

More Kiwis Opt For Inter-Island Break

New figures from Hawaiian Airlines show the continued growth of Kiwi travel to the state's neighbour islands.

Statistics released by the carrier yesterday show a 12% increase in the number of Kiwi travellers visiting a neighbour island other than Oahu, compared to the same time last year. HA New Zealand manager Russell Williss says the airline is seeing strong growth in

visits to Maui and Hawai'i Island. "The onset of winter here always brings a surge in New Zealand bookings to Hawai'i and with our strengthening dollar trading above USD0.70c mark, we're expecting further interest."

While the tropical climate is a big drawcard for Kiwi visitors to Hawai'i, Williss says more Kiwis are now taking the opportunity to experience a slower pace of life free from internet connectivity or see sights such as active volcanoes and whale watching.



Fleetwoods Experience

Fleetwood's On Front St (owned by rocker Mick Fleetwood) is highly recommended for clients visiting Lahaina. The venue includes a general store, night club and multi-storey restaurant—and is 'the' place to watch the sun set in Lahaina. Happy hour is 1400-1700 daily and dinner (highly recommended) is served from 1700. For a memorable experience urge clients to pre-book a rooftop table for the nightly sunset ceremony—which alternates between an Hawaiian Kumu and a highly entertaining Scottish piper. [CLICK HERE](#) for more or see [fleetwoodsonfrontst.com](#)

... Maui Stays

Maui continues to be the most popular island for Kiwis after Oahu, with a range of options to suit different budgets and interests.

Kaanapali, on the west of Maui, is a popular destination with Kiwis. With 12 beachfront hotels linked by a boardwalk there's a range of accommodation options for all budgets. The Kaanapali Beach Hotel offers five-star views for a three star price, through to the well-known five star international brands. There's some 90 shops and restaurants at the Whalers Village within the resort and the picturesque waterfront town of Lahaina is a short drive away.

Upscale Wailea is likened to the Beverly Hills of Maui, and the purpose-built community offers high end restaurants and accommodation options, while Kihei is a typical beach town, with condo accommodation and a casual feel. Kapalua is home to the Ritz Carlton, high end villas and condo and two stunning beaches, while Makena in the south offers something of a quieter Maui experience. For clients embarking on the famed road to Hana (600 corners and more than 50 one-lane bridges) the quaint town at the end of the highway is like a trip back in time. While there's one hotel, an eclectic selection of B&Bs is available.

Molokini Explored

A trip to Molokini is becoming an increasingly popular family-friendly day trip. The volcanic atoll is a state marine life park and a number of operators offer boats tours with snorkelling, scuba and even snuba (air hose connected to the boat rather than a tank) allowing visitors to explore the colourful tropical underwater playground. Tours operate in most weather conditions. See [molokinicrater.com](#)

Whale of a Time

The increasing number of migrating humpback whales mean visitors to Maui between Nov and May will often spot one of the whales—from the coast, plane or on a tour. Visitors can often spot the whales off the coast between Ma'alaea and Lahaina (Highway 30), or from Kihei and Wailea or up on the North Shore, Paia Bay, and Ho'okipa Beach Park. Whale watching boat tours also operate.



Hale Huak'ai: Beach Activities With Cultural Twist

Ka'anapali Beach Hotel, well-known as Hawaii's most Hawaiian hotel, has opened a new water activity centre—which under the guidance of respected Hawaiian waterman, Iokepa Nae'ole looks to educate visitors on the ocean and its importance to Hawaiian culture.

Paying homage to Hawaiian traditions, the Hale Huaka'i (adventure centre), offers a range of ocean activities such as surfing, stand up paddle boarding, snorkelling, conch shell blowing and many more.

Visitors can hire equipment, such as boogie boards and snorkel sets—but Nae'ole's vision is to also 'talk story' about Hawaiian traditions and legends and urge travellers to respect the ocean.

Nae'ole hopes the somewhat holistic approach to water activities catches on with other properties—and says there's plenty of room for travellers to experience what the area has to offer while also being respectful of the marine eco-system.

Honu (sea turtles) are plentiful along the beach, particularly around the Pu'u Keka'a (Black Rock), and are something of a magnet for tourists. But on Nae'ole's watch (pictured) tourists are urged to watch but not touch or approach the friendly turtles—as even sunscreen can harm them.

In addition, semi-private cabanas located on a lawn overlooking the beach are available for day rental for USD35 for non-guests and USD30 for hotel guests. See [kbhmaui.com](#)

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