

October 2008

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF ALOHA

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Under the theme *Discover More Of Hawai'i For Less Than You Imagined*, the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) has launched a winter vacation campaign offering travel packages to the Hawaiian Islands at deeply discounted savings – many packages are now available at a lower price than they were a year ago. Recognizing that travelers in this economic environment are seeking incredible experiences unique to a destination, but at a great value, HVCB has introduced a new website – **GoHawaii.com/Value** – that lists the Hawai'i vacation deals. Visitors are encouraged to check back frequently to view updates and new offers as they become available. Travel wholesalers offering the packages include Expedia, Pleasant Holidays, Travelocity, Orbitz, All About HAWAII, Blue Sky Tours, LibGO Travel, Travel Impressions, Classic Vacations, MLT Vacations, Funjet Vacations, United Vacations, Hawaii Connection, and American Airlines Vacations. The special deals present a variety of cost-saving air-hotel vacation packages, as well as credits for car rental, and food, and beverage – and some of the offers are available through first quarter 2009 (please check GoHawaii.com/Value for the various expiration and blackout dates). Consumers can shop around and choose the travel package that best fits their lifestyle and pocketbook. For more information, visit [GoHawaii.com/Value](http://GoHawaii.com/Value).

**OutriggerHawaii.com** has made **additions to its website** to give visitors thorough information about Hawai'i's popular locations and activities. The new features are video podcasts ("Learn to Surf" video), blogs (written by the website editor Kim Steutermann Rogers that cover relevant issues to Hawai'i), and a statewide events calendar. For more information, visit [OutriggerHawaii.com](http://OutriggerHawaii.com).

**Pleasant Holidays** is offering a special that features a \$450 air credit on any airline from the mainland U.S to Hawai'i. Offer is good on a five-night-minimum stay at selected hotels and resorts in Hawai'i during Fall 2008 and Winter 2009. Participating hotels and resorts include Four Seasons Resort Lāna'i at Manele Bay, Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa, JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa at Ko Olina, and Wailea Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Pleasant Holidays offers more than 1,000 activities and sightseeing tours in Hawai'i, along with a Pleasant Holiday Concierge Service for various arrangements. For more information, visit [PleasantHolidays.com](http://PleasantHolidays.com).

The **American Safari Cruises** will **postpone** its trips to the Hawai'i inter-island cruise market until the U.S. economy starts to show improvement. Those who have booked Hawai'i cruises will receive a 100 percent refund, future cruise savings of 15 percent and allowances for air ticketing, and first priority to have a seat on the American Safari Cruises'. Hawai'i guests who are re-accommodated will receive a \$250 per person air credit. For more information, visit [AmSafari.com](http://AmSafari.com).

The **Polynesian Cultural Center** has increased its age range for child admission from ages 3-11 to 5-15 years old till the end of the year. The child admissions are \$33 and children under 5 are free. Visitors can enjoy the various attractions at the center, the Iosepa: Voyage of Discovery, "Go Native!" an interactive activity, watch a Coral Reef Adventure IMAX film, or enjoy Hawaii's largest Polynesian revue, Ali'i Lu'au. For more information, visit [Polynesia.com](http://Polynesia.com).

**Moana Lani Spa** a "Heavenly Spa by Westin" has opened at the **Westin Moana Surfrider** after its multi-million dollar renovation. This ocean front spa is 16,000 square feet and two stories high providing a view of Waikiki. The spa offers couple treatment rooms with ocean views, a *Vichy* shower (shower heads that pour water onto you while lying down), three custom facial rooms, body treatment rooms and a 24-hour Westin WorkOut fitness center.

Featured massages include the "Ka Ua Lomi" which is a gentle warm water rain massage. For more information, visit [Moana-Surfrider.com](http://Moana-Surfrider.com) or [StarwoodHawaii.com](http://StarwoodHawaii.com).

