

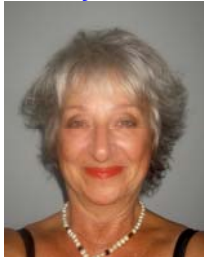


"Whales Tails"

Newsletter April 2007



From your Tour Director



Hello to you all!
I had great intentions of writing this prior to last Christmas, all of a sudden its April 2007 already!

We have been setting up a brand new state-of-the-art online booking system . . . to make it easy for you to let us know all your info and to make sure we have all your details, flights, dietary requirements, snorkeling vest orders etc prior to your departure for Tonga. This means you can relax from the time you arrive knowing we have all your requests and info to make your time with us the best time ever! **WHATEVER DID WE DO BEFORE COMPUTERS!**
Having said that . . . we had our computer hard drive crash and burn at the end of February, and even after 6 weeks, we are still endeavouring to recover email addresses on our contact lists and other documents that had not been backed up for a few weeks! Consequently we have now installed an automatic daily back-up system!

Japan's Plan to kill Humpback Whales in the Southern Oceans November 2007

Most whale-lovers around the world have been aware of the dramas in the southern oceans this past whaling season, with both The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Greenpeace's show a strong commitment to stop the slaughter of more of our beautiful giants of the sea!
Next month at the IWC meeting in Alaska, the anti-whaling nations will have only this opportunity to stop Japans outrageous plan beginning in November – just a few months away.
If not, then our beautiful humpback whales of Tonga Niue and Australia, will begin to be slaughtered. The whales we have personally 'met' and shared the warm waters of Tonga with will end up on a plate in a swanky restaurant or in free whale hamburgers given to children in schools throughout Japan – all for the mighty dollar and the 'power' in not being able to be stopped or maybe. . . because they can.
(See more info later in this newsletter)

Our season in Tonga 2006

WOW, what a season!! The whales were magnificent (as usual!!) I arrived in Vava'u for the 3 month season in 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, we seem to have more whales around at the beginning of the season (and at the end – October) and maybe it's because there are fewer whale-watching boats around than in the middle of the season, so we tend to get more time in the water with them! **SO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER BOOKING OUR 20 – 30 JULY TOUR!**

Each year we have great people from all over the world – last year we had guests all the way from the Czech Republic and this year we look forward to sharing the amazing whale experience with honeymooners from Poland, France, USA and Australia!
What a perfect way to experience your honeymoon!
Our guests are the only ones to tell you about what its like to join our tours and swim with the magnificent humpback whales so I will leave it to them!
See following pages and on our website at www.whaleswim.com/whaleswim/testimonials.html

Television Shows!

We also had Monty and his film crew from **Great Ocean Adventures** in the UK with us at the end of August and the show was televised in January this year. Many people also saw Minnie Driver (the British actress) life-changing experience of swimming with whales in Vava'u on a documentary shown through different networks around the world. Minnie swam with the whales in July with all the 'new season arrivals' from the Antarctic!



The Australian travel show '**Getaway**' screened again in Australia among the 'BEST ADVENTURES' show at the end of Feb 2007 – 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.

The WhaleSwim Team for 2007

I am very happy to announce that Annah Evington, will be working with us Vava'u for most of the season this year! Annah has worked with us each season in Vava'u since 2003 and has now joined us full-time as our new Booking Manager. Annah works in Vava'u as our Chief WhaleSwim Guide Extra-ordinaire!



Tony Meagher & Kris Madden - both were guests in 2004 and Kris and Tony worked with us as WhaleSwim Guides in Tonga last year, will work on the Team in Vava'u this coming season.



Scott Portelli our Photography Guide will join us again (for the 5th season!) for 3 weeks during Sept/Oct.



The new members of the Team will be Sherri Jo Wilkins, (an American Aussie) who was a guest last year, Nicole Butchart, (a Kiwi) who has guided many people swimming with dolphins in NZ and Mark Fitzgerald, who was one of our Marine Sciences students last year.



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!



A special heart-felt thanks to all our guests who carried and sent books, stationery and medicines for the kids in Tonga.



I look forward to sharing the wonders of the humpbacks and Tonga with you!!

Rae Gill
Tour Director
WhaleSwim Adventures

From our Team. . .



Hi WhaleSwimmers – old, new, and thinking about it

Another year has gone so quickly, and we are getting ready to join our wonderful whales once again. I can't wait!

