

July 2008

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

ACCOLADES

- ◆ **Forbes Magazine** ranked five of Hawai'i's major airports as the least "time draining" airports in the U.S. **Hilo International Airport** ranks No. 1, **Līhu'e Airport** ranks No. 2, **Kona Airport** ranks No. 3, **Kahului Airport** ranks No. 5, and the **Honolulu International Airport** ranks No. 15. Airport ranking in the survey were determined by performance in six delay categories: security, late aircraft traffic control, cancellations, carrier problems, and weather. For more information, visit ForbesMagazine.com.
- ◆ **Expedia's Insiders'** names its Select List of Worldwide Favorite Hotels, naming **Kaua'i's Outrigger Hotels & Resorts, Waipouli Beach and Resort** No. 21. Waipouli Beach was scored on its value and quality of service and comfort by Expedia's customer feedback. For more information, visit WaipouliBeachResort.com.
- ◆ The **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa** and its **Dondero's Restaurant** have both received the AAA Four Diamond award for 2009. This is the 18th recognition since The Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa opened in 1990. The enhanced level of quality and physical attributes throughout the hotel and great accommodating staff were the positive factors in this recognition. Dondero's Restaurant and its highly accomplished staff, creative and complex menus, presentation and fresh ingredients garnered the Four Diamond award. For more information, visit Kauai.Hyatt.com.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ **Volcano Bike Tours on Hawai'i's Big Island** introduces a new-guided bicycle tour called "Kilauea Volcano Active Lava Flow Bike Adventure." The bike tour provides views of the earthy tropical forests and breathtaking ocean views. Bicyclists have lunch or dinner at the Hawaiian Village of Kalapana, and then head off to see the well-known fiery glow of Pele. Tours are offered on Thursdays. For more information, visit VolcanoBikeTours.com.

- ◆ **The Waikiki Aquarium** continues "Ke Kani O Ke Kai," The Sound of the Ocean, summer concert series every Thursday at 7 p.m. with Eddie Kamae on July 24 and Willie K on August 7. The well-known aquarium exhibits will be open during the concert until 8:30 p.m. Throughout the night enjoy various food stands, Hula Grill Waikiki, Yama's Fish Market, and Big City Diner. Admission is \$25 for adults, \$10 for children, and children six and under are free. For more information, visit WaikikiAquarium.org.

- ◆ **Blue Hawaiian Helicopters and Hawaii Forest & Trail** have added the **Waterfall HeliHike**, a new eco-tourism adventure. The adventure starts off by transporting guests by helicopter to the windward coast of Kohala for breathtaking views of the various waterfalls and sea cliffs. A private landing site has eco-naturalist tour guests on a six-wheel drive all terrain vehicle to a two-mile hike with views of waterfalls, plunge pools, and ancient terraces. The tour also provides lunch and swimming in a mountain stream. For more information, visit BlueHawaiian.com.

- ◆ **The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i**, 'Imiloa meaning "exploring new knowledge," now offers free headsets for self-guided tours of the exhibit halls. The headsets come in English and Japanese and enable visitors to listen to the stories of stars, Hawaiian culture and the astronomy of Maunakea. For more information, visit ImiloaAstronomyCenter.com.

- ◆ **The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i** is now offering Stand up surfing (SUP) in a new day package called "Surf, Sand & Spa." This new twist on surfing teaches participants to stand on a surfboard with a paddle and provides a total body workout. The package includes a lesson, oceanfront spa treatment, and lunch. For more information, visit TheFairmontOrchid.com.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- ◆ **The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Kapalua on Maui** has completed its \$180 million renovations, which included remodeling 463 guest rooms with new furnishings, dark wood floors, a flat screen TV, marble bathrooms with a shower, and a separate tub. The upgrades also added 17,500 square-feet to the spa including waterfalls to accentuate the relaxing environment. The new **Ritz-Carlton Spa, Kapalua** offers 15 treatment rooms with ipod docking stations, robe warmers, and openings to the private outdoor shower gardens. All natural products with pineapple, papaya, kukui oil, and coconut are used for lomi lomi massages and Hawaiian healing treatments. The spa also features two couples' cabana steam rooms, saunas, whirlpools and a lava stone grotto. A new fitness center and yoga studio is currently available 24-hours. For more information, visit RitzCarltonKapalua.com.
- ◆ **LEVEL4**, Honolulu's new nightclub and ultra lounge overlooking Waikiki, opens this month at the **Royal Hawaiian Center**. The club will feature 4,500 square-foot dance floor, a 116-foot projection screen, catwalks suspending aerialists above the dance floor, and well-known DJs from Hawai'i and beyond. VIP bottle service is available and guests can access camera feeds throughout the club from the interactive tables. For more information, visit LEVEL4.com.

- ◆ **American Safari Cruises** is offering its guests a credit of \$150 per person on the new inter-island luxury yacht cruises in **Hawai'i** to help travelers with airfare costs and luggage charges. The 145-foot cruise ship will relocate to Hawai'i and begin eight-day, seven-night cruises between **Hawai'i's Big Island** and **Maui** on December 19, 2008. Stops will be made on Moloka'i and Lāna'i for snorkeling and diving. A helicopter tour will also provide visitors remarkable scenery of waterfalls and lava flows. The amenities on the American Safari Cruises include complimentary massages, yoga classes, sauna, fitness area, and hot tub. For more information, visit AmericanSafariCruises.com.

- ◆ The recently renovated **Village Steak & Seafood** restaurant, located at the **Hilton Hawaiian Village** is starting "Prime Time" presented by Chef Andrew Yagami through October 4, 2008. "Prime Time" features a unique combination of table service appetizers and desserts and an all-you-can-eat prime rib, baby back ribs, and baked potato bar. Prices range from \$29.75 for adults to \$14.75 for children 12 and under. For more information, visit HiltonHawaiianVillage.com.

- ◆ **Naniloa Volcanoes Resort** in **Hilo, on Hawai'i's Big Island** reopens its renovated Deluxe Ocean Front and Superior Ocean View Rooms. All rooms have new furnishings, including artwork provided by local girl Kristie Fujiyama-Kosmides, founder of "i.e in Everybody," imported German tile and Italian fixtures in the baths, a 32" flat screen television and free high-speed Internet. For more information, visit NaniloaVolcanoesResort.com.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

- ◆ **Delta Airlines** has started daily direct flights from **Los Angeles to Kona**. The new direct routes depart Los Angeles daily at 1:10 p.m. and arrive in Kona at 3:52 p.m. Returning flights depart Kona at 8:50 p.m. and arrive in Los Angeles at 5:03 a.m. Delta also connects Atlanta and Salt Lake City to Kona. For more information, visit DeltaAirlines.com.

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Special note to media: The Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) recognizes the use of Hawaiian diacritical markings (e.g. glottal stop [ʻ], macron [ā] in place names of Hawai'i such as Lānaʻi). However, HVCB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

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