

## Kauai Is Open For Business



Pic: HTA/Tor Johnson

Tourism officials want to reassure travellers that Kauai is open for business, and visitors can book travel to the island with confidence.

Hawaii was hit by extreme weather earlier this month, with east Oahu

and Kauai's north shore bearing the brunt of the wet weather. Record rainfall on Kauai resulted in some slips and road closures at the time.

As recovery efforts continue on Kauai's north shore, the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) says the tourism industry will play a vital role in the region's recovery.

"Kauai, including most of Hanalei on the north shore is open for business and ready to share the charms and beauty of this idyllic, unforgettable island with visitors from around the world," says HTA chief executive George Szigeti.

While Hanalei (pictured) was bustling with tourists pre-flood, Szigeti says visitors are now staying away from the picturesque town.

At the same time the tourism body is asking visitors to Kauai to be respectful as the recovery continues elsewhere on the island. Szigeti asks visitors to avoid areas where the recovery efforts are still underway, to not go beyond the Wailoi Huiia Church in Hanalei and to stay away from the closed section of Kuhio Highway until it re-opens.

Agents can direct Kauai-bound clients to kauai.gov for the latest details.



### Ukelele Festival

The 48th Annual Roy Sakuma Ukulele Festival Hawaii is back this year on 15 Jul, advises Hawaii Tourism. The festival features free two-hour concerts which showcase the finest ukulele players and national celebrities, Hawaii's top entertainers and an 800 student Ukulele orchestra. See [ukelelefestival.org/en/](http://ukelelefestival.org/en/)

### GO Wakiki With HA

GO Holidays has four-night Waikiki packages from \$999pp t/s, flying Hawaiian Airlines and staying at the Aqua Aloha Surf Waikiki. Alternatively, clients can upgrade their accommodation to the Hyatt Centric Waikiki Beach for \$1499pp t/s, which includes a free fifth night. Clients can fly from WLG or CHC for an extra \$179.

### HI For Meetings

For group meetings and events with a difference, Fairmont Kea Lani's meetings and events team infuses elements of Hawaiian culture and wellness into meetings by including breakout sessions, along with fitness classes, spa experiences, farm-to-table dining options and more. See [Fairmont.com/kealani](http://Fairmont.com/kealani)



### Food For The Soul

The third annual Hamakua Harvest Farm Festival, celebrating local agriculture is on 20 May, just outside the town of Honokaa. The event takes the weekly market experience to a whole other level, with musical entertainment such as Hula and Hawaiian style rock'n'roll, presentations, a silent auction and activities for children such as juggling classes, a petting zoo and pony rides. See [hamakuaharvest.org](http://hamakuaharvest.org)



### Luxploration In Hawaii

Luxploration experiences are perfect for those clients who want to learn and see more of Hawaii with a touch of luxury.

The top three Luxploration experiences offered by SPG hotels include St Regis Princeville's Aficionado Experiences. These include an exclusive helicopter tour of the forbidden island of Niihau, where the helicopter lands on a private beach for snorkelling, swimming and a gourmet lunch.

The Westin Ka'anapali offers an expert-led outrigger canoe excursion to educate clients about the history and tradition of paddling in Hawaiian and give them a chance to spot an elusive sea turtle and whales.

Sheraton Kona's Manta Ray Excursions (a short ride to the shores of Keauhou Bay) offer the chance to see the rays up close and even go snorkelling. Alternatively, clients can take in a Manta Learning Centre Talk held every night at Rays on the Bay.

# Aloha Waikiki

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