

Hawaii Island Makes A Comeback



The Island of Hawaii is making a comeback, as Hawaii Tourism Oceania's Darragh Walshe notes a significant increase in Kiwi travel to Hawaii's largest Island.

He notes that despite a monthly decrease (visitor arrivals from New Zealand declined in Apr 21.9% to 7031) year-on-year, the results are still positive, especially to the Island of Hawaii, which saw a 25% increase in Apr.

"While it is early days, we are very pleased to see Kiwis returning to the Island of Hawaii" says Walshe. "The Island (aka the Big Island) is not all about the volcano, but it is a must for any visit to the southern-most island

of the chain... and most southern point in the USA."

He highlights the eruption of Kilauea, which was a massive factor in the visitation drop, as a huge attraction now.

"The experience at Volcanoes National Park has changed due to the activity last year, and while some areas are not accessible anymore, there are now in fact more opportunities to hike down into the caldera, which includes the live Halemaumau Crater," says Walshe. "A truly amazing opportunity that makes the island so unique."

... Also On Offer

The Island of Hawaii has plenty to offer prospective visitors away from Volcanoes National Park as well. For ocean-lovers, there is 428km of coastline, which is highlighted for being home to the most marine conservation districts in the state.

The island is also home to a number of waterfalls, including Akaka Falls, which is the state's tallest 'sheer drop' waterfall at 135m; more than twice the height of Niagara Falls.

Stargazing is also on the agenda on Hawaii's biggest island. The entire Northern Hemisphere and about 90% of the Southern Hemisphere can be seen from the Island of Hawaii.

Give Back In Maui

For clients looking to give back while on holiday, recommend Volunteer on Vacation in Maui.

The free programme offered by the non-profit Pacific Whale Foundation is designed to help visitors to the island find meaningful service projects that not only see them give back to the community, but also gain access to places rarely seen by tourists. See pacificwhale.org to find out more information.

HA's New Tech

Hawaiian Airlines says it has become the first US airline to adopt the Pancelab Flight Profile Optimizer (FPO). According to HA, the cutting-edge application uses satellite communication to continuously inform flight crews about winds, projected turbulence and aircraft performance.

Installed on the airline's Airbus A330, the new technology helps pilots make any needed adjustments to chart the quickest, most comfortable and fuel-efficient trajectory from take-off to landing.

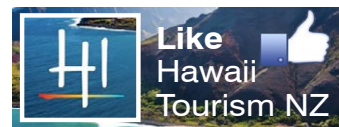


Dine At Ala Moana

The Ala Moana Center in Waikiki has upped its dining options again, with the introduction of four new eateries. The mall is now home to Buffalo Wild Wings, which is the largest sports bar brand in the US as well as ramen BARIO, famous for its signature Tonkotsu, pork bone stock, ramen noodle.

Also new is Tokyo steak house Steak Teppai and Taiwanese bubble tea chain The Ally.

These new additions follow other recent openings such as Beard Papa's Totti Candy Factory and Lil-ihā Bakery.



A Dreamy Getaway

Waikiki Beach's The Ritz Carlton residence's has launched a new Well-Rested in Waikiki programme that is encouraging clients to get a better sleep. The programme features unique wellness experiences that promote sleep such as midnight meditation, beauty rest spa treatments, a sleep workshop, a suite dreams turndown series and private cabana nap service. The Well-Rested in Waikiki programme package includes a three-night stay in the resort's Studio, Deluxe Ocean View category and starts at USD2400pp.



Golf For The Family

To encourage family bonding while on vacation, Waikoloa Beach Resort Golf on the Island of Hawaii is offering family golf every day from 1530.

Families can play nine holes on the Kings' Course for USD25 per junior golfer (under 17 years) with free rental clubs. Adults are USD50 plus USD25 for rental clubs. The fees include a shared cart, bottled water and unlimited use of the practice facilities on the days of play. See waikoloabeachgolf.com

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