

10 DAY HIGHLIGHTS PACKAGE

TONGA WHALE ENCOUNTER

\$4499

PER
PERSON
TWIN
SHARE

TONGATAPU ISLAND • HA'APAI • LIFUKA ISLAND

THE OFFER

There are few places in the world where you can swim with the stars of the annual whale migration, the majestic humpback. The enormous creatures journey from the Antarctic to the calm waters of Ha'apai Island, Tonga to breed, play and splash in the warm waters. On this incredible 10 day whale safari package, you have three days to swim with these giant beauties of the sea.

Enjoy a scenic flight from Tonga's main island to your home for the next seven nights, Ha'apai Beach Resort on Lifuka Island. Explore your tropical surrounds and make use of the resort's complimentary facilities and snorkelling equipment with three days at leisure and three days to swim with humpback whales on boat safaris. Upon your return to Tongatapu enjoy the day at leisure to explore or take an optional tour to take in the island's sights, Tongan lifestyle, culture and traditions. This incredible package includes internal scenic flights, nine nights accommodation, 22 meals including all meals at Ha'apai Beach Resort, and more. Don't let this incredible opportunity swim by.

STANDARD PACKAGE

\$4499

Trip
aDeal
Est. 2011

Offer available for a limited time or until sold out. TRIP A DEAL PTY LTD: 50149240433

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THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Tongatapu, Tonga

Upon arrival into Fua'amotu International Airport be met by a tour representative and transferred to the accommodation. Relax for the rest of the day.

Please Note: International flight from Australia to Tonga is not included.

Overnight: Little Italy Hotel, Tongatapu Island or similar

Meals included: None

Day 2 Tongatapu, Island - Ha'apai, Lifuka Island

After breakfast, be transferred back to the airport for a scenic flight to the remote islands of Ha'apai (approx. 45min flight). The resort team will be waiting at the Ha'apai Airport to transfer you 1.3km to your beachfront fale. After checking into the fale, the rest of the day is at leisure to relax or explore.

The fales (beach houses) are located in a lush tropical garden overlooking the white sandy beach with a snorkelling reef on the doorstep and lots of wildlife to be discovered. All rooms are fully insect screened and furnished with comfortable beds, closets, power points, fresh linen and towels. Cold drinking water and Wi-Fi access are included. The resort has a small library with English and German books and magazines, a variety of games and lots of informational material on diving, the whales and Tonga. There is even a telescope to view the clear night skies. Besides scuba diving, whale watching and snorkel trips, there is plenty to do to keep you entertained. Bicycles, snorkelling gear, sea-kayaks and paddle boards (1/2 day) are available free of charge, allowing you to explore Ha'apai above and below the water on your own terms. If you just wish to spend a relaxed day at the beach, swing yourself

into one of the hammocks to enjoy that good book or treat yourself to a fresh green coconut.

This afternoon an informative whale briefing will be held in preparation for tomorrow's excursion. In the evening, watch the sunset from the ocean view restaurant and bar, just meters from the sand.

Overnight: Ha'apai Beach Resort, Lifuka Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast;Dinner

Day 3 Swim with Humpback Whales

After breakfast, embark on the first of three unforgettable whale safaris. Every year from mid July to mid October the serene islands of Ha'apai provides a safe haven for one of mother nature's most captivating creations - the majestic Humpback Whales. Tonga is one of only a few countries in the world where you are allowed to actually swim with Humpback Whales, and with our guides and the tropical paradise of Ha'apai it is simply the most beautiful and tranquil place to do it. The whales come from the Antarctic to the calm warm waters of Ha'apai to breed, birth and socialise. Mothers spend the time until their departure, nursing their young and courting a potential mate. It's a very important and sensitive time in their annual cycle and the most exciting time to watch and interact with them.

Every day of whale watching is different with a vast array of interesting behaviour to witness - from the "blow" shaped like a love heart, a graceful spy hop, powerful fin or fluke slaps to continual full body breaching and inquisitive approaches to the boat. Using the guides hydrophone (waterproof microphone) you can sometimes listen to their magical love songs even when they are out of sight. Swimming with the Humpback Whales is the ultimate marine experience, even

THE ITINERARY

life changing for some. So strap on your mask and fins and glide into the blue for your experience of a lifetime swimming with Tonga's Humpback Whales!

The whale watching trips depart at 8.30 am from the main wharf in Pangai. For your safety you will be informed about the vessel, whale behaviour and how we conduct swimming with the whales. Depending on the events of the day, we will have lunch at anchor, allowing you to snorkel on one of Ha'apai's wonderful coral reefs, or on a beach of one of the many islands. The afternoon will be spent looking for more whales before we make our way back home around 2.30 pm.

