



## WHAT'S NEW ON OAHU JANUARY-MARCH 2016

OAHU – The island of Oahu, known as the Heart of Hawaii, sets the rhythm of the islands with exciting, new improvements, changes and additions on an ongoing basis. Below is a glimpse of new and dynamic updates with Oahu's [Hotels & Resorts](#), [Activities & Entertainment](#), [Restaurants, Cuisine & Chefs](#), [Shopping, Festivals & Events](#) and [other](#) travel related information, which includes airline and transportation updates.

### **Hotels & Resorts**

The Island of Oahu has a wide range of hotels and resorts for travelers of all ages and varying budgets. Oahu's hotels are constantly updating and adding an array of activities and packages that are sure to make any trip to Oahu unforgettable.

- The JW Marriott Ihilani Resort will be redesigned, extensively upgraded and reintroduced as Oahu's first **Four Seasons Resort Oahu at Ko Olina**. The integrated luxury beach resort, which is slated to open in mid 2016, will diversify Oahu's tourism base and introduce a new era of luxury to Ko Olina, Hawaii. [www.koolina.com](http://www.koolina.com)
- **Hilton Worldwide** announced plans to open its first **Hilton Garden Inn** on the island. The 623-guestroom **Hilton Garden Inn Waikiki Beach** is set to open in early 2016 after undergoing extensive renovation of the former OHANA Waikiki West. Upgrades will be made to the hotel's public spaces and guestrooms. Design plans include a contemporary Hawaiian aesthetic, the addition of a full-service restaurant and lounge, a grab-and-go market, a welcoming modern lobby, and a state-of-the-art fitness center. Guest rooms will be completely re-envisioned, adding poolside family suites and maximizing Hawaii's scenic vistas. The hotel will also feature an enhanced pool deck complete with a bar and grill and poolside cabanas. [www.hgi.com](http://www.hgi.com)

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- In 2016, the opening of **The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Waikiki Beach** will add a premier, luxury experience to Waikiki's product mix and introduce the Ritz-Carlton brand to the island of Oahu. The first tower of the property is slated for completion by April 2016.  
[www.theresidenceswaikiki.com](http://www.theresidenceswaikiki.com)
- **Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort** recently started offering guests a complimentary one-hour oceanfront yoga class every Saturday morning. This relaxing yoga class is taught on the beachfront lanai fronting the iconic shores of Waikiki Beach to connect mind, body and soul. The property has also extended wellness-inspired offers into 2016 with the "Wellness with a Twist" package and "Oceanfront Indulgence" package for a more luxurious experience. [www.outrigger.com](http://www.outrigger.com)
- **Ala Moana Hotel** will unveil chic, modern guestrooms after completing upgrades to all accommodations at the end of 2015. The stunningly restyled guestrooms feature new carpet, drapes, chairs, bed scarf and decorative pillows, sofa sleeper and ottomans. [www.alamoanahotel.com](http://www.alamoanahotel.com)
- **Ko Olina Resort** will celebrate its **4th Annual Valentine's Day Vow Renewal** with a non-denominational beachfront ceremony. Resort guests and local residents are welcome to sign up for the free vow renewal service and celebrate with loved ones at one of Ko Olina's beach coves. Participants will also have a chance to win prizes. [www.koolina.com](http://www.koolina.com)
- **Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa** is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with special activities and promotions throughout the year. As part of the commemorative initiatives, the famed **Lucky Cat** – formerly of the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas – will make its home at the resort, dispensing fortunes and surprises to guests.  
[www.waikiki.hyatt.com](http://www.waikiki.hyatt.com)
- **The Spa at Trump International Hotel Waikiki Beach Walk** introduced a new menu of exquisite services including the Oxygen Body Perfection treatment which provides deep hydration, the Diamond Rose Exfoliation Massage which utilizes ultra-nourishing oils for a luxurious massage experience, and the Bamboo Exfoliation treatment which uses micro-particles from bamboo to purify the skin. Additionally, the spa introduced a new personal training menu for guests who would like one-on-one instruction customized to their fitness levels and performance goals. [www.trumphotelcollection.com](http://www.trumphotelcollection.com)

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- In early 2016, **Ilikai Hotel & Luxury Suites** will unveil a new cocktail pool terrace offering stunning views. A brand new floor of luxury suites will also offer boulevard, city and pacific views. [www.ilikaihotel.com](http://www.ilikaihotel.com)
- **Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa** recently completed a \$22 million renovation featuring new designs of its lobby area, front desk registration and porte cochere. The property's main ballrooms and special events rooms have also been refreshed. The crowning touch of the transformation is a 60 by 20-foot-high carved wooden artwork made by local artist Kaiwi Nui Yoon which is intended to reflect Hawaii's last reigning monarch, Queen Liliuokalani, and her love for the people of her kingdom. [www.marriott-hawaii.com/waikiki-beach-marriott-resort](http://www.marriott-hawaii.com/waikiki-beach-marriott-resort)

### **Activities & Entertainment**

The Island of Oahu is brimming with fun-filled activities that everyone can enjoy. Visitors to Oahu can explore Hawaii's special culture and iconic history, or choose from a wide variety of outdoor and indoor activities that are sure to energize the spirit.