I've been looking back on photos of my past 5 seasons with the whales in Tonga, and remembering some of the fascinating people I've met through my WhaleSwim tour guide times. I realised a couple of years ago that most of the people that feel called to experience time in the water with the whales are actually quite a special breed.

It was such a surprise to me, on returning from my first whale-swimming adventure, to find that not everyone wants to hop into a cobalt blue ocean and spend time with 45 ton humpback! Rae has shared similar experiences in being sure that, if you could convey the wonder of these creatures, the deep sense of connectedness with an ancient wisdom that they engender, the sheer majesty of actually seeing them in their environment and the sense of their awareness and gentleness with us in their world, that everyone would want to come and join us!

Since coming to this understanding, I've really revelled in the opportunities each year to meet the adventurers – be they long time explorers of our fascinating world, or first time travellers following a compelling vision – that come on a WhaleSwim tour. It's been such a privilege to have met so many people, from so many different nations, so many walks of life, and so many diverse backgrounds, and take them to meet our gentle sea giants.



The reverence and deep sense of joy and understanding that our encounters with the whales bring to people are so moving for all involved, and so addictive! Over 300 times in the water with these marvelous creatures, and I still feel utterly in awe of them each

time I go in. I know that many of those that have been there wish that they had even more time with the whales and we are seeing more and more of those people come back to join us again. I know that lots of you have kept in touch with the new friends that you made on your whale-swim tours, and that some are bringing friends and family back to share their wondrous experiences – a couple of groups are planning reunion trips with us over the next couple of years. It will be so great to see you again!

The beauty of our encounters regularly find me teary with the knowledge that these creatures are willing to allow us to be in their space, given some of our actions toward them in times gone by, and, unfortunately, times present.

The thought of commercial whalers out there killing our majestic cetacean friends is devastating, and the knowledge that the current Australian Government is doing next to nothing to stop it appalls me. I find it incomprehensible that the Japanese whaling industry has, through this Government's lack of effective action, been given tacit permission to undertake their illegal slaughter in our designated and legislated sanctuary waters. Even if the greater picture of environmental responsibility is to be ignored, and if only to protect the precious Australian 'economy', these whales need to be protected. We have a multi-million dollar whale-watching industry dependant on their continuing existence, and Tonga's fragile economy is also slowly strengthening through the careful development of their unique whale-swimming opportunity.

The Japanese whaling interests have stepped up their campaign to continue and increase their whaling activities.

The whales that they are proposing to kill include the population that migrate up past the east coast of Australia and to Tonga – our Vava'u humpbacks. This population is vulnerable, they already have to negotiate dangers of the unpoliced fishing industry in waters north of Australia, and their numbers are not increasing as quickly those that stay in Australian waters. How shameful that only the actions of the wildly dedicated Sea Shepherd team is hindering the slaughter so far this year, and that the potential for further environmental damage to the pristine Antarctic environment has only been recognised with the very real possibility of a significant oil spill from a broken whaling ship.

To all those that have been with us in the water with the whales - I thank you for your part in helping them. Your sharing of that experience has, I'm sure led to conversations that have increased other's understanding of how precious these creatures are, and we know that many of you have been supporting the Sea Shepherd and Greenpeace actions to stop whaling.

The tide of public awareness seems to at last be turning on many issues, and concerted efforts of a relative few have broken through the façade of current global government structures. Change is afoot and I think, if there are enough whale-swimming folk out there telling the wonderful stories of being with these incredible animals, we can create a future that includes whales swimming for evermore in our oceans!

To those that are joining us this year – I look forward to meeting you and sharing wonderful whale (and snorkelling and feasting and beautiful tropical islands and waters) time with you.

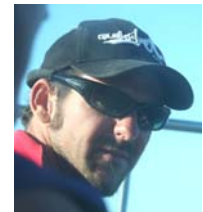
To those thinking of joining us – I urge you - take the plunge! Join us with the whales in Tonga - it truly is an experience you will never forget.

With love and best wishes
Annah

From our Marine Sciences Students

WORDS DO NOT DESCRIBE...by Mark Fitzpatrick

15th of September 2006 was the day we were waiting for. This was the day in which every ounce of our anticipation, anxiety and excitement was bound. The day we would go to Tonga!!!



There were four of us, Sarah, Deanne, Mike and myself, all of whom had grasped the opportunity to go and perform our research assignments in Vava'u, the Kingdom of Tonga. Every year from the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, a small group of 2nd year Marine studies students travel up to Tonga to complete a compulsory research assignment. Although the assignment itself is compulsory, the topic is at the researcher's discretion, and due to the amazing time that the students have every year with WhaleSwim Adventures, there is always a keen contingent waiting in the wings to bounce at the opportunity.

