

Insider Dining Tips From Hawaii Chefs

Hawaii Tourism has compiled a list of restaurants and cafes favoured by well-known local chefs—for travellers looking for some insider tips.

Chef de cuisine Shaymus Alwin, who works at the Royal Hawaiian resort, suggests breakfast at Moke's in Kailua (about 30 mins from Waikiki). He usually opts for a rabbit moco, 'some kind of benedict' and highly recommends the house made bread. See mokeskailua.com. For those heading out on a kayak or hike, he suggests grabbing some sandwiches from the nearby Kalapawai Café (750 Kailua Rd, Kailua).

Meanwhile Vikram Garg, the executive chef at the Halekulani hotel, sug-

gests that clients try the Olive Tree Café behind the Kahala Mall (a 15 min drive from Waikiki). Garg says he loves the simple, tasty Greek food from the neighbourhood eatery. "The food is fresh and light and make sure that you don't miss the lamb shank special on Wed", he adds.

Over on Maui, Tylun Pang the executive chef at the Fairmont Kea Lani says on his day off he heads to locally-owned Japanese restaurant Ichiban (2133 Kaohu St, Wailuku).

Sale Pepe is the top pick for Riko Bartolome, executive chef at Montage Kapalua Bay. He says the small Italian bistro in Lahaina does a 'delicious' pate and recommends the Strozza-pretti con kale e salsiccia, which is hand twisted noodles with sausage and kale. The husband and wife team know what they're doing, he says. It is at 878 Front St, Lahaina.

Heading to the Waimea Homestead Farmers Market on Hawaii Island is the top dining tip from Peter Abarcar Jr, the executive chef at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel on Hawaii Island. The market is located on Hwy 19, next to the 55 mile marker at Kuhio Hale West Hawaii Office of DHHL, and Abarcar recommends the Parisian crepes, which are made to order, and the fresh lilikoi (passionfruit) nectar on ice. "I also go over to the Nakamoto's breakfast nook and take in either a loco moco or their bi bim bap," he adds. For more Hawaii dining tips, see gohawaii.com/nz/

Prince Waikiki Deals

Deluxe accommodation, daily buffet breakfast for two, mid-size car rental and free parking are offered at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel from USD355 p/r p/n and the Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki from USD285 p/f p/n. Dates and other details, princesortshawaii.com

Waikiki Development

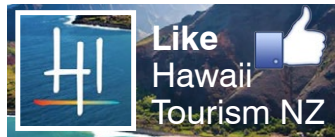
Construction is continuing on the site of Waikiki's iconic International Market Place. Scheduled to open in mid-2016, the new development will feature open-air retail, dining and entertainment with around 75 retailers, seven restaurants and the island's first full-line Saks Fifth Avenue. Details, see shopinternationalmarketplace.com

HA Feb Traffic Up

Hawaiian Airlines saw a 4.7% increase in passenger numbers in Feb, to 786,382. Demand was up 1.8% on capacity increases of 4.3%, leading to load factors of 77.9%. Year-to-date, passenger numbers are up 3.8% to 1.63 million.

Get Lei'd In May

Hawaii's annual Lei Day celebration will take place in Queen Kapiolani Park and Bandstand in Waikiki on 01 May. It features entertainment, food and a lei-making contest, and is a great chance to mingle with the locals.



New Sea Life Tour

Sea Life Park Hawaii has a new Oceanic Institute Tour which offers visitors a behind the scenes look at the research and conservation facility, says the Oahu Visitors Bureau. The 45-minute tour is priced from USD79.99 including park admission, souvenir photo and lunch. Sea Life also offers swimming with dolphins, sharks, sea lions, or Hawaiian rays; Dolphin Cove Show, Hawaii Ocean Theater, and Kolohe Kai Sea Lion Show; 300,000-gallon Shark Tank; and Seabird Sanctuary. See sealifeparkhawaii.com



Whale Watching All Year

Hawaii's official humpback whale watching season ends in Apr, but Hawaii Tourism says Wild Side Specialty Tours' Best of the West adventure is a year round whale watching, dolphin swimming, and turtle snorkel tour, for clients visiting outside the official season. Tours are on a Power Cat, Alakai and leave from Waianae Small Harbor on Oahu's west coast. The sailing tour is limited to six passengers. Guests have the chance to see pilot whales and false killer whales, dolphins and other wildlife with commentary from the onboard marine biologist. For details, sailhawaii.com

Ziplining Over A Working North Shore Farm

CLIMB Works Keana Farms offers a unique, educational three-hour zipline tour that showcases the beauty, agriculture, and culture of Hawaii, says Oahu Visitors Bureau. Clients will soar over a working agricultural farm nestled in the North Shore's famous beaches and mountains. The adventure starts high in the mountains and provides guests with stunning panoramas from start to finish, says the OVB. See climbworks.com/keana_farms/



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