

Whale Watching Season From Nov



Pic: HTA/Tor Johnson

This weekend kicks off whale watching season in Hawaii, with humpback whales (known locally as kohola) usually able to be spotted cruising the warm waters from Nov-May.

There are plenty of whale watching cruise and tour options available, but those who aren't keen to get so close can also catch sight of the giants from the shore, says the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Look-out points include Kauai's Kilauea Lighthouse, Oahu's Makapuu

Lighthouse and Hawaii Island's Kohala Coast, where the whales are known to put on a show. The best whale-watching spots on Molokai and Lanai are from the south shores.

... Whale Festival

Maui hosts a Maui Whale Festival every winter, with World Whale Day as the highlight. Next year's World Whale Day is 15 Feb at the Kalama Park in Kihei, and the all-day festival includes food and entertainment. See mauiwhalefestival.org



Oahu Events 2015

17-18 Jan: HURT 100 mile endurance run (hurt100trailrace.com)

18 Feb: Great Aloha Run (greataloharun.com)

26 Feb-01 Mar: Wanderlust yoga & music festival (wanderlustfestival.com)

26 Apr: Haleiwa Metric Century Ride (hbl.org)

17 May: HNL Triathlon (honolulutriathlon.com)

04 Jul: XTERRA Freedom Fest Hawaii (freedomfsthawaii.com)

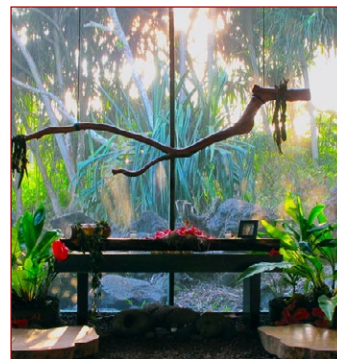
Maverick On Maui

Maverick Helicopters, well known for its operation in and around Las Vegas, has opened a Hawaiian base on Maui. The company is offering a number of excursion options over the so-called Valley Isle, and is using a fleet of ECO-Star Helicopters which it says are the safest and most comfortable tourism based helicopters in the world. For details, see maverickhelicopter.com/hawaii

Waikiki Farmers Market

The Pacific Beach Hotel, located in Waikiki has launched a new twice-weekly farmers market, on the corner of Waikiki's Kalakaua Ave and Liliuokalani Ave.

The markets will run Sun and Mon from 1500 to 1900. Some 20 local vendors will be offering their produce ranging from fresh pineapples and sea asparagus to ono seafood products, Honolulu Gourmet and Hawaiian Fresh Farms. For more details, see pacificbeachhotel.com



Maui Lu To Hilton

The Maui Lu Resort is set to be transformed into a Hilton Grand Vacations timeshare resort by 2017. The USD300 transformation of the 28-acre site will include 388 residences, gym and kids' section. The property also has 225m of beachfront.

Award Winning Retreat

The Kalani yoga retreat on Hawaii Island has been named in the top 10 best yoga retreats by *USA Today*, advises Hawaii Tourism. The property's jungle and ocean view studios, along with the abundance of classes, earned Kalani a special mention in the list. The property points out that it's not affected by the current lava flow issues. For more details see kalani.com



Endless Summer Resort Planned

A 3.5-star Endless Summer Resort, inspired by the iconic 1960s surf film is reportedly planned for Oahu, which will be built around a four acre surfing wave pool.

Designed to appeal to travellers of all surfing abilities; the 'wave' will change in difficulty from 'remove the fear' for beginners to 'exceed the real thing' for advanced surfers. The developers have ambitious plans to open a 400-room resort by mid-2017—however a West Oahu site is reportedly yet to be selected. The property will offer accommodation from hotel room to overwater bungalows, but the location may not necessarily be oceanfront. The wave pool could reportedly accommodate up to 100 surfers at a time.

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