Sarah and Deanne were to complete a report on the Pod composition of the whales as well as some recordings of how the regulations were followed and my report was on the customers and the Whale-swimming industry in particular, as opposed to the whales directly. Mike was doing a separate study on the degradation of the different species of coral found in Vava'u, although he was in for a little more of a treat than just taking photos of coral!



The journey was long. It began at the conclusion of an exam for the girls; meeting in Tauranga, New Zealand the four of us drove in convoy to Auckland, flew to Tongatapu, waited in the domestic airport for 6 hours, and then flew to Vava'u.

This flight was amazing. Looking out the window at the crystal clear blue waters of the Pacific, and seeing the atolls rise up out of the deep was an experience to treasure in itself, let alone doing a circular flyby over the Vava'u island group upon our arrival. We were then greeted by the first familiar face in nearly 24 hours – Rae Gill, and boy were we relieved to see her! We loaded all our bags into a van and drove through the streets of Vava'u to the modest accommodation we would call home for the next four weeks. After waving goodbye to Rae, we fell down onto our beds and slept most of the evening and night away, our slumber broken early the next morning by the sound of roosters crowing outside our windows!

Looking back, the four weeks after our arrival are a blend of happy faces, whales and the ocean, however there are many particular experiences that stand out, and the most obvious is my first swim with a Humpback. Rae is kind enough to host us not only as students, but allows us to participate as 'Assistant Guides' so to speak, which in turn allows us in the water when there is room available. There is little in the world and certainly not enough words in the English language that can prepare anyone for that experience. My opportunity arose on the first day. In the morning I'd been lucky enough to experience the sight of a 40 ton Humpback completely leaving the water and crashing back down, literally 10 or so metres from the side of our boat, whilst a pair of boisterous males were crashing about in the distance, and a mother and calf lolled gently in the waters about 100 meters away. Sights that are all amazing in themselves, but when the skipper Veni gave me the word to head into the water with WhaleSwim guide Scott and his customers, my heart really began to race.

I donned my gear, and slipped off the back of the boat into the water, and quietly finned my way over to where Scott and the others were. There she was. My heart stopped. A gigantic 16 metre, 40 tonne mother lying completely



motionless only a few metres below the surface, whilst the more energetic calf circled endlessly around, under and over her was a sight that only 'Whale swimmers' can relate to. Her eye appeared to be the size of my head! Her pectoral fins the length of me...she

was huge! Massive! Gigantic! After the initial shock wore off, and my mind began to understand where I was and what I was looking at, I can recall my thought process. We weren't creating this experience by flying here, and coming out to her, but **she** was creating it by allowing us into her environment. How many animals would allow us to get so close to their calves? As I gazed down her flanks I noticed her gigantic tail, 2 metres in width, and I knew that it was the choice of the Mother that we were there, not our choice. If she didn't want us in the area, with one flick of her giant tail we'd be gone, and yet she didn't mind us being there. It's like she knows something, she's aware of something that we aren't. The moments felt like hours and when she was ready, she slowly and gracefully rolled over on her right side, raising a pectoral fin up, turned and swam away leaving us all in the powerful surge generated by three movements of her massive tail. After having a quick very excited share of what we'd just seen, the five of us headed back to the boat. After getting out of the water Scott looked at me with a big knowing grin and said "How was that?" All I could reply with was a dumbfounded "Mate" and a shake of my head.

Anyone that is lucky enough to go knows that Vava'u is a magical place, and for me the rest of the trip was an endless array of experiences that left me breath taken. From the

seemingly endless number of whales to swim with, through to the amazing coral snorkelling spots in our lunch breaks, every day was filled with exciting new adventures, and moments where we would look at one another and say in unison 'Only in Tonga!!' Where else in the world can you have all this? The answer is simple...Nowhere. Although there are two other countries in the world that allow swimming with Humpbacks, it's the combination of the people, the culture, the scenery and the whales that make the WhaleSwim adventure in Tonga so special and life changing for all those that indulge. Personally, I can't wait to go back, because like I said, words just do not describe.

Mark Fitzpatrick, Tauranga, New Zealand

'From our Guests!

