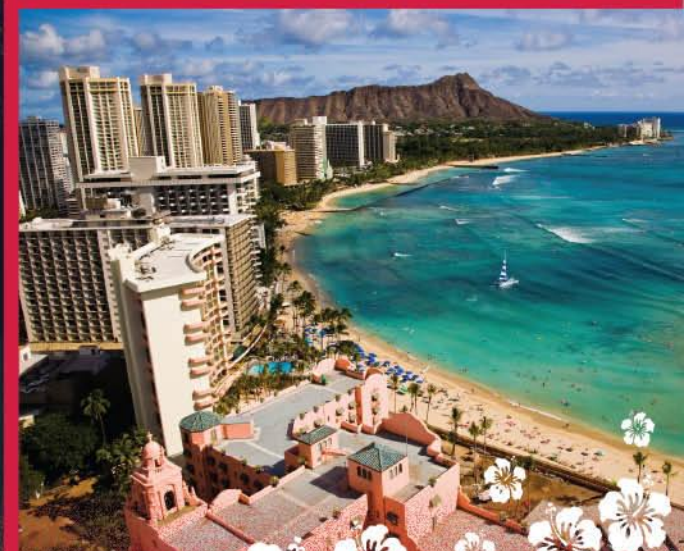


# Aloha TODAY

Travel Today Feature

December 2011



Hawai'i: an industry 'hot pick' for 2012 ..... p1

The highs and lows, literally, of majestic Kaua'i ..... p2-3

Oahu's North Shore's from shrimp trucks to off-road segway tours ..... p4

So much on offer beyond the famed Waikiki beach..... p5-6

Earn cash, and client gifts with Outrigger Rewards..... p5

Rediscovering Honolulu; Hawaii, Disney-style ..... p7

Shopping tips for HNL-bound clients ..... p7

# Aloha TODAY

Travel Today Feature P1

## Island Traffic Spikes

More Kiwis are now exploring Hawai'i beyond Oahu. Hawai'ian Airlines' New Zealand manager Steve Tanner says its inter-island business from New Zealand is 'very strong' for 2011. "[Inter-island demand] is up about 60% year-over-year, and more Kiwis seem to be re-visiting Hawai'i and taking the opportunity to visit the outer islands," says Tanner. The carrier operates around 150 jet flights daily between the Hawai'ian isles.

## ... Maui

A perennial favourite with Kiwis, Maui is still said to be the most popular neighbour island for New Zealanders. Highlights include the so-called Heavenly Road to Hana (600 curves and 54 bridges); witnessing the sun rise from the summit of Mt Haleakala; picturesque Lahaina; and the white sand beaches.

## ... Kaua'i

Hawai'i Tourism says the diverse landscapes of Kaua'i mean the island is suited to eco-tourism clients and couples. Along with countless white sand beaches, must dos include the Waimea Canyon, North Shore beaches and the famed Na Pali coast—and dinner at the Beach House.

## ... The Big Island

With an active volcano the Big Island of Hawai'i offers visitors a unique experience. Described as the most diverse isle in the group, the Big Island has lush rain forest, the sometimes snowy peak of Mauna Kea, a live volcano of Mt Kilauea; coffee plantations—and of course beaches.

# Hawai'i For Kiwis

## More Kiwis Saying Aloha To Hawai'i



Neighbour island sights like the Na Pali Coast of Kaua'i are now attracting more Kiwis.

Pic: HTA, Tor Johnson

**Hawai'i is firmly back on the Kiwi travel radar, buoyed by the stronger Kiwi dollar and increased air capacity in the New Year.**

Product specialists are tipping Hawai'i to be among 'the' destinations for 2012, and Hawai'i Tourism too is forecasting continued Kiwi growth. Kiwi arrivals to Hawai'i for the year-to-date to Oct are up 30% on 2010. "We are definitely seeing increased consumer awareness and demand for Hawai'i—and while Maui's always been popular there's now more interest in Kaua'i and the Big Island [of Hawai'i]," Hawai'i Tourism's Jill Gardner said in Honolulu last week. Attributing much of the renewed interest to the stronger NZD, Gardner says Hawai'i's wide appeal can also take some of the credit. "In the nearer Pacific Islands there are a lot of great things to do, but when Kiwis come to Hawai'i the options are just vast," she says. "There's some great value for money packages available through the wholesalers and it's making people realise that they can go

