

## Luxury Hawai'i With GO, Starwood



**GO Holidays has released a new Luxury Hawai'i brochure, in conjunction with Starwood Hotels and Resorts and Hawaiian Airlines, as the wholesaler continues to see growth in the segment.**

The destination has a lot to offer clients looking at a luxury break in terms of first class dining options, shopping, golf and spas, and it's not just Waikiki that can cater for high-end clients, says GO North America product development manager Sheralyn Black. "There are some truly stunning resorts across all of the Hawaiian Islands, so combining Waikiki with a Neighbour Island really is the best way [for clients] to get the most out of their Hawaiian experience," she says.



### Volcanoes Boom

The number of people visiting Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park last year grew 6.7% compared to 2012, reaching 1,583,209.

The 333,086-acre park is open 24 hours a day, year-round, and stretches from sea level to the summit of Mauna Loa, the earth's largest active volcano.

It features 155 miles of trails and 66 miles of paved roadways, and is also home to Kilauea, one of earth's most active volcanoes which is presently erupting from two locations (Halema'uma'u Crater and the Pu'u 'o'o vent).

The wholesaler has luxury escapes at Starwood properties on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i and the Big Island, with room grades from garden view through to luxury ocean front.

Four-night packages are from \$1849pp s/t, including return HA flights ex Auckland, for sales to 31 May and travel 01 Apr-14 Dec.

### ... HA Birthday Deals

GO also has Hula to Hawai'i deals in conjunction with Hawaiian Airlines' Anniversary Sale flights, for sales to 22 Mar and select travel dates 08 May-14 Dec.

Four-night Waikiki packages are from \$1399pp t/s including flights ex Auckland to Honolulu, and there are free flights to one Neighbour Island when booking a Waikiki package. Add on a Neighbour Island two-night package from \$99pp.

### Surf N Turf For Dads

Oahu's Turtle Bay Resort is offering a June is for Dad 'surf and turf' package this year. Starting from USD479 per night for three nights, the offer includes ocean-view accommodation, a round of golf for two at Palmer Golf Course and a surf or standup paddleboard lesson for two, dinner for two at Pa'akai, the resort's newest restaurant and a USD200 f&b credit for use at Turtle Bay's seven restaurants and bars.

### Ohana Launches Molokai

Hawaiian Airlines' interisland operator, 'Ohana by Hawaiian, launched its inaugural turboprop service to Molokai this week, with three daily ATR-42 flights between the islands. Twice daily services between Honolulu and Lanai launch on 18 Mar.

### Maui Ritz Sold

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua Resort has been sold and its new owners say they intend to make 'further investment to enhance the resort', which will still be operated by Ritz-Carlton.

The property, now owned by Woodridge Capital Partners and Colony Capital, is situated on 54 oceanfront acres within the world famous Kapalua Resort, renowned for its two championship golf courses and award-winning restaurants. It features 463 guestrooms including 107 residential suites, three restaurants and a lounge with pool bar and café, and outdoor restaurant The Beach House.

### When To Visit

Any time of the year is a good time to visit Hawaii, says Hawaii Tourism. Summer, Apr-Nov, is warmer and drier (average temperature is 24°-31°C) while winter, Dec-Mar is a bit cooler (20°-27°C). Trade winds keep things comfortable year-round.

Whale watching season is late December-early May, and peak whale watching months are Jan-early Apr. The legendary big wave season on Hawai'i's North Shore beaches is Nov-Feb.



### The Royal Treatment

Iolani Palace in downtown Honolulu offers an insight into Hawai'i's colourful history. It's the only royal palace in the US and when it opened in 1882 the palace actually had electric lights and telephones before the White House. Guided and self-guided tours are available and bookings are recommended. The palace is a 15 min. drive from Waikiki or around 30mins by bus (bus 2, 3 or B City Express from Kuhio, Wakiki to Beretania and Punchbowl St). See [iolanipalace.org](http://iolanipalace.org)

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