



The Humpback nursery at the International Dateline

General Information

Tonga is a beautiful island state in the South Pacific and is characterized by two important highlights. First, this South Pacific paradise is located almost on the international date line and second, Tonga is the nursery for humpback whales par excellence. The kingdom of Tonga consists of a total of 172 islands in the Pacific. The archipelago captivates with beautiful sandy beaches and light blue water.

During the whale season very pleasant temperatures prevail on these islands. During the day, the thermometer reaches about 28 degrees, at night it gets a little cooler. The temperature in the waters around the island reaches about 23 degrees. A thin wetsuit will keep the body warm at all times.

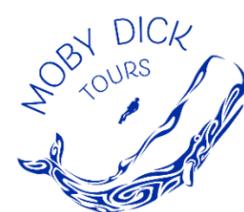
Our accommodation is located in the capital city of Nuku'alofa on the main island Tongatapu. We live close to the harbour and the oceanfront. The international airport is only 20 kilometers away from the capital. Therefore, no domestic flight to Vava'u is necessary.

Whales

Tonga is probably the world's best-known wintering area for humpback whales. Thousands of them migrate from Antarctica to the South Pacific during the southern winter. In the shallow, protected waters around the Tongan islands, the females find ideal conditions to bear their calves and mate with males. The first animals arrive in June. The high season is around the beginning of August to mid-October. In mid-November the last animals move south again to feed in Antarctica. Therefore, we meet many mothers with their calves. The young are very playful and curious, which regularly causes them to swim past us just a few meters away to take a look. In addition to the mothers with their calves, there are also many males in the area who are willing to mate. With a little luck we will witness a so-called "heat run" in which up to ten males chase a female - an incredibly impressive spectacle!

We also meet dolphins (spinners and bottlenose dolphins) from time to time. The playful animals often stay near the humpback whales. In addition, there are frequent sightings of impressive hunters, false killer whales.

For the search for the animals on the ocean we use a good motorboat, which makes getting in and out of the water very easy. Drinks, snacks and lunch are served on the trips.



Accommodation

During our time together in Tonga we stay in a modern Hotel in the capital Nuku'alofa. The marina of the island is just around the corner. We also use this marina for our trips to the whales. Within walking distance, you will also find various restaurants and bars. The hotel impresses with good food and, as usual for Tonga, a very friendly service. At the hotel's own bar we often end the day with a fresh cocktail. The spacious rooms are very stylish and only a few meters away from the blazing ocean.



Our weekly program

The week begins with your arrival on Sunday. We will be happy to welcome you at the airport or directly at your accommodation in Nuku'alofa. The accommodation allows check-in from the early afternoon. Everyone who has already arrived will meet on Sunday evening for a relaxed dinner and to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

From Monday onwards, we go out to sea early in the morning every day except Wednesdays. After a few hours with the whales and hopefully many encounters in the water, we go for a light lunch on a small, dreamlike island. After another 3 hours on the ocean we return to Nuku'alofa at about 4 pm. In the middle of the week we visit several places of interest on the island in order to have a little change from the boat. In the remaining free time there is the possibility to do something by yourself or to relax.

The official program is rounded off with a dinner together, during which we review our experiences from our week. The week ends with the check-out on Sunday morning and a possible transfer to the airport.

This is just an example itinerary. The weather has a big influence on our activities, which we adapt to the conditions.

Other activities

In order to give you a break from the boat, we will explore the main island on one day during an exciting excursion. There are some highlights: The landing place of Captain Cook, deep, wide and spacious dripstone caves with underground lakes, impressive blowholes - here seawater is shot into the air by a natural cave system - or local markets with a great variety of fruits and local crafts and much more.

But there is never a shortage of other activities either: snorkeling, stand-up paddling or simply relaxing in the sun - a successful addition to the hours in the water and on the boat.





Arrival

The airport Fua'amotu International (TBU) near Togatapu offers direct connections to Auckland (New Zealand), Sydney (Australia) and Nadi (Fiji).

Equipment

For our excursions we provide diving goggles, snorkels, fins and a wetsuit. If you prefer to bring your own equipment, this is of course also possible.

The waters around Tonga can get a bit cooler from time to time. We recommend a thin wetsuit.

Clothing

The warm temperatures invite for short clothes. Even in the evening short clothes are no problem, but we recommend a polo shirt or a light shirt for dinner.

Do not forget to pack sunscreen.

Visa

The Kingdom of Tonga has concluded many travel agreements in recent years, so most tourists can enter without a visa. These include, for example, the Schengen countries.

Further information can be found here: <http://www.tongaholiday.com/visa-requirements/>

Travel advice

Travel advice for Tonga of the UK government can be found here:

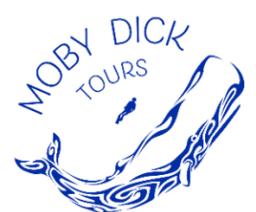
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/tonga>

Information on vaccination can be found on the website of the CDC:

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/tonga?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001

Insurances

Travel, liability and health insurance are the responsibility of the participants.



Dates

2021

Week 1: Sunday, August 29th – Sunday, September 05th 2021

Week 2: Sunday, September 05th – Sunday, September 12th 2021

Week 3: Sunday, September 12th – Sunday, September 19th 2021

2022

Week 1: Sunday, August 28th – Sunday, September 04th 2022

Week 2: Sunday, September 04th – Sunday, September 11th 2022

Week 3: Sunday, September 11th – Sunday, September 18th 2022

Tours will be held if there is a minimum of 4 participants.

Prices & Services

Price per person per week: **CHF 4'900 (approx. 4'900 USD)** in a double room

Single-Room surcharge: CHF 500

Room upgrades on request

Included:

- German and English speaking tour guide on site
- Airport transfers
- Boat tours
- Snorkeling gear
- Accommodation
- All meals and drinks consumed in the group
- Shore excursions in the group
- Sim card incl. data volume
- Donation to the Whaleman Foundation & One Tree Planted
- CO2 tax for our emissions during the week

Not included:

- Flights
- CO2 tax for your journey (recommended)
- Meals and drinks consumed on your own
- Independent activities
- Underwater camera (GoPro 6 or newer) rental for the week (CHF 100)
- Photos of the week

We are happy to receive your inquiry via email on info@experiencegiants.com or through our website.

