

Kiwis Report Back From Hawaii



A large trade delegation is up in Honolulu this week for the House of Travel Partnership Weekend, and they're experiencing first-hand that Hawaii's tourism industry is operating as normal across the island group—with only some operational disruptions on the island of Hawaii, such as the closure of Volcanoes National Park, due to the latest Kilauea eruption.

All flights to Oahu and between Oahu and the island of Hawaii are operating as usual, stresses Hawaiian Airlines. There are some air restrictions in

place above the volcano for obvious reasons, but almost all tourist activity on the island of Hawaii is operating as normal.

The Hilton Waikoloa Village, located on the northwest side of Hawaii Island, points out that it is 100 miles from the area of volcanic activity.

"There is currently no disruption to resort operations; the hotel is open and continues to welcome guests," says a spokesman for the resort. "Authorities have reported that the air is clean and clear over the resort, and there has been no impact from lava or seismic activity."

Further down the coast, TMG broker Megan Batterton is in Kona, and says it's business as usual despite the Kilauea eruption. "The sun is out; the operators are welcoming and operating; the vog [volcanic fog] is not too bad...and check out the view (above on left)," adds a relaxed Batterton.

Pictured above, overlooking Diamond Head from Waikiki's Queen Kapiolani Hotel is Hawaii Tourism New Zealand manager Darragh Walshe, on left with Hawaiian Airlines' duo Lindsey Morgan and Rusty Williss.



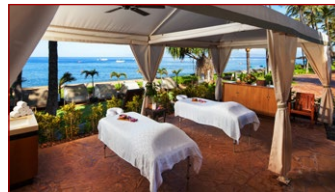
HNL Marathon In Dec

Thousands of runners from around the world gather at Waikiki on 09 Dec for the Honolulu Marathon says Hawaii Tourism. The 42km course has no time limit, is popular with Kiwi runners and anyone over seven years of age can enter. Registration costs USD235, see honolulumarathon.org

Hula Festival

Oahu's 41st Prince Lot Hula festival, 21-22 Jul showcases the best of non-competitive hula, as well as crafts, kappa making, lauhala weaving, Lomilomi massage, traditional Hawaiian games and more says Hawaii Tourism. See moanalugardensfoundation.org

Heavenly Spa Escape



The Westin Maui Resort & Spa has a new Soothing Sun Escape spa treatment using locally grown aloe and ti-leaf plants at its Heavenly Spa. The aloe is applied to the skin and covered with ti-leaves to draw out heat and increase moisture. The treatment ends with Dilo Nut Gel to restore the skin. See westinmaui.com



Whole Foods Opens

Hawaii's biggest whole foods market has opened this week, spanning two levels at Honolulu's Ward Village near Waikiki. More than 900 locally made, grown or raised in Hawaii products are available Whole Foods Market Queen, which is also said to have the largest hot bar in the region (from hot meats to mac and cheese), locally-sourced meats, a poke bowl pop-up bar, Lanikai Juice bar, Banh mi sandwiches from La Tour Cafe, vegan dishes from Juice Brew, and 24 on-tap beers at the bar. See wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/queen



Hawaii's Rainbow Tower Turns 50!

The Hilton Hawaiian Village is celebrating 50 years of its iconic Rainbow Tower with a 50 Years of Aloha package, offering accommodation in the tower as well as commemorative amenities and experiences. The deal features a room in the Rainbow Tower; two rainbow fedora hats and a beach bag from on-site shop Anuenue; two complimentary Hawaii Five-0 cocktails from Tropics Bar & Grill or Tapa Bar; USD50 off a second treatment at Mandara Spa with any 50 minute massage of facial purchased; 50% off a second snorkel sail on the Spirit of Aloha catamaran and more. See Hiltonhawaiianvillage.com/specials-and-packages

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