



BIRTHE BAKKER

BOTANY TUTOR

Hi, I'm Birthe Bakker, and I'm excited to have recently joined the ITC team at the Botany Campus as a Tutor. I'm originally from the Netherlands, and I bring international tourism experience as well as a PhD in Tourism to my role. I've always been fascinated by how travel connects people, cultures, and ideas, and how tourism can support communities and protect the places we value. This passion led me into the industry. My career began in the Netherlands at Askja Reizen, where I worked as a travel specialist for Canada and Alaska, creating personalised itineraries and supporting travellers. I later moved into business travel consultancy, working in a fast-paced environment where organisation and planning were key.



Alongside this, I completed my Bachelor's and Master's in Tourism, before moving to New Zealand to complete my PhD, focusing on tourism and its connection to communities and place. I've enjoyed every stage of my journey, but my time as a travel consultant stands out most, as it showed me how meaningful travel can be and how strongly it can shape people's experiences.

At ITC, I'm looking forward to supporting students as they build confidence, develop skills, and explore what excites them about the tourism industry. I aim to create a supportive space where students feel comfortable asking questions, trying new things, and connecting learning to the real world.

I believe the most important skills in tourism are communication, adaptability, curiosity, and the ability to connect with people from all walks of life. My advice is to stay open-minded, keep learning, and remember you don't need everything figured out straight away — opportunities come when you stay curious and engaged.