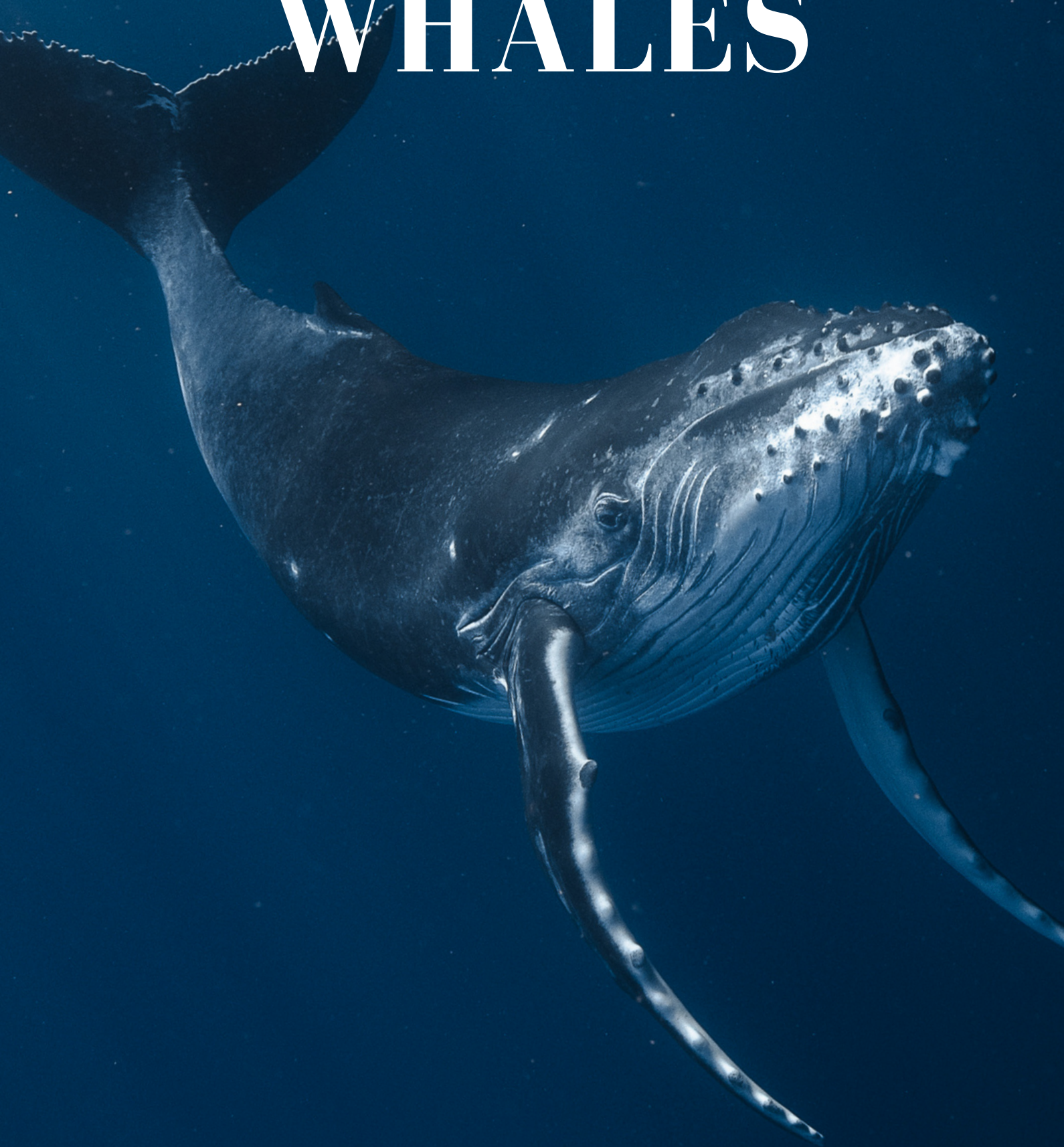


EXPERIENCE

HUMPBACK WHALES



YOUR EXPERIENCE

OVERVIEW



Vava'u, Tonga



Max 7 guests



7 nights



Photography Package



Whale Swims



5 days on the water



A PACIFIC PARADISE TONGA



The Kingdom of Tonga is situated just east of the International Date Line in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean. It is also known as the "Friendly Islands". With 176 islands to explore, and only 40 inhabited islands, it is easy to imagine yourself on one of the deserted islands and become friends with the local sea life. An authentic mix of centuries-old traditions and modern culture, surrounded by azure waters and scenic settings, the nation is famous for its fantastic snorkelling opportunities, and most importantly: for being the winter breeding ground of humpback whales.

