

KERNHEM Group (NZ)



Путешествия на край земли

Наша цель — сделать Ваш отдых приятным и незабываемым

Приглашаем Вас погрузиться в подводный мир чудес Океании! ТОНГА

Vava'u

The island group of Vava'u in the north of Tonga where islands rise from the iridescent waters that surround the emerald green islands and their white sandy beaches, boasts diving and fishing at its best. Vava'u is a paradise pure and perfect for those interested in diving, snorkelling, fishing and whale watching. whale watching.

The Diving

One word that describes the diving in Vava'u is "MAGIC!" The waters are crystal clear with the visibility being as good as it gets in the Pacific, averaging 30 metres plus. The water temperature is warm all year round with an average temperature of 25°C in winter. A big plus for diving Vava'u is the incredible variety of diving to be found around one small group of magnificent islands. Vava'u diving offers hard corals that truly are untouched, soft coral gardens with a rainbow of colours.

Vava'u has numerous safe, interesting and unique cavern dives with spectacular underwater archways, tunnels, large black coral trees and wall dives that vanish into the inky blue. There is little in the way of currents and most dives are leisurely swim throughs. For wreck dive enthusiasts the 122 metre wreck of the Clan McWilliam that sank over 50 years ago, sits upright and still intact. Then there's the Humpback Whales, a treat everyone should experience, both above and below the surface.

There are over 50 islands in the Vava'u group, so you can imagine all the wonderful dive sites that are still being discovered and explored.

The Dive Locations

The Clan McWilliam Wreck: This virtually intact 140m steel freighter was launched in 1918 and for 9 years was to ply the South Pacific. An accident involving fire amongst her cargo of copra saw to her demise and sinking within the Vava'u harbour. She has become home to a variety of small schooling fish and a resting place for a number of different hard and soft corals. This 30m dive will take you back to the time of the Titanic, where you can stand on a deck which has not seen the green hills of Vava'u for over 70 years!

Tu'ungasika: This small cliff bound island is truly a diver's dream, with 3 different dives amongst its depths. It is surrounded by untouched coral gardens, with drop-offs of 30-40 metres, patrolled by small tuna and mackerel. A number of large caverns surround the island where it is possible to find white tip

Наша оценка: Vava'u

Крупная рыба/Big Fish Action	3
Красочная рыбка/Small Colorful Fish	4
Состояние рифов	5
Мягкие кораллы	3
Твердые кораллы	4
Подводная фотография	4
Дроп-фф/Drop off	4
Киты (июнь-октябрь)	5
Макро/Macro Life	3
Акулы	3
Кораблекрушения	2
Средняя прозрачность	35-40m
Температура воды	24-26°C

Плохо 1 | Отлично 5



reef sharks. One cavern is adorned by a wall of golden sea fans and guarded by a reef that is crowned by multiple clownfish – a photographer's paradise!

Kapa: A well-known local attraction is Swallow's Cave, but not many visitors get to see the top and bottom.

Diving starts outside with a wall dive, following bream and watching tuna as they go screaming by chasing the baitfish. If you are into nudibranches, a number of different types hang out along the walls. Take a side tunnel into the actual cavern, where the tones of light and colour take on new meanings. A torch is a must to explore the deeper recesses!

Euakafa: Further south amongst the group of islands lies this uninhabited tropical isle. The dive starts from the beach and circles a nearby reef where the corals keep changing from hard to soft and back again – all the colours of the rainbow! You will be spoilt for choice with the display of reef fish, as most varieties are found here.

Kitu Cave: This is another popular dive. It is a huge cave with many chambers yet with the entrance visible from most chambers. Within some chambers you can ascend 12 metres (40ft) up a 1.5 metre (5ft) wide tunnel, surfacing into a very large, totally enclosed fresh air pocket. Just outside the cave is a spectacular and lush sea fan garden where the fans all measure 1.5 - 2 metres across. Just beyond this "garden" lies a perpendicular drop-off with many fish and beautiful soft corals.

Coral Garden Reef: Start this dive among numerous large and flourishing sea anemones teeming with the beautifully bright coloured and playful clownfish. Continue on to a hard coral garden featuring individual corals measuring up to 3.5 metres (12ft) across, and an amazing display of colourful reef fish.

