

## New manager: Scenic Matavai

Aaron Smith has recently taken the helm as Hotel Manager of Scenic Matavai Resort Niue. Having been part of the Scenic Hotel Group for some time, Aaron began his journey in the front of house at Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier on the West Coast of South Island.



"This role as Hotel Manager at Scenic Matavai Resort presents an incredibly exciting challenge," says Aaron, "and the opportunity to live and work in Niue was something we couldn't pass up."

Aaron is accompanied in Niue by his fiancé, Siwe Mayongo, who has assumed the role of Functions and Events Coordinator for the resort. Aaron and Siwe are settling into island life and are eager to share their passion for Niue, hosting guests from around the island, New Zealand, and the world.



## New rep for Niue Tourism

Niue Tourism has recently appointed a new Niue Tourism representative, former resident of the island, Sarah Porter.

Sarah, along with her husband Hayden and their two children, lived in Niue for over three years back in 2010 when Hayden led the Tourism sector in Niue. As well as enjoying the island lifestyle and all that was on offer, Sarah also spent two years managing the local supermarket on the island.

It was a 'no brainer' when Sarah was approached to join the Niue Tourism team to help grow their presence in the New Zealand market. Sarah says, "It is a true privilege to share my knowledge and experience of Niue with the travel industry..... my fishing, diving and love of Niue. I can honestly say I have walked every single sea track, done 100+ dives, and even circumnavigated the island whilst out on a fishing mission!"

Sarah's husband Hayden is also back involved with Niue Tourism in a more strategic, planning and marketing role; after nine years as CEO at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron.

Sarah says, "Niue has always been such a special place for our family. We feel so connected to the island, the people and everything that Niue has on offer. It truly is a privilege to be working with the Niue Tourism team to make sure the island is well represented now that Covid restrictions have lifted and the borders are open. I honestly can't wait to share my favourite place in the world with my industry friends."

## Niue welcomes first ship in over three years

Great signs that Niue tourism is bouncing back. The expedition ship, *Silver Explorer*, docked, marking the first instance of crew and guests disembarking and experiencing Niuean hospitality since maritime borders reopened. This occasion was notable as it's been over three years since an expedition ship last visited Niue.



The stopover was thoroughly enjoyable for the visitors, who spent their time sightseeing, snorkelling, and sipping coconuts! Equally, it was gratifying for the locals, who had the opportunity to host these visitors and display their local arts and souvenirs.

Micah Fuhiniu-Viviani, the Director of Niue Tourism, expressed, "This style and size of ship is perfect for Niue. We can offer guests a fantastic 'express' experience of our little paradise, and the economic impact is usually brief but very positive...Our focus over the next few years is to grow this market and make arrivals of ships and yachts in Niue more straightforward and well-organised."

## Dive into paradise

Niue Blue, the island's sole dive operator, boasts highly qualified dive professionals and management from the renowned Dive Tutukaka. Their safety and professional record hold international recognition.



Offering a range of options for certified divers, PADI courses and training, and introductory scuba programs, they cater to both experienced divers and those wishing to take their first plunge. For those who prefer staying on the surface, daily snorkel tours offer the chance to swim alongside Niue's resident spinner dolphins.

Among Niue's greatest attractions are the annual visits from Humpback Whales during the winter months of July to September. As a licensed operator, Niue Blue conducts whale watching tours and offers unique opportunities to swim with the Humpbacks in Niue's crystal-clear water.

## Matt Watson gives Niue the big thumbs up!

Renowned New Zealand fishing and outdoor personality Matt Watson has been entertaining audiences for years with the popular ITM Fishing Show on TV3.



Matt, a passionate advocate for our oceans, has visited Niue multiple times and loves the island's bounty. He has said of his time on the island:

"In Niue, you can make your own fun if you get out and explore the sea tracks, jungle treks, swimming holes, and snorkelling spots...and the fishing's not bad either! Every morning we'd open the curtains to see whales; we'd have fresh coconut and pawpaw for breakfast on the deck, and in the evening, we'd enjoy fresh sashimi and sip on our NZ\$5 mojitos as the whales played beneath us. Ten days weren't enough: we're going back!"



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