You will be led by a fully licensed and professional whale swim operator who strives to ensure that you swim on every trip. However, be aware that whales are wild animals and you will be observing them in their natural environment. Swimming may or may not be possible depending on the whales' behaviour, their reaction to us and the weather conditions. Only 4 swimmers, plus a guide, are allowed in the water with the whales at any one time. The boats carry up to 8 people so you will generally take turns in the water.

We are only visitors in their realm and their welfare is our primary concern, always adopting a soft, respectful approach during our encounters. If the whales show signs of being disturbed, we cease contact and continue our search for whales that are more in tune to interacting with us. That being said, our experience with the whales combined with our careful approach technique usually result in exhilarating in-water encounters that leave our guests with unforgettable whale moments in Ha'apai. Each boat trip includes complete snorkelling gear, a fresh, home-made lunch, tea, coffee and refreshments, with trained professionals to make your day safe, informative and enjoyable.

After arriving back at the resort you will have free time in the afternoon to relax and explore. Take a walk along the beach, or perhaps enjoy a cold drink from the bar (not included). In the evening a BBQ dinner will be served just after sunset.

Overnight: Ha'apai Beach Resort, Lifuka Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 4 Ha'apai Free Day

King George Tupou I pledged The Kingdom of Tonga and its people to heaven, making Sunday a strict day of rest in the kingdom. It is actually illegal to work on the Sabbath. You might like to begin the day by visiting a local church to hear the angelic voices of the choir or simply enjoy a day at leisure relaxing in the exotic and beautiful beaches exploring the island by bike, or taking advantage of the sea kayaks or stand up paddle boards available at the resort. The resort and its facilities are still open all day.

Overnight: Ha'apai Beach Resort, Lifuka Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 5 Swim with Humpback Whales

After breakfast, head out for your second day into the crystal clear waters of Ha'apai to join the humpback whales for more adventures. In the evening, enjoy dinner at the oceanfront restaurant as guests share experiences of the day.

Overnight: Ha'apai Beach Resort, Lifuka Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 6 Swim with Humpback Whales

After breakfast, head out for one last set of encounters with the magnificent Humpback whales.

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Overnight: Ha'apai Beach Resort, Lifuka Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 7 Ha'apai Free Day

Today is kept free in case any of your earlier whale swims need rescheduling due to weather issues. If all has gone to plan, then today is free to explore on your own. You could ride a bike, go for a sea kayak, enjoy a paddle board or hire a car to explore the island's other resorts, snorkelling spots, beaches or the local cafe. Alternatively, you may like to spend the day relaxing at the resort. An additional whale swimming trip may also be booked as optional.

Overnight: Ha'apai Beach Resort, Lifuka Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 8 Ha'apai Free Day

Today is another free day at leisure. Excellent food is provided in the resort's ocean front restaurant and the evening enjoys a farewell bonfire as the Milky Way falls across the night sky.

Overnight: Ha'apai Beach Resort, Lifuka Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

Day 9 Ha'apai - Tongatapu Free Day

This morning, fly back to the main island of Tongatapu and be transferred to the hotel. An optional tour (not included) is available today to explore the stunning scenery of the island and learn more about Tongan lifestyle, culture and traditions. Visits include the Flying Fox Sanctuary, the Blow Holes, Captain Cook's Landing Place and the busy Tongan Market where the locals gather to purchase and sell their

produce. The market provides a great opportunity to purchase handicrafts, local fruit and photo opportunities. In the evening, you have the opportunity to join a Tongan feast night (not included) with displays of traditional dances at the Oholei Resort.

Overnight: Little Italy Hotel, Tongatapu Island or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10 Tongatapu, Tonga

Today make your own onwards travel plans or take advantage of a free transfer to the airport.

Please Note: Flights are not included.