## Upskill On Hawaii

Tourism Hawai'i is urging agents to upskill on their Hawai'i knowledge to help consultants better-sell the destination. "We already have a number of Hawai'i specialist agents who have registered with our Ke Kula programme but we'd like to see that number continue to grow in line with the increased interest in the destination," says Hawai'i Tourism's Jill Gardner. For details see discoverhawaii.co.nz

further afield for not a lot more." Stressing that Hawai'i is 'so much more' than the famed sands of Waikiki Beach, Gardner says the destination offers a diverse range of holiday options from the neighbouring islands to the quieter surrounds of Oahu's North Shore. "The exchange rate is really playing a big part—from food, to activities and tours, as well as shopping of course, which means Kiwis are getting out and doing more." Hotels are also embracing the renaissance of the Hawai'ian culture and stepping up their cultural focus. While many still offer lei making and hula lessons, some now have cultural walking tours—and in response to demand many now offer ukulele lessons.

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Pic: HTA, Tor Johnson

## Perfect For Self-drive

Hawai'i's islands are the ideal place for clients who might not be confident driving on the 'other side of the road'. Most of Hawai'i's outer islands simply have a two-lane highway and low speed limits and even on Oahu the other drivers are fairly tolerant and areas and attractions are well sign-posted. Hertz' Never Lost GPS system offers Hawai'i driving routes to key sights and regions on a number of the islands. But warn clients (especially those catching a flight) that there's still morning and afternoon peak hour traffic—even on the smaller islands.

## NZ Adds HNL Seats

Limited air capacity is long said to have stalled Hawai'i growth from New Zealand—but capacity between the countries is being given a 20.7% boost for three months (Jun-Aug) over the traditional peak in 2012. Air New Zealand is upgauging to a 777-200 aircraft over the period, which will also see the addition of Air NZ premium economy fares to Hawai'i. However the carrier is warning that strong demand is expected, particularly over the 30 Jun-15 Jul school holiday period.

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# Aloha TODAY

Travel Today Feature P2

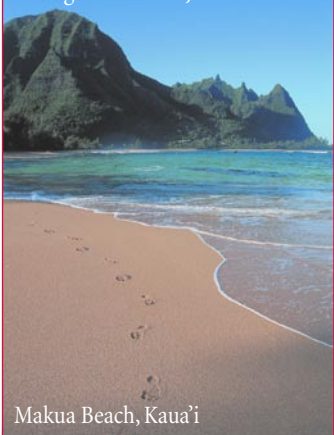
## Kaua'i 101

Known as the Garden Isle but ringed with pristine white sand beaches, a visit to Kaua'i is like a step back in time.

The island is punctuated with small towns, embracing that famous laid back Hawaiian way of life, and there's no towering high rises here—buildings must be no higher than a mature coconut tree. Only a small percentage of Kaua'i is accessible by road (a two lane highway at best) and it's certainly not crowded, with a total population of 63,000.

But far from sleepy, Kaua'i's awe-inspiring geography (from the rugged sheer cliffs of the Na Pali Coast to the dramatic chasm of the Waimea Canyon) is the island's true draw card.

In fact, Kaua'i's scenery has starred in numerous movies, such as Jurassic Park, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides and Just Go With It.



Makua Beach, Kaua'i

## Whale Watching

Migrating whales head past the Kaua'i coast Dec-Apr. A number of operators offer ocean tours or there is land-based viewing at Kilauea Point national wildlife refuge and Kapa'a outlooks.



# Get Amongst It



Pic: HTA, Tor Johnson

**Kaua'i's stunning and varied scenery is well documented and for clients who want to get up close and personal with the island there's plenty of options.**

The Waimea Canyon (pictured above) is a must-see and the is-



Ziplining Kaua'i style

land boasts a plethora of hiking trails, from easy to advanced, along with kayaking, horse riding, surfing, golf and much more.

## Beneath The Waves

In the northern summer months the North Shore's Ke'e Beach is widely touted as the best place to snorkel, but in the winter there can be big surf and rips. Further south on the eastern coast, Lydgate Beach Park (between Lihue and Wailua) is recommended for year-round snorkeling as is Poipu Beach Park. Poipu is also home to the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and visiting green sea turtles. Surfboard, paddle board and snorkel gear hire is available around the island at affordable rates.

Other quirky additions to the lineup including tubing through a former sugar plantation with Kaua'i Backcountry Adventures. Clients can float lazily down historic irrigation ditches and through tunnels in the experience that's fun for the whole family (ages five and up).

