

New North Shore Hotel Option



The new 144-room Courtyard by Marriott Oahu North Shore has opened in Laie—offering Kiwi travellers a new accommodation option near the Polynesian Cultural Center, North Shore and the area's famed beaches such as Sunset, Pipeline, Banzai and Waimea Bay. The hotel says it offers local island-style furnishings and large spacious standard rooms—as well as an 'enhanced bathroom experience'. There's also a Refreshing Business lobby complete with media pods, complimentary Wi-Fi and a variety of

seating zones. Other amenities include The Bistro – Eat. Drink. Connect; a business library; an outdoor swimming pool with a waterfall, kid's pool and hot tub. There's also a 24-hour fitness centre and guest laundry; and meeting space to accommodate functions of up to 100 people. Wholesalers have details.

Steady Tourism Growth

Visitor arrivals to Hawaii islands for the first five months of this year have increased compared to the same period last year and Hawaii Tourism Authority expects this year will be another successful one for tourism. Year to date, visitor spending has contributed USD121 million more into the state's economy compared to last year, and state tax revenue reached USD660 million, up 2% year-over-year, says Hawaii Tourism Authority president and ceo George Szigeti. He says they are continuing to focus on distributing visitors statewide through increased direct air access, and highlighting the unique attributes of each of the islands as visitors look for unique experiences. "We continue to work closely with all of our global marketing contractors on creative initiatives that will keep Hawaii top of mind and maintain the momentum of our tourism economy," he says.



Outrigger Insight

Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort has unveiled little known facts about the hotel. The land under the hotel was once covered by taro fields, watered by Apuakehau Stream which continues to flow beneath the hotel and into the ocean. Plus, it has a number of staff members who have been employed since the hotel was first opened in 1967. The best kept secret, it adds, is for guests to book all restaurant reservations through its Concierge Desk; that's if you want the best seats in the house.

Equus Self Check-in

Waikiki's Equus Hotel has launched a digital check-in option, allowing travellers to skip the front desk and head straight to their room; and they can check-out via their mobile device too. Guests can also pre-order various services digitally for their arrival, and the hotel compendium has been replaced with a tablet. The hotel also says it has the fastest free Wi-Fi in Waikiki.

New Nightclub

The Blue Note nightclub chain is opening a new venue in Hawaii with Outrigger Resorts. A new live music venue will open in the former Society of Seven showroom, inside Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort. It will feature both local talent and touring artists. As part of the deal, the venue will undergo a multi-million dollar revitalisation, which is expected to be completed in early 2016.

Zipline Eco Adventure

KapohoKine Adventures on Hawaii Island has launched a new Nohona Hawaii tour that introduces guests to sustainable practices on the island, while having an extreme zipline adventure.

The experience starts with a zipline adventure along the first four lines of the course—before the guests make their way to the Hawaiian garden where they engage in conservation work such as replanting native trees. After lunch, those on the tour then zip the final four lines.

The Nohona Hawaii experience takes around seven hours roundtrip from Hilo and is priced from USD299 plus tax including lunch, ziplining, materials and facilitator.

The company says it can also accommodate large groups by prior arrangement. For more details see kapohokine.com



Aloha July: Savings With Un-Cruise

Un-Cruise Adventures is offering a \$500 saving per couple, for reservations aboard the 36-guest Safari Explorer, confirmed this month. The cruises sail one-way between Hawaii and Molokai or reverse, and explore four islands—Hawaii, Lanai, Maui and Molokai. Highlights include free use of water sports equipment, a day trip into Halawa Valley, a night snorkel with Pacific manta rays, a visit to the Molokai Museum, the Humpback National Marine Sanctuary and more. Rates start from \$3595pp s/t, before the savings. Included in the fare are premium spirits, fine wines and microbrews, hand-crafted meals, massages, guided tours, from-yacht activities and equipment, lei greeting, port charges and taxes. For more information e-mail sales@un-cruise.com

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