

Energising Oahu Uncovered

Oahu is the place to recommend for clients looking for an “iconic, contemporary, vibrant” Hawaii holiday option.

“They want to lay out on the beach, they want their fruity mai tai with the umbrella in it, but they also want to go out and engage,” says Karishma Chowfin, director travel industry sales, Oahu Visitors Bureau.

Destinations and activities to recommend clients bound for Oahu include surfing on the North Shore, visiting Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, which explores the Polynesian migration as well as features live

lava demonstrations, visiting Pearl Harbor Historical Sites, chocolate making classes at Madre Chocolate and dining at The Street; A Michael Mina Social House.

“This is restaurant quality food at food court prices,” says Chowfin.

Her final recommendations include a visit to Kualoa Private Nature Reserve, where *Jurassic Park* was filmed, a visit to Waimea Valley and surfing on an outrigger canoe. “It is so much fun, and part of our history,” says Chowfin of the canoe ride.

... Island Hopping

Polynesian Adventure Tours offer day trips to the other islands from Oahu, adds Oahu Visitors Bureau. The day trip packages include a sightseeing tour of the island’s best attractions, live narration by local guides, round trip airfare and transportation from Waikiki hotels. Highlighted tours include the Big Island Volcano Tour from USD481.29, Best of Maui Tour from USD485.07 and the Waimea Canyon & Wailua River on Kauai Tour from USD486.65 For more, see polyad.com

Kauai By Air

Some 80% of Kauai is inaccessible by car, says Kauai Visitors Bureau director of marketing Maile Brown, meaning air tours are the best way to explore the island.

“Air tours give a really wonderful sense of the island,” says Brown. The scenic flights take clients into the centre of the island, where they will be surrounded by waterfalls. Offering air tours over the island is Safari Helicopters, with a 60-minute ride from USD199-239pp, or Kauai Air Tours, which offers The Big Kahuna tour of the entire island from USD135pp.

Hawaiian Art

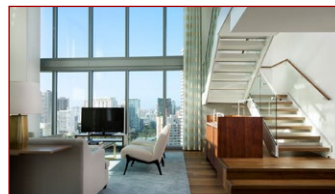
The Westin Nanea has unveiled traditional Hawaiian Artwork created by five Maui artisans in the four pillars of the resorts lobby. Each piece is handmade using natural materials, and represents significant elements of Hawaiian culture.

Guests can view the artwork at The Westin Nanea’s Pu’uhonua o Nanea Cultural Centre, open 1000-1500 Mon-Fri.

HA Agent Fares

Hawaiian Airlines is offering an agent rate to consultants wanting to visit Hawaii, highlighting its \$650pp fare to Hawaii + 1 neighbour.

This airfare comes at a time when the airline is encouraging both clients and trade to explore more of Hawaii and take in the different island’s offerings. Agents must book O-class, 60 days in advance.



Puttin’ On The Ritz

For clients looking for one of the best views in Waikiki, matched with five-star luxury, then direct them to the Grand Four Bedroom Duplex at the Ritz-Carlton Residences just back from Waikiki Beach. The two-level suite can accommodate up to 10 guests and features five bathrooms, expansive dining, living and den areas, floor to ceiling windows and a gourmet kitchen. The property features the highest infinity pool in Waikiki, state-of-the-art fitness centre and the Ritz-Carlton Spa (additional cost).



Celebrate 4th Jul

The Fourth of Jul celebrations are not limited to the mainland, as the Ala Moana Center prepares for its 27th Annual Fourth of July Celebration, complete with Hawaii’s largest fireworks show. Festivities on offer include a 25% Savings Pass valid at participating retailers, live entertainment, and the chance to win a round trip airfare from Honolulu for two to anywhere in the US flying United Airlines. See alamoanacenter.com



Oahu’s Free & Fun Line-up

Oahu offers a number of free activities for clients looking to save on their next holiday, says Hawaii Tourism.

Clients can download a free Historic Hawaii self-guided walking tour map of Waikiki or Honolulu, which showcases the history of the island. Alternatively clients can browse the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet & Marketplace (Hawaii’s largest flea market featuring over 400 local merchants).

Art fans can enjoy free entry to Hawaii State Art Museum, with activities such as live music, art activities, and art lunches with lectures on selected dates each month.

Finally, those seeking some water sports fun can take part in a free stand up paddle board clinic with Blue Planet Surf at Ala Moana Beach Park, held on special dates throughout the year for those aged 18+. For more details see gohawaii.com/islands/oahu

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