

## Volcanoes National Park Re-opening

**This Sat, local time, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park will re-open to the public—with 280 hectares of ‘new’ land for Kiwis to explore.**

The Hawaii Tourism Authority says it’s been more than a month since the continuous flow of lava ceased from Kilauea volcano on the island of Hawaii, and there’s now clean and clear air quality island-wide.

The opening of Volcanoes National Park is ‘extremely significant’ says HTA’s Darragh Walshe, who adds it will hopefully reflect a turning point in visitation to the east side of the island of Hawaii.

“The arrival numbers have shown that the volcanic activity (and publicity associated) has turned some tourists away, but now that same opportunity to witness up close an

active volcano will start bringing the tourists back—and possibly in greater numbers,” says Walshe.

This comes after the Island saw a decrease in Kiwi arrivals in Jun and Jul, though YTD numbers are up by 1.1%.

Most of the national park has been closed to visitors since 11 May due to hazardous volcanic and seismic activity at the summit of Kilauea. 22 Sep also happens to be National Public Lands Day, a fee-free day, so entrance fees will not be charged until 23 Sep, adds the HTA.

The Volcano House Hotel is also slated to open soon, with accommodation available from 06 Oct, something Walshe says is ‘great news’.

### ... Expect Delays

The re-opening of the park is expected to draw in crowds, with the HTA warning travellers to expect heavy traffic, long lines and delays.

There is also less parking spaces available than before warns National Park Services, with visitors advised to seek parking at a different destination such as Mauna Ulu or at the coast. There will be limited services and no potable water as the park returns to normal operations. Agents should advise clients to bring snacks, plenty of drinking water, and a full tank of gas if driving.

### Volcanic Garden

Located inside an extinct volcanic crater is the Koko Crater Botanical Gardens, which focuses on rare and endangered dryland plants from Hawaii, Africa and Madagascar. The Honolulu-based gardens are free to enter and are open daily sunset to sunrise excluding Christmas and New Year’s Day.

### Eastern Seas Therapy

Westin Kaanapali’s Spa Helani has introduced Eastern Seas Therapy to its spa services menu, says the Maui Visitors Bureau. The new therapeutic treatment begins with a blend of Ayurvedic herbs and Dead Sea salts meant to detoxify and exfoliate the body, followed by the East Indian-style massage Vishesh, which promotes lymphatic drainage and relaxes muscle tissue. The 80-min. Eastern Seas Therapy treatment is USD225 per person. See [westinkaanapali.com/spahelanioverview](http://westinkaanapali.com/spahelanioverview)

### Huki Hawaii Show

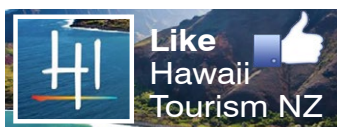
Hawaii’s Polynesian Cultural Center advises agents it has a new water show, *Huki*. The lagoon experience features a range of different canoes and family-friendly music and performances. *Huki* runs daily at 1430. See [Polynesia.com](http://Polynesia.com) for more info.

### Take Only Pictures

Hawaii’s Tourism Officials are asking tourists to stop stealing volcanic rocks from its National Parks, reports *CBS Philly*. Besides the fact taking the rocks is illegal, it’s also bad luck, and upon learning this many tourists who steal the rocks have taken to shipping them back to the island with apology notes attached. Officials say putting the rocks back where they came from costs both time and money.

### Top Chef In Hawaii

Sheldon Simeon, *Bravo* network Top Chef favourite, is opening a second Maui restaurant. Tourism Hawaii says the full-service restaurant, Lineage, will feature dishes inspired by Simeon’s own family recipes from the Philippines as well as traditional Hawaiian cuisine. The restaurant is expected to be open by late Sep.



### New Summer Menu

Fairmont Kea Lani Maui’ Resort’s signature restaurant Ko has a new summer menu, advises Maui Visitors Bureau. Highlights of the new menu include five-spiced duck confit bao bun with mango compote, and seared Hokkaido scallops with yaki udon. See [kor-restaurant.com](http://kor-restaurant.com)



### Oahu Photography Tours

Photographer and former tour guide Alex Wilson is offering guided photography tours around the island of Oahu, helping guests explore the island as well as get the best shots possible.

Oahu Photography Tours are limited to seven guests, which Wilson says means himself or his team, can tend to each person individually, determining their proficiency, and helping them advance their photography.

A number of tours are on offer, including the highlighted Circle Sunrise Island Tour, which provides a comprehensive view of the island or the North Shore Tour in which clients can experience the famous beaches.

Tours vary in price USD44.95-USD170. See [oahuphotographytours.com](http://oahuphotographytours.com)

# Aloha Boston

## AKL to HNL to BOS

Introducing Boston from April 19

5 x weekly from 04 Apr 19. See GDS for details.