And if that's too sedate, the company also runs a ziplining tour which takes participants soaring above the picturesque Waiahi Valley. With the towering Mt Wai'aleale, one of the wettest places on earth, as a backdrop there's seven ziplines to traverse down to lunch. The experience is suited to a wide adventure loving demographic as there's very little walking in between the lines. The tour is great, but it's the amiable local guides who make it fantastic. Knowledgeable about the local history they are only too happy to share their top island picks. See [Kauaibackcountry.com](http://Kauaibackcountry.com)

## Kaua'i

### Getting Around

Kaua'i is a self-driver's paradise. There's plenty to see, from mountain ranges and quaint towns to the white sand coastline.

The island is quite small and the picturesque two lane highway can sometimes be winding. Clients heading up to the north shore should be aware that there are some one way bridges. Suggest they allow plenty of travel time to enjoy the scenery along the way. There are many places of interest to stop, from locals selling 'ice cold coconuts' from their front lawn to farmers markets and historic or arty settlements.



Pic: HTA, Kirk Lee Aeder

### Surfing And Hikes

Kaua'i's North Shore surf breaks are popular over the winter months, while the island's south coast beaches like Po'pu remain safe swimming beaches year-round. For updates on the island's best surfing and snorkelling spots for the day and hiking trail status, direct clients to [Kauaiexplorer.com](http://Kauaiexplorer.com)

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## Fast Facts

- \*Kaua'i is a 25 min flight from Oahu.
- \*The South Coast is the driest place on the island; while Mt Wai'aleale is said to be one of the wettest places on earth.
- \*Captain Cook landed at Waimea, Kaua'i in 1778, marking his discovery of the island group.

## Resort Areas

Kaua'i has five main resort areas. **Lihue** is home to the main airport, seaport and shopping centres as well as the island's museum.

The **North Shore** is a 45 min drive north of Lihue and home to the settlements of Princeville and Hanalei, with numerous popular beaches and a mountainous backdrop.

The **Royal Coconut Coast** is a 10 mile stretch along Kaua'i's east coast offering a wide range of accommodation options, shops and historical sites.

**Poipu Beach**, on the south shore, is a popular resort area combining the modern area of Poipu with the quaint historic plantation town of Koloa.

To the **West**, Waimea and Hanapepe are arty towns and the gateways to Waimea Canyon and Na Pali Coast.

## Up The Garden Path

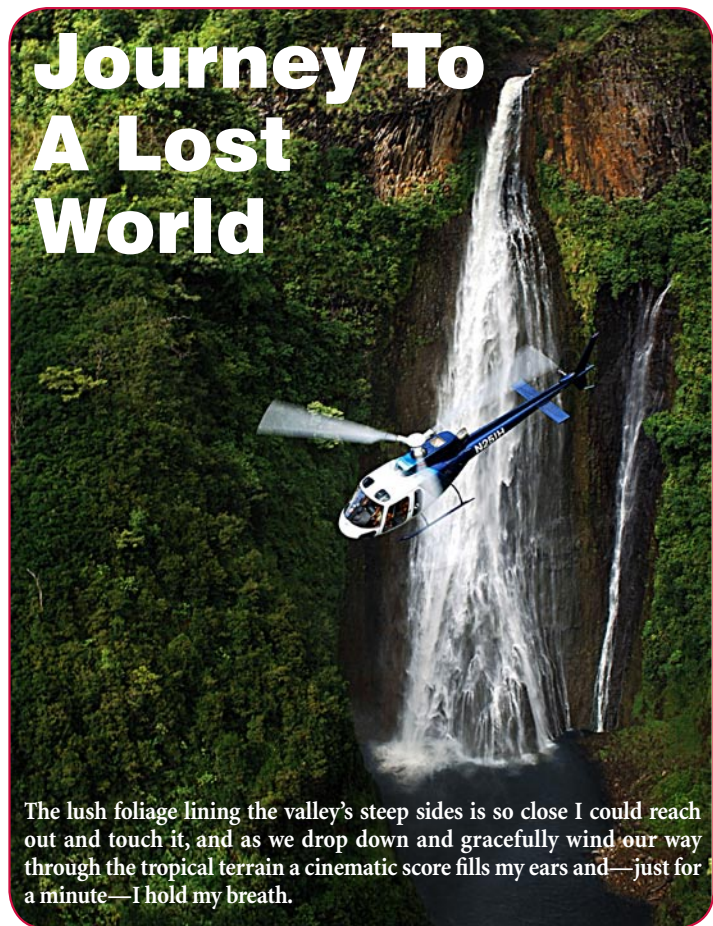
As the garden isle, there are three notable gardens open to the public for tours: Allerton, McBryde and Limahuli gardens. For more details, see [Kauaidiscovery.com](http://Kauaidiscovery.com)

## Pedal Power

For those who want to feel the wind in their hair without exerting too much effort, Kaua'i has two popular rides for cyclists of all levels.

