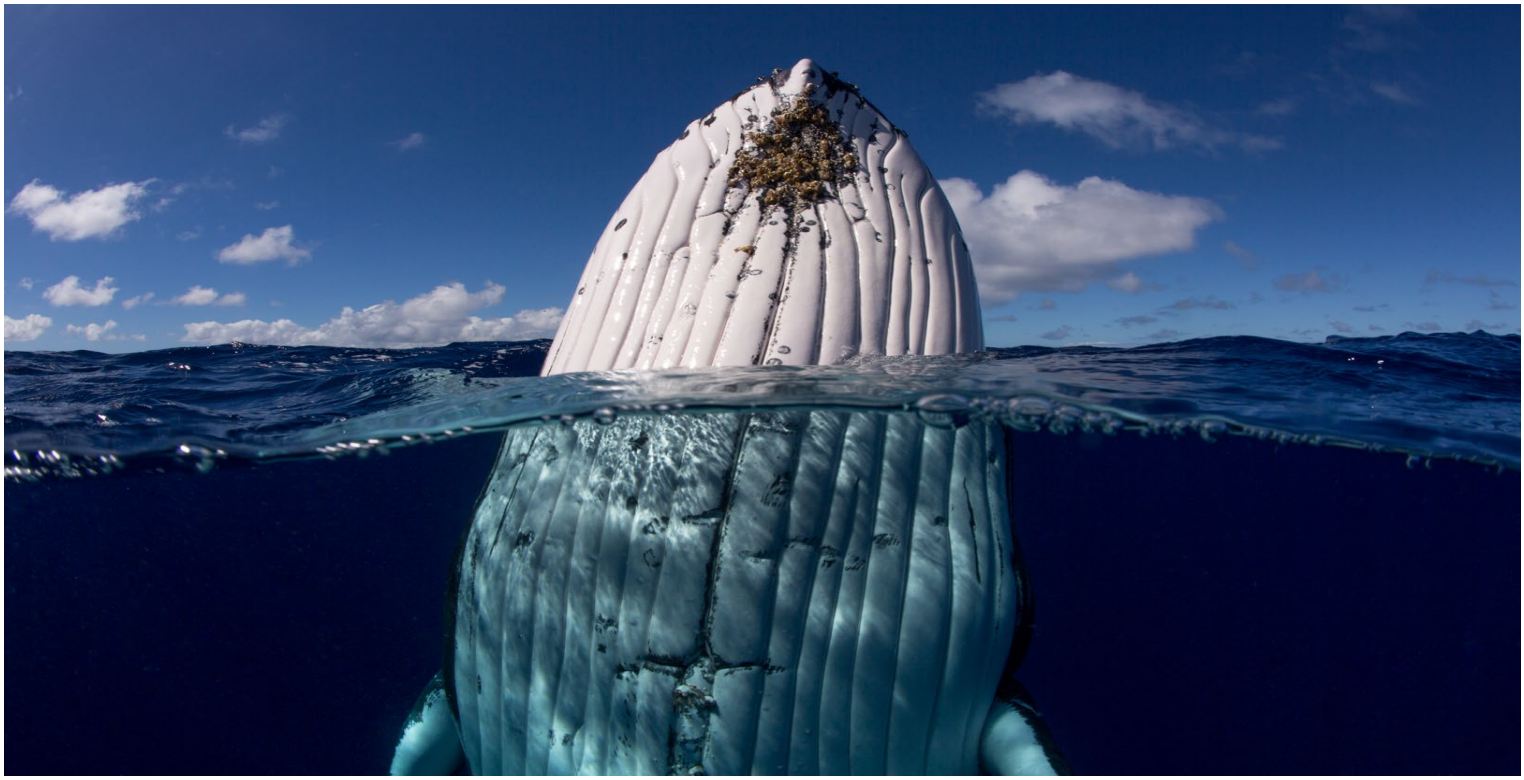
2026 TONGA TOURS - TOUR 5
12 - 19 August
7 NIGHTS (5 DAYS IN THE WATER WITH THE WHALES)



Wed 12	Thu 13	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16	Mon 17	Tue 18	Wed 19
Flight	Water	Water	Water	Day of Rest	Water	Water	Flight

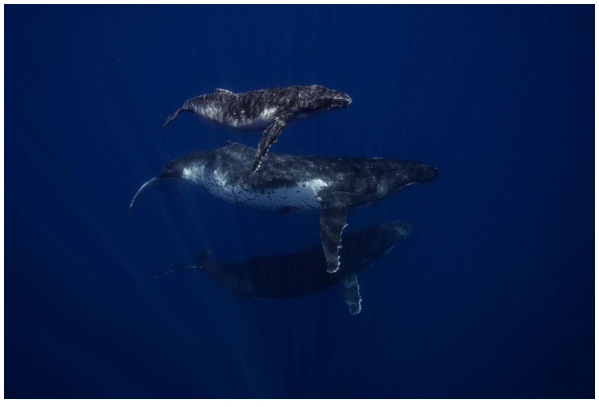
TOUR SUMMARY

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.

Humpback males escort the mother and calves waiting for the opportunity to mate before heading back to the Antarctic waters to feed.

Your day is filled with excitement and admiration, only stopping to explore the coral gardens and abundant marine life that inhabits Tonga.