**Aqua Bamboo & Spa** has completed \$2.5 million in upgrades. The Asian-inspired lobby has new furnishings and offers a 24-hour coffee and tea complimentary service, along with a surfboard rack available to guests. The swimming pool has been upgraded with new tile, furniture, and a black-rock waterfall. Complimentary Continental breakfast and "Breakfast 2 Go," are also available for guests starting with early activities. The guest rooms and suites have been refurbished and include new bathrooms, kitchen appliances, lightening fixtures, and a 32" LCD television. For more information, visit [AquaResorts.com](http://AquaResorts.com).

**Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa** has finished a \$28 million transformation to its Kealohilani Tower and Paokalani Tower. The Kealohilani Tower guestrooms and suites received wireless high-speed Internet access, a 37-inch flat-screen television, patio lounge with a chair and table on the balcony, and Marriott's "Revive" bed and linen collection. The Paoakalani Tower has new guestroom amenities including a 37-inch HDTV, jack pack (what's this?), and mini refrigerator. The hotel also went eco-friendly with renovations using compact fluorescent light bulbs in every guestroom, temperature control thermostats, and low flow toilets and showerheads. For more information, visit [MarriottWaikiki.com](http://MarriottWaikiki.com).

**ResortQuest Maui Kaanapali Villas** has a newly expanded garden front pool from its \$1.4 million renovation. The pool now features a jet spa and seating with umbrellas and tiki torches. Their oceanfront pool was also renovated earlier in the year and features a kiddie pool, jet spa, waterfalls, and additional umbrellas and tiki torches on the pool deck. For more information, visit [ResortQuestHawaii.com](http://ResortQuestHawaii.com).

**Aloha Surf Clinic** featuring women's professional surfer, **Nancy Emerson** is returning to the Hawaiian Islands. This clinic offers a personalized surfing adventure at different surf spots around the islands. Nancy Emerson covers everything from shortboarding, longboarding, and stand up paddle surfing. The three-day clinic starts at \$275 plus tax and guests can also add the local spectrum of visiting the best restaurants, spas, shopping, and island touring. One-day clinics are also available. For more information, contact Nancy Emerson at [nancy@surfclinics.com](mailto:nancy@surfclinics.com).

**Atlantic Submarines** is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by **discounting 20 percent** off its retail items through December 15. For more information, visit [AtlantisSubmarines.com](http://AtlantisSubmarines.com).

## EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

**Hawai'i's Big Island** is kicking off its golf season by offering various **golf specials** till November 22, 2008 at participating golf courses. The specials offered are 15 percent off all logo apparel, free full swing clinics, free putting clinics, and putting contests and prizes, and discounted rates. The resorts and golf courses participating are: *Mauna Lani Resort's North Course, Waikoloa Beach Resort's King's Course, Kona Country Club's Mountain Course, Waimea Country Club, Mauna Kea Resort's Hapuna Course, Waikoloa Beach Resort's Beach Course, Mauna Lani Resort's South Course, Kona Country Club's Ocean Course, Makalei Golf Club, and Mauna Kea Resort's Hapuna Course*. For more information, visit [BigIsland.org/golfseason](http://BigIsland.org/golfseason).

At midnight on October 31, 2008, the **Oahu Ghost Tours** will offer its annual special tour **Orbs of Oahu "Graveyard Shift Halloween Tour."** Three tours will be offered: *Honolulu City Haunts* (walking tour), *Sacred Spirits* (mixture of culture, history and ecology), and, *Orbs of Oahu*, the most popular tour that takes you to haunted places on O'ahu. The tour is \$66.60 per person, on a first come first serve basis, and guests receive a special souvenir t-shirt. For more information, visit [OahuGhostTours.com](http://OahuGhostTours.com).

The new-haunted Halloween lagoon “**The Laie Lady Lurks at Polynesian Cultural Center,**” will make its debut on O’ahu this month. Visitors will be able to take a canoe ride through the center October 24-31 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m, closed Sunday the 26th. The haunted lagoon will also have a child-friendly version for younger guests. The attraction is \$8 for 16 years old and above, \$5 for children ages 5-15, four and under is free. For more information, visit [Polynesia.com](http://Polynesia.com).

