

Outlook Sunny For Hawaii Tourism



The Kiwi delegation at the annual Hawaii Tourism Conference on in Honolulu this week is, from left, Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe, Sharon Martin from Lifestyle Holidays, Louise Sutton from Flight Centre, Air NZ's Hylda Bloomfield and Russell Williss from Hawaiian Airlines.

Hawai'i's Tourism industry has just celebrated record Jul arrivals and tourism operators are increasingly taking notice of the Kiwi market, Hawai'i Tourism New Zealand manager Darragh Walshe said in Honolulu this morning.

Walshe and a Kiwi trade delegation of airline and wholesaler representatives are in Hawai'i for the annual tourism conference. Topics of discussions, says Walshe, include how the lodging industry is keeping pace with the growing tourism arrivals, while maintaining a focus on sustainability.

There is a little more hotel capacity coming into Waikiki, but most of the new hotels are in emerging location like Ko'Olina and the neighbour islands.



... Double Digit Growth

New Zealand arrivals to Hawai'i year-to-date are showing double digit growth and the STO's head office is 'extremely happy' with the arrivals from Oceania, says Walshe. "I know from just walking around up [at the conference] that the industry's saying they're seeing a lot more New Zealanders and are very thankful and enthusiastic about the New Zealand market."

... NZD Impact?

Walshe says there's little evidence that the weaker NZD-USD exchange rate is deterring Kiwis from travelling. He says people seem to still be travelling to Hawai'i, but are perhaps opting for more affordable accommodation. "In general eating out in Hawai'i is still cheaper in Hawai'i than Auckland even with the downturn in the exchange rate," he says. Shopping in Hawai'i also still offers great value—and again in general most things are cheaper there than at home.



The Hawaii Tourism Authority honoured the tradition of paniolo, Hawaiian cowboys, at its Tourism Legacy Awards Luncheon in Honolulu today. Kualoa Ranch's John Morgan (pictured above with Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe) was among the award winners, bestowed to the ranches for continuing to help shape the islands' unique culture and story. Meanwhile a different couple of cowboys altogether were also there--HA's Russell Williss and the 'mayor of Waikiki' Kainoa Daines.



WOW On Show In Hawaii

The Bishop Museum will be the first museum in the US to host New Zealand's World of WearableArt (WOW) exhibition. The show, featuring 32 garments complemented by interactive installations, is on 03 Oct-01 Feb. Visitors can discover WOW inspiration at a touchscreen workroom, design their own miniature doll pieces of wearable art (which will become part of the exhibition), and try their hand at lighting design. Entry is USD19.95 for adults, USD14.95 for youth (four-12) and USD16.95 for seniors (65+). See bishopmuseum.org



Hawaiian Airlines' Top Sellers Say Aloha

Kiwi travel agents on the Flight Centre/Hawaiian Airlines 2015 top sellers famil have been exploring the island group in style. The group, which includes Lindsey, Susan, Claire Doig, Jo-ann Wright, Paula Aris-Webster, Louise Fletcher, Jenna Barnes, Lynley Baker, Erin Miller, Andy Urwin Inez Teni and Jeff Szelenbau, along with HA host Lindsey Morgan are pictured having fun in the sun in Hawaii this week.

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