

A Foodies Guide To Hawaii's Cuisine

Hawaii has been described as a multi-cultural food mecca, and for clients who want to sample the best dishes, here's a list of the Rainbow State's best foodie neighbourhoods.

Hilo, on the Island of Hawaii, is famed for its daily-catch fish and multi-ethnic comfort food. The must-try dish here is loco moco; white rice, topped with a hamburger patty, a fried egg and gravy. Also recommended is the neighbourhood's poke shops, as well as its family okazuyas and farm-and-farmers-market-to-table bistros.

Over in Oahu, Kaimuki is among the recommended foodie neighbourhoods, home to inventive restaurants, brewpubs, takeout spots and dessert havens.

The neighbourhood's Waialae Ave is the go to, home to an array of unique eateries as well as independent boutique retailers for those hoping to get some shopping in as well.

In Downtown Honolulu and the Chinatown District residential hub Kakaako has seen a growing mix of groovy new eateries and bars. Clients will find everything from modern ramen, poke and yakitori to pubs and pizza here.

Maui has an array of foodie neighbourhoods that agents can recom-



mend, but Wailuku is the number one. Described as a comfort food haven, Wailuku's Market Street is famed for its collection of time-tested family owned eateries.

Over to Kauai, Lihue tops the list for eateries, home to a range of longtime single-owner restaurants, bakeries, saimin stands, poke shops, shave ice stands and food trucks, all of which are big on comfort food.

Agents can find out more on Hawaii, and its cuisine scene, [HERE](#).

Spam, Film Fests

For clients Hawaii-bound in Apr, the Hawaii International Film Festival Spring Showcase, presented by Halekulani, is on 06-24 Apr. The hybrid festival will feature an in-theatres portion 06-14 Apr, with on-line events for the remainder of the festival. The line-up includes more than 20 films from across Asia, the Pacific and North America. See For details, click [HERE](#).

Meanwhile, the Waikiki Spam Jam is returning in 2022, with the street festival reinvented as a restaurant week, in which eateries across Honolulu will showcase their best spam culinary creations 22 Apr-01 May. Dishes such as spam musubi, spam and eggs, spam fried rice, spam burritos and more are on the menu. See details [HERE](#).

... Ukulele Festival

The 52nd Annual Ukulele Festival is returning on 17 Jul, with a virtual event which will include workshops, concert showcases, interviews and more. The festival is the largest annual gathering of ukulele players in the world, featuring top musicians as well as casual players and beginners. To find out more, or attend a virtual event, see [HERE](#).

Hawaii Unmasked

Hawaii's Safe Travels programme for domestic travellers to and from the US ends 25 Mar.

This means that effective 26 Mar, passengers arriving from the continental US will not be required to create a Safe Travels account, show their C-19 vaccination status, or take a pre-travel test when traveling to Hawaii. Passengers arriving to Hawaii on direct international flights must still adhere to federal US entry requirements, which include showing proof of an up-to-date vaccination document and negative pre-travel C-19 test result taken within one day of travel. For details see [HERE](#).

Punctual HA Wins Again



Hawaiian Airlines has once again been crowned America's most punctual carrier in 2021, with the U.S. Department of Transportation revealing the airline has an average 90.1% on-time rate, exceeding the US industry average by nine percentage points.

This is the 18th consecutive year HA has taken home the title, with ceo Peter Ingram crediting his team for the result. "Our recovery is a testament to their tireless efforts, and I'm truly honored to be a part of this airline," he says.

Waipio Closure

Agents are advised that Waipio Valley Road has been closed to visitors, with Hawaii County citing safety concerns. The Island of Hawaii Visitors Bureau (IHVB) fully supports the County of Hawaii's decision to close Waipio Valley Road to visitors until further notice, with executive director Ross Birch saying it has not promoted traversing into the Valley for more than a decade now, due to the community's concerns about tourism's impacts on this sacred and culturally significant place. "We continue to do all we can to steer the direction of tourism for our island with the community's well-being top of mind."

Rusty's Happy Hour Tour



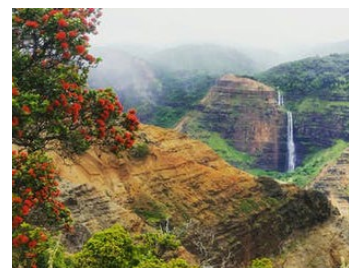
Hawaiian Airlines New Zealand manager Rusty Williss has been up in Hawaii 'researching' some budget-stretching tips for agents to pass on to clients who are planning to be Hawaii-bound later this year.

Williss says there's still great value for money to be found across the island chain—including in popular Waikiki. Among his top tips is to urge clients take advantage of the happy hour deals.

This includes at Momosan bar and restaurant located at Waikiki's Alohilani hotel. Happy hour at the Momosan runs 1100-1600, and there's USD4 draft beer specials, including Rusty's fave, the Kona Brewing Co's Big Wave ale.

"The Momosan menu is fabulous and has reasonable prices too—and the pork gyoza's amazing," says Williss, pictured above at Momosan with his Big Wave. See more on Momosan [HERE](#).

Hike The Garden Isle



Kauai Hiking Tours offers clients the chance to see the Garden Isle's less travelled areas, with a range of day hikes, backpacking trips and driving tours. The company caters to explorers of all ages and fitness levels, with tours exploring the Napali coastline, Waimea Canyon and even Mt Waialeale. And, for those who want to make sure their holiday gives back, Kauai Hiking Tours is the only hiking company on Kauai certified as a Sustainable Tour Operator by the Hawaii Ecotourism Association. See the tours [HERE](#).