**Tour da Food Maui** is a new custom ethnic food tour that offers visitors the chance to eat where the locals eat. The tour will travel to Maui’s hidden specialty restaurants, snack shacks, markets, and manufacturers. The tours are held Tuesdays through Thursdays and can accommodate up to four guests. For more information, visit [TourDaFoodMaui.com](http://TourDaFoodMaui.com).

**Four Seasons Resort Lanai, The Lodge at Koele’s new Banyan Spa Suite** has been completed. The 1,052 square-foot private treatment room offers spa privacy, two massage beds, personal restroom, and a rain shower. Featured treatments include the Lava Shell Massage, Lomi Lomi Massage, Pohaku Stone Massage, and a Hehi Lani Royal Foot Treatment. For more information, visit [FourSeasons.com/Koele](http://FourSeasons.com/Koele).

**LavaKai** is **Lava Ocean Adventures** new 34-ft vessel on **Hawai’i’s Big Island** that accommodates 24 passengers with covered seating and offers dawn and dusk tours along the Puna Coast to Kalapana. Rates start at \$199 for adults and \$149 for children under 12. Private tours are also available. For more information, visit [LavaOcean.com](http://LavaOcean.com).

**Volcano Winery and Tea Hawai'i** on Hawai'i's Big Island, are now offering a \$25 informative guided tour including a walk through a tea field and vineyard with a personal wine tasting, gift pack, and 10 percent off all store merchandise. Reservations are required. Free vineyard and tea field tours run daily at 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit [VolcanoWinery.com](http://VolcanoWinery.com).

**Parker Ranch on Hawai'i's Big Island** has launched its new “**Parker Ranch Cattle Country Tour.**” The tour educates visitors on over 160 years of history and operations at the oldest working cattle ranch on Hawai'i. Visitors will also learn the history of the Parker family and the skillful cowboys or *Paniolo*. The tour is offered Tuesday through Saturday morning for \$135 plus tax per seat, and include a picnic lunch and beverage. For more information, visit [ParkerRanch.com](http://ParkerRanch.com).

**The Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort and Spa on Hawai'i's Big Island** has worked together with Island Breeze Productions to present their newest show “**Firenesia Lu'au Dinner & Show.**” The audience will be taken on a journey of Polynesia and it's culture, while entertainers showcase the beauty of fire. A traditional Hawaiian lū'au, dinner will feature local dishes like kalua pork, poi, lomi lomi salmon, mahi mahi and desserts. Firenesia is held every Monday evening, tickets are \$79.95 for adults and \$49.95 for children. Preferred Ali'i Seating is available to guests for an additional cost of \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, and includes a souvenir lei, express lines for ticket purchase, reserved seating, and table service for the bar and dinner. For more information, visit [Firenesia.com](http://Firenesia.com).

**Arnott's Lodge and Hiking Adventures** is offering the only **Sunrise Tour** at Maunakea on the **Hawai'i's Big Island**. The tour starts off with a night hike up to Maunakea mountain, at 14,000 feet visitors will get the chance to see the sunrise from the world's tallest mountain. Tours are offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, rates are \$110 per person and guests who stay at Arnott's Lodge will receive a discount. For more information, visit [ArnottsLodge.com](http://ArnottsLodge.com).

**The Kahala Hotel & Resort** is participating in **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** offering guests special services throughout October. Kahala's **Pampered Pink** is a spa treatment program that includes a 145-minute treatment featuring a foot ritual, lomi lomi massage, facials, a "pink" inspired beverage and a pink gift bag. If you book two or more Pampered Pink treatments guest will receive a complimentary afternoon tea at The Veranda. For more information, visit [KahalaResort.com](http://KahalaResort.com).