- Located at **Turtle Bay Resort** on Oahu's North Shore, the **North Shore Bike Park** offers exciting activities for friends, families, couples or the solo adventure seeker. Bikers can flow down professionally developed mountain bike trails, and twist and turn through lush jungle vegetation while an experienced guide shares interesting facts about local geography and history. [www.turtlebayresort.com](http://www.turtlebayresort.com)
- **Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort** launches into the New Year with **Waikiki Escapes**. Guests can save up to 20% off of all room categories from resort view to oceanfront accommodations and enjoy a winter in paradise on 22 acres of Waikiki's widest stretch of beach. [www.hiltonhawaiianvillage.com](http://www.hiltonhawaiianvillage.com)
- **Pacific Aviation Museum** at Pearl Harbor invites guests to view the one and only "Swamp Ghost" in the restoration shop of Hangar 79. This legendary B-17E aircraft that crashed during WWII in the swamps of New Guinea was acquired by the museum and is the subject of a special "B-17 Swamp Ghost Tour." [www.pacificaviationmuseum.org](http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org)
- **Oahu Air Tours** presents a holiday special from January through March 2016 with their popular hour-long **Circle Island Flight Tour** in the luxurious Robinson R-44 helicopter at a discounted rate. The Circle Island Flight Tour offers family fun with a door's off

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experience, showcasing prime scenery of Oahu including Koko Head Crater, Makapuu Lighthouse, Sacred Falls, North Shore Windmills, and more. [www.flynhawaii.com](http://www.flynhawaii.com)

- **Atlantis Cruises** offers guests to experience seasonal Whale Watching aboard their many tours. Enjoy a light breakfast during an 8:30 a.m. tour including breakfast burritos and baked goods or lunch during the 11:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. tour. [www.atlantisadventures.com](http://www.atlantisadventures.com).
- **Kamaka Hawaii, Inc.** celebrates 100 years of manufacturing the world's premier ukulele with a limited edition custom Kamaka pineapple ukulele. In 1916, Sam Kaialilii Kamaka founded his one-man shop and today three generations continue his legacy. [www.kamakahawaii.com](http://www.kamakahawaii.com)
- **Iolani Palace** has two new kahili on permanent display in the Throne Room. The two white feather standards were fashioned by a cultural expert and master kahili maker in the traditional manner using more than 22,000 individual albatross feathers and closely resemble the historic Pili kahili that were used in King Kalakaua's coronation. [www.iolanipalace.org](http://www.iolanipalace.org)
- **Bishop Museum** has extended an exhibit that honors the legacy of **Duke Paoa Kahanamoku**. On display until Feb. 2., the exhibit highlights his extraordinary life as an Olympian, surfer, ocean hero, movie star, ambassador of aloha, and family man with a unique collection of archival video, photographs and objects from his life. Interactive elements allow visitors to challenge one of Duke's Olympic swimming records, and replicate his famed mile-plus long wave surfed at Waikiki via a 3D videogame. Additionally, the museum started serving Hawaiian food favorites on its historic grounds at **Bishop Museum Café by Highway Inn**. [www.bishopmuseum.org](http://www.bishopmuseum.org)

### Restaurants, Cuisine & Chefs

The Island of Oahu is known for its diverse culture, which is exhibited by the island's assortment of foods. With wonderful choices and a vibrant array of cuisine options, there's sure to be a restaurant for everyone.

- The **Battleship Missouri Memorial** is now serving North Shore style shave ice at the **Wai Momi Shave Ice Stand** on the pier. Visitors can enjoy 15 local favorites such as pineapple, mango, guava, Blue Hawaii and more, while they make their way through the museum learning about the history of the Battleship Missouri. [www.ussmissouri.org](http://www.ussmissouri.org)

