VAIIAN Aloha Friday

Ka'anapali Opens It Doors To Kiwis



Ka'anapali Beach Hotel, known as Hawaii's most Hawaiian hotel, is ready to welcome Kiwis back again, as our borders open up.

The property's director of sales and marketing John White says the hotel has a loyal Kiwi following "and they are excited to visit Maui."

"We are seeing strong interest from the Kiwi market," he says, whilst warning agents to book their clients sooner, rather than later. "Maui has experienced a rebirth the last two years and so many things have been updated," he explains. "We recommend planning a little further in the future due to the popularity for your clients Hawaiian vacation."

... What's New

For returning Kiwis, White advises

Free Hula Shows



Many things have changed since C-19 hit but Waikiki's International Market Place still offers free hula shows. The O Na Lani Sunset Stories run every Mon, Wed & Fri at 1830 on the Queen's Court. See <u>HERE</u> to keep up to date.



that plenty has changed at the resort. "We completed an USD80 million renovation in 2020-2021, we did a full overhaul of 60% of our rooms and added a brand new oceanfront restaurant (Huihui)."

The new signature beachfront restaurant, as pictured, pays homage to the longstanding tradition of Hawaiian wayfinding.

Still headed up by Tom Muromoto, it offers a fresh take on traditional Hawaiian cuisine, with dishes such as Poi French Toast for breakfast, Poke Holokai for lunch and Laulau with pork for dinner, with house made macadamia nut ice cream to finish off.

Speaking on the refurbished restaurant, White says it was important it retained its warm soul.

"We believe that Huihui will further solidify our place as Hawaii's Most Hawaiian Hotel."

The waterfront restaurant also houses a sailing academy, promising an authentic experience of Hawaiian wayfinding for guests.

. . Agents

The KPH has agent rates are available for those wanting a refresh on the property, with a travel agent portal also available <u>HERE</u>. Those who want to know more are also encouraged to e-mail <u>HERE</u>. "We are so excited to welcome back our Kiwi Ohana!" adds White.

Top Surf School Waikiki



Waikiki Beach Services, one of Hawai'i's longest-operating surf schools, has been named by Hawai i Magazine as its 2022 choice for Best Surf School. And, having tried the lessons for ourselves here at Travel Today, we can safely agree with Hawai'i Magazine! The school offers surf and stand up paddle board lessons daily at 0830, 1000, 1130, 1330 and 1500, as well as Outrigger canoe surfing 1000-1400 daily. There's also umbrella and chaise lounges available for rent for those who are happier to watch. To find out more, click HERE.

BBQ & Brews



The Laylow Waikiki is home to a new eatery, Tex 808, which claims to serve up Hawaii's Best authentic Texas Style BBQ. It boasts a meat filled menu, with highlights such as slow & low smoked brisket, smoked buffalo chicken wings, pulled pork sliders and brisket tacos, pictured. An array of craft beer and cocktails are also on offer, with the house-infused pineapple margarita said to be a must-do. Tex 808 joins the property's other eateries, Seoul Tofu House and Paia Fish Market, as well as coffee bar Hideout Coffee. See details <u>HERE</u>.

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Volunteer Week Hawaii

Volunteer Week Hawai'i on 17-23 Apr, and locals as well as visitors are urged to give back to Hawaii. There will be a number of volunteer opportunities throughout the week which clients can join, from gardening and tutoring to beach clean ups and more. To find out more, click HERE..

Book & Music Festival

Clients bound for Hawaii this northern fall (Sep-Nov) can include a visit to The Hawaii Book and Music Festival to their trip. Held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus, the festival is a free, open-to-the-public, family friendly annual event with local books, storytelling, music and more on offer. Details for the 2022 event are still to come, keep up to date <u>HERE</u>.

Sustainable Tourism



As tourism rebuilds in the Hawaii Islands with a focus on sustainable travel, some National Parks have put entrance fees in place, while others have increased current entrance fees. Visitors will now be charged USD10 per vehicle and USD5 for walk-ins at eight parks on the four major islands. Previously fees were USD5 per vehicle and USD1 for walk-in visitors.

It is the first time Hawaii State Park entry fees have been increased in some 20 years. There's also some modest increases to camping and lodging fees. Clients may also need to make reservations to visit some parks, including Kauai's Kalalau hiking trail. More <u>HERE</u> and <u>HERE</u>.

