



**Big Island Visitors Bureau Media Contact:**

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**DECEMBER'S SIZZLIN' NEWS FROM HAWAI'I'S BIG ISLAND**

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

**Hawai'i's Big Island (Dec. 2, 2010)** – They're back! Yes, the holidays are right around the corner, but so are whales. The warm waters off Hawai'i's Big Island attract migratory humpback whales who return each winter to frolic offshore. Join them, and experience all the new adventures from land, sea or air.

**ADVENTURES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

Help the **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary** count this season's population of humpbacks off Hawai'i Island. Call (888) 55-Whale to be part of the **Sanctuary Ocean Count**, which happens the last Saturday of January, February and March 2011 from 21 sites around the Big Island, or visit <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/involved/ocwelcome.html> for details.

Set sail with the friendly crew at **Ocean Sports** for a **whale watching adventure**. Their fleet of three luxurious catamarans departs three times daily from two protected areas within the National Marine Sanctuary. All excursions include narration from marine naturalists, hydrophones to hear the humpbacks' songs, photo opportunities, beverages and snacks. See a whale or return for free. Visit [www.hawaii oceansports.com](http://www.hawaii oceansports.com) or call (808) 886-6666 ext. 103 for information/reservations.

**Kona Boys** now offers **historic Hawaiian outrigger canoe (wa'a) rides** from the beach at Kamakahonu Bay in historic Kailua Village. The one-hour paddle explores the Kona Coast in the tradition of the ancient Hawaiians. Glide across the waters of Kailua Bay to learn about the rich history of the area and the role the outrigger canoe played in Hawaiian culture. During winter, it is not uncommon to sight **whales**, and **spinner dolphins** are present year-round. Private charters available. Contact (808) 328-1234 or visit [www.konaboys.com](http://www.konaboys.com).

**Sunshine Helicopters** introduces the **Kohala/Hāmākua Coast tour** at a special family-oriented rate of \$199 per person. Departures are from Sunshine's **exclusive Hapuna Heliport** with courtesy shuttle available from the South Kohala resorts. Experience this awesome area of the Big Island that offers some

of the most spectacular vistas in Hawai'i, including sea cliffs, hidden valleys and cascading waterfalls. Call (808) 882-1223, and go to [www.sunshinehelicopters.com](http://www.sunshinehelicopters.com).

Award-winning **Fair Wind Big Island Ocean Guides** will offer **50 percent off your second trip** when you book online, beginning in January 2011. Ocean adventurers book a **Fair Wind Morning Snorkel or Hula Kai Evening Manta Adventure online** then call Fair Wind at (808) 345-0268 to book a Fair Wind Afternoon Snorkel Cruise or a Hula Kai Morning Snorkel Cruise at half price. Not combinable with other offers, subject to availability and other restrictions. Visit [www.Fair-Wind.com](http://www.Fair-Wind.com) for more information.

**Pa'ani Ranch & ATV Adventures** rolls out **group tour discounts**. Groups of 10 or more get **10 percent off all ATV, Horseback, and Lil' Wrangler programs**. Mom and Dad can enjoy an ATV tour or ride horseback while the kids have fun in the Lil' Wrangler program. All three tours are scheduled to start and end at approximately the same time. Call (808) 968-7529 for reservations or visit [www.paaniranch.com](http://www.paaniranch.com).

**Local Knowledge**. For every van tour of six or more, **Vavoom Volcano Tours** plays a Hawaiian version of Trivial Pursuit back to Hilo from Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Winners get a prize (a free bag of Kona coffee or similar). See [www.vavoomhawaii.com](http://www.vavoomhawaii.com) for more information.

**Hawaii Forest & Trail** recently launched a brand new website featuring an enhanced interface and expanded content throughout. The new site ensures users have all of the information they need when browsing for their next great adventure. Also included in the site is "Discover Hawaii" where guests can explore the rich natural and cultural history of the Islands with short articles and essays on Hawaii's diverse flora and fauna, astronomy and history. Explore [www.hawaii-forest.com](http://www.hawaii-forest.com).

