

Rainbow Wedding Opportunity



Hawaii lived up to its 'rainbow' tag late last year, becoming the 16th state to legalise same-sex marriage—and the move opens up opportunities for agents bookings weddings, says Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe.

LGBT Kiwi couples have been thrilled at the prospect of a romantic new

destination for their nuptials and are jumping on the chance to head to the Rainbow State to tie the knot, says Walshe. "We know that New Zealanders were very happy to see Hawaii embrace same-sex marriage, and it has generated plenty of interest in getting married in Hawaii," says Walshe.

"My tip for combining marriage and Hawaii is to get married in New Zealand, then take your guests on a flight to Hawaii (crossing the dateline) and then get married again."

... Honolulu Pride

It's not just same-sex marriage that is luring LGBT travellers—there's at least one large contingent of Kiwis heading over for the Honolulu Pride Festival, says Walshe.

The 24th annual festival is on 07 Jun, and this year's theme is Pukupahi I Holomua (United to Move Forward): Love is Love. See honolulupride.org



Elvis In Maui

Darren Lee, who just wrapped up 11 years as the longest-running Elvis performer in the history of Las Vegas, has taken his spangled outfits and moved to Hawai'i.

His new Burn'n Love show celebrates Elvis' links to Hawai'i, and the country's influence on his movies and music.

It's on every Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri from 2000 at the Maui Theatre. Tickets are from USD59.99 through to USD99.99 for an all-access pass.

Guests who stay at Aston Kaanapali Shores will also have the chance to enjoy highlights from the show when Lee performs for guests on two Suns of each month. See burnnlove.com.



Adventure Hawai'i

Hawai'i is more than just a beach break, says Creative Holidays, which has released details of two adventure activities it offers in the Aloha State. Creative's Parasailing tour from Honolulu uses Sea Breeze's KrantzKraft fleet, and all flights are tandem so clients should bring a friend. Tours cost from \$69pp, for sales and travel to 31 Dec. The Kohala Canopy Adventure Tour on the Big Island, from \$209pp, sees clients travel through the treetops of Halawa via suspension bridges, platforms and ziplines. Creative has details.

LCC Leaving Hawai'i

Low-cost carrier go! will cease Hawai'i operations from 01 Apr as it looks to redeploy aircraft on the US mainland, Mesa Air Group has announced.

The carrier has flown almost five million passengers since Jun 2006, but decided to cease Hawai'i operations following 'significant growth in the company's flight operations on the mainland'.

go! will re-book passengers ticketed for travel 01 Apr-30 Jun on Hawaiian Airlines' Interisland network, and will refund tickets for passengers who cannot be accommodated on HA or those holding tickets for travel after 30 Jun.

GO Hawaii NZ Offer

GO Holidays has seven-night Hawaii packages with Air New Zealand Seat + Bag fares for sales to 23 Mar and travel on select dates 26 Jul-15 Sep and 28 Oct-10 Dec. Clients can upgrade to The Works from \$100pp and fly from any other NZ domestic departure point for \$165pp additional. GO has details.

Hawai'i On Google Maps

Clients can now explore some of the most popular hiking trails, parks, historical sites, and beaches on Hawaii, the Big Island and Oahu, before they step foot on the islands.

Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) and Google Maps have unveiled new 360° images gathered by the Google Street View Trekker, for sites including Akaka Falls State Park, Diamond Head State Monument, Hapuna Beach State Park, Hawaii Tropical Botanical Gardens, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kau Forest Reserve, Waimanalo Beach and Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historic Park. It's part of an ongoing project that will eventually cover all six Hawaiian Islands. Go exploring at gohawaii.com/treks/big-island/

Hotel Development

Hawai'i is reportedly considering offering a tax break to hotel developers in an attempt to encourage the building of new properties and sprucing up of existing ones. The government is particularly keen to see more rooms built in Waikiki, say reports.

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