Meals included: Breakfast

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TOUR INCLUSIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the beauty of Tonga's Tongatapu and Lifuka Islands
- Experience 3 x humpback whale boat safaris
- Swim with the majestic Tongan Humpback whales
- Listen to the whales' magical love songs
- Snorkel on one of Ha'apai's wonderful coral reefs
- Discover the wonders of Lifuka Island with 3 days at leisure
- Enjoy a half day stand up paddle board hire
- Relax on the exotic beaches
- Experience a sea kayak trip in Ha'apai beach
- Enjoy free time to explore Tonga's main island, Tongatapu
- Discover Lifuka island by bicycle
- Receive complimentary use of wetsuits and snorkelling equipment

FLIGHTS

- Return internal flights (economy class): Tongatapu Island to Lifuka Island
- 23kg checked in baggage

ACCOMMODATION

- 9 nights quality accommodation in Tonga

DINING

- Enjoy 22 meals including all inclusive meals at Ha'apai Beach Resort

TOUR ESSENTIALS

- Fully licensed and professional safari operators
- English-speaking local guides

TRANSPORT

- Transportation by air-conditioned vehicles

TRANSFERS

- Return airport transfers

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Please note: all information provided in this brochure is subject to both change and availability. Prior to purchase please check the current deal for up-to-date information. If you have already purchased this deal, the terms and conditions on your Purchase Confirmation apply and take precedence over the information in this brochure.*

BOOKING INFORMATION

After purchase, you will receive a receipt and a Purchase Confirmation, directing you to an online Passenger Information Form. The Passenger Information Form must be completed within 72 hours of purchase.

Any special requests, preferences and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your Passenger Information Form. Any change requested after submitting your Passenger Information Form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the Schedule of Fees below.

On purchasing this Travel Offer you are bound by the General Terms and Conditions, in addition to the specific terms and conditions outlined in this Important Information.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Covid-19 Booking Policy

- TripADeal Tour packages are non-refundable. If your Tour package is affected by Covid-19 related travel restrictions and you are unable to travel, you will receive either a free date change (credit that is specific to your original package and purchase value) or an open credit less any non-recoverable supplier fees to the value of your original purchase for use on any other package available via the TripADeal website. Please note: Date change credits are subject to availability and not guaranteed until confirmed by TripADeal, not the property/tour operator you are due to stay/travel with.

Please note: all additional charges are payable direct to your Travel Consultant in AUD (unless otherwise stated).

OFFER ESSENTIALS

Travel offer is valid for travel on selected dates until the 6th October 2022.

This travel offer is priced for one person based on twin share.

Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers a mandatory single supplement of \$1380 applies.

Departure Dates

Please see TripADeal website for current departure dates.

Surcharges

Please note:

*- dates/months with a * incur a land shoulder season surcharge of \$100 per person*

- dates/months with a ^ incur a land high season surcharge of \$300 per person.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation Used

3 Star (self-rated)

- Tongatapu (Tonga): Little Italy Hotel or similar

- Lifuka Island (Tonga): Ha'apai Beach Resort or similar

Please note: Accommodation/rooms offered are based on a lead-in room type, and are subject to availability based on seasonality. Properties will be confirmed, no later than two weeks prior to travel.

Extra Nights

Not Available

Maximum Room Capacity

2 People (subject to availability).

Child Policy

- No child discounts. Full price applies for all children travelling with their parents.

- Valid for Children 16 years old and over.

Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors allowed.

Triple Share

Not Available

Bedding Configuration

Twin or Double bedding (subject to availability).

Adjoining / Interconnecting Rooms

Subject to availability and at the hotel's discretion. Please enquire on booking if you

require this option.

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Minimum group size 2, maximum group size 15 per vehicle.

Optional Tours / Activities

Day 7 or Day 8: Additional whale swimming trip - \$395 AUD per person

Day 7 or Day 8: Premium whale swimming trip \$1210 AUD per person

- The 'Premium Whale Swim' option guarantees you will be in the water on every swim and don't miss any.

Day 9: Tongatapu Island half day tour - \$105 AUD per person

Day 9: Tongan feast night Oholei - \$175 AUD per person (Buffet dinner, Cultural show and return transfers included)

Please note:

- prices are based on per person, are subject to availability, time permitting and weather conditions

- The optional tours listed above must be purchased on checkout or over the phone prior to submitting your passenger information form (subject to availability)

- Some tours require minimum numbers to operate.

EXCLUSIONS

- Visa fees and requirements (A visa will be granted on arrival if travelling on an Australian passport for stays of up to one month)

- International Flights

- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary

- Optional gratuities/tipping.

- Optional activities/tours

- Personal expenses

- Travel insurance (Mandatory)

Please note: A comprehensive travel Insurance policy must be organised BEFORE all details can be finalised.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TOUR GUIDE VS. TOUR LEADER

Tour Guide:

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

Tour Leader:

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village, and offer information on the place visited on the bus, however they are not required to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history. They are not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and if caught doing so, can be fined.