**Stay Tuned for New Ziplines!** The popular zipline outfitter **Big Island Eco Adventures** will soon present "KZ2," an advanced course with nine ziplines, a suspension bridge, and runs averaging 2,000 feet long and 350 feet deep in North Kohala. Call (808) 889-5111 to learn more or visit [www.bigislandecoventures.com](http://www.bigislandecoventures.com).

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Get away to Mauna Kea Beach Hotel and Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel for a **Prince Winter Escape**. The **special winter promotion** offers discounted rates with a daily resort credit. Hapuna starts at \$220/night for a Terrace room with \$50 daily resort credit and Mauna Kea rates start at \$450/night for a mountain view room with \$100 daily resort credit (credits not applicable to room and tax). Valid Jan. 3 to March 31, 2011. Blackout dates and some restrictions apply. Call (866) PRINCE-6 or visit [www.PrinceResortsHawaii.com/winter](http://www.PrinceResortsHawaii.com/winter).

**Kolea at Waikoloa Beach Resort** is one of several stunning beachfront vacation rental communities on the Big Island. For 2011 enjoy the **seventh night free** and no additional fees when booking one of these luxurious two- or three-bedroom villas. For reservations call (808) 987-4519 or visit [www.waikoloavacationrentals.com/kolea-rentals](http://www.waikoloavacationrentals.com/kolea-rentals).

**Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** recently garnered two awards, related to the ever-important family market. Hawai'i Island's only Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond resort has been named among the "World's Best Family Hotels & Cruises" by *Travel + Leisure Family* and one of "The Ten Best Family Vacation Destinations Around the World" by *Luxist*. Families can now take advantage of the "Bring a Friend" package and receive 50 percent off a second guest room at [http://www.fourseasons.com/hualalai/package\\_detail\\_3765.html](http://www.fourseasons.com/hualalai/package_detail_3765.html) or by calling (888) 340-5662.

**Castle Hilo Hawaiian Hotel Volcano Park Package: Just \$382 for 3 Nights.** Stay three comfortable nights at Hilo's highest rated, full service, oceanfront hotel overlooking beautiful Hilo Bay near the foot of majestic Maunakea. Enjoy the convenience of your own compact rental car and receive a seven-day pass to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. All for just \$382 plus taxes. Bookings and information at (800) 367-5004 or email [resinquiry@castleresorts.com](mailto:resinquiry@castleresorts.com).

**Catch Hawaii Five-0 fever.** In the best Hawaii Five-0 fashion, **Aston Hotels & Resorts** says, "**Book 'Em Aston**" with blockbuster rates starting at \$185/night at **Aston Shores at Waikoloa**, \$204 at **Aston Kona by the Sea** and \$193 at **Aston Waikoloa Colony Villas**. Guests can catch the wave of satisfaction with Aston condominium resorts delivering all the comforts of home with full kitchens, separate bedrooms and living areas along with services and amenities. Visit [www.AstonHotels.com](http://www.AstonHotels.com) or call 866-774-2924.

Foodies, experience the new "**Chef Shuttle**" package at **Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa!** Beginning in 2011, Chef Jayson Kanekoa will escort guests to the Waimea farmers market on the first Saturday of each month to purchase fresh local produce that will be prepared at the resort that evening. Starting at \$289 per room night, it includes Saturday dinner and Sunday Royal Luau for two. Friday through Monday stay required. Based on availability, restrictions may apply. Visit [www.waikoloamarriott.com](http://www.waikoloamarriott.com) or call (808) 886-6789 with code D60.

**Lū'au Savings!** When you book your vacation at the newly renovated **King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel**, you receive 20 percent off one of the island's most popular lū'au. Held on the shores of Kailua Bay on the historic grounds of Kamehameha the Great's final residence, guests will be amazed by the display of authentic Polynesian cuisine and performances. **Island Breeze Lū'au** is rated the best lū'au on the Big Island by locals, visitors and travel writers. Visit [www.konabeachhotel.com](http://www.konabeachhotel.com) or call (800) 367-2111.