Hunga Magic: A short trip out through the beautiful Vava'u Islands to the playground of the Humpback Whales during their calving season (late July to mid October) brings you to Hunga Magic, an undulating landscape dotted with gardens of leather corals, pastels of yellow browns, blues and greens. Strange little pimples of coral rock are underlined with carnation corals of vivid crimson. Green seafans transform into brilliant red under your torchlight!

Whales: There are ½ day whale watching trips and if luck is on your side, you might be able to snorkel with these amazing whales. Whale watching trips need to be pre-booked to guarantee space.

The Whales

The Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) belong to the Baleen whale family. Their diet consists of the small side of marine life, and their teeth are actually plates of keratin, forming filters that separate water from food when feeding.

Every year from July to November the whales complete their migration from the cold feeding waters south of New Zealand and Australia, to the warmer tropical waters of Tonga where they give birth to calves and perform courtship readying themselves for the next season.

Watching the Humpback Whales is a treat everyone should experience, both above and below the surface. They aim to please with wonderful displays of activity. Breaching, spy hopping and fin slapping are a few of the behaviours regularly encountered on the surface of the water. The most heart warming though, are the underwater views of a mother resting with her calf, taking a well-earned break whilst still keeping an eye on her restless and often playful calf.



The sheltered waters of Vava'u offer plenty of hideaways for the young calves as they begin to learn the behaviours that the Humpback Whales are known for. Escorts eager to gain courtship during the season will often accompany the mothers, keeping out of the way and generally at a slight distance, but still keeping a watchful eye out for that certain signal.

Throughout July to November the waters surrounding Vava'u are filled with music as the Humpback Whales sing their hearts out. Lying on the surface of the water your body absorbs the vibrations and captivates your whole being into their song.

The above dive locations are our recommendations for diving in Tonga. There are countless other locations that we have also dived, and through trial and error over the last 20 or so years we've narrowed them down to bring you just the very best. That being said, if you have a specific interest in a particular area or wish to weigh up other options we have the knowledge to help. We have dived there, and would be glad to offer our expertise.



Diving in Ha'apai

The waters around Ha'apai are pure and clear. Normal visibility is between 30 - 40 metres and sometimes more. Temperatures range from 23-24° in the winter to 28° in the summer. A 5mm wetsuit in the winter is all you'll need. Many of the dive sites are in sheltered waters but some are in open water outside the barrier reef, providing encounters with pelagic sharks, tuna, trevally and barracuda. You'll see turtles on many dives, as well as eagle rays, sea snakes and myriad tropical reef fish.

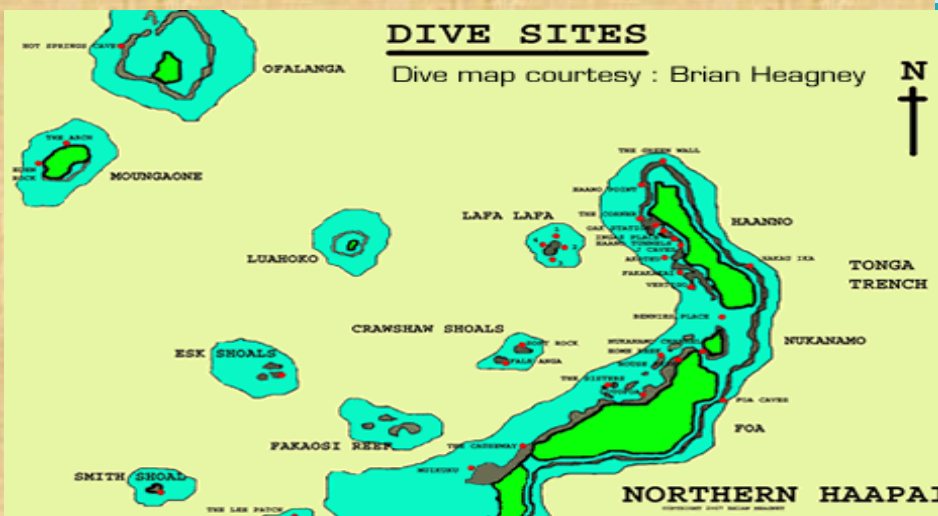
Diving the reefs, you'll find caves, canyons, caverns and tunnels to explore, vertical walls, fast flowing passes and colourful coral gardens. Huge sea caves and complex underwater cave systems and a truly incredible coral arch can all be found around the island of 'Ofolanga. Hard corals dominate the reefs and there are also gorgonian fans and soft corals and hundreds of fish species.