Outfitters Kaua'i offers an early morning bike ride from the Waimea Canyon (3600 ft high), past cliffs, former plantations, and waterfalls to the sea. The best part is that it's all downhill, lots of fun and clients can stop along the way. See [outfitterskauai.com](http://outfitterskauai.com)

Another scenic option is the Ke Ale Hele bike path along the island's Coconut Coast. The flat stretch of path from Wailua to Kaelia Beach Park, follows the coastline and gives riders a picture perfect coastal view. Bike hire is around \$10 for the day and clients will work up a thirst for a Hawaiian shave ice at the other end!



## Journey To A Lost World

The lush foliage lining the valley's steep sides is so close I could reach out and touch it, and as we drop down and gracefully wind our way through the tropical terrain a cinematic score fills my ears and—just for a minute—I hold my breath.

I'm caught up in the moment, part nostalgia, part awe, as we come into land at the base of Kaua'i's 350ft high Manawaiopua Falls, which starred in the Jurassic Park blockbuster.

I've been on a host of helicopter rides in some amazing destinations, but this opportunity to re-create the movie magic dwarfed by pristine surroundings is a must-do experience.

We make our way to the roar of the majestic falls seen by millions, but visited by only a few.

Island Helicopters has exclusive access to the site, and offers the falls landing as an add-on to its circle island tour.

The experience also has a Kiwi connection. The land (some 40,000 acres) is owned by the Robinson family, originally from New Zealand.

## ... Worth The Expense

After a couple of days of driving around Kaua'i's main sites, I thought I had a pretty good feel for the island—but after seeing the dramatic scenery from the air, dropping into the rust orange canyons, brushing past craggy cliffs and passing over the hidden beaches of the Na Pali coast, there is no competition.

A helicopter ride is 'the' way to experience Kaua'i's spectacular typography. It does come with a price tag (USD299 low season for the Jurassic Park tour) but urge clients to seriously consider

it, as more than 90% of the island is inaccessible by road. It's one thing to look at the Na Pali coast from a boat—but another altogether to drop into valleys and hover next to giant waterfalls.

Island Helicopters runs the Jurassic Falls experience five times a week. The company urges agents to book the tour early in a clients' stay in case of weather disrupts.

A number of other helicopter companies also operate Kaua'i scenic tours.

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## Dining Out On The Island

Kaua'i is home to a vast range of dining options, from fusion cuisine to local plate lunches.

Clients with a sense of adventure can try a traditional Hawaiian plate lunch for USD8-10. Recommendations include Fish Express (opposite Walmart, Lihue), the Koala Fish Market, and Mark's Place in Lihue.

In Poipu, Keoki's Paradise is popular with the locals and offers nightly entertainment and happy hour deals. For something more upmarket Roy's is known for its Hawaiian fusion cuisine. For a memorable meal at one of the island's most picturesque locations, direct clients to the Beach House Restaurant. Voted one of the most romantic restaurant locations, this award-winning beachfront eatery is known for its Pacific Rim fusion dishes. Tell clients to save room for the delectable 'molten chocolate desire' and urge them to pre-book a table as this place is sought-after, particularly around sunset.



## Sheraton Kaua'i News

The beachfront Sheraton Kaua'i Resort in Poi'pu is sporting a refreshed look following a USD16 million upgrade. In addition to a new ocean wing pool, courtyard, oceanfront meeting space and lobby, the property has opened Lava's for open air poolside dining and bar. The well-known beachside Rum Fire restaurant will re-open in Dec.

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| \$260<br>★ ★ ★             | \$296<br>★ ★ ★ ★            |
| Makena Beach & Golf Resort | Outrigger Reef on the Beach |

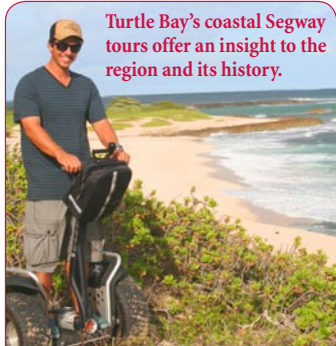
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# Aloha TODAY

Travel Today Feature P4



Turtle Bay's coastal Segway tours offer an insight to the region and its history.

