



MIKE MATATA

WHANGAREI TUTOR

Meet Mike Matata, one of ITC's passionate tourism educators helping students across Northland prepare for exciting careers in tourism, aviation, travel and hospitality. Delivering ITC's full-time programme in Whangārei, Mike has supported many students into airline roles, tourism careers, internships and overseas opportunities.

My passion for the industry started young. I was fortunate to travel overseas often with my family, but my real love for

aviation began as a teenager when I spent weekends plane spotting at Auckland International Airport. From that point, I knew the airline and tourism industry was where I wanted to be.

After studying a Diploma in Travel Management at ATI, I secured a managerial cadetship with Atlantic & Pacific Travel before moving into my dream role as a Sales Executive with Thai Airways. Over the years, I've worked across international airlines including Virgin Atlantic Pacific, Ansett and America West Airlines, as well as the cruise industry with Holland America Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and Marco Polo Cruises. My experience also spans wholesale, retail, inbound tourism and GSA operations.

Today, I love bringing that industry knowledge into the classroom. I focus heavily on practical skills, professionalism and communication to help students become work-ready and confident. One of the most rewarding parts of teaching is watching students grow in confidence and seeing them secure jobs and internships. Helping students realise they can build successful careers in such an exciting industry is something I'm incredibly passionate about.

