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AUGUST'S SIZZLIN' NEWS FROM HAWAII'S BIG ISLAND

Come to the Big Island and Explore Hawai'i's Island of Adventure

Hawaii's Big Island (Aug. 2, 2010) – Hawaii's Big Island could call itself the "Have It All Island" because travelers *can* have it all here. From mesmerizing adventures like watching molten lava up close or meeting the ghosts who haunt a working ranch, to soft adventures like ATV rides gentle enough for grandma, to international hula competitions, Hawaii's Island of Adventure pleases anyone and everyone!

ADVENTURES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

New! Legends of Kahua Ghost Tour. Gather round a campfire and "meet" the many men and women who worked and died on the ranch over the years, but whose spirits refuse to leave. A storyteller escorts you around Kahua Ranch, founded in 1928, to the main house, the haunted sheep-shearing shed, and to a historical church. Held Monday nights, \$65/ person. Includes *paniolo* beef stew for dinner. Get your spook on, and call (808) 882-7954.

RideTheRim's new Tutumobile is Here! *Tutus* (grandmothers and grandmothers at heart) ride on the new, smooth-riding Polaris six-seat "Ranger." For \$99, your *tutu* can see Waipi'o Valley from up top. Call (808) 775-1450 or toll-free, (877) 775-1450 or visit www.ridetherim.com.

Kalapana Updates. The USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) is now posting an afternoon status report on lava flow activity near Kalapana in Coastal Puna on the HVO Web site (<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/hvo/activity/kilaueastatus.php>). These reports are typically posted by 4:30 p.m. each day, until they are no longer necessary. For more information, visit www.usgs.gov.

Safari Helicopters is now offering its #1 rated "Deluxe Hawaii Volcano Tour" for \$179 (plus surcharges and fees). That's \$45 off the regular price of \$224. Be entranced as you glide over craters, lava lakes, and glowing skylights. Lush rainforests will leave you speechless along the Hilo coastline. Due to

the extreme popularity of this tour, book now online to lock in your reservation. Offer good through 2010, and cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. www.safarihelicopters.com.

Big Island Eco Adventures Zipline Canopy Tour in North Kohala offers a multitude of adventures! *Mauka* to *makai* (mountain to ocean) package tours include lodging at Kohala Inn, ziplines, sunset sailing, snorkeling, dining, and more. Check out the variety of offerings at www.bigislandecoventures.com or call (808) 889-5111.

Looking for more to do? Click www.bigisland.org/calendar for detailed information about additional Hawai'i Island happenings this summer and throughout 2010, like this one:

Fifth Annual Moku O Keawe Hula Festival, Nov. 4-7, 2010 at **Waikoloa Beach Resort**. On the big stage, hula *halau* (troupes) dance in dramatic *kahiko* (ancient) and *auana* (modern) competition in the Waikoloa Bowl at Queens' Gardens. During the day, cultural workshops and excursions share authentic arts, places, practices and musical instruments of hula. Visit the Made-in-Hawai'i Marketplace and see the final night *hoike* starring workshop students and a special appearance by Merrie Monarch Festival winners O'Brien Eselu and the men of Ke Kai O Kahiki. www.MokuOKeawe.org, (808) 345-9364.

ACCOMMODATIONS

With breathtaking scenery, unforgettable signature holes and championship-caliber course designs, many consider Hawaii to be a golfer's heaven. Now, **Aston Hotels & Resorts** makes it easier to find your piece of paradise with the "**Sweet Suite**" package. Includes accommodations at the **Aston Shores at Waikoloa** or the **Aston Waikoloa Colony Villas**, two rounds of golf at the **Waikoloa Beach Golf Course** or the **Kings' Course**, a **\$50 Ruth's Chris Steak House gift card** and more! Visit www.AstonHotels.com or call (866) 774-2924.

The Falls at Reeds Island, a sublime, private vacation rental in Hilo is offering special "**Mauna Kea Skies - Nowhere like it in the World**" rates, up to 30 percent off, valid through Dec. 14, 2010. A free welcome package highlights Hilo favorites, including fresh flowers, Hilo Coffee Mill coffee, Big Island Candies, Mauna Loa Macadamia nuts, and more. All guests receive free Wi-Fi, interisland and U.S. mainland phone calls. Visit www.reedsisland.com.

Travelers looking for refined condominium accommodations along the Kohala Coast need look no further than **Outrigger Hotels & Resort's** recently introduced **Kohala Coast Condominium Collection**, exclusive two- and three-bedroom townhomes and condominiums in gated enclaves. Choose from expansive living spaces at the luxurious Kolea or Waikoloa Beach Villas in the **Waikoloa Beach Resort**, or refined accommodations at The Palm Villas and Kulalani in **Mauna Lani Resort**. Visit www.outrigger.com/kohalacoastcondos.

Save up to 25 percent by **Thinking Green** at the **Holua Resort at Mauna Loa Village**. Stay in a lush tropical setting with spacious villas fully furnished with Hawaiian flair. Each suite features a private lanai with stunning views and tropical breezes. Fresh towels and trash removal daily; full cleans available at an additional cost. Three-night minimum, rates from \$129/night. Visit http://www.shellhospitality.com/hotels/holua_resort/specials.html?chebs=bivb_holua_specialslisting or call toll-free (866) 678-3230.