## Discovering Turtle Bay

Unless clients want to rent a private house, there's effectively only one place to stay—Turtle Bay Resort. The huge property offers 450 ocean-front rooms as well as cottages, villas and a vast array of on-site activities. Options range from horse-riding, kayaking and hiking to Segway tours, diving, surfing, golf courses and a spa. "We're not a Waikiki, but there's five miles of beach, and with 880 acres of land we're so big we could fit the whole of Wakiki plus a couple of golf courses," says Turtle Bay's Keoki Wallace. Offering something of a neighbour island experience without leaving Oahu, the property has also been the location for countless movies and television shows, more recently *Soul Surfer* and *The Pirates of the Caribbean*. The resort is close to the famed North Shore beaches and home to surf breaks, swimming beaches, a beach-front spa, pools, bars and restaurants. While 21 Degrees is the signature restaurant, our pick (with a lava flow cocktail) is sampling Ola's Pork Tacos at a beach table with the sand between your toes—literally.

## ... More Kiwis Visiting

Wallace says the resort has noted an increasing demand from the Kiwi market, including weddings as more New Zealanders venture beyond Waikiki. However, he stresses that agents do need to match clients to the resort.



# The North Shore's Rustic Charm

OK, so shrimp might not be high on the list for a mid-morning snack—but the aroma of garlic and the promise of fresh shrimp soon sets your taste buds into overdrive.

We stopped at Giovanni's shrimp truck in Kahuku along Oahu's North Shore—and the shrimp, dripping with buttery garlic, lived up to their fine reputation.

Peppered with legendary surf breaks the rural North Shore region is also home to the famous roadside shrimp trucks offering plates piled high of fresh shrimp from the nearby shrimp farms.

It's experiences such the shrimp trucks, fresh produce stalls, encounters with surf-mad locals and even quirky booths selling shells and painted coconut husks that make a visit to the North Shore memorable.

The region is just an hour's drive from Waikiki but a completely different experience for clients looking for a slower-paced Hawaiian holiday without leaving the island.

## ... Haleiwa

Hailed as the global capital of big wave surfing, Haleiwa is the main settlement on the North Shore. The turn of the century plantation settlement has retained much of its rustic charm and features arty shops alongside surf stores and restaurants.

Recommendations for clients include

## Get Lost In Hawaii

For *Lost* fans, Kos Tours also offers Lost location tours covering around 20 Lost locations/scenes on the two-hour Hummer tour, all at the North Shore's Kualoa Ranch; or around 30 Lost locations on the five hour tour. Kualoa Ranch offers a wide range of activities and day tours, largely onsite at the 4000 acre property. There's ATV tours, horse rides, movie location tours as well as jungle, beach and boat options. See [kualoa.com](http://kualoa.com)



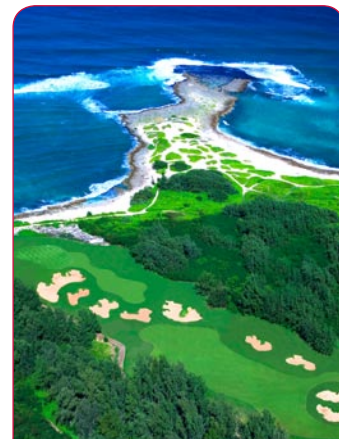
Calder & Lawson's Erin Mitchell set to sample the shrimp (aka prawns) from Giovanni's shrimp truck on Oahu's North Shore last week.

sampling a shave-ice at Matsumoto's shave ice shop or hanging out with the locals (including the odd pro surfer) at Cholo's Mexican restaurant in the North Shore Marketplace.

Urge clients heading further up the North Shore coast or to the beach to load up with supplies for the day at Haleiwa, as there's not much further north—until you get to Turtle Bay Resort.

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## North Shore



## Local Wildlife

Turtle Bay Resort, pictured above, is home to an endangered Hawaiian monk seal, and green sea turtle (honu) are often spotted in the surf. But for the North Shore's best green sea turtle spotting during the northern summer months, direct clients to the Pupukea beach. The turtles come ashore to feed on the algae growing on the rocks.

