

Beaches, Culture, Dining: Family Fun



Increasingly competitive airfares to Honolulu are offsetting the weaker NZD-USD exchange rate as Kiwi families continue to head to the rainbow state in growing numbers, says Hawaii Tourism New Zealand manager Darragh Walshe.

Wholesalers says the combination of a beach holiday, with the added attraction of endless activities and great shopping continue to be the key draw cards for families.

... Coastline

There's a wide range of free, or nearly free activities available, across the island group—the most obvious of which are the island state's beaches, beach parks and hiking trails.

The famed stretch of sand that is Waikiki is hugely popular with tourists and convenient for those with

Coupons Galore

Urge clients to grab a few of the many free tourist publications on offer from the airport or hotel on arrival. As well as offering a brief overview of many of the tours and activities on offer, the publications also include a slew of discount or coupon offers covering tours, activities and dining options, as well as a list of upcoming events on around the islands.

small children, but for those looking for more of a local's experience they can venture out just 20 minutes and find pristine beaches without the crowds.

... Cultural Offering

For families looking to stretch their budgets, many tourist hotels offer a wide range of increasingly authentic cultural activities—with everything from hula and ukulele lessons to free entertainment and walking tours, which are both free and informative. The Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center runs a calendar of free events for all ages and the nearby Waikiki Beach Walk also offers a host of free entertainment.

... Dining Out

There's also a huge range of dining options to suit all budgets on offer in Hawaii. From supermarkets (some with extensive deli sections offering fresh and affordable fare) and the ubiquitous ABC stores, there's also a wide range of mid-range family-friendly dining options from food courts to restaurants. The US' service-focused culture also means the waiting staff will go the extra mile to accommodate families, and entertain children—so they get a good tip.

Shopping Bargains

While the NZD isn't as strong as it once was against the USD, on the shopping front there's still plenty of ways for families to buy toys, clothes and more at a fraction of their Kiwi retail price.

The Waikēle outlet mall offers a great selection of stores and savings. But for those travelling with younger children (who may be 'allergic' to shopping), there's many bargains to be found at stores such as Walmart and Ross Dress For Less (both of which have stores within a five-minute walk from the back of the Ala Moana Center).

Also urge clients to sign up for store loyalty programmes for instant savings, and to watch the department stores for sales.

It's also worth noting that international visitors can get a 10% discount card at Macy's.

Agents can pre-download these online on behalf of their clients.

For details, see visitmacysusa.com/visitor-savings-pass

Getting Around

While hiring a car or driver can be cost effective for family groups, it's still relatively easy to get around Hawaii's main tourist areas by trolley, shuttle or bus. In the Waikiki region tourist trolleys operate for around USD2pp each way.

The state's The Bus network is also a very cost affordable option—provided clients are not in a hurry. A one-way bus fare is USD2.50 for adults and USD1.25 for kids aged six-17 (under six are free)—no matter how far passengers travel in one direction. There's buses to many tourist attractions such as Diamond Head, downtown Honolulu, Pearl Harbour and Waikēle Outlet Mall—and as a rule both the drivers and the locals are very friendly and helpful. The only downside is the time it may take to get there. See thebus.org for details



Paul Hana (Or Happy Hour) For Families

Kiwi families can also take advantage of the many Paul Hana (happy hour) deals available across the island group. Many hotels and restaurants offer discount drinks for the parents and a range of meal deals for those dining early—many representing a significant saving. One easy way to get an overview of the deals is by downloading the Pau Hana Time app, which features a list of offers across the islands covering the well-known to local dining. It's free to download, see the App Store for details.

AKL → HNL

From \$1170*
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* K class until 27 Oct. Refer GDS for details.



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