Escape the winter blues with **Prince Resorts Hawaii's** "**Fall Into Winter**" promotion. Room rates start at \$239/night for an oceanview room with a \$50 daily resort credit at **Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel**. At **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel**, room rates start at \$409 /night for a mountain view category with a \$100 daily

resort credit. Credits may be applied to a wide range of amenities including dining, golf, tennis, massages and more. Valid travel dates are Oct. 1 to Dec. 22, 2010. Blackout dates and some restrictions may apply. Call (866) PRINCE-6 or visit www.PrinceResortsHawaii.com.

Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa's "Family Fun 100" package includes \$100 daily resort credit; kids 5 and under eat free with paying adult; kids 6-12 receive 50 percent off regular menu child-size portions; child welcome amenity; and connecting rooms (based on availability). Rooms still available for the **Ford Ironman Triathlon Championship** in October. Visit www.SheratonKeauhou.com or call (866) 716-8140, promo code: HRF.

Designed by the legendary Jack Nicklaus, the championship golf course at **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** is home of an **annual PGA Champions Tour event**. Want to play it before the January tournament? The **Unlimited Golf Package** includes luxurious accommodations; unlimited daily golf for two, including use of the driving range and a shared cart; and daily breakfast for two (buffet at Pahuia or through in-room dining.) Nightly rates from \$910 through Dec, 18, 2010. Visit http://www.fourseasons.com/hualalai/package_detail_2480.html or call (888) 340-5662.

Couples can enjoy their wedding and honeymoon with the **Royal Kona Resort's Ultimate Wedding Package**. Package includes five nights in an oceanfront suite plus daily buffet breakfast for two, a beautiful ocean view wedding ceremony with flowers, leis, music, photography, reception dinner, champagne, cocktails, wedding cake, DJ service and more. **Package price is \$9,999**. Book by Dec. 31, 2010, for weddings held by Dec. 31, 2011, and **receive \$999 off**. Some restrictions and blackout dates apply. Tax not included. Call (808) 930-3243 or visit www.RoyalWeddingsHawaii.com.

Leilani Bed & Breakfast is promoting "**Buy Local**" as part of its initiative to offer sustainable accommodations. Stay two consecutive days and receive a free local gift. This peaceful, park-like property has many sustainable initiatives and is located in beautiful South Point. Valid through Nov. 1, 2010. Use lbbcof2010 when booking. Visit www.leilanibedandbreakfast.com or call (808) 929-7101.

Big Island Vacation Rentals is offering **five percent off** any reservation seven nights or more. All vacation rentals are turn-key furnished from luxurious to efficient, and flexible for any budget. Call toll free (877) 336-6751 to get your vacation underway! www.hawaii-kona.com

Vacation condominiums are going at "**Hot Deals**" prices starting at just **\$85 per night** for mountain side studios at the **Kona Bali Kai**. The oceanfront property is just 15 minutes from the restaurants, shops, and attractions that historic Kailua Village in Kona has to offer. Each condo has its own full kitchen with cookware, private lanai, complimentary parking, and more. For details and bookings, visit www.KonaBaliKai.com or call (800) 367-5004.

The popular **Hilo Hawaiian Hotel** has been purchased by a *hui* (group) put together by Castle Resorts & Hotels. Castle, the RAM Corporation, and attorney Rick Fried bought the property from CarVal Investors. The hotel has recently undergone an extensive renovation of Queen's Court Restaurant, and its impressive banquet and meeting facilities have been upgraded. **Castle Resorts & Hotels** will continue managing the hotel without impact on current operations. Details available at www.HiloHawaiian.com or by calling (808) 367-5004.

Insiders know that the **Bungalows at Mauna Lani** are one of Hollywood's favorite Hawaiian hideaways. Set amid lush tropical gardens, tranquil fish-filled lagoons with breathtaking views of the crystal-clear Pacific Ocean and surrounding volcanic mountains, the Bungalows offer a private hideaway with the exclusivity and services of a five-star resort. For bookings from Sept. 1 and travel through Dec. 23, 2010,

Ocean View Bungalows are \$3,300 per night plus taxes & Ocean Front Bungalows are \$3,900 per night plus taxes. Visit www.maunalani.com for reservations.

The Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii, a luxury AAA Four Diamond resort located on the Kohala Coast, is offering a third night free on any new booking during the holiday season, Dec. 22, 2010 through Jan. 2, 2011. Complimentary self parking, complimentary daily poolside cooking demonstrations in addition to the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival in a koa canoe are just a few of the many festive offerings. Rates from \$599/night. Book by calling the hotel direct toll-free at (800) 845-9905, or visit www.fairmont.com/orchid.

MEETINGS NEWS

King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel has brand new meeting rooms and a **brand new all-inclusive Meeting Package**. Book a 10-room minimum and receive a special rate of **\$165 per night for each attendee** which includes a newly renovated room, parking, meeting space, continental breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon break, plus two complimentary room upgrades to ocean view. For more information contact the Sales Department at (800) 331-6347 or visit <http://www.konabeachhotel.com/meetings.htm>

KUDOS

Mountain Thunder Coffee Plantation won a Gold Medal for the fifth consecutive year with its new crop, **Cloud Forest Estate Reserve** at the Four Seasons Hualalai's **Cream of the Crop** hosted by the **Kona Coffee Council**. Celebrate with free tours of the mill and roastery and get 15 percent off all merchandise by mentioning the Gold Medal Celebration at the Gift Shop at either location: in Kaloko in North Kona off Hwy. 190 and Kainaliu in South Kona on Hwy. 11. Visit www.mountainthunder.com for info and directions.

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 kahako [ā] or macron (e.g., in place names of Hawai'i such as Kilauea). However, BIVB respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.

For more information on Hawaii's Big Island, please visit <http://gohawaii.com/big-island>

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