

More In-depth Aloha Down Under

Agents will have the chance to meet with the Hawaii tourism industry in a series of workshops at a more 'in-depth' Aloha Down Under show this year.

Up until now, the Hawaii Tourism roadshow has been a biennial event for Kiwis—but it's back again in 2015, despite being held last year, thanks to demand from both Hawaii and New Zealand.

This year's show will also differ in that it will feature a new 'workshop'

style, says Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe.

"Aloha Down Under (ADU) Workshops offer an opportunity for Hawaii industry partners to visit the market to engage with the New Zealand travel industry through a series of educational training events," says Walshe. "The event includes face-to-face interaction, sharing of destination and product information and development of important business relationships."

The Auckland event will take place 11 May, and includes a B2B lunch followed by a travel agent workshop. This will have a product focus with a maximum of 20 Hawaii suppliers attending across hotels, activities, transportation and experiences.

"The evening is designed to promote the diverse nature of Hawaii's six islands, highlight Hawaiian culture, the unique things to see and do, events and festivals, accommodation options, the variety of shopping, and more," says Walshe. "The growth in travel from New Zealand to Hawaii in recent years hopefully suits this more in-depth Aloha Down Under."

More information will be provided in due course.

Shopping Celebrations

The Royal Hawaiian Centre in Waikiki will host special Chinese New Year celebrations 15-28 Feb, including entertainment and giveaways. Shoppers who spend USD250 or more in shops at the centre in one day will receive a red money envelope with prizes like gift cards and merchandise. On 17 and 22 Feb from 1500-1600 there will be free paper lantern making classes (limited to 20 people); and on 19 Feb there will be lion dancing, fireworks and musical performances. See royalhawaiiancenter.com

Aloha Agents Wanted

Hawaii Tourism reminds agents they only have until Sun to submit their video about why they should be picked as an 'Agent of Aloha' and join an ultimate famil to Hawaii.

Two Kiwi agents will be picked to join the exclusive famil, which will visit the four main islands of O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island and is on 17-31 Mar. They'll be filmed along the way for a series of travel trade videos. For more information, see alohadownunder.com.au



Vintage Hawaii Gifts

The annual Hawaii All-Collectors Show will be held at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall in downtown Honolulu on 12 Jul.

The antique and collectibles show and sale offers more than 200 booths and what is said to be one of the largest selections of Hawaiiiana under one roof, including jewellery, vintage posters and homeware. The hall also hosts the Wiki Wiki One Day Show, a one-day vintage and collectibles sale, on 22 Mar, 04 Oct and 22 Nov. See ukulele.com

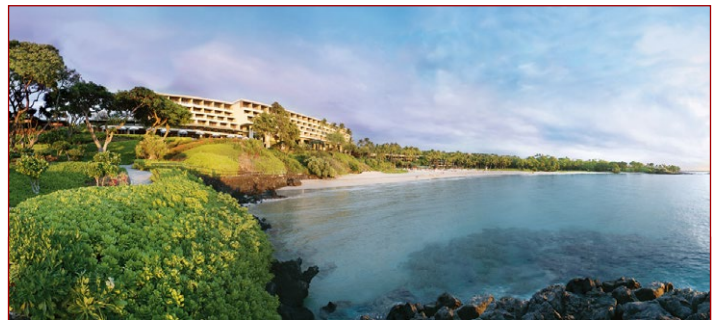


Mass Ukulele Orchestra

A ukulele orchestra of more than 800 students will perform at the 45th annual Roy Sakuma Ukulele Festival Hawaii 19 Jul at Kapiolani Park Bandstand, Waikiki. The festival, 1030-1630, is free and the concerts include local ukulele legend Roy Sakuma, some of Hawaii's top entertainers and national celebrities. See ukulelefestivalhawaii.org

GO Hula To Hawaii

GO Holidays has Hula to Hawaii packages on sale to 16 Feb, with four nights on Waikiki priced from \$1449pp t/s including return Auckland-Honolulu Hawaiian Airlines flights. Clients can add on free flights to one of the Neighbour Islands when booking a Waikiki package, with two-night accommodation packages from \$99pp (based on the Aston Aloha Beach Hotel in Kauai).



Mauna Kea Environmental Tours

The Mauna Kea Beach Hotel has launched a volunteer programme with trips including bird watching, planting trees or collecting seeds, as part of its 50th anniversary.

The My Mauna Kea volunteer trips are in partnership with Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project and Hawaii Forest and Trail, and are open to guests and visitors to the hotel. The trips cost USD147.02pp and include round-trip transfers, access fees to the site, deli-boxed lunch, guide and equipment. Upcoming trips are scheduled for 16 Mar and 06 Apr.

The programme is part of Mauna Kea's 50 Acts of Aloha campaign, which sees the hotel give back with random acts of kindness throughout the year. See timelessmaunakea.com

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6 Experiences

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T's and C's apply
Sales to 16 Feb