## Mix With The Locals

Turtle Bay has just opened a new bar, Surfer, in conjunction with the magazine of the same name. Billed as the newest and hippest bar on the North Shore, it's designed as a place where tourists can mix with the locals. On opening night local surfer and musician Jack Johnson even played an impromptu set. The bar holds a 'talk story' night every Wed featuring local surfing legends talking about themselves and their surf experiences.

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# Aloha TODAY

Travel Today Feature P5

## Catching TheBus

TheBus public bus service remains a convenient way for those without a car to get around Oahu. Tickets are USD2.50 each way for adults including one free transfer, kids USD1.25. You can get a bus to almost anywhere on the island, including right up to the North Shore. Buses operating to Ala Moana Shopping Centre are 8, 19, 20 or 42. See thebus.org



## Outrigger Rewards

Popular Hawai'i chain Outrigger is looking to reward agents, and clients, for their loyalty with its agent specialist programme. The company has launched the Outrigger Hospitality Programme and all consultants who complete the one-hour on-line training will earn 100 reward points on completion of their first booking of three nights or more. In addition, their clients (staying a min. three nights) will receive a welcome gift such as champagne or macadamia cookies, delivered 'from the agent'. Certified Outrigger agents can also earn points on subsequent bookings which can be redeemed for cash or Amazon vouchers. Outrigger Hospitality Specialists will also qualify for exclusive incentives and promotions. For extra credits there's also optional training on other islands. To register, see [outriggeragent.com](http://outriggeragent.com)



## Waikiki

### Much More Than Just A Beach



**Sporting the same hallmark drawcards of golden sand, crystal clear water, and the quintessential beachfront cocktail bars, Waikiki continues to offer it all for those looking for a fly and flop beach break.**

However, Kiwi agents on a recent Hawai'i famil said they didn't realise just how much else Waikiki and surrounds has to offer holiday makers. The consultants were impressed by the huge array options available across tours, shopping, dining and even watersports—and the agents tried out stand-up paddle boarding for themselves.

"Learning to paddleboard while you're looking out at Diamond Head, and then catching a wave back in towards the Royal Hawai'ian—it's

pretty amazing," says GO Holidays' Michelle Benton (pictured paddleboarding). "I was amazed by the variety—from shops to restaurants, Hawai'i really caters for everyone... and it's all so close, I really didn't realise how close and accessible everything was."

### Waikiki Vow Renewal

Clients saying at the Outriggers Reef or Waikiki also qualify for a free beachfront wedding vow renewal ceremony, conducted in Hawai'ian. Couples walk through an aisle of traditional spears right in front of the Reef's Shorebird restaurant before the ceremony, which is conducted Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri. The service is popular so bookings are essential.

### Hop On, Hop Off Tour

A recent addition to Waikiki is the Aloha Bus, a new open top double decker hop-on, hop off bus service. Operated by Grayline, clients can choose from the City tour loop, Pearl Harbour Express and a night loop—and kids ride free with every adult ticket purchased. There's numerous stops including Iolani Palace and Pearl Harbour as well as Chinatown, AlaMoana Shopping Centre and the Aloha Stadium swap meet. Tickets available for 24, 48 and 72 hours, and start from USD29, adults. See [alohabus.com](http://alohabus.com)

### A Little Hawai'ian Spirit

A plethora of bars and restaurants offer discounted cocktails and pupus (snacks) from mid afternoon to early evening—perfect after a hard day's shopping, sunning or exploring. For the best sunset cocktails, direct clients to the Royal Hawai'ian Mai Tai bar. There's nightly entertainment and the setting is unbeatable. Alternatively, for the best combo of authentic Hawai'ian music and happy hour deals suggest Outrigger Reef's Kani Ka Pila Grille. It offers happy hour deals 1500-1700 and from 1800 nightly features well-known Hawai'ian musicians.

### Local Events A-plenty

For clients looking for something to do beyond the beach, there's a host of local events such as craft markets, festivals, cultural performances and much more. Many upcoming fixtures are listed in the free giveaway pamphlets available almost everywhere. Notable events are the Sunset on the Beach outdoor movies ([sunsetonthebeach.net](http://sunsetonthebeach.net)) and the regular swap meet at the Aloha Stadium. On the first Fri of every month the HNL arts district (from The Hawai'i State Art museum to Hotel and Richard Sts in Chinatown, HNL). Artist exhibits, entertainment, demonstrations and food trucks. Details, see [artsatmarks.com](http://artsatmarks.com)



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# Aloha TODAY

Travel Today Feature P6



## Family Fun In The Sun

For clients travelling with families Waikiki and surrounds offer a host of options.