From July to October, humpback whales can often be spotted from the dive boat as these magnificent creatures migrate through Tongan waters to mate and calf.

Dive sites of Northern Haapai

Dive Sites Map Courtesy: Brian Heagney

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Мягкие кораллы	3
Твердые кораллы	5
Подводная фотография	5
Дроп-фф/Drop off	3
Киты (июнь-октябрь)	5
Макро/Macro Life	3
Киты (июнь – октябрь)	5
Акулы	2
Пещеры	5
Средняя прозрачность	30-40m
Температура воды	23-24°C
Плохо 1 Отлично 5	



J-Caves

Max depth 28m, overhead and enclosed environments. Exciting swim throughs, massive overhangs, winding tunnels and huge coral bommies are the main features of this dive. Divers begin on the inside of the reef before making their way through the reef to the outer face amid throngs of reef fish and amazing coral. Eagle rays and white tips can sometimes be seen in the depths outside the reef, and there are lots of macro critters here as well, including the unusual Whip coral shrimps and Bubble Coral Orangutan

BENNY'S PLACE

Max dive depth 25 M, basic dive, mild currents a possibility.

Diving through the coral heads adorning each side of the Haanno – Nukanamu channel, this is a great dive for macro and critter lovers. Hiding among the coral are scribbled pipefish, splendid gobies, nudibranchs and curious mantis shrimps. The resident Leopard shark often ghosts through the channel, and if you're lucky you might just find the secretive honeycomb moray.

Hot Spring Cave

Max dive depth 30M, Overhead environments, deep diving, experienced divers preferred.

Beneath Ofalanga Island is a massive cave, the entrance lying at 25 metres, the main chamber at 28metres and the ceiling rising to 15 meters. A smaller chamber embraces a hydrothermal vent, which spouts hot water occasionally.

The Arch of Ofalanga

Max dive depth 30M, overhead and enclosed environments.

The coral arch of Ofalanga was formed in the last ice age and it is one of the most mystifying dive spots in the South Pacific. Gliding beneath the 20 metre wide, 15 metre high arch into the cave entrance tunnel. You'll find huge lobsters clinging to the roof and sides.

Whale Watching and Whale Swimming

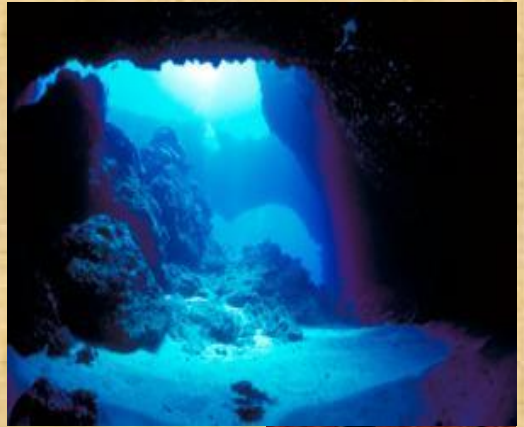
To swim with a 45 ton whale in its natural environment is a truly exhilarating experience.

From mid June – end September, humpback whales migrate from southern waters to the warm Tonga ocean for mating and calving. Many remain in the Ha'apai group for some time, and the dive operator in Ha'apai is able to follow and research these amazing mammals. The whales can choose to avoid or ignore dive boats, but often they will approach boats and the possibility is there for close observation and potentially an in-water encounter.

While they can't guarantee to get you in the water with the humpbacks, they will do their best to give you this life-changing experience.

Sometimes the whales simply swim past snorkellers, sometimes changing course to get a closer look before moving off, and sometimes they'll stay to play. Occasionally there is interaction between snorkellers and a mother and calf.

Strict guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of the snorkellers and the well-being of the whales. There will be no more than 4 snorkellers plus guide in the water at a time, wetsuits or other buoyancy aids are to be worn by everyone, snorkellers must remain at least 5 metres away from the whales, and splashing or excessive movements are forbidden.



Добро пожаловать к нам в Океанию!