By popular demand, **Keauhou Beach Resort** has extended its **Third Night Free** offer and **free daily breakfast buffet** for all guests (\$15 per person, per day value) through Dec. 21, 2011. This oceanfront resort offers guests casual elegance, authentic Hawaiian hospitality, historic sites including two restored *heiau* (stone temples) and cultural programs. For information and reservations, call (866) 326-6803.

**Outrigger Royal Sea Cliffs** invites guests to enjoy comfortable one- and two-bedroom condominium units, plus a full array of entertaining and complimentary guest activities. At the "**Aloha Tuesday Party**" guests are greeted with complimentary fresh flower lei, pupu and beverages, and entertainment by local keiki. Hawaiian music, dance and lei making are part of the weekly "**Mahalo Friday Party,**" and each Monday it's "**Sunset Monday**" with local performer Alii Keanaaina, who sings and talks story about the Big Island. Visit [www.outriggerroyalseacliff.com](http://www.outriggerroyalseacliff.com).

Set oceanfront overlooking the sparkling blue Pacific, the **Royal Kona Resort** is offering **Aloha Special Value Rates** in Standard View, Partial Ocean View, Ocean View, and Oceanfront guestrooms for travel now through Dec. 21, 2011. Aloha Standard View rates start at just \$115 per night. Some restrictions and blackout dates may apply. Call (800) 22-ALOHA (800-222-5642) or visit [www.RoyalKona.com](http://www.RoyalKona.com).

**Home on the Range.** The owners of **Paniolo Adventures**, the premier Open Range Horseback Riding operation on Hawaii Island, offer a beautiful guest cottage on their magnificent 4.5-acre North Kohala estate. The cottage is located 10 minutes from Paniolo Adventures and 10 minutes from the historic sugar cane towns of Hāwī and Kapa'au with their excellent restaurants, galleries and coffee shops. Check out [www.panioloadventures.com](http://www.panioloadventures.com) and click on the Paniolo Guest Cottage link. For reservations contact [bob@panioloadventures.com](mailto:bob@panioloadventures.com).

**Macadamia Meadows Farm Bed & Breakfast** in Ka‘ū invites guests to harvest up to two pounds of macadamia nuts from its orchard for FREE, through April 2011. Reserve two nights or more and receive a complimentary, educational tour of this organic macadamia nut orchard. Go to [www.macadamiameadows.com](http://www.macadamiameadows.com) or call (808) 929-8097.

**Dragonfly Ranch** announces **new cultural and educational workshops** at its South Kona Healing Arts Center. Aunty Tutu will periodically teach hula, sing, and “talk story” for A Week in Paradise. With genuine aloha, Aunty Tutu teaches as she entertains. Visitors looking to experience the Hawaiian culture while living inside the outdoors at this award-winning B&B can visit [www.dragonflyranch.com](http://www.dragonflyranch.com) or call (808) 328-2159.

## **SPA-TACULAR**

**Kohala Spa at Hilton Waikoloa Village** offers a **Hawaiian Coffee Fruit Facial** . Experience an anti-aging 50-minute facial utilizing the brilliant **Kona Red Hawaiian Coffee Fruit** enriched with antioxidants. This highly effective regiment utilizes organic ingredients featuring a coffee fruit extract with a highly powered antioxidant concentrate and an intensive moisturizing cream, leaving skin supple and nourished. For more information or to set up a reservation call **Kohala Spa** at (808) 886-2828 or visit [www.kohalaspaspa.com](http://www.kohalaspaspa.com).

## **TASTY TIDBITS**

**Napua** at the **Mauna Lani Beach Club** is a **new restaurant** on a sandy cove adjacent to Mauna Lani Point villa rentals. Napua is managed by brothers Brandon & Ryan Lee and Chef Keoni Regidor according to the principles of *ahupua‘a*, the ancient Hawaiian land division facilitating trade between farmers, hunters, and fishermen. Flavorful dishes are sourced from local farms and fishermen. Open daily for lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; sunset dinners with live Hawaiian music Thurs.-Sun. 4 to 8 p.m. Dinner entrees \$26 - \$36. (808) 885-5910.

**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’s Big Island, please visit <http://gohawaii.com/big-island>*

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