Please note: Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Tonga's climate is warm, tropical and welcoming. Temperatures are warm all year round and can get hot in the summer, but seldom reach above 35°C (95°F). Trade winds from the East-Southeast bring year-long cooling breezes in the late afternoon and early evening. Tropical rains fall from December through February, coinciding with the warmest summer months. However, there are no significant differences in temperatures between summer and winter. In general, the winter temperatures (April to September) are only slightly cooler than summer temperatures (November to February).

FLIGHTS

Seat Selection & Frequent Flyer Points:

At TripADeal we do not arrange seat selection. It is important to highlight that

some Airlines do not allow pre-selected seats. We strongly suggest you contact the Airline directly with seating allocation requirements and or arrive at the airport earlier to arrange your seating. While we do not add frequent flyer member details to bookings, you can do this directly with the Airline once you have your flight information.

Passport Validity:

Customers are required to provide valid passport details either at the time of purchase, or no later than 45 days prior to departure date. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the booking. In this instance customers will be responsible for any costs and fees incurred.

Meals :

22 meals are included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches and dinners the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify TripADeal of any dietary requests/requirements. Please note; we will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

Luggage :

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour.

OTHER

Fitness Level Required / Mobility:

Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile.

Please note: a reasonable level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

TONGA ISLAND AND WHALE TOUR HEALTH, FITNESS & DIETARY INFO :

You must be able to swim and be confident in the water to join this tour. However you do not need to be a strong swimmer. You do need a reasonable level of fitness with the ability to climb a moving boat ladder with a maximum capacity of 120kg.

Ha'apai is a remote island with few medical facilities, a limited flight service and unpredictable electricity supply.

Please inform us of any pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies, dietary requirements or physical disabilities that you may have. We can then advise you of whether we can accept your booking to visit the island. The resort hosts' decision on accepting guests is final. Unfortunately vegan menus are not available due to the lack of available produce.

Gratuities / Tipping:

Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. Tipping is optional and at the customers discretion.

Tipping for all services provided on tour is always a matter of personal discretion, however please be aware that tipping is considered by many locals to be a part of their normal remuneration and they may approach you for payment and there is no need to be intimidated by the request.

Sightseeing:

Please note: In the event entrance to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your itinerary where possible, will be adjusted or an similar activity will be offered in its place (subject to availability).

Shopping:

Shopping overseas can be a daunting and confusing experience, especially when there is a language barrier. Please be very cautious when foreign currencies and prices are involved. If paying by credit card, please pay close attention to the amount you are being charged and keep all of your receipts.

Do not make any purchases you are not comfortable with or feel pressured into. If you are uncertain or need assistance with the language barrier, please seek assistance from your Tour Guide/Leader.

Please refer to our Terms and Conditions in regards to shopping for further information.

VISAS



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A tourist visa will be granted on arrival for stays of up to one month, provided you have an onward ticket for those travelling on an Australian passport.

Visa and other entry and exit conditions (such as currency, customs and quarantine regulations) can change at short notice. Contact a High Commission of Tonga for up-to-date information.

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the date you intend to return to Australia. If you arrive in Tonga with less than six months remaining on your passport, you may be fined on arrival, and have your passport impounded by Tongan border control officers until the fine is paid.

Important: Visa rules may have changed since COVID-19. Check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Please note: Passengers who are not Australian citizens must check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required. It is also important to note, some areas of employment such as journalism, government authorities and charity organisations may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may in turn affect the type of application required.

INSURANCE

We are proud to offer a range of travel insurance products - please ask your Travel Consultant for more information.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Voluntary Changes

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- Changes - \$100.00 per booking + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel providers.

Name Changes Due To Passenger Error

- If the incorrect name has been advised to TripADeal, charges of \$100.00 per booking + any additional charges applied by the airline/

cruise company/accommodation/other travel providers.

Supplier Fees

In the event the Travel Offer you have purchased is unable to proceed, and/or a travel Supplier is unable to fulfil the Travel Offer due to external circumstances (Limitation of Liability e.g. a Force Majeure event), there may be a fee or amount of money that is withheld by our Suppliers and is unrecoverable. This may be due to non-refundable airline tickets, cancellation penalties with cruise cabins or unrecoverable payments with our land/accommodation partners. TripADeal has committed to these costs as your Agent and will endeavour to recover all funds committed and/or paid for your Travel Offer, but this may not be possible in all circumstances. If refunds are not available from Suppliers, we will endeavour to obtain a travel credit on the best terms available and communicate these outcomes to you. In the event, TripADeal is unable to obtain a refund or travel service credit, or part thereof, this cost is passed on to the customer as a Supplier Fee. This fee is not revenue-raising and is paid to or withheld by our suppliers when recovering payments.