"Enchanting, magnificent, spell-binding, blessed, spiritual, captivating, extraordinary.....the list of words could go on and on to describe our experiences swimming with the humpback whales and never



really be able to paint the whole picture of just how wonderful our trip was. After our first encounters the first day swimming with a mother and calf, our trip was already complete (or so we thought). To our delight, we were blessed every day after that with new and wonderful experiences, making each and every day better than the last one. These beautiful creatures treated us to great displays of breaching, playing by the boat showing us their fins, rolling so we could see their bellies, and sharing with us their enchanting song. When the whales shared with us their world, we were able to experience their grace. A very humbling experience. We will never forget the feeling of awe when looking into the eye of a whale - knowing that just as we were imprinting the image of the whale in our memory, the whale was doing the same with us.

A heart-felt thank you to all of you for making a dream come true. "Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away". Thank you for helping us enter a world with the whales where our breath was taken away again and again....till we meet again."
Love, Laurie and Chris Allen – USA

"It is quite impossible to describe in words what an amazing experience this was. We had absolute magical times with the whales. It was also very emotional and changed us forever."
Pavel Jyslic Czech Republic/NZ



"Thanks Rae we had no idea that we would be so moved by our experience in Tonga. It has been a journey that we will never forget."
Joanne Davies & Glenn Woodford Conservation Volunteers – Australia



I just wanted to express our sincere thanks for organising us such a fantastic holiday. It was beyond all expectations (although we tried not to have any!) You probably heard that we had 3 perfect days of whale swimming & watching. Annah was fantastic & a great representative for you - as I am sure you are aware. Your tours are run very professionally, without compromising the relaxed nature of Tonga. **Nicki Clarke & Gabrielle Cagnetti – New Zealand**



More testimonials from our guests:

<http://www.whaleswim.com/whaleswim/testimonials.html>

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-March and are in Vava'u from late June/early July right through to early-October. We like to give them a chance to settle in, and for some 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. 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!

WhaleSwim Adventures has been taking people to swim with whales in Vava'u and the beautiful islands of The Kingdom of Tonga for eight seasons now. 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 in 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...

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 you 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. Ask your WhaleSwim guide for advice on arranging scuba trips when you get there. Dive gear is available for hire.

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 the 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, book a sailing tour, hire a little tinnie with an outboard or hire a kayak or 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.

YOUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE HUMPBACK WHALES ON DVD

Marnie Harrison and her Team from Wild Focus Films will record your experience!



Marnie or one of her Team will be aboard our whale watching vessel for 1 or 2 days during your expedition to film YOU swimming with the whales and having a great time in Vava'u. Marnie makes up an fabulous DVD ready to take home with you. Cost: T\$130 per copy DVD (NTSC & Pal versions)

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 passing the east coast of NZ 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 worldwide. 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 kmph 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.

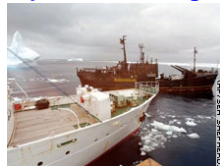
During their time in warm waters, adults do not eat, but live off their layer of blubber (fat); the young calves feed on rich mother's milk.

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.

STOP THE SLAUGHTER

Japanese Whaling Fleet Returns Home in Disgrace



The Japanese whaling fleet continues to flout international laws, year after year, killing thousands of whales. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's goal is to save these gentle giants from the

whalers' brutal harpoons. Their 2006-2007 campaign Operation Leviathan took them to the vast and frigid waters of the Antarctic with the goal of stopping the slaughter.

It was a challenging campaign, and often contentious. The media attention that ensued as a result of the fearless actions of the Sea Shepherd team brought widespread international attention to the actions of the Japanese whale killing ships in the 'protected' waters of the Antarctic.

See the Sea Shepherd website for information on the outcome of the 2007 illegal Antarctic whale hunting season at:

http://www.seashepherd.org/news/media_070323_1.html

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

The SSCS was founded in 1977 in Vancouver BC by Captain Paul Watson. The mandate of the organization was marine mammal protection and conservation with an immediate goal of shutting down illegal whaling and sealing operations.



With financial support from Cleveland Amory of the Fund for Animals, the society's first ship a North Atlantic sea trawler "the Westella" was purchased in Hull, England (UK) and renamed the Sea Shepherd. It's first mission was to the ice floes of eastern Canada to interfere with the annual killing of baby harp seals known as whitecoats.

In the same year, 1979, the Sea Shepherd hunted down and rammed the notorious pirate whaler the Sierra in a Portugal harbour ending its infamous career as the scourge of the seas.

The success of the seal campaign and the ramming of the Sierra was the start of Sea Shepherd's historical 160 voyages over the next 2 decades, enforcing international laws where no law enforcement existed - on the high seas.

