

Intrepid Eyes Hawai'i Potential



Pic: HTA/Tor Johnson

Intrepid Travel says its foray into Hawai'i this year has been a hit with adventure travellers and the company is now adding two new departures in 2015.

The 10-day Hawaiian Highlights trip is the only small group multi-day tour which allows travellers to explore the less touristy side of the islands, says Intrepid.

The tours take clients to spot humpback whales in Maui, surf at lesser known beaches, explore active volcanoes, and kayak or zip line on pristine Kaua'i—the least developed of the Hawaiian isles.

"While Hawai'i is often thought of as a romantic destination, Intrepid's first Hawaiian trip has been particularly popular with solo female travellers," says the company. "More than 60% of bookings on the Hawaiian Highlights tour in 2014 were solo travellers, with women outnumbering men by two to one."

Intrepid's managing director James Thornton is encouraging people to think of Hawai'i as more than just a fly and flop destination or a romantic getaway. "It's a fascinating place for adventurous travellers who want to see more than a deck chair or shopping mall in Honolulu," he

says. "There are plenty of moments to bask in the sun, but the national parks, wildlife and volcanoes create those lasting memories."

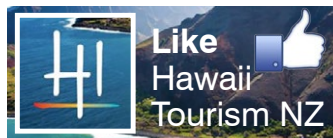
Intrepid expects to see further growth in numbers from Australia in 2015 as a result of the Qantas and WestJet alliance. Travellers can now fly to Vancouver via Honolulu and explore the sun-filled islands before heading to the cooler climates of Canada.

The Hawaiian Highlights trip is from \$3,440 per person and has 11 departures in 2015. For details, see intrepidtravel.com/sssl

Trump's Family Deal

The Trump International Hotel Waikiki Beach hotel has ramped-up its offering for the family market. The suites feature pull-out sofa beds, washer/dryer units with free detergent and full kitchens (which can be stocked with organic groceries at an extra cost), and numerous amenities for younger travellers.

These include kid-sized Trump robes and slippers and a step stool in the bathroom. Youngsters get to take home a Trump Kids embroidered stuffed animal, a Hawaiian colouring book with crayons, a sweet treat and there's even a kids' room service menu. The property also offers amenities for teens. See trumphetelcollection.com/waikiki/



Ironman World Champs

The Ironman World Championship will be held at Kailua-Kona on the Big Island on 11 Oct. Triathletes from around the world will swim through the waters surrounding Kailua Pier, bike through Kona roads to the Kohala Coast and back, and run a marathon course that ends at Alii Drive. See ironman.com



Kona Manta Rays

Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay on Hawai'i Island has opened a Manta Learning Center, located at the entrance to the hotel's restaurant, Rays on the Bay. The centre showcases 20 images of the resident Keauhou Bay mantas shot by photographer Bo Pardau, as well as looped video footage and storyboards detailing the latest research and scientific information. See sheratonkona.com



The Mystery Of OGG

Ever wondered why Kahului Airport's three-letter code is OGG? You're not alone—apparently airport staff face daily questions about the name, so a memorial wall has been erected at the airport to clear up any confusion. The wall pays tribute to captain Jimmy Hogg, the Hawaiian Airlines pilot and aviation pioneer for whom the airport is named. A Kaua'i native, Hogg's aviation career spanned 38 years with highlights including making the first commercial flight after the attack on Pearl Harbor—during which he came under ground fire from those mistaking him for an enemy aircraft. In 1958, he flew HA's first trans-Pacific flight.

... HA's Birthday

The wall dedication kicks off a series of celebrations leading up to HA's 85th anniversary on 11 Nov. These include an all-day community event at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawaii in Hilo on 04 Oct, and trivia contests through social media channels in Oct and Nov.

Exclusive To Waikiki

SpaHalekulani now carries Jurlique products, the first time the products can be experienced outside of the Sullivan Estate & Retreat on Oahu, the holistic anti-stress retreat of Jurlique founder Dr Jurgen Klein. See halekulani.com

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