From October 20, 2008 – November 20, 2008, **The Diamond State Monument Summit Trail** will be **closed** for maintenance of trail slopes and the prevention of rockfalls. The information booth, restrooms, and parking lot will still be open during the renovation. The first phase is the maintenance and the other phases will include the Diamond Head Trail Improvements Project. This project will improve the deteriorated sections of the trail due to over usage, age and weathering. The installation of safe stairways and wider walkways, and better slope stabilization will insure the best safety for visitors. For more information, visit [HawaiiStateParks.org](http://HawaiiStateParks.org).

**Windward Coast and Waterfalls** is the new tour provided by **Hawaiian Walkways'** on **Hawai'i's Big Island**. This tour takes guests to towering cliffs and rainforest streams, toward Waipi'o Valley. Rates start from \$169 for adults and \$119 for children. Hotel pick up is available. For more information, visit [HawaiianWalkways.com](http://HawaiianWalkways.com).

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

**Mokulele Airlines** announced it is expanding interisland service with jet service through an agreement with **Republic Airways** starting November 19, 2008. The airlines will add four Embraer 170 jets that include six first-class and 64 coach seats for its service between O'ahu, Kaua'i, and the Big Island. Embraer 170 jets features 6'7" ceilings, wider seats and aisles, increased overhead storage and larger windows for a better scenic view. Roundtrip fares will range from \$61 to \$159 and offer nine round-trip flights a day from Honolulu to Līhu'e, five round-trip flights a day from Honolulu to Kona, with three one-stop flights between Kona and Līhu'e. Beginning next year, Mokulele Airlines will offer nine daily flights from Honolulu to Kahului and five from Honolulu to Hilo. For more information, visit [MokuleleAirlines.com](http://MokuleleAirlines.com).

**Hawaiian Airlines** will add 110 interisland roundtrip flights per week by the end of the year. The new roundtrip flights per week are:

**Līhu'e, Kaua'i:** 40

**Kahului, Maui:** 27

**Kona, Hawai'i:** 25

**Hilo, Hawai'i:** 18

For more information, visit [HawaiianAir.com](http://HawaiianAir.com).

**Hawaiian Airlines** is adding four extra round-trip flights between **Honolulu** and **Pago Pago, American Samoa** for the holiday season. The added flights are scheduled for December 19, 23, 30, and January 2, 2009; departing Honolulu at 5:05 p.m. and arriving in Pago Pago at 9:30 p.m. Return flights will depart Pago Pago at 11:20 p.m. and arrive in Honolulu the following day at 5:30 a.m. For more information, visit [HawaiianAir.com](http://HawaiianAir.com).

## ACCOLADES

**Honolulu** ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> and **Maui** ranks 4<sup>th</sup> on the list of **Top U.S. Vacation Options**, an annual survey conducted by **Travel Leaders**. 415 Travel Leader agents, managers and owners around the country were polled for the survey. For more information, visit [CarlsonTravel.com](http://CarlsonTravel.com).

**CheapTickets.com** announced that **Maui** and **O'ahu** is the top beach destinations based on the percentage of travel savings for hotel bookings. Maui ranks 7<sup>th</sup> with the average daily rate of \$177.46 and 22 percent off-season savings. O'ahu ranks 10<sup>th</sup> at \$129.10 and 15 percent savings. For more information, visit [CheapTickets.com](http://CheapTickets.com).

**Outsider Magazine** will feature two **Hawai'i** locations in its October 2008 issue. The "50 places To Get Away From it All" list **Miloli'i Beach** on the Big Island in its category of lost coasts. In the remote cabins category, **Peaceful Cove Cottage** on the Big Island is featured. For more information, visit [Outside.Away.com](http://Outside.Away.com).

**ForbesTraveler.com** released its lists of the "**World's Most Beautiful Garden**," which includes **Allerton Garden** on the island of **Kaua'i**. Banana plants, tree ferns, a rain forest, bamboo grove, tropical fruit trees, and a flower garden encompass the tropical essence. There are also pools, waterfalls, fountains and statues to give off the Hawaiian presence, with a European twist. For more information, visit [ForbesTraveler.com](http://ForbesTraveler.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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