

Neighbour Island Visitation Soars

Hawaii is basking in increased visitor numbers from New Zealand with arrivals for May registering a 3.6% increase (from May 2016) to 5519 and the year-to-date figures show an 8.2% increase to 19,966 in Kiwi Arrivals to the rainbow state, compared to same time last year.

Adding to the positive news, neighbour island visitation by Kiwi travellers jumped 39.4% in May, year-on-year, a result which has been warmly welcomed by Hawaii Tourism which has been focusing considerable efforts on increasing Kiwi visitation to the neighbour islands. Historically, May is an off-peak travel period, but tourism impact has been positive across the state with total visitor numbers for the month rising

4.5% to 751,191, from May 2016, fuelled by growth in arrivals by air (+3.9% to 737,254) and by cruise ships (+49.1% to 13,937). Overall visitor spend for the month was USD1.3 billion, an increase of 8.7% versus a year ago.

More Lanai Watersports

Guests at Four Seasons Resort can enjoy an enhanced range of water-sport options during their stay at Lanai.

The resort has increased its fleet to include Lanai, a 15m sailing catamaran; Kalulu, an inflatable ribb previously used as a chase boat for the America's Cup; and Holo Kai, a six-seat outrigger canoe.

The additions enable guests to choose from snorkel sails, sunset trips, private charters, whale-watching adventures and scuba excursions. See fourseasons.com/lanai for further details.



Hiding Out in Waikiki Pre-Globals

As Waikiki gets set to host the no-doubt high spirited revellers for the Flight Centre global ball, which is back in Honolulu this year—some of the Kiwi contingent got a head start at Waikiki's new bar The Hideout, located at the recently-opened Laylow Hotel. Pictured soaking up the tropical heat (as we freeze back here) is Hawaiian Airlines' Rusty Williss and Lindsey Morgan with Flight Centre's Phil Goad and Jodie Burnard.

Mango Mad Moana

Moana Surfrider, the Westin Resort & Spa in Honolulu, is putting the spotlight on mangoes this month. The 9th Annual Mangoes celebration is on 15 Jul.

Tasty Treats At Lani Bay

Early risers staying at Mauna Lani Bay on the Big Island of Hawaii can now grab a signature coffee, fresh-baked pastries and grab-and-go lunches from the new Honu Bar Café, which overlooks the Honu Pond, advises Hawaii Tourism Oceania. By night fall, the Honu Bar serves hand-crafted cocktails, small plates and decadent desserts mixed with live entertainment. Visit maunalani.com

Game, Set, Match



The Four Seasons Resort Hualalai is staging a new five-day on and off court Tennis Insiders Camp which is hosted by French Open champion Michael Chang.

Designed exclusively for guests of the resort, Chang has designed a daily itinerary to include tennis science discussions, on-court instruction and insider tips. Available 07-11 Aug, it is priced at USD5000pp in addition to accommodation at the resort. Visit fourseasons.com/hualalai



Giving Back On Maui

Maui-bound animal lovers have the chance to 'give back' on their next holiday through a range of 'voluntourism' opportunities that enable visitors to meet locals while creating meaningful travel memories, says the Maui Visitors and Conventions Bureau.

Among the options is The Maui Humane Society's Beach Buddies programme, which enables animal lovers to spend time with a dog every Wed and Fri. Participants are given a backpack filled with dog treats, collars, spare towels and waste bags.

Volunteers are also welcome on a Mon and Wed at Leilani Farm Sanctuary at Haiku, which is home to a variety of rescue animals. And the island of Lanai is a sanctuary for more than 500 felines. There the Lanai Cat Sanctuary rescues wild and abandoned cats to reduce over-population and help protect endangered birds. Volunteers are welcome daily. See mauihumanesociety.org, leilanifarmsanctuary.org, or lanaicatsanctuary.org

Food And Wine Pairings

For Hawaii-bound clients, suggest a wine pairing dinner on 26 Jul at Huggo's, Kona's iconic oceanfront restaurant where guests will sample wines selected by Master Sommelier Pat Okubo from Spain and Sonoma/Napa regions matched with multi-course dining dishes created by the restaurant's executive chef, Albert Asuncion. Priced at USD100pp, reservations are required at huggos.com

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