

Spotlight On Aulani: Disney's Outpost



The Aulani Resort on Oahu offers a slice of Disney magic in the South Pacific—and is a value for money resort experience for families looking for a one stop shop.

Located at Ko'olina, the resort offers a seemingly endless array of amenities. There's pools, a lazy river, water play areas, a standalone snorkelling reef and family friendly lagoon. Combine that with Disney characters, an authentic cultural programme and an amazing



Where To Shop

There's a number of stores near Aulani, but for those looking for supplies there's more shops within a five minute walk—including a boutique-style ABC store which offers snacks, sundries and souvenirs as well as a deli section.

Along with a mix of boutiques there's also a number of restaurants and coffee shops within the same shopping complex.

kids club, there's so many activities at Aulani that our junior reporters didn't want to leave the resort grounds.

While the concept of staying at a Disney resort may be hard for some to get their heads around—it works. Disney has painstakingly collaborated with the local community to offer an authentic Hawaiian experience, and an insight to the local culture. There's on-site cultural trails, and classes and lessons for all ages. Of course there's also the chance to 'meet' Disney characters.

While the resort is often at capacity over the US mainland peak periods—there are often value-add offers for the Australasian market. Check with wholesalers for details.

... Trip Tips

The resort is busy, and family focused, so it pays to pre-book some experiences to avoid disappointment. The on-site restaurants book out, and urge clients to pre-book the Disney character breakfast (which is hugely popular) as they are not on every day.

Aulani Kids' Club

Aulani's on-site Aunty's Beach Club is incredibly popular, so it pays to take the kids early to reserve a place—especially for popular activities like Stich's space goo and the volcano making sessions (both free). Aunty's was so popular with *Travel Today's* junior reporters that we cancelled planned day trips so the kids could hang out at the beach club.

Parents can go off-property while the kids are at Aunty's and are given a cellphone to take with them, and all children are given RFID bracelets for added security. Kids' meals and snacks can be pre-ordered from the room service menu for the same cost. There's also a host of premium activities (in addition to the huge number of free experiences).

Daily Newsletter

The Iwa daily newsletter details the days' activities including shows, movies and character meet and greets.

RWC Final In Honolulu

For Honolulu-bound clients worried about missing the Rugby World Cup final this weekend, Hawaii Tourism says the main venue they're aware of that's screening the game is Giovanni Pastrami on Lewers St in Honolulu. Doors open at 0530 for an 0600 kick-off—and Hawaii Tourism recommends visitors get their early, to make sure it's filled with black jerseys rather than the alternative.

Disney Photo Pass

Aulani also offers Disney's Photo Pass product and there's photographers around the park, including in the pools, the lagoon and the character breakfasts. There's a set fee for the photo pass—so urge interested clients to decide early and get as many photos taken as they can to maximise the benefit.



Disney's Aulani Discounts For Jan-Mar

Aulani Resort has released new deals for the southern summer. Clients booking five nights or more at the family friendly resort will save 30% on stays of five nights or longer; and 25% on four-night stays for bookings by 08 Feb and stays 04 Jan-17 Mar. Contact wholesalers for details and conditions.

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