QUESTIONS?

Have a question about your trip?

Check out the Frequently Asked Question section of our website:

http://swimmingwithgentlegiants.com/faqs/

DAILY ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY	**Flight**	We will pick you up from the Airport and transfer you to your accommodation (Check-in 1pm)
Approximate timings. To be confirmed by your guide.		
THURSDAY TO SATURDAY	**7.30**	Pick up from your resort for a day of whale watching & snorkelling
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we'll stop somewhere for lunch on the boat
	14.30	Usually, we wrap up time with the whales and head for a snorkel at a reef or cave
	15.30 – 16.30	Return to your resort for a warm shower before heading out for dinner in Neiafu
SUNDAY	**Day of Rest**	Sundays are a day of rest in Tonga
Approximate timings. To be confirmed by your guide.		
MONDAY TO TUESDAY	**7.30**	Pick up from your resort for a day of whale watching & snorkelling
	Anytime	Lunch depends on the whales, but we'll stop somewhere for lunch on the boat
	14.30	Usually, we wrap up time with the whales and head for a snorkel at a reef or cave
	15.30 – 16.30	Return to your resort for a warm shower before heading out for dinner in Neiafu
WEDNESDAY	**Flight**	We will pick you up from your accommodation and transfer you to the Airport (Check out 10am)

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FYI

"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' and everything is a bit more relaxed. So if the skipper is a little late, your meals sometimes take longer or you don't get exactly what you were expecting, take a tip from the locals and just relax and enjoy this tropical paradise.

DAY OF REST – SUNDAYS

Be aware that Sundays are a day of rest in Tonga, so nothing will be open during the day although some restaurants are open in the evenings.

TEMPERATURE

Air temperature is about 25 - 28°C and the water temperature is about 24 - 26°C, so pack light clothes, bathing suits, shorts, T-shirts etc.

ACTIVITIVES

We try to visit some of the most amazing snorkelling spots in Tonga as we search for the whales, including untouched coral reefs, caves and lagoons. But if you haven't had enough, and are planning to arrive early or stay on after your tour, these are some of the options:

- **Scuba Diving**
- **Snorkelling**
- **Sailing**
- **Land Tours**
- **Kayaking**
- **Hiring a Car**

If you looking to partake in any of these activities, now is the time to start researching, checking availability and booking.

CHECKLIST

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- ❑ Have you signed the **liability waiver** and sent this back?

- ❑ 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

- ❑ Send through 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

- ❑ It is very important that you have **travel insurance** as Tonga is a place where many things change that can affect your travel arrangements. Travel insurance will cover you for loss of baggage and changes to flights outside of your control as well as possible tour cancellations

- ❑ Keep **electronic versions** of your documentation on your phone, laptop, devices or even online so you can access them if needed. But **print your tickets** for Tonga as a backup

- ❑ Have you booked your **accommodation in Vava'u** before and after your tour? If so, please send details of where you are staying and when you will be checking in and out. Check your tour package to see what dates accommodation is included for your tour http://swimmingwithgentlegiants.com/tour-dates-prices/

- ❑ If you plan to make phone calls home, it is suggested that you purchase a **SIM card** in Tonga with data, as it works out a lot cheaper than using a roaming service from home. SWGG can provide a Sim card upon request. **Please Note:** internet speeds are very slow in Tonga and service can go down for hours or even days

- ❑ Send us your **dietary requirements** for lunches on the boat each day if you haven't already

CHECKLIST

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- ❑ Do you need advice about purchasing **cameras, lenses, equipment** etc? (SWGG can provide a list of service providers if you wish to hire these items e.g. www.camerahire.com.au)

- ❑ Bring **seasick tablets** if you feel motion sickness

- ❑ Have you got a **wetsuit**? (or wetsuit/sharkskin top if you prefer) This is for buoyancy and warmth. For your comfort, we recommend having your own **mask, snorkel &** fins. SWGG can provide these if needed, please advise if required

- ❑ Bring a spray jacket or **wind proof jacket** on the boat with you, as it can get cold when you are in and out of the water a lot

- ❑ Some **useful Apps** to download before you travel:

- **Google Translate** selected languages, voice and text translation capabilities
- **Google Maps** Location and Offline Maps
- **Airline Apps** for information and entertainment (Qantas Airways / Qantas Entertainment, Emirates, LATAM Airlines, Air NZ etc)
- **Flighty** or Airport specific apps (Sydney Airport Information) for flight tracking
- **Tripit** for organising your itinerary
- **Planet VPN** (FreeVPN Proxy) allows internet access across networks
- **Airalo** for eSIM cards (200+ countries)
- **Xe** Currency converter and money transfers
- **Windy.com** Weather prediction app
- **Merlin Bird Id by Cornell Lab** for identifying birds (download location specific pack within the app)
- **iNaturalist & Seek by iNaturalist** general wildlife and plant ID and citizen scientist database

- ❑ Check our **FAQ's** for any additional questions you may need answered: http://swimmingwithgentlegiants.com/faqs/

At Swimming with Gentle Giants we think it is a privilege to snorkel with these amazing creatures and understand that they are wild animals that deserve our respect.

We are visitors in their environment and our encounters are determined by the whales.

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