



**Big Island Visitors Bureau Media Contact:**

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**APRIL'S SIZZLIN' NEWS FROM HAWAI'I, THE BIG ISLAND**

**Hawai'i Island** (April 1, 2011) – Happy April Fool's Day! It's no joke, the perfect Hawaiian getaway is found right here on Hawai'i, the Big Island.

**TSUNAMI UPDATE.** It's business as "almost-usual" for Hawai'i Island, following the tsunami that struck March 11 due to an earthquake near Honshu, Japan. There were no deaths or injuries in Hawai'i, and the majority of Big Island businesses are back to normal (those impacted most are in the Kona District.) See below for Big Island updates. For detailed statewide updates, visit the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau's special alert [website](#). BIVB supports the statewide relief effort for Japan, "[Aloha for Japan](#)."

Thanks to the help of dedicated community volunteers, **Hulihe'e Palace has reopened** for self-guided museum tours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Repair of damages suffered by the March 11 tsunami continue to the palace basement, grounds and exterior buildings; the gift shop remains closed. Hulihe'e Palace continues free monthly outdoor concerts honoring late Hawaiian royalty. Time is 4 p.m. Apr. 17, May 15, June 12, July 17, Aug. 14, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18. Call (808) 329-1877 or visit [www.daughtersofhawaii.org](http://www.daughtersofhawaii.org).

**Four Seasons Resort Hualālai at Historic Ka'ūpūlehu will reopen Apr. 30, 2011.** While there is no significant structural damage, management is well aware of what their guests desire and their need to provide an uncompromising experience. For updates, visit [www.fourseasons.com/hualalai](http://www.fourseasons.com/hualalai).

**Kona Village Resort** remains closed "for an extended period of time," according to a statement issued by its management. Damage to the 45-year-old iconic resort was severe enough to cause the layoff of all employees and no re-opening date has been established at press time. For information, visit [www.konavillage.com](http://www.konavillage.com).

**King Kamehamemeha's Kona Beach Hotel** is open and there was no damage to guest rooms. The award-winning Island Breeze Lū'au has resumed its normal schedule. Carpets are being replaced in the lobby and meeting areas, and the Billfish Bar is serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**'Anaeho'omalū Beach** is again open on both sides. The public parking, restrooms and access on the south side had been previously closed due to debris.

**All Big Island National Parks Are Open.** Assessment continues at **Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park** on impacts to its cultural sites, but the park is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Its royal grounds, pu‘uhonua and coastal trail are closed. All other areas of the park are open. **Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park** is open daily and the only area closed is the coastal trail between the north end of ‘Aimakapā and the south end of Kaloko fishponds. The visitor center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## ADVENTURES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

**Spa Saturdays!** Hawai‘i Island Retreat in North Kohala celebrates the **grand opening of its eco-friendly Maluhia Spa**, the newest destination spa in Hawai‘i, with a “Spa Saturdays” package. Available Saturdays only, the package includes a one-hour lomilomi massage, a yoga class, lounging by the pool and enjoying other spa facilities (a dip in the solar-heated hottub, anyone?) for only \$100. Reservations are required, offer is based on availability, and some restrictions may apply. Visit [www.hawaiiislandretreat.com](http://www.hawaiiislandretreat.com) or call (808) 889-6336.

**Mauna Kea Resorts** offers golf enthusiasts several options to play the legendary **Mauna Kea Golf Course** and challenging **Hapuna Golf Course**. The **Triple Play Package** is \$299 per person and includes two rounds of golf at Hapuna, and one round at Mauna Kea. The **Five Play Package** is \$475 and includes three rounds at Hapuna and two rounds at Mauna Kea. The **Unlimited Golf Package** includes unlimited golf at both courses for \$600 per person for three days, with additional days at \$200 per person. Rates are for golf only, include green fees/cart. All rounds must be used within two weeks of purchase. Valid until Dec. 18, 2011. Call (808) 882-5400.

**Ooh baby, baby! Paani Ranch & ATV Adventures** in Mountain View welcomed cute new additions to its ‘ohana (family) recently: five piglets, four kids (baby goats), a lamb, a colt and, any day now, a little donkey will round out the herd. These little darlings will be featured in the ranch’s **Lil’ Wrangler Roundup Petting Zoo**. Call (808) 968-7529 for information and reservations or visit [www.paaniranch.com](http://www.paaniranch.com).

**Say Aloha to BIVB on Facebook!** Stay in touch with the **Big Island Visitors Bureau** on Facebook! Check in for new press releases, information about activities, festivals, other special events and breaking news: <http://www.facebook.com/hawaiibigisland>.

**Looking for more to do?** Click [www.bigisland.org/calendar](http://www.bigisland.org/calendar) for detailed information about additional Hawai‘i Island happenings throughout 2011, like the 50<sup>th</sup> annual **Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau Hawaiian Cultural Festival**:

**Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau Hawaiian Cultural Festival (June 24 – June 26)** - This fun and educational festival marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park**, a premier spot to learn about ancient Hawaiian culture. Watch and participate in demonstrations of Hawaiian lifestyle activities, including net fishing, a *hukilau*, weaving, food preparation, canoe rides, lei making and much more, all weekend, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free! (808) 328-2326, ext. 1101 or visit [www.nps.gov/puho](http://www.nps.gov/puho).

