

Hawaii Prepares For Another Big Year

New attractions, activities and accommodation are set to grace the Hawaiian Islands this year, as the destination prepares itself for another big year for tourism.

Looking towards accommodation, 2019 will see the Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger unveil its newly restyled property, with new guest rooms. Waikiki's The White Sands Hotel is 'relaunching' this month following a full restoration, while The Sheraton Maui Resort and Spa's presidential Alii Suite has also been reimagined as part of the resort's recent guestroom renovations. Hawaii is also upping its culinary offerings this year, as the International Market Place partners up with Waikiki Trolley to launch the trolley company's first new line in six years: the Honolulu Dining Express.



HA's New Tastemaker

Chef Eric Oto has been named the newest member of Hawaiian Airlines' Featured Chef Series, which sees him creating the first-class menus on HA flights from Hawai'i to the U.S. Mainland. Chef Oto is also known as the chef de cuisine at The Kahala Hotel and Resort restaurant Hoku's.



The new foodie-focused route will run daily, with stops at highlighted eateries including Side Street Inn, Leonard's Bakery, Haili's Hawaiian Foods and Rainbow Drive-In.

Attraction and activities around the island are also in for a boost, with the launch of new shuttle and eco-tour service Holo Haleiwa, which journeys from Waikiki to Haleiwa.

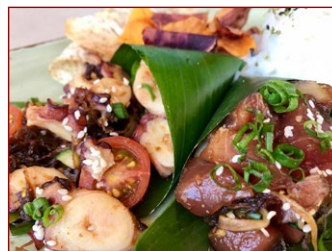
Clients are also recommended to stop in at the newly renovated Moniz Family Surf store in Waikiki, which offers rentals and lessons or at Maui Ocean Centre, which is featuring a new *Humpbacks of Hawaii* exhibit. Other highlighted activities new to the islands include Kaanapali Beach Hotel's new schedule of on-property daily cultural activities which celebrate Hawaiian practices, as well as Kauai's The Lodge at Kuku'iula's intensive series, which empower guests to take their outdoor experiences on Kauai to the next level.

Honolulu Festival

The annual Honolulu Festival, which celebrates cultures from across the Pacific, is on in Oahu 08-10 Mar. The three-day celebration of art, music, dance, and crafts features highlights such as dance performances, cultural demonstrations and a parade through Waikiki. For more, see honolulu festival.com

Romance In Paradise

KapohoKine Adventures has a Romance in Paradise promotion for Valentine's Day on the Island of Hawaii. The package features rides on three of the island's longest zip lines, a waterfall walk and a candlelit dinner with specialty desserts and champagne or red wine. Couples can reserve the Romance in Paradise experience for USD189 per-person, plus tax. See kapohokine.com



Tasting Kauai

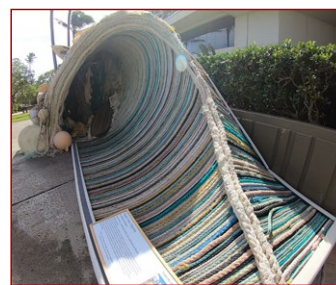
Culinary tour company Tasting Kauai is now led by a new owner, Kauai's native Dr. Addison Bulosan. The Kauai Visitors Bureau says the company offers culinary journeys throughout the island, taking guest to specialty food stores, famous local restaurants and food trucks. Currently tours are available to the north shore, south shore and east side of the island, with plans in place to expand it to include the island's west side in the future. See tastingkauai.com

HA's Non-Stop Service

Hawaiian Airlines reminds agents is has a daily non-stop service between Kauai's Lihue Airport and Kona International Airport on the Island of Hawaii.

New Street Station

Uncle Harry's at The Street Food Hall by Michael Mina has opened at the International Market Place, offering home-styled fried chicken 1000-2300 daily.



Plastic Free Pipeline

As Turtle Bay Resort continues to work towards a plastic free Hawaii, it has a new piece of art debuting, the Plastic Free Pipeline. Created by artist Ethan Estess, the 'pipeline' is constructed out of recycled materials and trash found on the north shore of Oahu. The massive sculpture will be at the resort until early Mar, and Estess hopes it will help spread the sustainability message.

Kauai Steak House

Ruth's Chris Steak House has opened its first restaurant in Kauai, located at The Shops at Kukui'ula on the island's South Shore. Ruth's Chris currently has restaurants on Oahu, Maui and the Island of Hawaii.



Eastern Seas Therapy

The Westin Kaanapali Ocean resort Villas Spa Helani has a new Eastern Sea Therapy. The 80-min session features a Dead Sea salt scrub, hydro shower and deep tissue-style Vishesh massage. See more at westinkaanapali.com/spahelanioverview

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