

Island Hopping Around Hawaii



Cruising has become an increasingly popular option for Hawaii-bound Kiwi travellers—particularly with family groups or those looking to experience the island hop, says helloworld cruise manager Jacqueline Unsworth.

“Family cruising is a large growth market for Hawaii in general,” says Unsworth. “The ships have great on-board activities and there is plenty of time to take in the shore excursions—like a round of golf in Maui, relaxing on the beach or experiencing the volcanoes from Hilo (Hawaii Island)”. More Kiwis are taking the opportunity

to see as many of the islands as possible and the volcanoes in Hawaii are certainly a drawcard, adds Unsworth, especially if they are active during the nighttime.

International cruise passengers to Hawaii are growing at around 5% per year shows a new report released by the Hawaii Tourism Authority—with Hawaii Island attracting 20% more cruise passengers in Sep, year-on-year thanks in part to its volcanic activity. ‘More cruise lines have added the Big Island to their routes, with other lines adding more seasonal traffic,’ says Hawaii Visitors Bureau executive director Ross Birch, adding that the ‘volcanoes are a popular destination, so there’s a lot of demand.’

Norwegian Cruise Lines’, the MS Pride of America accounts for almost half of Hawaii Island’s visits, sailing year-round from its Honolulu base.

... Island Hopping

Small ship, expedition cruising is also on Kiwi’s radar, with Unsworth highlighting UnCruise Adventures’ seven-night island hopping itineraries in the region.

“These cater for the adventure seeker looking for more immersive cultural enrichment programmes,” she says.

Coming to Maui

The SEA Life Explore station at the Maui Ocean Centre is opening every Wed 1100-1300, advises Hawaii Tourism.

Maui-bound foodie clients will also be able to enjoy Maui’s Japengo’s 2017 Tastemakers series, with tastemaker menus every Fri. Steelgrass farm, a chocolate and vanilla plantation, too is now offering tours four times weekly which include chocolate tastings and more.

... New Attractions

New attractions in Hawaii include Holokai Adventures’ guided He’eia Fishpond Exploration tour on Oahu, Koloa Landing Resort’s garden lawn cultural event and Maverick Helicopters’ three-island helicopter tour.

Oahu Entertainment

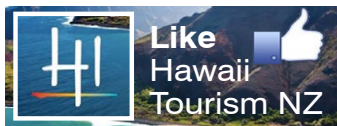
Clients heading to Oahu in the coming months will be able to enjoy free concerts by the Royal Hawaiian Band at Iolani Place on Fri and Kapiolani Park on Sun, advises Hawaii Tourism. For details, see rhb-music.com

Maui Bar Guide

With Happy Hour, Pau Hana Hour, Aloha Hour, Hoppy Hour, Sunset Hour and even a Cappy Hour, knowing when and where to drink in Maui can be daunting for clients, but *Mauitime* has created a list of the best bars and when to go.

Clients in the south of Maui can enjoy the Ama Bar and Grill’s happy hour 1730-1900 which has USD6 Maui Brewing Co beer and USD10 appetisers. The Cow Pig Bun has happy hour 1500-1800 and 2200-2400 with 20% off the whole menu—make sure to try their bourbon cocktail, voted best Cocktail by *Mauitime*. While Diamond Bar and Grill’s happy hour 1500-1900 with USD5 Jagerbombs and USD1 tacos.

The top three in Central Maui begin with 808 On Main, with happy hour 1500-1800 and daily deals such as USD5 mojito’s on Mon. Playmakers Sports Bar offers discounted drinks 1400-1800 and 2200-2400. To top off the list is Maui Coffee Roasters, which offers a ‘Cappy Hour’ from 1400 everyday with USD2 cappuccinos.



Hilton’s Deals A-plenty

In celebration of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, the Hilton Garden Inn Waikiki Beach is offering 30% off its Suites, Deluxe City and Partial Ocean View rooms. The Black Friday sale is available to book for 24 hours only on 24 Nov for travel 24 Nov-22 Jun, and the Cyber Monday sale is available to book for 24 hours on 27 Nov for travel 27 Nov-22 Jun.



Aqua Aston Hotels’ Hawaii Award Haul

Five Aqua Aston properties in the Hawaiian Islands have won the Delta Vacations’ 2017 Quality Assurance Award for outstanding service and 99% guest satisfaction levels. The five winning properties were Kauai Beach Resort in Kauai, Aqua Palms Waikiki, Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel and Aston Waikiki Sunset all in Oahu as well as Aston Kaanapali Shores in Maui. The Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel also received the 2017 Golden Apple Hotel award by Apple Vacations for its exceptional customer rating, quality, service and value.

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