

Hula Halau Hula In Auckland



Hawaii Tourism last night staged an industry event with a cultural focus as the STO looks to give New Zealander's new reasons to visit. The visiting hula halau hula school from Hawaii island added an authentic touch to the evening, and many agents also had the opportunity to sit aboard the Hokulea, a traditional Hawaiian canoe which is sailing around the globe using traditional navigational techniques,

such as the stars, currents and wind. "It was the perfect opportunity for us to showcase Hawaiian culture, and the potential for schools and groups to explore Hawaii's earth sciences, from the amazing geography (including volcanos), ocean sciences and the stars," says Hawaii Tourism New Zealand manager Darragh Walshe. "There is real potential for edutourism to Hawaii."

Pictured: Jim Donegan, US Consul General with the hula group-Halau Hula o Kalaaulani o Puuanahulu.



Pink's Hot Dogs Oahu

Well-known Hollywood hot dog stand Pink's Hot Dogs has opened at Oahu's Sea Life Park, for guests in and outside the park. The outlet feature, two hawaiian signature dogs, including the USD9.99 Pink's Famous Hawaiian-style dog, a 9-inch hot dog grilled, smothered in teriyaki sauce and topped with coleslaw and pineapple. And celebrity chef Giada de Laurentiis has created the Makapu'u Mama Mia, a 9-inch dog, with sauteed peppers, onions, mushrooms, chopped tomato and shredded mozzarella cheese.

... Repeat Travel

Showcasing new and different reasons for Kiwis to visit one of Hawaii's diverse islands is essential to continuing the momentum, says Walshe. "We have a fantastic new airline, we just have to make sure it's sustainable; and we need to get Kiwis thinking of Hawaii as a repeat destination—with the different islands offering different options and experiences."

Waikiki Tower Underway

Work has begun on a second 37-floor tower block for the Ritz-Carlton Residences Waikiki Beach condo-hotel. It will be the first Ritz-Carlton property on O'ahu when it opens. The first tower is expected to open in 2016.

Ohana Waikiki East

Outrigger Hotels & Resorts has named Niel Mason as the new general manager of the Ohana Waikiki East hotel. Mason worked most recently as the general manager at the Outrigger Little Hastings Street Resort & Spa in Noosa

Honolulu Triathlon

Swimming, biking and running in the Honolulu Triathlon is a must-do for the world's triathletes and this year they will take part in it on 17 May. Start and finish is Ala Moana Park in Waikiki. Entry forms at honolulutriathlon.com

HNL Treasure Trove

Completed in 1890, the Bishop Museum was built by Charles Bishop in memory of his deceased wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, to house her collection of Hawaiian artifacts and royal heirlooms, says the Oahu Visitors Bureau.

The recently renovated Hawaiian Hall and Pacific Hall are 'dazzling showcases' of each region's histories, cultures, beliefs, and ways of life with historical artifacts, video, audio, photography, and contemporary artists' work.

There's also a planetarium featuring programmes on early Polynesian voyagers who navigated by the stars, while the Charles T. Mamiya Science Center is an 'interactive wonderland' of Hawaii's oceans and volcanoes. See bishopmuseum.org

Turtle Bay For Kids

Turtle Bay Resort is offering youth a chance to learn about ocean exploration with some of the best, through the new Kainalu Jr Waterman Program. The five-day experience, led by master watermen and ocean educators Dolan Eversole and Ian Masterson, will feature a variety of culturally-based ocean activities and ocean science exploration. It's set to take place in early Aug. See oahusfablednorthshore.com/see-do/camps



Pic: Tor Johnson HTA

Waikiki History Trail

Visitors to Waikiki, the birthplace of surfing and home of Hawaii's royal famil for 500 years, can learn about the region's history and culture on the self-guided Waikiki Historic Trail. Follow the surfboard markers on the trail, which passes statues of Duke Kahanamoku, Prince Jonah Kalaniana'ole and Princess Kaiulani.

On the Kalakaua Ave side of Kuhio Beach, clients should look for four ancient pohaku (stones), which have provided 'spiritual healing' for hundreds of years and are symbols of Hawaii's spiritual heritage.

Wedding Bliss

Turtle Bay Resort is a popular wedding venue for an increasing number of international visitors.

The resort hosts over 350 weddings a year across a number of venues, from its covered pavilion to secluded ocean front.

There's options for all group sizes and budgets—and the resort says it's the only hotel in the state that can guarantee couples a private beach wedding.

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