

Restoration Plan For Waikiki Beach



The famed stretch of sand that is Waikiki is set to get an extreme makeover as the state's tourism official looks to protect the jewel in its tourism crown.

While there is much more to Hawaii than Waikiki, it is a drawcard for many first time visitors, say tourism officials.

Hawaiian politicians have this week proposed a restoration bill that would see the state initially spend USD1.5 million to restore a section of the beach, between the Royal Hawaiian to

the Fort DeRussy groin, to its former sandy glory. The plan also includes the installation of a new pedestrian and bike path that would give beach goers waterfront access right along Waikiki Beach.

While Waikiki is world-famous it has been losing a battle with erosion for decades. Effectively now an engineered beach, Waikiki was last upgraded in 2012, with a USD2.3 million beach restoration project.

Island Air Axes Lanai

Hawaiian carrier Island Air has this month announced plans to discontinue its air services to Lanai. The last Island Air flights to and from the island will operate 31 Mar. The move leaves Ohana by Hawaiian as the sole carrier operating on the route.

HNL Airport Hotels

Outrigger Hotels and Resorts operates two properties close to Honolulu airport for passengers with an extended transit. The Airport Honolulu Hotel is located half a mile from the airport. The Best Western The Plaza Hotel is also located close to the airport, and both properties are perfect for business of leisure travellers, says Outrigger.

Hawaii Deals Extended

GO Holidays has extended its current Hawaii deals, flying Hawaiian Airlines, for sales now til 16 Mar. Four-night Waikiki packages are priced from \$1549pp share twin ex Auckland (and add \$179pp ex WLG/CHC). Clients can add a two-night neighbour package from \$359pp. The offers are for travel 04 Mar-14 Apr, 01 May-30 Jun, 29 Jul-22 Sep and 14 Oct-10 Dec.

Royal Celebrations

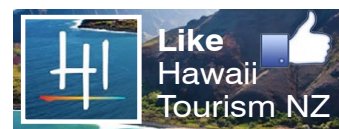
Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel is celebrating the life of beloved Hawaiian Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole through a free event featuring hula and song.

This annual event is being staged in the hotel's lobby 1130-1300 Thu 24 Mar, the day before the official state holiday.

Outrigger Hawaii Bonus

Outrigger Expert Agents will receive a USD50 bonus for bookings of five nights or more made in Hawaii vacation condominiums, for stays through until 21 Dec (some block-outs apply).

The bonus is paid on wholesale, GDS, internet and direct commissionable bookings, and there's no limit on how many bookings agents can claim for. Claim forms must be submitted within 60 days after check-out, and payment will be made within 45 days of receipt of the form by Outrigger. For details e-mail maria.alaveras@outrigger.com.au



Maui Farm Tours Take In Scenic Island Life

Maui Country Farm Tours offer a series of tours taking guests to some of the island's most scenic spots. The Upcountry Farm Tours takes in the plantation town of Paia to Hookipa Beach Park with stops at the Maui Gold Pineapple fields and at 4000-foot elevation on Haleakala. At the Alii Kula Lavender farm clients can walk through the grounds and sup tea and lavender scones, before heading to Uluapalukua Ranch for wine tasting and lunch. The final stop is at Kula Country Farms for a walk through the produce.

Another popular option is its Deluxe Upcountry Photo tour which includes an extra farm stop at Surfing Goat Dairy or Ocean Vodka's Organic Farm in Omaopio, a farm-fresh picnic lunch at Launiupoko Beach Park, before calling at the MauiGrown Coffee Company Store and SimpliFresh produce farms. For more tour details, see maui-country-farm-tours.com

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