There's plenty of parks in the area in addition to the safe swimming areas of Waikiki Beach, including the sheltered beach lagoons.

Snorkelling at Hanauma Bay is a perennial favourite, but urge clients to head out early as there's limited access. It's closed on a Tue and entry is USD7.50 for adults, kids under 13 years are free. Clients can catch bus 22 from Waikiki and the ride takes about an hour.

Honolulu Zoo and the Aquarium are handy for those staying at Waikiki and the Sealife Park, a 90 min bus ride away (bus 22 or 23), is a family friendly day trip. Some packages also offer free coach transfers.

## Pearl Harbour Pilgrimage A Must—At Least Once

A visit to Pearl Harbour is a sobering experience—but one that visitors to Hawai'i should do at least once given its historic significance.

While the story of the 1941 Japanese attack doesn't change (and the oil still bubbles up from the Arizona) the visitor centre and museums are continually upgraded. For those with more time, the audio tour (USD5) offers more insight.

In addition to the boat ride across to the Arizona Memorial (which sits atop the sunken hull of the Navy ship of the same name) there's a number of other options. The Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island showcases aircraft from a 1941 Japanese Zero to the Naval F-14 (like Tom Cruise flew in *Top Gun*) and also has a combat flight simulator. There's also the USS Bowfin



Jody Simpson from United Travel Whitianga is pictured in front of the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbour

Submarine Museum and the USS Missouri Memorial, which includes a tour onboard the battleship, aboard which the Japanese signed their surrender in 1945.

Clients should be urged to get out to the Arizona Memorial as early as possible (open 0700-1700) and bags are now not permitted onboard the trip out to the memorial. However, lockers are provided.

## Say Aloha To HNL's Chinatown Precinct

Laden with noodle shops, open-air markets, tea shops and the odd art gallery Chinatown in downtown Honolulu is best explored on foot. Formed by the Chinese who migrated to work on Hawai'i's sugar plantations in the 1800s, the area is an eclectic mix of Asian wares and cuisine.

For those looking for an insight into the local culture a couple of free tours operate in the area. A cultural walking tour starts from



the Hawai'i Heritage Centre from 0930 on a Wed and Fri morning and there's also a Chinese museum walking tour 1030 Mon-Sat.

If clients would rather go it alone, a

## Cuisine and Cocktails

Waikiki and surrounds continue to offer a vast selection of dining options, from fast food to fine dining—and everything in between—and the stronger NZD makes dining out more affordable

Numerous notable eateries have opened along the Waikiki Beach Walk precinct such as the popular Roy's Waikiki which offers Hawai'i fusion cuisine at value-for-money prices (and urge clients to try the crab cakes). For those looking for something more casual travel agents in Hawai'i recently say Dukes continues to be hugely popular with Kiwis, and for those looking for something a little louder Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville and Senor Frog's fit the bill.



good starting point is the intersection of North Hotel and Maunakea St. Nearby points of interest include the Yat Tung Chow Noodle Factory (you can watch from the window), browsing through one of the crack seed stores or meeting Chinese herbalists in traditional herb shops. The Chinatown Cultural Complex offers a one-stop Asian shop. There is, of course, a huge array of dining options. Choices (recommended by the locals) include the Little Village Noodle House, Mei's dim sum, and for Asian fusion cuisine (and incredible lychee martinis) suggest Indigos. Chinatown is 30 min by bus from Waikiki (buses 2, 13, 19, 20 or 42).

## Waikiki



## Rediscovering Hawai'i

For repeat visitors to Hawai'i, the recently-restored Iolani Palace in downtown Honolulu is an ideal way to relieve the destination's royal roots.

It is the only royal palace in the US and when it opened in 1882 the palace actually had electric lights and telephones, before the White House, as well as flushing loos. The palace has an interesting but tragic past, following the overthrow of the Hawai'i monarchy in 1893. The landmark features a unique American Florentine architecture developed due to the Hawai'i climate and in recent years has been painstakingly restored to its former glory.

