

Kiwi Cruise Demand Spikes



Pic: HTA, Dana Edmunds

Cruising around the Hawaiian Islands is becoming an increasingly popular option for Kiwi travellers, particularly families and first-time cruisers, says GO Holidays.

The wholesaler has seen a 35% jump in its Hawai'i cruise business, which cruising product development manager Lisa Johansen is attributing to the stronger Kiwi dollar and competitive airfares.

Norwegian Cruise Lines' seven-night itineraries continue to attract the lion's share of the market from New Zealand, she says, and present agents

with the opportunity to earn a healthy commission.

"It's always been a good seller, and an easy seller. It's a relatively short cruise and it's a great way to see Hawai'i. Most Kiwis book oceanview cabins or above and agents can upsell a few days pre- and post-cruise land too."

With weekly departures Johansen says clients with specific dates should book as far in advance as possible. Families too are urged to pre-book their children into the kids club too to avoid disappointment.

Lahaina Second Fri

Clients that are in Maui on the second Fri of the month should take in the local sights and sounds at Lahaina's Second Friday events.

The historic beachfront town comes to life along Front Street, and the side streets, there's free entertainment and many of the shops and restaurants offer discounts. For details, see maui-fridays.com/lahaina

Aston Aloha Agent Rate

Kaua'i's Aston Aloha Beach hotel has agent rates from USD79 valid 01 Apr-31 May, as a part of Hawai'i's Mahalo Month initiative. The offer is available for a maximum of three nights, and subject to availability. For a list of all of the agent discounts and offers, see mahalomonth.com



Hawaii The Next Foodie Frontier

The latest US edition of consumer travel bible *Conde Nast Traveler* has dubbed Honolulu, and its culinary offering as 'the Next Foodie Frontier'. Labelling the seaside city as 'America's latest gourmet destination' the magazine is urging travellers to visit farmer's markets, such as the Sat one at Kapi'olani Community College. The market is open from 0800, but it's also very popular with the locals, so urge clients to get there early. For details, and a list of the stalls, see hfbf.org/markets

Aotearoa Makeover

The Polynesian Cultural Center, which features six villages celebrating the culture and people of Hawaii, Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand, recently re-opened its Aotearoa village following a makeover.

The village now features new carvings and consists of three houses, where there are presentations about Maori culture.

The centre is said to be popular with Kiwi travellers keen to trace their Pacific roots. It celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and last year opened a new Samoan Luau experience, restaurant and Hawaiian Journey immersive cinematic experience. See polynesia.com

Outrigger Maui Charge

GO Holidays advises that the Outrigger Maui Eldorado in Hawaii has introduced a USD12 daily resort fee for all new arrivals.

The new fee is in addition to the one-off compulsory check-out cleaning charge recently introduced by the property—the fee varies from USD75-115.

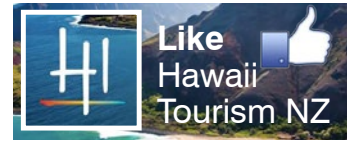


HA Interisland Service

Fares for Hawaiian Airlines' new interisland turboprop service, 'Ohana by Hawaiian, are now available for sale, giving Kiwis access to the islands of Moloka'i and Lana'i.

The change means fares to MKK and LNY ex New Zealand are common-rated with HA's other neighbour island services such as Maui. Fares start from \$1379.

The three daily flights to MKK will launch 11 Mar and the twice-daily LNY service launches 18 Mar. See hawaiianairlines.co.nz



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