

CARLU DIVE
TRAVEL

TONGA

Swim with humpback whales
WHALE SNORKEL - VAVA'U, KINGDOM OF TONGA

FROM
€3,700

DATES:

AUG 31 - SEP 8, 2027

VAVA'U · KINGDOM OF TONGA

Memories to last **a lifetime**

From July to October, in the warm, sheltered waters of **Vava'u** and **Ha'apai**, large numbers of **humpback whales** (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) arrive from Antarctica to mate and give birth to their calves, safe from natural predators. They can reach 16 metres and weigh close to 30 tonnes. This is without doubt the best place on Earth to swim alongside these ocean giants.

THE LONGEST MIGRATION OF ANY MAMMAL

Humpbacks travel 8,300 km from Antarctica to the warm waters of Tonga.

THE TRIP

Trip **facts**

9

DAYS

8 nights in Vava'u

6

DAYS IN THE WATER

with the whales

8

GUESTS MAX.

per boat

25-28°

WATER

3 to 5 mm wetsuit

THE ENCOUNTERS

Soft-entry **swims**

The only type of interaction allowed in Tonga: a relaxed, non-aggressive, low-impact activity. We float quietly at the surface near the whales and let their natural curiosity bring them closer. As wild animals, every encounter is different and can last from minutes to hours. Only mask, snorkel and fins are used, and it is open to all levels.

7H

Daily outing

2

Groups taking turns

1

Certified guide

1

Local captain

SNORKEL

Mask, snorkel & fins

SUN

Rest day



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ITINERARY · 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

Your week with the **whales**

TUE AUG 31	Arrival at Vava'u airport (VAV). Assistance and transfer to our house, close to the centre of Neiafu .	
WED SEP 1	7:00 am departure in search of humpback whales . Back in port at 2 pm.	WHALES
THU SEP 2	7:00 am departure in search of humpback whales . Back in port at 2 pm.	WHALES
FRI SEP 3	7:00 am departure in search of humpback whales . Back in port at 2 pm.	WHALES
SAT SEP 4	7:00 am departure in search of humpback whales . Back in port at 2 pm.	WHALES
SUN SEP 5	Sunday, Tonga's day of rest. Explore the island, go hiking or snorkel at its beaches, or enjoy a beach barbecue.	REST DAY
MON SEP 6	7:00 am departure in search of humpback whales . Back in port at 2 pm.	WHALES
TUE SEP 7	7:00 am departure in search of humpback whales . Back in port at 2 pm.	WHALES
WED SEP 8	Breakfast, check-out and transfer to Vava'u airport for the flight to Nadi (Fiji). End of services.	

DAILY PLAN ON BOAT DAYS

6:00

Breakfast

6:45

Pick-up

7:00

Departure

14:00

Return

The boat takes 8 guests, split into 2 groups that take turns entering the water. Outings last up to 7 hours. Programme subject to weather and whale behaviour.



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YOUR EXPEDITION

What does your expedition **include**?

INCLUDED

- ✓ Airport – accommodation – airport transfers.
- ✓ **Carlu Travel** coordinator throughout the trip.
- ✓ 9 days / 8 nights of accommodation in a house in Vava'u.
- ✓ Breakfast and snacks on boat days.
- ✓ 6 days at sea in search of humpback whales.
- ✓ Certified guide.
- ✓ Marine park fees, port fees, fuel fees and local taxes.
- ✓ Professional pictures and videos of the trip.

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ International and domestic flights.
- ✗ Meals not specified.
- ✗ **Travel insurance** (strongly recommended).
- ✗ **Cancellation insurance** (strongly recommended).
- ✗ Crew tips.
- ✗ Anything not listed under “Included”.

ACCOMMODATION

Our **house** in Vava'u

We will stay in a house close to the centre of **Neiafu**, with **4 bedrooms** with twin and double beds, a kitchen, living room and a large patio. The house has **Starlink** internet and its **own dock** a few minutes away.

4

Bedrooms

TWIN

and double beds

KITCHEN

and living room

PATIO

Large

STARLINK

Internet

DOCK

Private, minutes away

GEAR

What to **bring**

- **Your own mask, snorkel and fins:** gear you know is always more comfortable.
- **A 3 to 5 mm wetsuit** for extra buoyancy and windy days.
- **Sunscreen**, sunglasses and a cap.
- **A camera** for photos and videos (no flash).
- Light clothing, shorts, sandals, a towel or poncho and a rain jacket.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

All about the **encounters**

What are the interactions like?

