

Your Itinerary

1030A Photography Tour with Wildlife Photographer Darren Jew 8 - 18 September 2010

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

- Wednesday 8 Sept** Check in to Mystic Sands Beach Bungalows
6.30 pm Welcome & Tour Briefing
7.00pm AI Fresco Dinner at Mystic Sands
- Thursday 9 Sept** 7.30 - 8.30am Breakfast
8.40am Be on Mystic jetty
8.45 am Board "Dream Catcher" and depart to the whales. 'How to swim with the whales' & boat briefing. Lunch & snorkeling
4.45pm Arrive Mystic jetty transfer to resort
Free evening - catered meals at Mystic Sands or cafes, restaurant, feasts
- Friday 10 Sept** 7.30 - 8.30am Breakfast
8.45 am Board "Dream Catcher" - whales, lunch & snorkeling
4.00pm Arrive Mystic Sands
5.00pm Photography session with Darren
7.00 Dinner at Mystic Sands
- Saturday 11 Sept** 7.30 - 8.30am Breakfast
8.45 am Board "Dream Catcher" - whales, lunch & snorkeling
4.45pm Arrive Mystic Sands
Free evening - catered meals at Mystic Sands or cafes, restaurant, feasts
- Sunday 12 Sept** 8.00 - 9.00 am Breakfast
Day at leisure:
Free evening - catered meals at Mystic Sands or cafes, restaurant, feasts
- Monday 13 Sept** 7.30 - 8.30am Breakfast
8.40am Be on the jetty at Mystic Sands
8.45 am Board "Dream Catcher" - whales, lunch & snorkeling
4.45pm Arrive Mystic Sands
Free evening - catered meals at Mystic Sands or cafes, restaurant, feasts
- Tuesday 14 Sept** 7.30 - 8.30am Breakfast
8.45 am Board "Dream Catcher" - out with the whales,
Lunch & snorkeling at Eu'eiki Island
4.30 pm Arrive Mystic Sands
Free evening - catered meals at Mystic Sands or cafes, restaurant, feasts
- Wednesday 15 Sept** 7.30 - 8.30am Breakfast, pack bags and check out
8.45 am Board "Dream Catcher" - whales, lunch & snorkeling
4.00 pm Arrive Reef Resort
5.00pm Photography session with Darren
7.00 Dinner at Reef Resort
- Thursday 16 Sept** 7.30 - 8.30am Breakfast
8.45 am Board "Dream Catcher" - whales, lunch & snorkeling

	4.30 pm	Arrive Reef Resort
	7.00 pm	Dinner
Friday 17 Sept	7.30 – 8.30am	Breakfast
	8.45 am	Board "Dream Catcher" – whales, lunch & snorkeling
	4.30 pm	Arrive Reef Resort
	7.00 pm	Farewell Dinner with Darren and Rae
Saturday 18 Sept	7.00 –9.00 am:	Breakfast & completion of tour. Arrange transfer to airport with Reef Resort.

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 1 hour 15min boat trip to/from Eu'eiki Island therefore the boat pick up times have to allow for this.

If we have a 'late' afternoon whale encounter and the group agrees to a later return time, TOP\$100 per hour or part of each hour is to be paid (approx \$8 per person) to WhaleSwim Adventures, over and above your tour price.



On your arrival in Tongatapu (Nuku'alofa) you will be met by our driver Edward (photo on left) and transferred to the domestic airport or to the accommodation you have booked with us and back to the airport for your outbound flight. Ed is licensed to take you on an Island tour IF you have a FULL ½ day available – please book with us prior to your arrival in Tongatapu.

You will be met by one of our WhaleSwim™ team on arrival in Vava'u and transferred to Mystic Sands Beach Bungalows (or other accommodation prior to the start of your tour). While staying at Mystic Sands Beach Bungalows, apart from the Welcome dinner, your evenings are free for you to choose from the catered meals at Mystic Sands – BBQ, Mahi Mahi Curry, Mosi's Tongan Banquet etc or variety of cafes and restaurants in Neiafu or the Traditional Tongan Feast – this information will be given to you on arrival in Vava'u. Five evening meals are NOT included in this package while staying at Mystic Sands. Full breakfast at Mystic Sands and all meals at Reef Resort are included.

During the 8 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 resort with plenty of time for a shower and relax before dinner.

Tour includes: 10 nights' accommodation, Welcome dinner, 7 night's accommodation, 2 meals and breakfast at Mystic Sands Beach Bungalows and 3 nights and all meals at Reef Resort, 8 boat trips to the whales with lunch, photography sessions, education and guidance in the water, camera & photographic advice from Darren Jew (optional), snorkeling pristine reefs and caves, 1 day at leisure and airport transfers in Vava'u and airport transfers between international & domestic terminals in Tongatapu. PLUS a 900x600 canvas Giclée print of the image of your choice incl shipping. (Yours or Darren's)

Tour does not include: Five evening meals while staying at Mystic Sands Beach Bungalows (this allows you a choice of different restaurants in Neiafu or the traditional Tongan Feast) & lunch on your leisure day, International & domestic airfares to Vava'u, travel insurance, snorkeling equipment and wetsuit/vest, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, activities on leisure days.

Darren Jew – Professional Photographer

Darren was very proud to be recognised as the 2010 Canon/AI PP Australian Science, Environment and Nature Photographer of the Year. In it's 34th year, the 2010 APPAs attracted a record number of entries from all sectors of Australia's professional photographic community.

This is the third time (previously in 2009) that he has taken out the category. His winning portfolio included 1 Silver Award, 1 Silver with Distinction, 1 Gold and 1 Gold with Distinction.

You can visit the AI PP's web site <http://www.aipp.com.au/> to see where the Canon APPA Exhibition can be seen, and to order the 2010 Awards Book. Winner of 2007 Canon/AI PP Australian Science, Environment and Nature Photographer of the Year and Threatened Species Category winner, ANZANG Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards 2006.

There will be 2 x evening-photography 'sessions' over the 9 days of the tour with Darren.

Darren can be contacted prior to your tour for advice on purchasing a camera and what gear to bring darren@darrenjew.com Our guests very much appreciate his advice about your camera and coaching you to get the best photos possible during your time with us. Check out his website at www.darrenjew.com



Darren & Rae

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\$600 for 3 & 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 staff or other group members. No refund will be given.*
- *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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