

Voluntourism Breaks Hawaii Style

While the idea of working on holiday doesn't sound appealing, voluntourism is still catching on and Hawaii has plenty of voluntourism opportunities according to *Hawaii.com* from organic farming to rubbish collecting and dolphin swimming. Clients wanting to help boost Hawaii's native fauna can spend a day

planting and restoring taro patches and fish ponds with co-ops such as Papahana Kuaola or Kako'o Oiwi, while those who are more animal inclined can spend a day helping the crew at Wild Side Specialty Tours collect data on dolphins, the only downside being that it may involve swimming with them... Alternatively clients can spend time cleaning up the beach with friends of Hanauma Bay. For a full voluntourism experience Kalani Oceanside Retreat and Hedonisia Hawaii Sustainable Community both offer clients the chance to stay and work on an organic farm. Clients wanting to make the most of the outdoors and see more of native Hawaii can volunteer with Sierra Club, helping to maintain hiking trails and the famous Halekala. Nature fans can also join in by gardening with the Native Hawaii Plant Society or cleaning the reef with Pacific Whale Foundation. Rounding up the list is fish net collecting off Kauai beaches with Surfrider Foundation Kauai Chapter.



Ala Moana Hours

The Ala Moana Center will be extending its hours of operation from 02 Dec, with clients able to shop until 2200 most nights, excluding public holidays. For the full list see alamoanacenter.com

Honolulu Festival

Hawaii's premier cultural event is set to return in 2018, showcasing the rich blend of Asia, Pacific and Hawaiian culture to the rest of the world. The Annual Honolulu Festival is set to be held 09-11 Mar, with the theme of Harmony over the Ocean, Journey to Peace. The show will feature performers from around the world, including Philippines, Australia, South Korea and Japan. Highlighted events during the festival include educational school tours, a friendship gala, a craft fair which will feature over 100 national and international vendors, stage performances from cultural groups, the Honolulu Rainbow EK-IDEN Kick Off Night dance convention, a rainbow relay race, as well as a Grand Parade and Nagaoka Fireworks. Entry is free, to find out more see honolulufestival.com/en/festival/

Cocktails & Cuisine

The Westin Nanea Ocean Villas' signature restaurant Mauka Makai is offering new monthly culinary and cocktail events that celebrate agriculture and cuisine with live music, libations and specialty food pairings. See westinnanea.com

Craft Beer & Coffee

Clients staying at the Waikiki Beachcomber by Outrigger can enjoy variety of unique dining options, from coffee and pastries from Hawaiian Aroma café to craft beer and local food at Maui Brewing Co Waikiki and family fun the hotel offer a Magic of Polynesia Show and dinner.

Soak Up The Sun

GO Holidays is offering a Hawaii Holiday Package on sale to today (08 Dec). The four-day package starts at \$1339pp, including return HA fares with two 32kg bags with full service on board, and share twin accommodation at the Aqua Skyline at Island Colony. The deal is valid for travel on select dates during 19 Jan-12 Apr and 04 May-29 Jun.

Elf Villa Visits

Maui's three Westin resorts have lined up a variety of festive activities to keep children busy this holiday season advises SPG Resorts Hawaii. Highlights include the Elf Villa Visit, where an elf will come and tuck children into bed and read them a bedtime story on Christmas Eve, as well as hot cocoa and cookies with Rudolf, gingerbread house decorating, ornament and Christmas stocking decorating and a Santa Resort visit on Christmas Eve/day.

A Foodie New Year

Clients looking for a foodie New Year's experience have multiple options at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki Beach Resort. The night's main event is on the Great Lawn, and features live entertainment, fireworks and a four-course meal. Alternatively, the Waikiki Starlight Luau at the Rooftop Garden is offering live music, cultural activities and a buffet dinner (with kalua pork and seared island catch). Those seeking fine dining for New Year's are advised to attend Bali Steak & Seafood's four-course Prix Fixe New Year's Eve dinner. The Rainbow Lani also has a buffet that night, with highlights such as oysters, citrus salmon and steamed snow crab. The final dining option is at the beachfront Tropics Bar & Grill, which is offering menu highlights such as lobster bisque, Kiawe smoked prime rib and Alaskan king crab ravioli. See hiltonhawaiianvillage.com/holiday



Maui Film Fest Next Jun

The Maui Film Festival is returning to the island for the 18th season, featuring screenings, culinary events, filmmaker panels and late-night parties. Held 21-25 Jun, the event includes film screenings at Wailea and the Maui Arts & Cultural Centre, while Wailea's Gold and Emerald Golf courses transform into a celestial cinema with a 50ft screen. Also on offer is a Taste of Summer opening Party at the Grand Wailea, a Taste of Chocolate event at the Four Season Resort Maui and Taste of Wailea. 2018 passes are on sale now, see mauifilmfestival.com

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