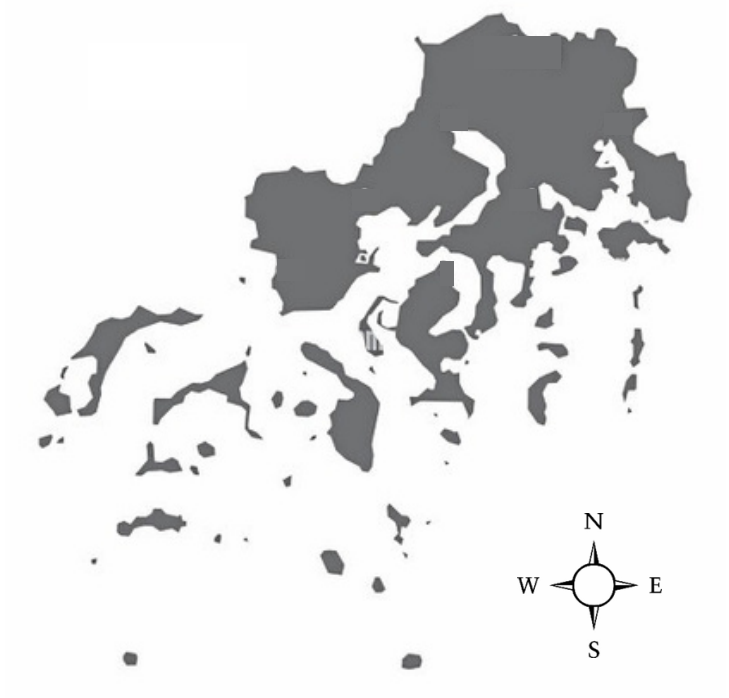
The crystal blue waters of Tonga are home to some of the most majestic creatures on earth - humpback whales! Every year these gentle giants make their way to Tonga's warm waters to breed and give birth. Witnessing these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat is a truly unforgettable and life changing experience.

THE ISLAND OF VAVA'U

The Tongan island of Vava'u is a haven for wildlife. Every year, numerous humpback whales make their annual migration from the freezing feeding grounds of Antarctica, to the warm blue paradise of Tonga to mate and give birth. Despite their large size, weighing over 30 tonnes, humpback are inquisitive and highly intelligent gentle giants.

