

Tourism Unaffected By New Lava Flow



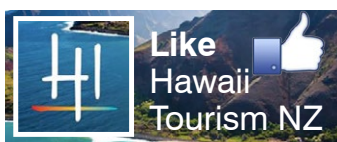
The new lava flow from Kilauea on the Island of Hawaii has so far spared any of the homes it's crept near, and there has been no disruption to tourism in the region, which is at risk of being cut off if the flow crosses the main highway.

The current new flow is outside of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which is where most travellers experience the lava up-close, Kilauea has been erupting since 1983 and its lava flows are popular among tourists, who venture close on organised hikes for photo opportunities and even the chance to 'poke a stick' in the lava with operators such as Poke A Stick Tours. Currently the only Poke A Stick tour available is described as 'an extreme

challenge' not for the faint-hearted. It's a six-hour roundtrip hike from a shuttle drop-off point, with two departures each day 0900 and 1200. Volcano tour company Volcano Discovery says the flow from Pu'u 'O'o continues to advance around 215m per day through the forest reserve, skirting downhill of the nearest homes. A recent update states it's 3.3km from Apa'a Road. Alternative roads are being prepared in case the flow, which has narrowed as it advances, does eventually cross the Highway 130, linking the Puna region to the rest of the island.

Hawaii Island Fitness

Ocean Sports on Hawaii Island has launched a new fitness activity programme at Anaehoomalu Bay in Waikoloa. The programme includes morning and twilight beach yoga classes, stand-up paddleboard yoga, and aqua hula. The classes are open to all fitness levels. See hawaiiiceansports.com



Private Holiday Home Deals

Destination Resorts Hawaii is offering 35% off its private holiday homes for travel through to 19 Dec, when booked 60 days in advance. Endless Summer rates start from USD188pn. Rates at the Makena Surf three-bedroom ocean front (pictured) start at USD845. Travellers also receive USD155 in resort certificates for dining and spa services, as well as Wi-Fi, local phone calls and local grocery discounts. See destinationresortshawaii.com

Waikoloa Golf

The Waikoloa Beach Resort Kings' Course on Hawaii Island will host the Dennis Rose Invitational golf tournament next month, with the women's event on 27-28 Oct and the men's on 31 Oct-01 Nov. Spectators can watch college athletes compete for the tourney's best scorecard. The event is free and open to the public. See waikoloagolf.com



Kona Fest A Top 10

The Kona Coffee Festival has been named one of the top 10 specialty food festivals in the US in the *USA Today* and *10Best* Reader's Choice Awards. The festival, on 07-16 Nov, is the oldest and one of the most successful food festivals in Hawaii. It features 10 days of events promoting the state's culture and diversity, as well as Kona's coffee heritage. See konacoffeefest.com

Kamakahonu Christmas

Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel and the American Culinary Federation (ACF) Kona-Kohala Chefs Association have partnered to host a Christmas at Kamakahonu Bay - Dining with the Chefs event on 06 Dec. Twenty top chefs and confectioners will use locally-sourced ingredients to create the meals, and there will be live music, dancing under the stars and a silent auction. Tickets are USD85 on-line or USD90 at the door and go on sale 01 Oct. See konakohalacheffs.org The hotel is also offering a special room package for the weekend, starting at USD189pn including breakfast and parking.

Waikiki Restaurant

Holiday Inn Resort Waikiki Beachcomber has re-opened its on-site restaurant under the management of Handcrafted Restaurants and award-winning Chef Merri-man. The menu has been revamped with fresh, organic farm-to-table ingredients all made in-house. See waikikibeachcomberresort.com

Honolulu

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