



Join Annie Crawley's Dive Team Swims with Humpback Whales!

Vava'u Tonga September 7-18 or 18-28 2019



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I'm very excited to welcome you aboard our extraordinary experience to swim with humpback whales in Tonga! We will be heading out for an incredible 8 day snorkeling expedition with humpbacks and witnessing once in a lifetime behaviors!

8 whale days/no scuba \$5800 PP shared room

10 nights: beachfront accommodation, free airport transfers,

Food package: includes continental or basic breakfast and lunch on whale days. Dinner and drinks are extra. Lunch is supplied with whale swimming but not on non-whale swim days.

Whale encounters: we leave first thing in the morning for our whale encounter, trained whale guides. We are usually out until 3 or 4 in the afternoon.

Storytelling & Ecology Workshops: Traveling with Annie and her team is always an adventure. After our days on the boats, we will have a variety of educational and entertaining programs. We will be experiencing unbelievable experiences everyday as the humpbacks migrate from Antarctica to give birth around the islands of Tonga. Annie will be shooting photo/video and editing. She offers assistance to all on her trip at no charge. If you would like extra assistance, Annie is available to teach private courses as well.

The resort supplies towels, pillow, sheets, blankets so you do not need to bring a sleeping bag or any towels unless you have a special camera or boat towel you would like to bring.

Please have a waterproof case if you are bringing your mobile and know we are not responsible if it dives into the Pacific Ocean!

Suggested Packing List:

Pajamas

Closed toe shoes for walking/hiking and socks

Sandals like tevas, please no flip flops as can be toe hazards on boats.

Refillable water bottle

A few t-shirts/shirts (Careful not to over pack)

Couple pairs of shorts or Board shorts

Jammers or Speedos for under wetsuits

Rash guard

Bikini/bathing suit

Set of warm clothes with sweats/sweatshirts or long yoga pants

Some type of wind breaker coat/rain coat/swim coat/dive coat (We are on the boat for many hours at a time during the day and sometimes it's windy)

Underwear and socks (I find myself wearing more bathing suits than underwear)

Baseball hat or sunhat/viser plus a face protector and really great reef safe sunscreen.

Hat for warmth. I bring one of those ear guards on all of my trips to keep warm.

Mask/Snorkel/Full Foot Fins (My retail partner is Underwater Sports and they have Mares Volo Race fins on special for us)

Wetsuit: most people wear a 3 mm wetsuit. It is strongly recommended we all bring our own as we are in the water with these majestic creatures. Some people do need a 5 mm. Terry from Underwater Sports is our dive team's retail partner and sponsor and can help with anything you need.

Toiletries: Sunscreen, Bug spray, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, Shampoo/Conditioner

Snacks: There isn't a great selection of food bars or any healthy snacks here in Tonga. Tonga is considered one of the unhealthiest Countries in the world. There are no protein bars or any healthy snack options besides salted peanuts. We do have ample food at the restaurants and at the hotel/boat, but you may want to have some of your favorite snacks with you.

Small first aid kit with whatever pain reliever or special meds you need. Dramamine or any other sea sick pills in case you get seasick, any other addition meds or materials you may need over the course of the week like tums or vitamins, etc.

It's super easy to over pack. You want to follow the airlines bag policies and not pack more than 50 pounds in a bag and have a carry on. If you have questions about this, please look at airlines information.

Cash for crew tip so 200-300 and additional pocket money for souvenirs and meals. There are ATMS on the island so you can get money there. We are on a very remote island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean! There are souvenir shops, t-shirt shops as well and we will be at the airport if you want money to be able to pick up snacks at the airport or souvenirs. In addition, the alcohol is very expensive. If you like to have a drink, it is suggested to get a bottle through duty free. There are very good wines from Australia and New Zealand available on island if you like wine.

FLIGHT INFORMATION & TRANSFER EXTRAS

Air New Zealand or Fiji Air flies to and from Tonga (Nuku'alofa is main airport on island) I checked both airlines and plenty of seats depending on which itinerary you fly. Nuku'alofa is the main island of Tonga. We need to take a puddle jumper with Real Tonga from Nuku'alofa to and from Vava'u. These flights have very limited baggage so the less everyone packs, the better! The carry ons can only be 5KG and checked baggage without paying is 15 KG. It is US\$5 for every Kilo over 15KG. The flights to and from Nuku'alofa are between 200-300 roundtrip. You will all need to be in Tonga on the main island the day before and transfer to and from Vava'u September 18/28 respectively. You can overnight 5 minutes from the airport and the hotel rooms are about \$100. We can book these last. If you fly on Fiji Air there are days that transfer in and out of Vava'u directly. Transfers are included to and from the airport in Vava'u. I'm more than happy to walk you through booking these tickets as I realize it is the first time for many of you to come to Tonga. I have learned that people like to use airline miles and do all sorts of different things with the air tickets and often have different itineraries. We can travel together if you are departing from Seattle. Please call me for all your needs. My mobile is 805-453-1947 and I'm here to help you!!! If you want to arrive a day or two early in Tonga, I can suggest a few island tours which are phenomenal.

Please remember that it's *impossible* to buy things while in Tonga. GoPro batteries, swimsuits, sunglasses...etc, there is not much here to choose from. Please be as redundant as you can with things like batteries, swim suits etc.

OTHER INFORMATION: Sundays are a day of rest in Tonga and that is why we have 2 days of rest during our visit. We will have plenty of fun do photo/video workshop, etc...but the boats are not allowed to be operated on Sundays. There are plenty of Churches on Tonga if anyone would like to visit a church, we can arrange! Also we are usually exhausted by the end of day because we have early mornings.

I have hours of photos/videos to share and am happy to give you and your friends a personal show if you live in the greater Seattle area! If not, we can arrange a Skype call. I'm just ecstatic that we are going to be able to go swim with humpbacks and share this passion with you!



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