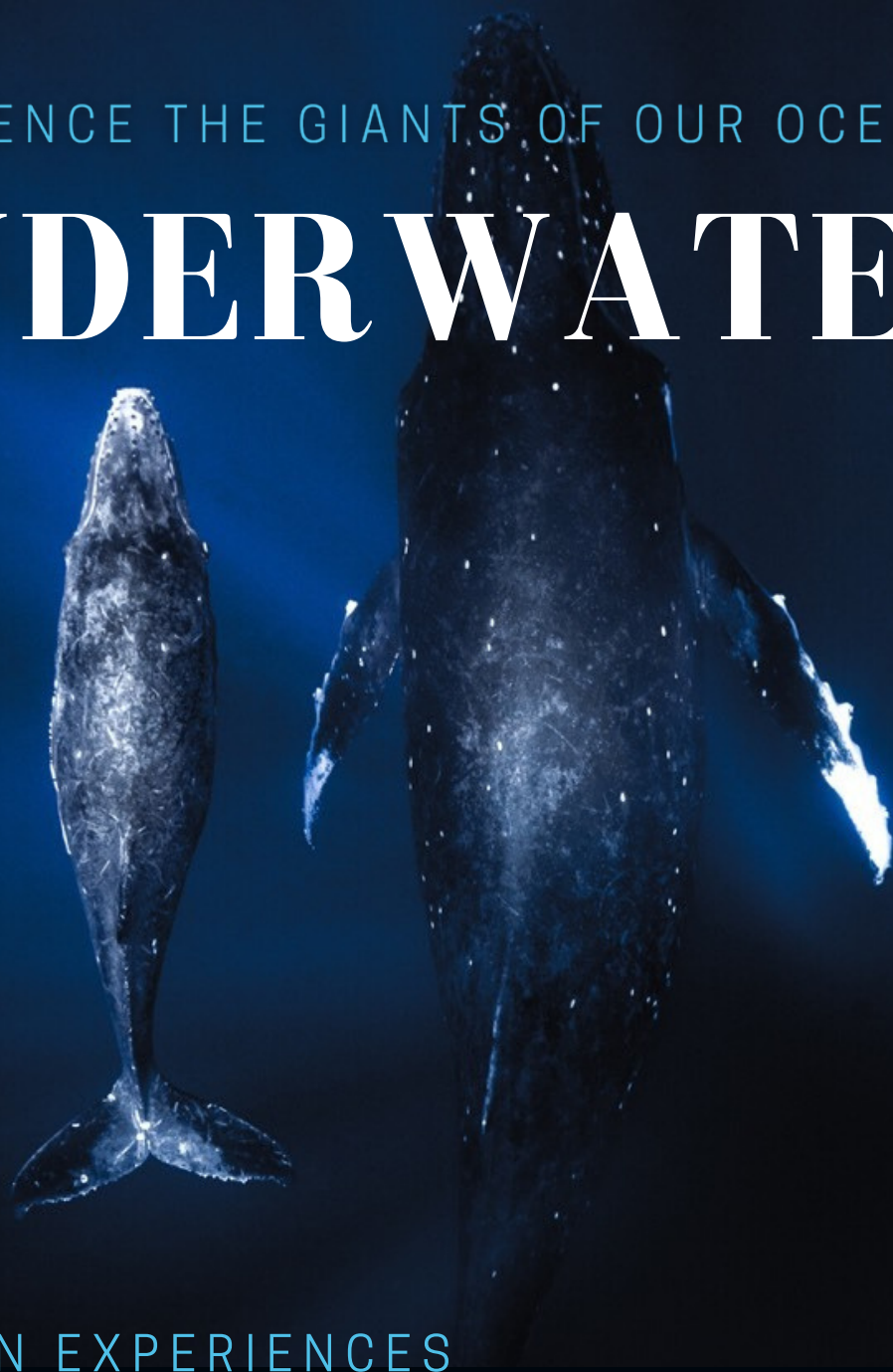
HUMPBACK WHALE SEASON

AUG - OCT
3 months / year



EXPERIENCE THE GIANTS OF OUR OCEANS

UNDERWATER



3 OCEAN EXPERIENCES



WHALE WATERS:

Freedive / snorkel
with the beautiful
ocean giants



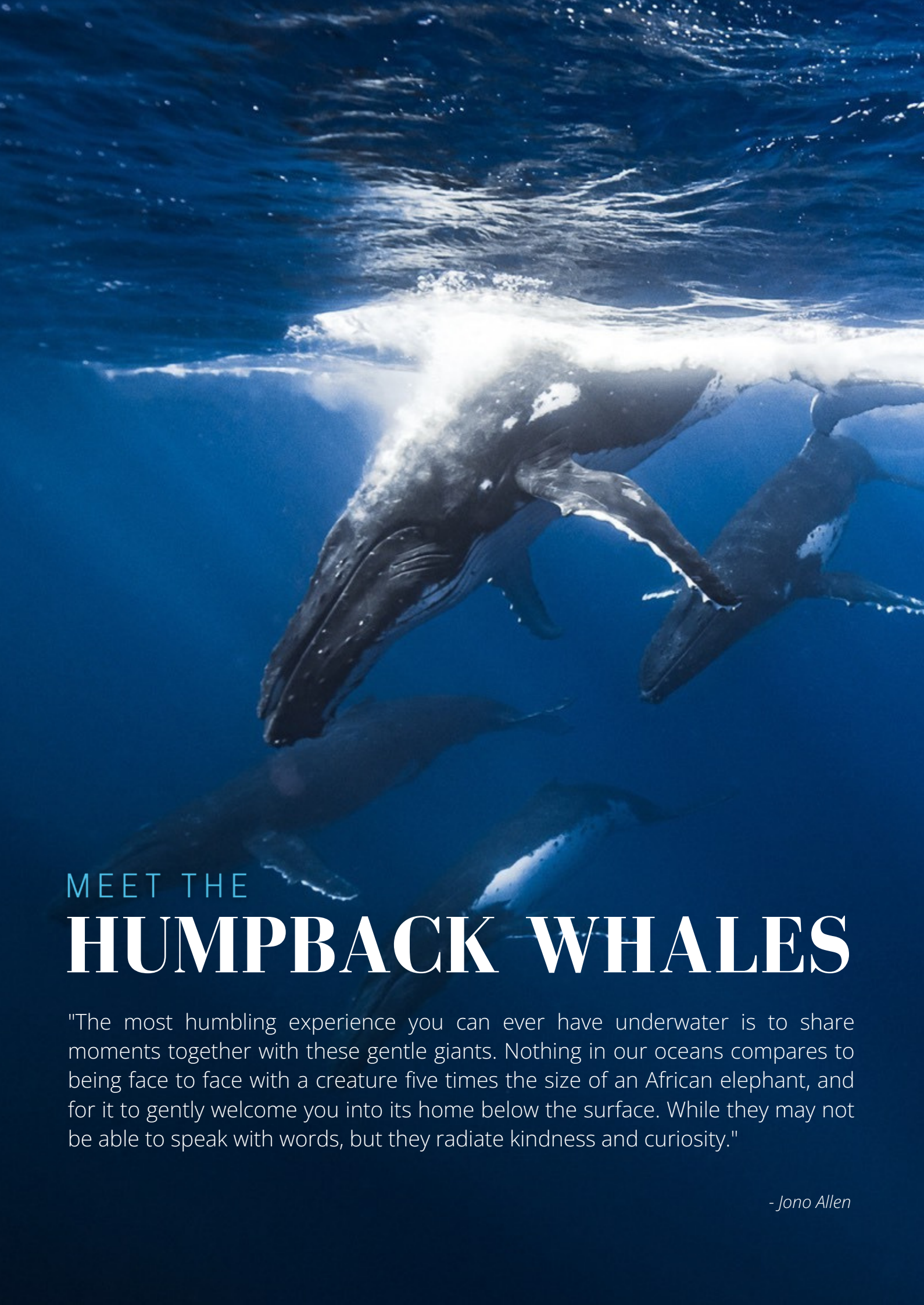
ISLAND REEFS:

Swim through
pristine coral
seascapes



OCEAN CAVES:

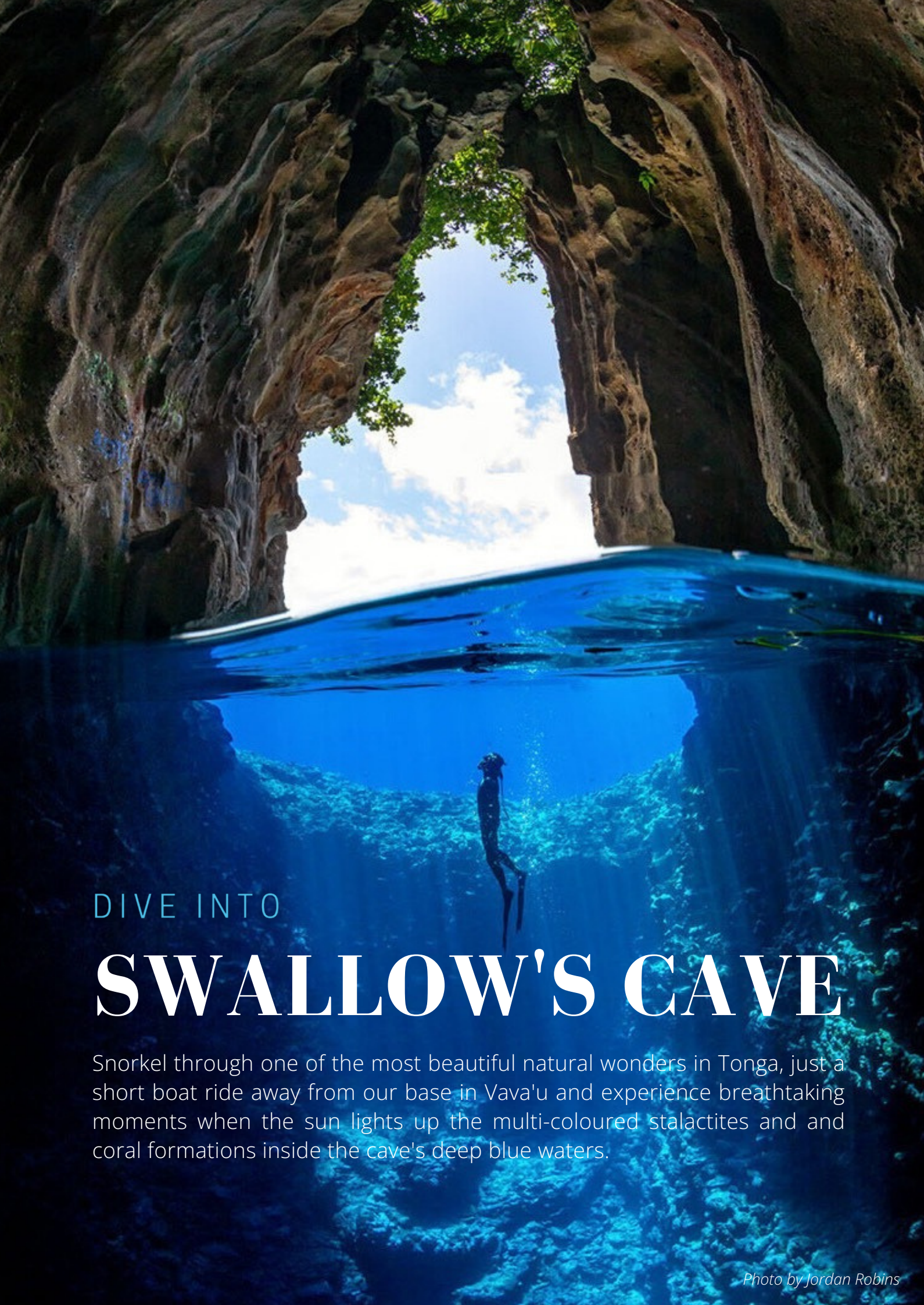
Explore the
electric blue
Swallow's cave



MEET THE HUMPBACK WHALES

"The most humbling experience you can ever have underwater is to share moments together with these gentle giants. Nothing in our oceans compares to being face to face with a creature five times the size of an African elephant, and for it to gently welcome you into its home below the surface. While they may not be able to speak with words, but they radiate kindness and curiosity."

- Jono Allen



DIVE INTO

SWALLOW'S CAVE

Snorkel through one of the most beautiful natural wonders in Tonga, just a short boat ride away from our base in Vava'u and experience breathtaking moments when the sun lights up the multi-coloured stalactites and coral formations inside the cave's deep blue waters.

Photo by Jordan Robins

WHALE BEHAVIOUR

WORKSHOP

Learn how to connect and interact with marine life, both safely and respectfully with ocean megafauna guide, underwater photographer and environmental scientist Jono Allen. Dive deeper into the unique behaviour and personalities of whales as we carefully position ourselves to achieve those once in a lifetime face to face encounters we dream of.





TRIP LEADER

JONO ALLEN



Jono Allen is a professional wildlife photographer, environmental scientist, marine megafauna expedition guide and freediving instructor. Driven by a desire to document and protect our oceans' threatened giants, he co-founded the Fuvahmulah Marine Foundation after documenting the rescue of an entangled whale shark in the Maldives. His work has been featured in global campaigns, such as Save the Beyond. Whether it be leading encounters with gentle giant humpbacks in Tonga or tiger sharks in the Maldives, Jono's experiences are guided by one motivation: to facilitate unique connections with wildlife through providing guests with the opportunity to exchange eye contact, and experience those once in a lifetime moments of silent face-to-face dialogue with the giants of the sea.

