



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2025

SPRING WHAT'S NEW IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

HAWAII – Immerse yourself in the spirit of the Hawaiian Islands this spring by exploring its breathtaking natural landscapes, vibrant communities, fascinating mix of cultures, and unique-to-Hawaii activities and events. Whether making your first, second or third visit, every day exploring Hawaii offers opportunities to learn about, experience and engage with the wonder of our amazing collection of islands.

For additional updates about each island, reference the media sites of our Island Visitor Bureaus: the [Island of Hawaii Visitors Bureau](#), [Kauai Visitors Bureau](#), [Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau](#) and [Oahu Visitors Bureau](#).

MĀLAMA HAWAII & CULTURE

Efforts relating to sustainability and caring for our people, place and culture.

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa is expanding its annual **Lei Day festivities** to include additional live music and *hula* performances, sustainability themed tours, Hawaiian cultural demonstrations and games from April 28 through May 4. Cultural classes will include *lei*-making, coconut-frond weaving, *ukulele* and more. www.Hyatt.com/Hyatt-Regency

Hawaii residents and visitors are encouraged to participate in **Kanu Hawaii's Volunteer Month**, a statewide initiative set for April dedicated to fostering community engagement and service. The campaign aims to mobilize over 20,000 volunteers in more than 600 events spanning seven of Hawaii's islands. Activities will include environmental cleanups, educational workshops, cultural preservation projects and multiple service opportunities designed to strengthen community bonds and promote a culture of giving. www.KanuHawaii.org/Volunteer-Month-Hawaii

The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua, recently unveiled an expanded lineup of **more than 60 weekly guest experiences** celebrating Hawaiian culture, wellness and culinary artistry. Guests are welcome to connect with the island through *lei*-making classes, *hula* and *ukulele* lessons and new talk story sessions around the resort fire pit. Food lovers can indulge in mai tai mixology classes, sushi-making classes, sunset wine tastings and the weekly Chef's Table dinner series at Banyan Tree restaurant. Wellness seekers can recharge with chakra yoga, guided coastal hikes and labyrinth meditation walks. And families can enjoy interactive activities, like stargazing with s'mores, pizza-making classes and hands-on adventures with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program. www.Kapalua-Experiences.com

NEW HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS

Hotel Wailea (Maui) introduced a **new series of Adult Spring Break experiences**, offering guests a choice of five custom-curated journeys tailored to their interests. Activities include adventure seeking on a Hawaiian outrigger canoe and snorkeling excursion, romance at a seven-course Treehouse restaurant dinner under the stars prepared by a private chef, leisure with a ride in a 1957 Porsche 356 Speedster, wellness with an aerial yoga session overlooking the ocean, or a culinary outing featuring a behind-the-scenes look at The Kitchen Table dining experience. www.HotelWailea.com/Journal/Adult-Spring-Break

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Ko'a Kea Resort on Po'ipū Beach (Kaua'i) has added a twist to their traditional concierge services with a **Master of Moons**, helping guests celebrate special life events with loved ones. The Master of Moons helps bring guests' dream 'Moons' to life, including honeymoons, babymoons, engagement moons, elopement moons, renewal moons, buddymoons or simply 'just because' moons. A sampling of arranged experiences with Ko'a Kea's Master of Moons include:

- Sunset catamaran cruises
- Seaside massages at The Spa
- Horseback rides along the Māhā'ulepū Heritage Trail
- Elaborate proposal plans
- Private, oceanfront ceremonies
- Elegant photoshoots

www.KoaKea.com

Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort and Spa (O'ahu) recently announced a multiyear transformation of three wings of the resort's 791 guest rooms and suites. The renovation is scheduled to be completed in 2026, in time to celebrate the Moana Surfrider's 125th anniversary. Known as the "First Lady of Waikiki," the Moana Surfrider is one of Waikiki's most historic resorts, offering a blend of Victorian elegance and contemporary comfort. www.MoanaSurfrider.iPoolside.com

Outrigger Waikiki Paradise Hotel (O'ahu), formerly the OHANA Waikiki East by Outrigger and inspired by Hawai'i's Princess Ka'iulani and her legacy, has been fully renovated. Renovations include its 443 guest rooms and suites, pool, conference rooms, modern fitness center with Peloton and Technogym equipment, and designs curated by local artists and influencers, The Paradise Originals.

www.Outrigger.com/Hawaii/Oahu/Outrigger-Waikiki-Paradise-Hotel

Royal Lahaina Resort and Bungalows (Maui), an oceanfront retreat, recently unveiled a gathering space under glowing lanterns strung from a towering century-old Ficus tree and its 125-foot canopy. Enjoy the space's lounge seating and al fresco setting, as well as nightly live entertainment, wine, beer, cocktails and grazing boards. Spring will feature a fresh lineup of performers. Admission is complimentary and the space is open for the public to enjoy. Newly renovated private bungalows are also a feature of the new space.