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- A fun and nostalgic burger joint, **Franky Fresh Burgers**, has opened on Waialae Avenue. Adorned with cassette player boom boxes, Super Nintendo game stations, and 80's vinyl records, Franky Fresh serves flavorful burgers and sandwiches named after 80's hip-hop chart toppers as well as their popular cereal milkshakes. [www.facebook.com/Itsfrankyfresh](http://www.facebook.com/Itsfrankyfresh)
- **Urban Bistro**, located in the new 808 Center opened quietly this past fall. Their modern space has urban industrial accents with an open kitchen for patrons to watch their food being made. Urban Bistro serves up an eclectic menu offering modern twists on favorites such as tacos, pizza and sliders. [www.facebook.com/urbanbistro808/](http://www.facebook.com/urbanbistro808/)
- **The Dumb Coq**, opened its doors bringing a new bistro offering to downtown Honolulu. Coq meaning rooster in French is also the animal sign that owner Yoon Kim was born under. The bistro menu features French-inspired dishes such as the croquet monsieur, steak and potatoes and other delicious sandwiches. [www.thedumbcoq.com](http://www.thedumbcoq.com)
- **Ai Love Nalo**, a new café in Waimanalo, offers delicious and healthy vegan food. Their unique take on the roasted veggie laulau, specialty sandwiches and refreshing smoothies have gotten the attention of locals and visitors alike. Patrons can dine at the cozy café which offers outdoor garden seating. [www.ailovenalo.com](http://www.ailovenalo.com)
- Oahu chef Chai Chaowasaree has reopened one of his eateries as **Chai's Waikiki**. Marked by an upscale Hawaiian fusion concept, the restaurant focuses on the use of local ingredients and features a marketplace space featuring edibles and other curated items from chef Chai. [www.chaiswaikiki.com](http://www.chaiswaikiki.com)
- **Sunny Days** is a new café featuring a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner menu. Patrons can enjoy its signature dishes including the Sunny Bowl, Loco Moco & Quinoa, and Caramel Banana Pancakes. The café also serves vegetarian and vegan options along with cold pressed juices from Japanese label, Parachutes. [www.sunnydays-hanafu.com](http://www.sunnydays-hanafu.com)
- The spirit of aloha and relaxed Tommy Bahama vibe come together in the latest **Tommy Bahama Restaurant Bar & Store** which opened on Oct. 30, 2015 in the heart of Waikiki. The impressive three-level, 19,200 square-foot flagship houses a ground-floor retail space, a second story restaurant, and a lively rooftop lounge with sand patio. [www.tommybahama.com](http://www.tommybahama.com)
- **Turtle Bay Resort** will welcome **Roy's Beach House** in early 2016. Hawaii chef Roy Yamaguchi's newest creation will overlook Turtle Bay Resort's Kuilima Cove, providing an

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exceptional new offering to the Turtle Bay Resort and North Shore experience. [www.turtlebayresort.com](http://www.turtlebayresort.com)

### Shopping

The Island of Oahu is home to hundreds of fashionable designer stores, as well as markets that carry locally-made crafts. Visitors are sure to love the shopping experience no matter where they go.

- Construction began on the revitalization of the **International Market Place** in early 2015. Scheduled to open in August 2016, the 360,000-square-foot shopping center will feature open-air retail, dining and entertainment located in the heart of Waikiki. The International Market Place will include approximately 75 retailers, 10 restaurants and the island's first full-line Saks Fifth Avenue. [www.shopinternationalmarketplace.com](http://www.shopinternationalmarketplace.com)
- **Ala Moana Center**, the world's largest open-air shopping center in Honolulu, has undergone a multi-million dollar expansion project. The expansion project, which was debuted on Nov. 12, transformed the Ewa end of the Center into an expanded three-level retail space and upgraded other common areas throughout the Center. This retail expansion featured 650,000-square-feet of retail, including **Bloomingdale's** department store (Hawaii's first), large format retailers, dining, entertainment, and 200,000 square feet of inline retailers. The Center also announced a number of first-to-Hawaii stores set to open including **AllSaints, Céline, Cynthia Rowley** and **Kiehl's**. [www.alamoanacenter.com](http://www.alamoanacenter.com)

### Festivals & Events

The Island of Oahu is home to the largest number of festivals and events in Hawaii. Each year, visitors have the opportunity to connect with the local community and experience renowned events that showcase the island's rich arts and culture scene, the world's top amateur and professional sporting competitions and championships, and the many ethnic celebrations that are exclusive to Hawaii.

- On the third Saturday of every month, Kakaako comes alive with **Honolulu Night Market**, an evening event that combines fashion, live music, art, shopping and local food. Held under the Honolulu city lights, this monthly night market celebrates the best of urban island culture featuring local artists, designers, musicians and chefs. [www.honolulunightmarket.com](http://www.honolulunightmarket.com)
- Every last Thursday of the month, **Art + Flea** presents a unique monthly shopping experience for Hawaii's talented creative's to showcase their goods and talents. Over 60

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independent artists, vintage collectors, food trucks, handmade aficionados and fashion designers are featured at each event, drawing an eclectic crowd of shoppers, music and art lovers alike. Additionally, on the second Sunday of every month Art + Flea hosts **Sunday Funday Market** at Ward Village. [www.artandflea.com](http://www.artandflea.com)

