



# RUTH BETHAM

## TOURISM EDUCATOR

I've always had a love for people, starting with my first retail job at 16 while still at high school. That experience showed me how much I enjoyed helping others, and with encouragement from my mum, I decided to study travel and tourism — fulfilling her dream of becoming a flight attendant while chasing my own.

After earning a certificate in travel and tourism, I applied for the Disney Internship College Program and spent six months at the “happiest place on Earth” in Orlando, Florida.

That experience confirmed my love for the industry, and I returned home to begin my career as a flight attendant with Air New Zealand. I spent five amazing years flying both short-haul and international routes, travelling across the Pacific Islands, Australia, Singapore, China, Japan, Hawaii, and the United States. It was an incredible journey that taught me about cultures, people, and myself, and I'll never forget the excitement of stepping off a plane in a completely new destination.

When COVID hit and I was on maternity leave, I stepped away from flying, but I knew I still wanted to share my passion for tourism. Now, as part of ITC's Schools Team, I get to inspire and support students discovering their dream careers. I love helping them prepare for the realities of the industry and showing them what's possible with dedication, a positive attitude, and an open mind.

I'm excited to encourage students, share my experiences, and help guide the next generation. Outside of work I take great pride in my faith and family. I enjoy spending quality time with my husband and son, travelling, reading, and making memories at the beach and parks.