They can last a minute or an hour, depending on how comfortable the whales feel.

Is there snorkeling at the islands?

Yes. We always try to snorkel every day on the coral reefs and in the amazing caves around the islands.

Fitness requirements

There is no age requirement, but you should be able to swim about 100 metres comfortably and feel confident in open water. We usually stay around the islands in calm waters.

Free days

Sunday is a day of rest in Tonga and most things are closed. It is a great day to explore the island, go hiking or snorkel at its beaches.

Can I take photos?

Of course! Take all the photos and videos you like, as long as you feel comfortable in the water. We recommend natural light, no flash. Carlos and Luka from Carlu Travel will help with any camera questions.

How long in the water?

It depends on the whales, the weather and the location. There are many snorkel spots to interact with them and outings usually last about 7 hours.

Do I need to be a diver?

No. Swimming with the whales is snorkel only: the rules prohibit diving with them, and as they stay near the surface there is no need.

Is it guaranteed?

An encounter can never be guaranteed, but the more days you spend in the water, the better your chances of memorable encounters.

Crew

Each boat has a certified guide experienced in whale snorkeling and a local captain, all licensed.



BEFORE YOU GO

Get ready for your **expedition**

Airport

Arrival and departure via Lupepau'u International Airport in Vava'u (VAV). Option 1: Fiji Airways from Los Angeles, Sydney or Brisbane, connecting in Nadi (Fiji). Option 2: from Australia or New Zealand to Tongatapu, one night there and a domestic flight to Vava'u with Lulutai Airlines. We can help with your flights!

Weather and water

The water is between 25 and 28 °C. We recommend a 3 to 5 mm wetsuit.

Clothing

Casual, with no restrictions on the beaches.

Sundays in Tonga

A day of rest enshrined in the Constitution: no trading and no boat trips, except essential services.

Currency

Tongan pa'anga (TOP), but US dollars are easily accepted. Few places take cards, so we recommend exchanging money at a bank in Vava'u or using an ATM.

Visa

Most countries receive a 30-day visa on arrival. Some, including several Latin American countries, must apply in advance at a Tongan consulate or online. We will let you know of any changes.

Electricity

240 V and 50 Hz, with type I plugs. We recommend travelling with an adapter, especially if you have a stopover in another country.



BOOKING

Prices and payments

PRICE PER PERSON

maximum 8 guests per departure

€3,700*

*The package price has been calculated based on the exchange rates, transport fares, fuel costs, fees and taxes applicable at the time. Any substantial change in the price of these items may lead to a revision of the final trip price.

Payment options

OPTION 1

Full payment at the time of booking

Your spot is confirmed immediately.

€3,700

OPTION 2

€1,000

Deposit

At the time of booking

€1,000

25%

Second payment

6 months before · Feb 28, 2027

€925

BALANCE

Final payment

90 days before · Jun 2, 2027

€1,775

The initial deposit is **NON-REFUNDABLE** if the client cancels, for any reason.

By bank transfer (EUR account · Wise)

BANK

WISE

HOLDER

Carlu travel LLC

IBAN

BE46 9050 6680 6836

BIC/SWIFT

TRWIBEB1XXX

REFERENCE

Tonga + First and Last Name

Book your spot

The trip has a maximum of **8 guests** and spots are confirmed in order of booking. Email us at info@carludiveandtravel.com with:

- 1 Full name
- 2 Date of birth
- 3 Nationality
- 4 Passport number and copy



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BEFORE BOARDING

Insurance and **cancellation**

VERY IMPORTANT

ALWAYS TRAVEL INSURED

Tonga is one of the most remote destinations in the world. Getting there means several flights and stopovers, and anything unexpected (an illness, a delayed flight, a missed connection or having to cancel) can be very expensive. That is why we **strongly** recommend getting both types of insurance:

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Covers medical expenses, evacuation, delays, missed connections and lost luggage throughout the trip.

CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Refunds what you have paid if you cannot travel for a covered reason, such as illness or a family emergency.

Buy them when you book, so you are covered from day one.

General cancellation conditions

Cancellation conditions apply according to the date of cancellation relative to the departure date:

OVER 12 MONTHS

Loss of the initial deposit (€1,000) + any penalty set by the airline if the plane ticket has already been issued.

12 TO 6 MONTHS

50% of the total trip price + any penalty set by the airline if the plane ticket has already been issued.

6 TO 3 MONTHS

75% of the total trip price + any penalty set by the airline if the plane ticket has already been issued.

UNDER 90 DAYS

100% of the total trip price.

