

What's Hot In Hawaii This Year?

As Kiwi numbers continue to climb, 2019 is set to be another 'hot' year for travel to Hawaii, and in light of this Hawaii Tourism Authority's Darragh Walshe has put together his top trends for agents to look out for this year.

Up first, Walshe says agents will see Kiwis leading the way back to the Island of Hawaii.

"The well-publicised volcanic activity on the Island of Hawaii had a significant negative impact on visitor arrivals to the island," says Walshe. "Now that activity has settled down, it looks like New Zealand is one of the first markets to show signs of returning to this spectacular and diverse island, with Nov arrivals up 10% year-over-year."

... Seeking Sports

Sports related travel is also set to be on the up, with Walshe listing a number of highlighted events hosted

on the islands this year. Notable events for sports-mad clients include Cycle to the Sun, Maui, in Jun, the Waikiki Roughwater Swim and Maui Channel Swim in Sep; Ironman World Championships and Xterra World Championships in Oct and the Honolulu Marathon in Dec.

... Romance

Romance is also heating up, with an increase predicted for the weddings and honeymoons sector.

"2018 already saw an increase in the number of New Zealanders travelling to Hawaii specifically to either get married or honeymoon," says Walshe. In light of this, he recommends agents check out the HTO's romance specific brochure, which can be found [HERE](#), containing everything an agent needs to know about getting married in Hawaii.

Ukelele & Hula

The 8th Annual International Ukelele Contest and Hula Show will see amateur musicians from around the world gather at the International Market Place on 09 Feb. Held in the Queen's Court the contest and show will run from 1000-1600. See [shopinternationalmarketplace.com](#)

New Year Celebrations

This Feb will see the Ala Moana Center celebrate Chinese New Year, and welcome in the Year of the Boar with a number of activities from 07-09 Feb. Both the 07 and 08 Feb will see pole jumping by the Wah Ngai Lion Dance Association take place at Centerstage from 1000, while on 09 Feb the whole centre will feature celebrations and performances from lion dancers, martial arts performers and more. See [alamoanacenter.com](#) for more.



New Wine Experience

Four Seasons Resort Lanai is now offering private wine tastings, which utilise the resort's new Coravin Wine System. Maui Visitor and Convention Bureau says the system allows for enjoying wine by the glass without removing the bottle's cork. The private tastings are available upon request and include servings of two red and two white wines, access to a wine aroma kit, light bites and conversation. See [fourseasons.com/lanai](#)



New Coffee Debuts

The island of Hawaii's Greenwell Farms has debuted a new Hawaii coffee varietal named Mamo to its collection of roasts. The farm planted the varietal in 2009 as part of a breeding programme that proved most successful combined with the Kona area's growing conditions. Limited quantities of the signature varietal can be found at Greenwell Farms' visitor centre or on-line.

HA Says Bye Boeing

Hawaiian Airlines has said Mahalo to its last Boeing 767-300ER, which has been with the airline since 2001.

New At The Market

The International Market Place is now home to Drybar, a salon dedicated to blowouts, and ShoreFyre, a restaurant offering island inspired dishes and cocktails.

Honolulu Art Line Up

The Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA) School Gallery has announced its schedule for the 2019 exhibition year.

Until 22 Feb is *Our HoMA*, an exhibition featuring art by HoMA staff and volunteers, then 08 Mar-05 Apr is *Mo'olelo: Visual Storytelling of People's Connection to the Land*. The *Young Artist Spring Exhibition* is on 20 Apr-10 May, followed by air painting exhibition *Wahi Pana: Sense of Place* on 31 May-05 Jul. From 20 Jul to 09 Aug is the *Young Artist Summer exhibition*, and craftsmanship is on show 30 Aug-04 Oct in *The Visible Hand: Hawai'i Craftsmen Statewide Exhibition*. Also highlighted is *The Chemistry of Water* on 18 Oct-22 Nov celebrating water art and the *Young Artist Fall Exhibition* 14-27 Dec.



Super Bowl Bash At The Street

Tickets are now available for entry to Honolulu's favorite Super Bowl headquarters—The Street Food Hall by Michael Mina. The food hall will be streaming the game live on its widescreen tvs, with game day bites on offer, including pork tacos from Mi Almita Tacquiera, classic sliders from Burger Hale, pepperoni pizzas from Adam's Nana Lu and Chicken lafas from Little Lafa. The Super Bowl is on 03 Feb, and tickets are priced from USD39.99 for entry and all you can eat food. Tickets should be purchased in advance, see [superbowl53thetreetbash.eventbrite.com](#)

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