Aloha Friday

TRAVEL TODAY

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Rare Maui Dining Experience

The Grand Wailea on Maui is hosting a leg of the James Beard Foundation's Celebrity Chef Tour 15-16 Aug.

Beard was an eccentric American chef and food writer who is considered a central figure in the creation of a gourmet American food identity.



Four Seasons Bonuses

Guests in Room 808 at the Four Seasons Resorts Lanai, Manele Bay Hawai'i get a surprise when they check in, receiving a free Lanai Adventure. A ukulele in the corner is the pass to a lesson, a koa putter means a free golf game and a NOBU cookbook means an exclusive tasting at the Nobu Lanai Japanese Restaurant. Details fourseasons.com/manelebay



Waikiki Rock-a-Hula

Legends in Concert Waikiki is celebrating its second birthday in Hawaii with a new Rock-a-Hula! fusion of traditional Hawaiian and Polynesian dance, music and drums with Legends artists performing popular hits by the likes of Elvis, Michael Jackson and Lady Gaga. The show, at the Royal Hawaiian Centre, features 18 new songs, including double the number of cultural Hula and Tahitian numbers, say organisers. Tickets range from USD65 for the Legendary Cocktail Show, to USD185 for the Green Room Dinner and Show package. See rock-a-hula.com

When he died his house was turned into a culinary centre. The Foundation's Celebrity Chef Tour began in 2004 and has travelled around the US. Top chefs from each city visited come together to create a multiple course dinner, paired with premium wines and Belgian Beers.

The Grand Wailea event is expected to be a hotly contested ticket as local gourmands get the opportunity to taste the menus of some of the top chefs from the mainland, including Norm Van Aken from Florida, David Burke and Johnny Iuzzini from New York, Carla Hall from Washington, and Sheldon Simeon and Eric Faivre from Hawai'i.

All are award-winning, television-appearing, book-writing celebrity chefs with restaurants that are booked out months in advance, so this is a rare opportunity for New Zealanders. Cost is USD225 pp inclusive of food and wine or USD300 pp for a VIP Pass to the cocktail party on Friday evening and dinner on Saturday. Entry to the cocktail party only is USD85.

Details see grandwailea.com

Zip And Hike Maui

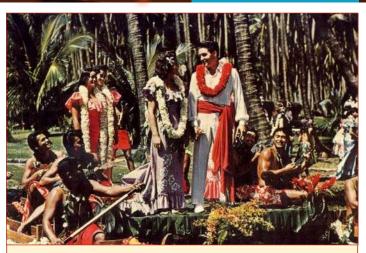
Piiholo Ranch Zipline has joined forces with Hike Maui to offer a zipline and waterfall hike passage. Cost is from USD229 pp and includes the zipline experience and a guided hike to two waterfalls with swimming holes. See piiholozipline.com

USS Missouri Webcam

A webcam is to be installed at Pier Foxtrot-5 at Pearl Harbor where the USS Missouri is now in retirement. A live stream will be set up and visitors can share the video stream using their social media accounts. The webcam is not restricted to Pearl Harbor visitors – anyone can access it via ussmissouri.org

Scaling Waterfalls

Rappelling waterfalls is the newest adventure activity on Maui, according to the island's Visitor and Convention Bureau. The waterfall is in a private rainforest valley and includes 30- and 50-foot waterfall drops and a 60-foot dry jungle wall drop. Details rappelmaui.com



Coco Palms To Re-open Under Hyatt

Hyatt is to take on management of the famous Coco Palms Resort on Kauai, and will re-open the hurricane-damaged property in 2017 following a two-year reconstruction. The resort was built in 1953 on grounds that were once home to Kauai's last reigning queen, Queen Deborah Kapule Kekaiha' akulou. It was made famous by the movie *Blue Hawaii* (pictured) and eventually grew to over 400 rooms, becoming a Hawaii icon, before being devastated by Hurricane Iniki in 1992. The redevelopment of the resort will preserve the original property footprint and signature lagoon, while rebuilding approximately 331 guestrooms and 32 bungalows, multiple restaurants, lounges and swimming pools, says Hyatt. There are also plans to potentially restore historic elements of the hotel, and build a community centre to highlight the site's cultural significance.

