



KRISTEEN YELAVICH

WHANGAREI TUTOR

My love of travel began with family trips around New Zealand, but the travel bug really took hold when I visited the UK at 18. After working in hospitality, an administration role with the Spirit of Adventure Trust introduced me to the world of maritime tourism, and led to an unexpected six-year adventure sailing around the world aboard the square-rigger Soren Larsen.

During that time, I worked as a Cook, Purser and general problem solver, travelling from the UK back to New Zealand via Europe, the Caribbean and the Panama Canal, with highlights including the Galapagos, Easter Island and Pitcairn Island. It was a job that never felt like work!

Back in New Zealand, I worked as a Tour Director with APT before returning to marine tourism with Fullers Bay of Islands, South Sea Cruises in Fiji and Explore Group in the Bay of Islands. I've worked across reservations, administration, operations, tourism sales and management, as well as recruitment and staff training.

While formal tutoring is relatively new for me, I love sharing my industry experience with young people starting their own tourism journeys. I believe communication is one of the most important skills in tourism, whether you're working with customers, colleagues or a wider team.

My advice is simple: start today, take every opportunity and experience as much as you can. Practise your communication and service skills everywhere you go. You never know where it might lead!

