

Beyond Waikiki: A Foodie's Guide



Clients looking to get 'a real taste' of Hawaii should venture to the neighbourhoods of Kaimuki and Kakaako, which are home to some of the destination's cutting edge eateries.

In Kaimuki, the recently-opened Makana Ranch House sources 90% of its ingredients from Hawaii and 80% from Oahu itself; while plant-based Vegan Hills (pictured above) and Vietnamese eatery Broken Rice are also new to the area.

Other must stops include chef Ed Kennedy's restaurants Mud Hen Water, Town and Kaimuki Sprite which all focus on local fare.

At the same time Lee Anne Wong's Koko Head Café is the go-to brunch spot. But remind clients that they can't book, and it's not uncommon to queue (but it's well worth the wait). A tip from local Hawaiian Airlines manager Rusty Willis is to try to get there Mon-Fri (as the weekend is 'madness') from around 0930, after the early morning locals' rush.

... Kakaako

Kakaako near the Ala Moana Center is home to an ever-growing collection of restaurants, breweries, and

eateries, most of which can be found at Salt at Kakaako, including the Mediterranean-inspired Vein at Kakaako, local seafood spot FISH Honolulu and fresh Mexican eatery Tacoako.

Moku Kitchen features Hawaii upcountry farm fare and Oahu institution Highway Inn is famed for its comfort food. The neighbourhood is also home to multiple craft breweries. Waikiki Brewing Company, Aloha Beer Company and Honolulu Beerworks all offer hand crafted brews alongside great food.

Coffee Run



The 6th Annual Kau Coffee Trail Run is on in Pahala on the Island of Hawaii 21 Sep.

Hawaiian Airlines says the picturesque trail run journeys through coffee fields and macadamia nut groves with 12km, 10km and 5km options available. See okaukau.org

Kailua's Sun Market



Clients looking for something to do on a lazy Sun are recommended Kailua Town Farmers' Market, held every Sun 0800-1200.

The market features local produce as well as freshly baked pastries, hot Hawaiian grown coffee and lazy island vibes. Kailua is a 40-minute drive from Waikiki See farmloversmarkets.com/portfolio-item/kailuatown

HA Hours Change

Hawaiian Airlines reminds agents that its New Zealand reservations hours of operations have changed. The team is available Mon-Fri 1000-1900, with those who call after hours to be directed to Manila.

Dine At Chef Mavro

Chef Mavro is one of Oahu's iconic restaurants, founded in 1998 by chef Georges Mavrothalassitis. While the restaurant has now changed hands, new owner chef Jeremy Shigekane is ensuring the eatery continues to serve its beloved multi-course tasting menus featuring fresh, seasonal ingredients and wines. The restaurant has added a vegetarian tasting menu, to cater to the increased demand.



However the favourite dishes remain the same; with chef Shigekane highlighting the restaurant's iconic salt-crusted snapper and the Peterson farm egg with potato mousseline. For more see chefmavro.com



Fishpond Voluntourism On Oahu

Agents with clients looking to give back while on holiday on Oahu's Windward Coast are recommended volunteering with Waikalua Loko Fishpond. For hundreds of years, native Hawaiians built walled shoreline fishponds to trap and raise fish, and now locals and volunteers are working to restore Waikalua Loko Fishpond to its original glory, for a sustainable future. See thepaf.org/waikalua

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