www.RoyalLahaina.com

At **The Twin Fin Hotel (O'ahu)** in Waikiki, eco-conscious travelers will find the first installation of a partnership between actor and entrepreneur Jason Momoa's sustainable aluminum bottled water brand, **Mananalu**, and Boomerang refillable water systems. Comparable in size to a hotel ice maker, the machine is operated by staff and can generate up to 3,000 co-branded aluminum bottles daily for guest room distribution. www.TwinFinWaikiki.com

Wayfinder Waikiki (O'ahu) has launched a new partnership with Hawaiian surfing 'ohana the Moniz Family, offering guests opportunities to ride O'ahu's famous waves. The partnership includes a surfing lesson for two guests, surf gear and Wayfinder Waikiki branded surf towels through the hotel's Surf n' Stay offer.

www.WayfinderWaikiki.com/Offers/SurfNStay

Wailea Beach Resort (Maui), spanning 22 acres and four pool experiences, is nearing completion of its property refresh updating guest rooms and oceanfront villas. Updates to two of its villas are already complete, with an additional four set to debut by June, all offering accommodations of up to four bedrooms. Drawing inspiration from the natural beauty of Wailea's shoreline, the hotel's refreshed design concept highlights hues of pink reminiscent of Hawai'i sunrises and hibiscus, dark and light grays reflecting the lava of Maui's volcanic origins, sage greens echoing native 'ohi'a lehua trees, koa and bamboo of the island's forests and

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traditional woodcraft. Rooms will also feature large upholstered *pūne'e* — traditional Hawaiian daybeds.

www.WaileaBeachResort.com

CULINARY

Grand Wailea, a Waldorf Astoria Resort (Maui), recently announced a culinary partnership with the global restaurant group, **Nobu**. Designed by architecture and design firm Rockwell Group, the resort's Nobu restaurant will offer over 13,000 square-feet of indoor and al fresco dining spaces, complimented by large murals and panoramic ocean views. The restaurant will spotlight signature Nobu dishes, including Black Cod Miso, Rock Shrimp Tempura and Yellowtail Jalapeño, as well as selections from a dedicated sushi bar. Reservations are open now for dining dates of April 15 and beyond. Nobu Grand Wailea will be the first Nobu restaurant on Maui. www.GrandWailea.com/Dine/Nobu-at-Grand-Wailea

Enjoy a **five-night culinary escape** at **Hotel Wailea, Relais & Châteaux (Maui)**, curated by Executive Chef Ryan Cruz. This exclusive experience showcases seasonal Hawai'i ingredients through diverse dining events: locally sourced cuisine at The Restaurant, wine-paired dinners at The Treehouse, an interactive Chef's Table, garden wine pairings, a gourmet beach picnic, contemporary fare at The Birdcage, and a private poolside cabana breakfast. www.HotelWailea.com

Mian and Bao (O'ahu) is the newest restaurant of James Beard Award semi-finalist, and owner of Chengdu Taste and Mian restaurants, Chef Tony Xu. The new eatery specializes in Sichuan classics, including chili oil wontons, spicy beef noodles, pork soup dumpling and char siu bao, blending Chinese culinary traditions with a modern approach. [@miannbao_honolulu](https://www.instagram.com/miannbao_honolulu)

Downtown Honolulu's Chinatown district recently welcomed new bakery **Mille Fête (O'ahu)**, curated by husband-and-wife owners Chuck Bussler and James Beard Award-winning chef Robynne Maii of nearby Fête restaurant. The bakery focuses on seasonal and local ingredients, featuring new breads, hand pies, baked bao, cookies, layer cakes and Fête fan-favorite condiments, dressings and salads. During evenings, the bakery converts into a wine bar with natural wines and amaro. [@millefete](https://www.instagram.com/millefete)

Romer Waikiki at the Ambassador's (O'ahu) recently opened neighborhood restaurant, Favorite Son, offering a menu combining island-inspired flavors and elevated comfort classics, such as square pies and sandwiches. Situated within an indoor-outdoor courtyard, the casual eatery welcomes locals and visitors to gather, share stories, dine and sip on handcrafted cocktails. www.RomerHotels.com/Waikiki-Ambassador

The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua recently introduced **Chef's Table**, an immersive dining experience at its signature restaurant, Banyan Tree. Each Friday, Chef Donovan Foster crafts a wholly unique five-course tasting menu with local, seasonal ingredients showcasing flavors of the Hawaiian Islands. During dinner, guests can engage with the chef, ask questions and learn about his culinary inspirations and local purveyors. Foster presents each course in an open-air setting alongside torch lights, fire pits and ocean views. www.BanyanTreeKapalua.com

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

'Auana (O'ahu) is Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group's first resident production in Hawai'i, located at the OUTRIGGER Waikiki Beachcomber Hotel. As the first Cirque du Soleil show to be curated around its host destination, the production will introduce performance artistry to Hawai'i through the guidance and vision of several Native Hawaiian creatives. General tickets and VIP experiences are available online at www.CirqueDuSoleil.com/Auana.