For an in-depth insight there's 45min guided tours (adults, USD20) or a self-guided audio tour (USD12). The palace is open Tue-Sun 0900-14:15. Reservations are recommended. The palace is a 15min drive from Waikiki or around 30mins by bus (bus 2, 3 or B City Express from Kuhio, Wakiki to Beretania and Punchbowl St). See [iolanipalace.org](http://iolanipalace.org)

## HNL Xmas Lights Tour

If you've got clients heading up before the end of the year, the open air double decker Aloha Bus is running a nightly Holiday Lights tour of Honolulu 04 Dec-30 Dec complete with holiday music. Tickets are USD20, adults and kids four-12 USD10. Tours will operate from 1800. See [alohabus.com](http://alohabus.com)

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|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <br><b>HAWAII</b>  | <b>MAUI</b>                | <b>OAHAU</b>                |
|  | <b>\$260</b><br>★★★        | <b>\$296</b><br>★★★★        |
|  | Makena Beach & Golf Resort | Outrigger Reef on the Beach |
| <br><b>www.exciteholidays.co.nz</b><br>NZD prices are per room per night and subject to availability |                            |                             |

# Aloha TODAY

Travel Today Feature P7

## Ala Moana Line-up

Ala Moana Shopping Centre offers a huge range from designer to discount. Macys (also in Waikiki) offers visitors a 10% discount card off most items. For those looking for more bargains, Walmart and Ross Dress For Less are a short walk from the back of the mall on Keeaumoku St. Ala Moana is a 15 min bus ride from Waikiki (buses 8,19,20) or a USD10 taxi ride.

## Advance Shopping

For clients looking to secure a bargain, but don't want to spend their holiday shopping, suggest they buy on-line and get the items delivered to their hotel. It will pay to check with the hotel first, but most are happy to hold the package until clients arrive.



## Disney's Aulani: One Stop Resort For Family Fun

If bobbing down the lazy river or snorkelling in the resort lagoon doesn't appeal, there's always the waterslides or the spa at Disney's new Aulani Resort. Located around 45 mins from Honolulu the Ko Olina beachside resort literally has everything for those looking for a premium family resort stay. While there are Disney character breakfasts and meet and greets, Hawaiian culture is the resort's focus. Aulani is family-focused, but caters to guests of all ages. Aunty's Beach House is a giant full-service kids club (complete with Disney dress-ups and the odd character visit) with a Hawaiian

# Shopping & Aulani

## Shopping Up A Storm In Hawaii

Given the stronger New Zealand dollar, shopping has become something of a trip essential for US-bound clients—and Hawaii is no exception.

Kiwi travel agents on a recent Hawaii famil put their credit cards on the line, and came home laden with bargains). "Hawaii really offers so much variety for clients—they can have a beach holiday and get the shopping bargains of an America trip, it's fantastic," says Calder and Lawson's Erin Mitchell.

### ... Best Bargains

A quick famil vote declared the Waikale Outlet Mall as the best shopping tip for clients. The mall offers a host of designer and high street brand items at up to 65% off the original price tag every day, an hour's drive from Waikiki. "Waikale is great to pick up some brands at a bargain," says House

of Travel product's Carole Campbell. "The Guess store was fantastic, I brought a handbag for USD43, and I would pay about NZD150 for it here, and it was USD25 for a wallet."

And the best news is that Waikale is now so much more accessible. The super-thrifty can catch a bus from Waikiki (two hours one-way) or a better option is taking one of the many shuttle services on offer—from as little as USD5 each way (Aloha Shuttles, departing outside DFS Waikiki).

Waikale manager Cesar Topacio says he loves shoppers from New Zealand. "They come out here and spend about eight hours, so we really like our visitors from New Zealand and Australia."

Popular brands at the mall include Adidas, Calvin Klein, Coach, True Religion Jeans, Michael Kors, Polo Ralph Lauren and more.

### ... More Savings

A VIP discount booklet is USD5 from mall information or agents can sign clients up to the on-line VIP club and clients can pre-print the coupons for free. See [premiumoutlets.com/vip](http://premiumoutlets.com/vip)

### Discount Pearls

Discovered by Air New Zealand cabin crew Betty's Imports (412 Lewers St, Waikiki) is a treasure trove of jewellery, including black pearls. See [bettysimport.com](http://bettysimport.com)



### Weigh Those Bags

Overweight bags are a constant concern for travelling shoppers.

One handy tip is to tell clients to ask the bell desk for luggage scales. Many hotels have the scales—and client will know just how much shopping they can still do. On baggage—Air New Zealand's new rules allow economy passengers ex the US one free checked bag up to 23kgs. For serious shoppers, clients can pay USD50 at the airport for a second bag of up to 23kgs; or it's USD50 for bags over 23kgs. But luggage cannot weigh more than 32kgs per piece.

Air Pacific allows one free checked bag of 23kgs.



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