

Oahu: More Than Just Shopping

Shopping in Waikiki is almost a rite of passage for the Hawaii-bound client, and for some it's even the sole purpose of their visit.

However, Karishma Chowfin, Oahu Visitors Bureau's director of travel industry sales, wants Kiwi agents to know that there is so much more to the island than just Waikiki.

"On the Island of Oahu we have just this fabulous destination for all groups and passion points," says Chowfin. "There really isn't a moment for anyone to say I don't know what to do."

She encourages agents to get their clients to explore the island, from the surf beaches of the North Shore to the Windward Coast, home to



Pictured is Karishma Chowfin.

the pristine Waimanalo Beach and cultural highlights such as Byodo-In Temple and the hugely popular Kualoa Ranch and Private Nature Reserve (which boasts movie set tours, ATV tours, horseback riding and more).

Sustainability is also important on Oahu, says Chowfin, with a focus on preserving the island for future generations.

"There are these wonderful experiences that really help preserve the destination," she says.

Examples include Gunstock Ranch where clients can plant native trees as well as go horseback riding, hiking and walking. For more details see gunstockranch.com

Kamehameha Day

The Island of Hawaii honours King Kamehameha I on 11 Jun with the North Kohala Kamehameha Day Celebration. Clients in Hawaii can join the festivities by heading to the King Kamehameha statue in Kapaau at 0800 for a lei-draping ceremony, hula and music, 0900 for a pau parade, or 1100 for the Hoolaulea celebration which features entertainment crafts and food.

GO To Hawaii

GO Holidays has the Island of Hawaii on sale until 28 Jun with Hawaiian Airlines, for travel 02 Jun-14 Dec. Packages including return HA airfares to Kona or Hilo ex Auckland with four nights' at Royal Kona Resort are priced from \$1849pp twin share. Clients can add a two-night Waikiki stopover for \$349pp t/s at Hilton Garden Inn Waikiki Beach. Jetstar flights ex Wellington or Christchurch are an additional \$179pp.



Kahoolawe Exhibit

Maui Ocean Center has unveiled its new exhibit, *Kahoolawe: A Story of History and Healing*. Designed to show the power of change, both good and bad, the centre says the exhibit follows the timeline of Kaho'olawe's development from the first settlement to current restoration projects. See mauiocentre.com



Four Seasons Culture

Maui's Four Seasons Resort Lanai has a Love Lanai series, in which clients can take part in complimentary outdoor excursions, cultural tours, Hawaiian craft classes and demonstrations, talk story sessions and culinary events.

Highlighted options include the Puu-pehe Cultural Hike, and Aina Ahiha, in which clients can 'taste Hawaii'. See fourseasons.com

Papakea Renovation

Aston at Papakea Resort's lobby is undergoing a renovation May-Jul. Improvements for the Maui resort will include a new front desk, flooring, furniture, refreshed restrooms, and an enhanced concierge.



Calling All Jam Fans

Monkeypod Jam is offering a tasting experience every Thu from 1500, advises Kauai Visitors Bureau. The experience, with Monkeypod founder Aletha Thomas, sees clients taste a flight of three pupu, highlighting the jam's preserves, as well as learning the history and philosophy of the company. The experience is priced from USD25, Monkeypod Jam is located in Lawa'i. See monkeypodjam.com



Hilton's Eco-friendly Update

Hilton Waikoloa Village's signature canal boats have gone green with four now featuring a fully-electric propulsion system. The boats are the latest way the property has sought to reduce its environmental impact while improving guest services. Recently the resort introduced free collapsible, reusable water bottles to guests staying in MAKAI at Lagoon Tower, installed water filling stations on every floor in MAKAI, and initiated The Last Straw Campaign—a commitment to discontinue the use of plastic drinking straws resort-wide.

Aloha Hawaii

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