TRIP GUIDE

EVA SYCHOLD



Eva is an enthusiastic expedition host at Blue Vagabonds, where she combines her passion for the ocean with a wealth of experience in hospitality and adventure. She is a skilled Freediver who captures the breathtaking beauty of marine life through photography, while providing guests with unforgettable experiences in the deep blue.

At Blue Vagabond, Eva is dedicated to crafting unique ocean adventures that inspire, educate and purposefully connect people to the deep blue world. Each adventure an invitation to explore the mysteries of the sea and share in the magic of nature's wonders.

PRIVATE CHEF

ANDREA SUNNA



Andrea is an award-winning chef with over 10 years experience in the culinary field. Being born in Swedish Lapland, Andrea has worked all over the world. Andrea has worked as a head chef, food blogger, recipe creator and private chef in her decade-long career and, while catering to all diets, she specialises in vegan dishes.

Through her sustainable and creative approach to food, Andrea aims to demonstrate that plant-based eating is not only good for the planet but also our health. Andrea prides herself on using locally sourced and seasonal ingredients and a no waste mentality.





LOCAL CREW

OUR TONGAN TEAM



PALUKI

Born and raised in Tonga, Paluki is the our cultural guide, welcoming guests into the rich traditions of the country. As Blue Vagabonds' go-to for all things Tongan, Paluki shares the stories, customs, and places that make Vava'u so special. From teaching guests about Tongan feasts and local practices to guiding you through kava ceremonies, Paluki helps travellers leave with a deeper understanding and appreciation of this incredible island.



DESI

Hailing from Vava'u, Desi is our trusted Blue Vagabonds driver! Whether it be airport pick ups or trips into town, we love any trip with Desi.

SUMMARY

INCLUDED

- 7 nights shared accommodation
- 5 full days on the water looking for whales (7h a day)
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner made by private chef
- Interacting with marine megafauna workshop
- Underwater photography workshop
- Whale Science Talk
- Personalised travel assistance
- Photography package of trip highlights
- Airport transfers
- Snorkelling on tropical coral reefs
- Swimming and exploring hidden ocean caves
- Tour of Vava'u with local guide

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights & travel insurance (mandatory)
- Dive/swim gear
- Cafe items between meals
- Alcoholic drinks

PRICE: USD \$4,500



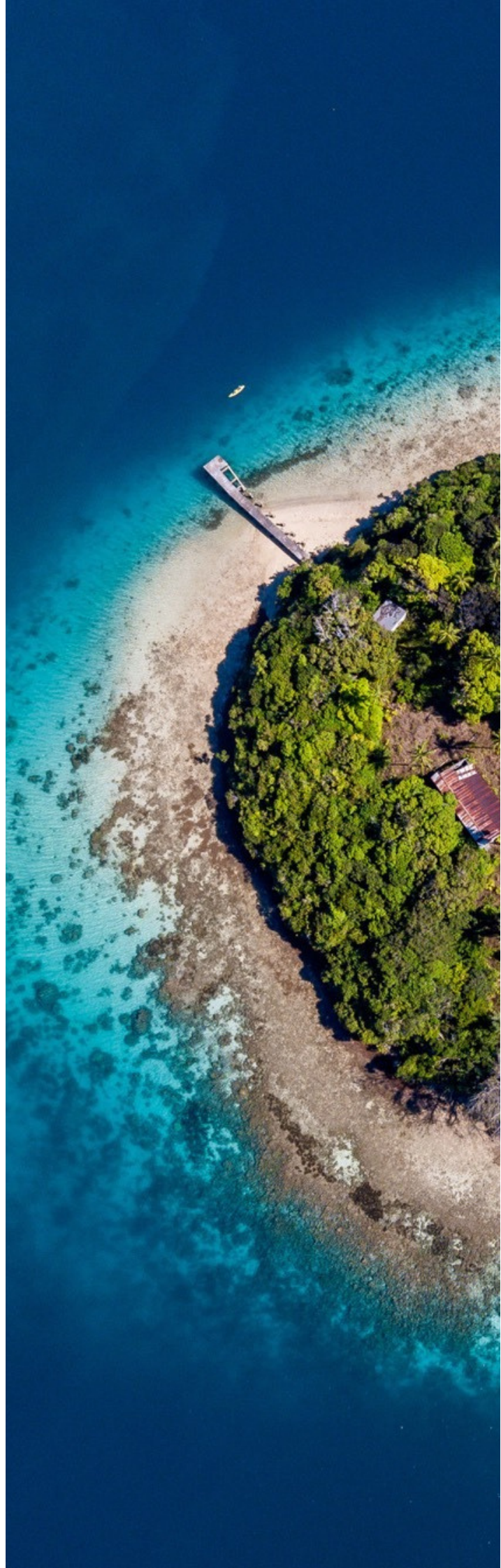
YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1:

- You'll be greeted at the airport by our local driver and enjoy a lovely car ride to your accommodation.
- Meet-and-greet with your guides over lunch.
- Settle into your waterfront accommodation.
- Tongan welcome feast!

DAY 2:

- As Sunday is a local day of rest, we start your first full day with island exploring and local culture.
- In the afternoon you will be briefed about what your next days on the boat will look like, followed by a masterclass from Jono Allen on how to interact with humpback whales in a responsible manner.





DAY 3-7

- Breakfast at 6am.
- On the boat 7am.
- 7 hours of searching for and swimming with humpbacks!
- A delicious lunch made by our private chef will be served on the boat.
- 2pm return back to base, rinse your gear and enjoy some rest and sunshine.
- Interactive Underwater Photography Masterclass with Jono/ Whale Science Talk with Eva.
- Dinner prepared by private award-winning chef.

DAY 8

- Breakfast at your accomodation.
- Jono will present a final Masterclass on Photography Editing. Apply your new skills to your own photos!
- Exchange pictures and videos with your fellow travellers.
- Sadly it's time to say goodbye, but with memories that will last forever.
- Return transfer to Vava'u airport.





PRIVATE WATERFRONT ACCOMMODATION

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why swim with Humpback Whales in Tonga?

Swimming with humpback whales is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will leave you in awe. These majestic creatures are known for their intelligence and beautiful songs. Not only will you get to witness their incredible size and grace up close, but you'll also have the opportunity to learn more about their behaviour and habitat. Swimming with humpback whales is an unforgettable adventure that will leave you with a newfound appreciation for the ocean and these gentle giants.

Do I need to have experience scuba diving or freediving?

No! You don't need any scuba dive or freedive experience for this trip. The whales come to the surface, and we meet them there! Comfort in the water and experience with snorkelling is highly recommended.

I'm a solo traveller, do I have the option to book a single room?

Your accommodation in Tonga is based on shared rooms. Solo travellers can opt for a private room, which incurs a single-supplement fee. Please contact us for specific pricing details. Alternatively, we may offer a roommate pairing option on a limited, first-come, first-served basis. Reach out to us for availability and more information.

Do you have snorkelling equipment and safety vests?

While we can help with some gear, we strongly encourage you to bring your own snorkel, mask, fins and wetsuit that you have tested and are comfortable with! For those less competent swimmers we encourage the use thick and highly buoyant wetsuits over safety vests, however it is your choice!

What level of fitness and experience in the water is required?

Many of the activities involve swimming and snorkelling so we recommend a moderate level of fitness. It is also recommended that you are comfortable in the open ocean and able to swim 200m unassisted.

What is included in the trip photography highlights?

Photos with you and the wildlife are not guaranteed. We try and capture highlights of the trip and moments that organically arise.

How do I get to Tonga?

Flights currently operate from Australia, Fiji & New Zealand. While flights options are limited our team is here to help you find the best flights all the way to Vava'u.



CONFIRM YOUR SPOT

IN PACIFIC PARADISE!

JONO ALLEN / EVA SYCHOLD

**Secure your booking via our website
or send us a message**

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