

Pearl Harbor 75th To Draw Kiwis



Pic: Pearl Harbour Historic Parks

This Dec will mark the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks and tourism operators are expecting to see a spike in Kiwi visitation to take in the events planned to commemorate the milestone.

The 07 Dec attacks thrust America into WWII, changing Hawaii and America forever, and some of those in the Oceania region also have strong links to the attacks, says Starwood Hawaii's director of sales and marketing Dale Carstensen.

Local Hawaiian Airlines manager Russell Willis echoes this sentiment and is expecting Kiwi travellers, especially those with connections to Pearl Harbor or WWII to make the trip up to mark the milestone.

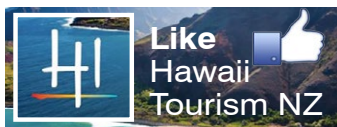
An unprecedented series of events is planned by the Pearl Harbor Committee over 11 days (01-11 Dec) and will honour the commemoration of the attack with the

theme Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future, adds Carstensen. The events are designed to honour those impacted by the attack—but also attract global and local visitors. While centred around National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 07 Dec, there's a diverse range of activity planned.

The programme includes memorials dedicated to USS Utah and USS Oklahoma, the reconciliation Blackened Canteen Ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial, a Pearl Harbor documentary film premiere, an historic movie series planned on Waikiki Beach, a Pearl Harbor Survivor Gala Tribute—and it will all culminate with a world-class live concert that is being planned at Aloha Stadium. For more event details, see pearlharbor75thanniversary.com

Hawaii On Sale

GO Holidays has four-night Hawaii packages, flying Hawaiian Airlines ex Auckland to Honolulu, priced from \$1499pp s/t. The offer is valid for sales to 13 May and select travel dates between 01 May-01 Jul, 27 Jul-31 Aug and 09 Oct-09 Dec.



Waikiki's Best Mai Tai?

Regardless of your political persuasion, the Wai'olu Lounge at Trump Waikiki is arguably home to the best mai tai in Waikiki. In fact its Ilikea's mai tai boasts the world's best mai tai award. A contemporary twist on the iconic cocktail, the Wai'olu version features a hint of ginger and lime and is topped with pineapple and Bacardi sorbet. There's an extensive cocktail list, and you can even create your own. Urge clients to make a reservation if they want to watch the sunset (and it can get warm in the sun). The sunset menu hour offers a range of pupus (canapes) as well as meals and a kids menu. The venue offers live entertainment Wed-Sun and happy hour(s) is 1500-1800 daily.

Big Kahuna Luau

A former celebrity retreat is now the site for a new luau on Oahu. The Big Kahuna Luau is held on a historic estate near Waikiki, said to be the home of macadamia nut industry which later became a celebrity hideaway for the likes of Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra. The luau is held Sun, Wed and Fri. Discover Hawaii Tours provides transportation from Waikiki to the estate in less than 20 minutes. There is music and entertainment, cultural activities and the cuisine is by Hawaiian celebrity chef, chef Chai. The luau also boasts award-winning entertainment adds Discover Hawaii tours. Wholesalers have pricing details or see bigkahunaluau.com



Starwood's Suite Ohana Deal; New Rooms

Select Starwood properties in Hawaii are rolling out Ohana Suites, a new room category designed to meet growing demand from multi-generational family groups and friends. The suites sleep up to six and while room configuration differs, there's two bathrooms and a combination of a day bed, space saving wall bed, separate master bedroom and plenty of space. Although it's a premium room type Starwood's Dale Carstensen says they're expected to be popular with Kiwis and the growing number of smaller group bookings Starwood is seeing from Oceania. "We are really seeing an increased demand from small groups of 15-25 people...we're really seeing growth from the sports, multi-generation and fraternal (friends travelling together) markets from Oceania," says Carstensen. The suites are already available at some properties and currently being added at the Sheraton Waikiki, which is seeing a notable increase in bookings from New Zealand. Tactical Ocean Promotion Ohana ocean front room rates at the Sheraton Waikiki are from USD706 per night, plus tax and daily resort charge. The Ohana room category is set to become large enough to offer on a free-sale basis, and will be available through selected wholesalers.

ALOHA WAIKIKI!

AKL-HNL from **\$1081** * Return (Children from \$851 return)

* Book K class. See GDS for details. Sales until 24 May.



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