Sea Shepherd continues to accomplish its mission by upholding and enforcing international treaties, laws and conventions of world governments.

Sea Shepherd is committed to the eradication of pirate whaling, poaching, shark finning, unlawful habitat destruction, and violations of established laws in the World's oceans.

To that end, Sea Shepherd assists national and international bodies in the enforcement of international law under authority of the United Nations World Charter for Nature.

(Information from the Sea Shepherd website)

For more information on the SSCS campaigns, and for details on how you can help them to help the whales, go to:

<http://www.seashepherd.org/whales/>

THE SLAUGHTER!



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 or our conservation page at www.whaleswim.com/whaleswim/conservation.html



IN SUMMARY . . .

Thank you for your interest in our amazing expeditions!! WhaleSwim Adventures is now in our 8th 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.

YAHOO!! The whales are on their way to Tonga (the Aussie humpbacks have been spotted off the Byron Bay coast already) and we will be there with them in just a few short months... Quite a few of the 2007 tours are now full, but there are still a few spaces left on some great tours - if you or your friends are still thinking about joining us this season just checkout our website:

http://www.whaleswim.com/tonga/tours_schedule2007.html.

To those of you who are still 'thinking about it' - the whales are waiting for you!

To all those who have booked and are joining us this year - we'll see you there soon!

With love

The WhaleSwim Team

Rae, Annah, Nicola, Sherri-Jo, Scott, Kris, Tony Jon, Jane & Mark.

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 . . .

Annah Evington

annah@whaleswim.com

Within Australia: Free phone: 1800 629 306

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For Special Groups, Marketing, Media etc. . .

Rae Gill

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Website: www.whaleswim.com



WhaleSwim
ADVENTURES

STOP PRESS!

TOUR SCHEDULES 2007 & 2008

2007

Our tours are filling up for this the 2007 season with just a few spaces left on some of the tours.

Please consider the '1067A Paradise Islands Experience July 20 - 30 tour' as this is a great time of the year to be there with lots of whales and very few other tourists!

See below for spaces available (when we went to press with this newsletter on 20 April.)

SPACES AVAILABLE on our Tours in 2007

#1067A Paradise Islands Experience 20 - 30 July 2007

10 nights/9 days - includes 7 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals, education, guidance in the water with the whales & 2 days at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga and Vava'u. **AUD\$3,750 pp twin share**

#1047A Paradise Islands Adventure 3 - 11 August 2007

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 and Vava'u. **AUD\$3,450 pp twin share**

#1067B Paradise Islands Experience 10 - 20 Aug 2007

10 nights/9 days - includes 7 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals, education, guidance in the water with the whales & 2 days at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga and Vava'u. **AUD\$3,595 pp twin share**

#1017 Whales in Paradise 17 - 27 Aug 2007

10 nights/9 days - includes 7 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals, education, guidance in the water with the whales & 2 days at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga and Vava'u. **AUD\$4,295 pp twin share**

#1037B Photography Tour 28 Sept - 8 October 2007

10 nights/9 days - includes 8 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 and Vava'u. **AUD\$4,200 pp twin share**

#1067E Paradise Islands Experience 28 Sept-8 Oct 2007

10 nights/9 days - includes 7 days on the water with the whales, all accommodation and meals, education, guidance in the water with the whales & 2 days at leisure Airport transfers in Tonga and Vava'u. **AUD\$3,750 pp twin share**

3-Day WhaleSwim's - include in to your holiday in Vava'u

1057 E 31 A July - 3 August (Hilltop or Blue Lagoon)

1057 A 21 - 24 August (Vava'u Resort or Treasure Isl.)

1057 C 25 - 29 Sept (Vava'u Resort or Blue Lagoon)

1057 D 9 - 12 October (Vava'u Resort or Blue Lagoon)

Vava'u Resort **AUD\$990 pp twin share**

Blue Lagoon **AUD\$1,350 pp twin share**

Treasure Island Resort **AUD\$1,375 pp twin share**

Hilltop Hotel **AUD\$1,050 pp twin share**

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

2008

Our 2008 tour schedule is now up on the website however prices cannot be confirmed until Nov/Dec 2007. The prices showing are the 2007 prices however to secure your space we ask you to BOOK the tour and a holding deposit of \$200 per person is to be paid until December 2007 when the tour prices are confirmed.

www.whaleswim.com/tonga/tours_schedule2008.html you

will be able to book these tours from mid May 2007 with a \$100 holding deposit.