## ACCOMMODATIONS

The family vacation just got better at **Aston Hotels & Resorts**. From the moment of check-in, guests of **Aston Waikoloa Colony Villas**, **Aston Shores at Waikoloa** and **Aston Kona by the Sea** stretch their budget with their personal copy of **Aston's Aloha Book**. Kids voyage free with a paying adult on Atlantis Submarine in Kailua-Kona Bay. One Hulakai paddleboard lesson is good, a 20 percent discount on the rest of the family, even better. Savor the savings, buy one get one free at the Kona Coffee Living History Farm. For details, click [www.AstonHotels.com](http://www.AstonHotels.com).

**Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows** is offering a “**Room With A View**” promotion. Guests receive a guaranteed ocean view room for the special price of \$395/night (usually \$625). Mauna Lani Resort offers three miles of pristine coastline along the Kohala Coast and some of the best snorkeling on Hawai‘i Island. Book by Apr. 15 for travel through Aug. 31, 2011. Call (800) 367-2323 or visit [www.maunalani.com](http://www.maunalani.com).

A new offering awaits guests of **Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa** with completion of the resort’s “**Link@Sheraton**” experienced with Microsoft,” a brand signature hotel offering of a unique lounge that enables guests to stay connected using Windows-based computers that feature Microsoft Office, Bing, Bing Maps, Internet access and Microsoft LifeCam webcams for emailing video postcards. The “Link@Sheraton” enables travelers to stay connected with instant access to information and technology for work, leisure and social networking. The Link’s poolside proximity is an unexpected bonus. [www.SheratonKeauhou.com](http://www.SheratonKeauhou.com).

**Digital Photo Safari Walking Tour of Historical Keauhou.** This two-hour tour is held at the **Keauhou Beach Resort** and is a fantastic opportunity for visitors to become more confident photographers while having fun with photographer David O. Baldwin and learning photo tricks from a pro. The property’s enchanting oceanfront location and many cultural sites are a perfect venue for a photo safari. The cost of the tour is \$65. Call David at (808) 938-7321. For room rates and property information, go to [www.keauhoubeachresort.com](http://www.keauhoubeachresort.com).

Experience **Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa**’s new **Sunset Family Lū‘au** where hula dancers teach children an authentic Hawaiian hula dance so they can perform the opening act on stage! Held every Saturday, the Sunset Family Lū‘au dinner and show is geared toward families, featuring Polynesian performances culminating with Samoan fire knife dance and learning experiences such as *pū* (conch shell) blowing, coconut husking, and a cultural tour of the ancient Hawaiian fishponds. For reservations, call (808) 886-6789. Visit [www.waikoloamarriott.com](http://www.waikoloamarriott.com).

**Hawaii Vacation Rentals** manages a beautiful collection of luxury homes and townhomes on the sun-soaked Kohala Coast. To celebrate 17 years in business, the locally owned Puakō-based company is offering guests **no cleaning fee for May or June** on any of its vacation getaways on the Kohala Coast. Visit [www.vacationbigisland.com](http://www.vacationbigisland.com) or call (800) 332-7081 for details.

With the Big Island’s captivating mountains as a backdrop, **Paniolo Greens** offers fully furnished villas featuring full kitchens, lanai and more. Located in Waikoloa’s northern ranch highlands, the central location is convenient for day trips to many island destinations including North Kohala and Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Special rates start from \$84 per night, book by May 15 and stay between May 1 and Sept. 30, 2011. Visit [http://www.shellhospitality.com/privateoffer19.html?chebs=bivb\\_pg\\_April2011](http://www.shellhospitality.com/privateoffer19.html?chebs=bivb_pg_April2011) or call toll-free for reservations: (866) 678-3327.

**Free Gas!** At South Point’s charming **Bougainvillea Bed & Breakfast**, guests who book three nights get \$35 in free gas, and those who stay seven nights and get \$50 in free gas! Based on \$89/nightly rates (plus tax). Offer expires Dec. 15, request “free gas” when making reservations: (800) 688-1763, and visit [www.bougainvilleabedandbreakfast.com](http://www.bougainvilleabedandbreakfast.com).

Couples interested in a destination wedding and honeymoon get more value with the **Royal Kona Resort's Royal Creations Wedding Package**. Package includes five nights in an oceanfront suite, daily buffet breakfast, ocean view ceremony with flowers, music, photography, reception, champagne, cocktails, wedding cake, DJ service and more. Package price is \$13,999. Book by Dec. 31, 2011, for weddings held by Dec. 31, 2012, and receive \$1,999 off. Some restrictions and blackout dates apply. Tax not included. Call (808) 930-3243 or visit [www.RoyalWeddingsHawaii.com](http://www.RoyalWeddingsHawaii.com).

## TASTY TIDBITS

**Mountain Thunder Coffee Plantation** introduces a **new roasted Kona coffee** this month called **Black & Tan**. The product has a distinct light and dark bean mixture that allows for the carbon of the dark roast to complement the sweetness of the lighter roast. MTCP's daily free and VIP tours will offer taste samples of this coffee upon request at the Kainaliu and Kaloko farms. Check out directions and other tour information online at [www.mountaintThunder.com](http://www.mountaintThunder.com) or call 888-414-KONA.

**Special note to media:** The Big Island Visitors Bureau (BIVB) recognizes the use of the 'okina ['] or glottal stop, one of the eight consonants of the modern Hawaiian language; and the kahakō [ā] or macron (e.g., in place names of Hawai'i such as Kīlauea). However, BIVB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

*For more information on Hawai'i Island, please visit <http://media.gohawaii.com/big-island>*

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