

Jurassic Role Stimulates Travel



The Hawaiian Islands of Oahu and Kauai are no strangers to starring roles in blockbuster movies—but the new *Jurassic World* movie is tipped to stimulate Kiwi travellers to take in some of the state's scenery beyond the beaches.

The Oahu Visitors Bureau (OVB) says two-thirds of the movie's Hawaii location were spent on Oahu, adding that visitors can now have a true 'Jurassic' moment with a selection of experiences that bring the movie to life, and give a taste of Oahu's Hollywood-heritage.

"Travellers are fascinated when they can immerse themselves in the location of their favourite films," says Noleani Schilling-Wheeler, OVB's senior director of sales & marketing. "With the release of *Jurassic World*, visitors have the opportunity to connect the wonder of the movie with a real-world experience on Oahu and Kauai."

"The variety of these experiences are sure to satisfy any traveller, from the adventurous to the leisurely," she added.



... Kualoa's New Tours

Oahu's Kualoa Ranch, dubbed Hawaii's 'movie ranch' was featured extensively in *Jurassic World*—and visitors who really want a sense of being in the land of the Jurassic can tour Kaaawa Valley by ATV, horseback or bus via the Hollywood Movie Sites Tour, says the OVB.

For clients looking to relive the movie Kualoa has moved swiftly to incorporate spots featured in the new movie to its tours—for example, the Jeep Jungle tour now includes a stop at the spot where Indominus Rex was caged.

While the ranch isn't forecasting more Kiwis to visit [just] because of the film—it says more New Zealanders are expected to visit as they look for new experiences beyond the beaches; 'although we have beaches too', quips a Kualoa spokesman.

"We've seen a steady increase in New Zealand guests to the ranch and on our tours since the launch of Hawaiian Airlines on the Auckland route, and we believe the release of *Jurassic World* will just give more Kiwis more reasons to visit." The ranch offers commissionable tours ex Waikiki or clients can self-drive. For more see kualoa.com

Mauna Kea Protests

The Mauna Kea Visitors Center on Haawaii Island is closed until further notice as protests continue against the construction of a giant observatory on the mountain.

Structures on the gravel road leading to the summit of the mountain have been removed and the road has been temporarily closed until further notice, according to the Office of Mauna Kea Management. Construction on the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) began in Apr but has been delayed by more than two months by Hawaiians, who believe the mountain is sacred ground. On Wed green light was given to resume construction, leading to hundreds of protestors to again storm the mountain. See malamamaunakea.org

HVCB Appointment

Erica Neves has joined the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) as manager of travel trade marketing. Neves manages the implementation of HVCB's trade marketing efforts, overseeing integration of Island Chapters in all major initiatives and events. She also develops and coordinates travel trade events and training, including tradeshow, sales blitzes and webinars.



Aloha Festival

Hotel guests, visitors and residents are invited to enjoy a free family-friendly event, the fourth annual Festival of Aloha, presented by Mauna Kea Resort. The all-day festival, held at Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel will feature live Hawaiian music, hula performances, craft and clothing vendors and food booths. The festival will be held 20 Sep from 0930-1600. See hapunabeachprincehotel.com/events



Sheraton Waikiki Pool In The Top 10

The infinity pool at the Sheraton Waikiki (pictured) has been named in USA Today's Readers' Choice Awards list of top 10 hotel pools. In at number eight, the US newspaper says the oceanfront pool is the 'real star' of the property (which it notes has a family-friendly activity pool, waterslide and an interactive fountain area).

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