

Kiwi Arrivals To Hawai'i Soar



Hawai'i arrivals from New Zealand more than doubled in Feb to 4033 visitors—offsetting a 6.7% drop in arrivals from Australia (to 16,955), show the latest Hawai'i tourism statistics out today.

The number of inbound visitors from Oceania increased 5.2% on Feb

2013, show the stats which combine both the Australian and New Zealand markets.

Looking at the figures by individual market, New Zealand arrivals jumped 107.1% compared to year-to-date 2013. For the first two months of 2014, arrivals from Australia rose just 4.5%.

Aston Waikiki Deal

Waikiki's Hotel Renew by Aston is offering a new reDISCOVER package with accommodation at the boutique hotel, two private surf or stand-up paddleboard lessons, and two signature cocktails at Lounge Renew. Packages start at USD273pn t/s plus taxes, see astonhotels.com



Spam Festival

Waikiki is preparing for the 12th annual Spam Jam festival celebrating all things to do with the famous canned meat 03 May. The Spam Jam is one of Waikiki's unique festivals, and offers a street carnival atmosphere with food booths featuring Spam dishes and a number of Hawai'i's best island groups and musicians, plus arts and crafts vendors and Spam merchandise.

Lahaina Walking Tour

Visitors can get a taste of history with Maui Nei's new two-hour guided walking tour of old Lahaina. Guests will explore colourful sites from pre-contact Hawaii to the missionary and whaling period through the monarchy and plantation eras, taste tropical fruits at Take Home Mau, hear ancient Hawaiian chants and visit the storied realm of Maui's chiefs and Hawai'i's kings at the paramount cultural sites of Mokuula island and Mokuhinia pond. See mauinei.com

LAX-OGG Sooner

Hawaiian Airlines has brought forward the launch of its Maui-Los Angeles flights to 02 May, a month earlier than originally planned, in response to 'robust demand'. The A330-200 flights will operate daily, year-round.

Kids Free Turtle Bay

Turtle Bay on O'ahu is offering a kids stay and play free package, including two rounds of golf for two adults and two kids, daily breakfast and golf clubs for the kids. The package is from USD459pn for two adults and two children in a newly renovated epic oceanview room, with a minimum three-night stay. See turtlebayresort.com

Kapalua Wine & Food

The 33rd Kapalua Wine and Food Festival (12-15 Jun) will boast New Zealand wine and cuisine alongside some of the best in Italy, California and the Pacific Northwest in what's described as a 'weekend of gastronomic adventures'.

Events during the festival include The Grand Tasting, now at Montage Kapalua Bay on Fri 13 Jun, which is also offering festival accommodation packages.

A who's who of celebrity chefs will also be on hand, led by Host Master Sommelier Michael Jordan. See kapaluawineandfoodfestival.com

Mighty Mo Upgrades

The popular Battleship Missouri Memorial at Pearl Harbour is in the midst of a USD57,000 restoration to enhance the guest experience, advises Hawaii Tourism. The 13 staterooms known as Officers County have been restored to 'immaculate inspection-ready' condition to give visitors an insight into life onboard. See ussmissouri.org

Inter-Island flight times from Honolulu International Airport (HNL), Oahu to:

Lihue Airport (LIH), Kauai: 30 mins. **Kahului Airport (OGG)**, Maui: 30 mins. **Kapalua-West Maui Airport (JHM)**, Maui: 30 mins. **Molokai Airport (MKK)**, Molokai: 20 mins. **Lanai Airport (LNY)**, Lanai: 25 mins. **Hilo International Airport (ITO)**, Hawaii's Big Island: 50 mins. **Kona International Airport (KOA)**, Hawaii's Big Island: 45 mins

Makena's Culture Hour

As part of the resort's 2014 list of complimentary guest activities, the Makena Beach and Golf Resort has introduced a daily Hawaiian Cultural Hour. Daily at 1000, resort guests will be able to experience activities like lei making, ti leaf bracelet making, ukulele lessons, hula lessons, Hawaiian flower and plant tours, coconut frond basket weaving, Hawaiian fishing lessons and storytelling. See makenaresortmaui.com

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