- Each winter, the world's best big wave surfers are invited to Waimea Bay on Oahu's North Shore to compete in the **Quiksilver Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau**. "The Eddie" can only be held when surf measures at least 20 feet (Hawaiian scale) for a full day. The holding period for the event is between Dec. 1 and the last day in February. When the surf is big enough, thousands flock to watch the likes of Kelly Slater and Bruce Irons compete in this prestigious surfing competition. [www.quiksilver.com](http://www.quiksilver.com)
- The **Sony Open in Hawaii** kicks off the PGA Tour by bringing 144 of the world's best professional golfers to Oahu's exclusive Waialae Country Club, Jan. 11-17. Past participants include notable golfers including 2005 winner, Vijay Singh, 2003 and 2004 winner, Ernie Els, and Hawaii's own Michelle Wie and Tadd Fujikawa. The six-day event is one of the largest charity events in the state of Hawaii. [www.sonyopeninhawaii.com](http://www.sonyopeninhawaii.com)
- **Wanderlust Oahu** is returning to Turtle Bay Resort from Feb. 25-28. The festival brings together the world's leading yoga teachers, top musical acts, renowned speakers, exquisite chefs and more. Single event tickets, and one-, three- and four-day passes are available along with special room rates. [www.wanderlust.com/festivals/oahu](http://www.wanderlust.com/festivals/oahu)
- From March 11-13, the **22nd Annual Honolulu Festival** will celebrate the people and culture of the Pacific Rim and Hawaii, offering dynamic dance performances, music, educational programs and exhibits. Under the theme, "Pacific Harmony," the three-day extravaganza also features the ever-popular Grand Parade through Waikiki and the spectacular Nagaoka Fireworks Show over Waikiki Beach. Honolulu Festival activities are held at various locations throughout Oahu, making them easily accessible to residents and visitors alike. [www.honolulu festival.com](http://www.honolulu festival.com)
- **Ala Moana Center's** annual week-long spring shopping event, **Shop a Lea**, will take place March 14-20. The event presents locals and visitors with more than 100 experiences in fashion, health and beauty, active lifestyle, home décor, travel and cuisine. Included as part of the Shop a Lea lineup are fashion shows and trunk shows, exclusive products, Centerstage

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events, gifts-with-purchase, mall-wide shopping and dining offers and much more.

[www.alamoanacenter.com](http://www.alamoanacenter.com)

- The 14<sup>th</sup> annual **Waikiki SPAM JAM®** is set for April 30. Rated as one of the top annual food festivals in Hawaii, this family-friendly street festival celebrates Hawaii's affinity for SPAM®. Local residents and visitors alike head to Kalakaua Avenue to sample SPAM® dishes served by some of Honolulu's finest restaurants. [www.spamjamhawaii.com](http://www.spamjamhawaii.com)
- Join the **Polynesian Cultural Center** on Jan.16 for the 2016 **Moanikeala Hula Festival**. Enjoy a true cultural exhibition showcasing both modern and traditional styles of hula throughout the day by numerous hula halau (hula groups) of various ages. [www.polynesia.com](http://www.polynesia.com)
- **Turtle Bay Resort** will host its first **Surf Country Culinary Festival** in spring 2016. In celebration of the North Shore's diverse bounty of agriculture and aquaculture, guests will enjoy an evening of "farmer's market-style" food prepared by local celebrity chefs, as well as wines, spirits and craft brews. [www.turtlebayresort.com](http://www.turtlebayresort.com)

### Miscellaneous

- **Virgin America** began its service to Honolulu on Nov. 2. Virgin America now offers daily non-stop service between San Francisco and Honolulu. The flights are flown on new Airbus 320 aircraft. Fares are currently on sale. [www.virginamerica.com](http://www.virginamerica.com)
- **Delta Air Lines** will be returning to the Honolulu market with holiday season (Dec.-Jan.) flights from New York, along with new seasonal winter non-stop flights from Minneapolis, Minnesota (Oct.-March) and Portland, Oregon (Dec.-Jan.).
- Canadian air carrier **WestJet** will launch Boeing 767 wide-body seasonal service from Calgary to Honolulu this winter (Dec.-April), using its own aircraft. In past years, WestJet had contracted charter carriers with smaller, narrow-body aircraft to operate these flights.
- **808 Smart Car** unveiled its new fleet of convertible Smart Cars for daily, weekly, or monthly rentals. The small vehicle is easier to park everywhere and spacious enough to fit two people and more. Now you can explore Oahu while getting 40 MPG and by leaving a small foot print while doing so in Paradise. [www.hawaiismartcarrentals.com](http://www.hawaiismartcarrentals.com)

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All information is subject to change without notice. For more information, please go to [www.visit-oahu.com](http://www.visit-oahu.com), follow OVB's tweets at [www.twitter.com/OahuVB](http://www.twitter.com/OahuVB), become a fan of Oahu on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/OahuHawaii](http://www.Facebook.com/OahuHawaii), and follow @OahuVB on Instagram.

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