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From now through March 31, **Majestic by Atlantis Cruises (O'ahu)** is offering **daily whale-watching cruises** along O'ahu's south shore aboard its 150-foot, three-level vessel, Majestic. The modern vessel offers two air-conditioned decks with panoramic windows and Seakeeper technology for a smooth, stable ride. The Majestic also features an open-air top deck for whale spotting, and tours include an onboard naturalist sharing insights about humpback whales. Should the naturalist not spot a whale during the cruise, guests receive a resail pass for a complimentary return cruise. www.MajesticHawaii.com/WhaleWatch

A longtime Honolulu spot for food, drinks and games, **Dave & Buster's (O'ahu)** at Ward Entertainment Center in Kaka'ako will remain open through spring 2025 before moving locations. Its new Honolulu location will be at Ala Moana Center and feature an upgraded restaurant with ample seating, a beer garden with more than a dozen beers on tap, 10 social rooms with space for up to 20 people for virtual games and a WOW Wall. www.DaveAndBusters.com

Hyatt Regency Maui's popular **Nashville Nights songwriter's series is returning in 2025** with a lineup of up-and-coming country artists from the Music City. The six-month concert series will feature performances from five platinum-selling recording artists and one gold-selling recording artist. Each outdoor performance happens on the Halona Kai event lawn from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Southern-inspired food and drinks will also be available for purchase. www.Hyatt.com/Hyatt-Regency

- Craig Campbell, April 26
- Love and Theft, May 24
- Thompson Square, June 28
- Eric Paslay, July 19

Families visiting the island of Hawai'i are invited to take a journey back in time at the world **debut of Expedition Dinosaur: Into the Deep** at **'Imiloa Astronomy Center (island of Hawai'i)** in Hilo. Open now through May 4, the immersive exhibit features lifelike animatronic dinosaurs, hands-on fossil activities and a state-of-the-art theater experience for *keiki* (children) and adults. Special 'Imiloa programs include Dinos at Dusk evening events, Paleontology Lab sessions and dinosaur-themed birthday party rentals. www.ImiloaHawaii.org.

The world premiere of **"The Magic of Polly Amnesia,"** from playwright Tony Pisculli, is on stage at **Kumu Kahua Theatre (O'ahu)** now through April 27. The play follows the story of Polly Amnesia, an orphan, magician and punk, in a one-woman magic show. Throughout her act, she attempts to sort hope from delusion and true magic from trickery as she recounts her quixotic quest to solve the mystery of her own identity and the family that abandoned her. Tickets are available for evening and matinee performances. www.KumuKahua.org

Maui Ocean Center has launched a **monthly sleepover program, Sleep in the Deep**, for children ages seven to 12 and their chaperones, at the aquarium's 750,000-gallon Open Ocean exhibit. The sleepover includes a bedtime movie with snacks in the Makai Theater, along with a continental breakfast and private showing of the 3D film "Humpbacks of Hawai'i" the following morning. Public sleepovers must be booked at least two weeks in advance; private sleepovers need at least 30 days advance notice. Upcoming public sleepover dates are March 28, April 11, May 9, June 13 and July 11. www.MauiOceanCenter.com/Host-An-Event/SleepInTheDeep

Royal Hawaiian Center (O'ahu) has set its Rooftop Stargazing schedule for 2025. Join the center's monthly Rooftop Stargazing Event on the fourth floor of Building A. The event is free and open to the public. Space is limited, and entry is first come, first served. www.RoyalHawaiianCenter.com/Events/Rooftop-Stargazing

- February 16 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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- March 9 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- April 6 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- May 4 | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- June 8 | 7:15 – 9:15 p.m.

Guests of all ages are invited to experience **Sea Life Park Hawai'i's (O'ahu) celebration of its 60th anniversary** this year with new animal encounters. Guided by the park's animal care experts, the add-on experiences offer up-close interactions with bottlenose dolphins, reef sharks and sea lions. All encounters include one-day admission to Sea Life Park Hawai'i and the opportunity to explore its marine life. Encounters offered in 2025 include Dolphin Exploration (a deep-water encounter for guests ages eight and older), Dolphin Encounter (a shallow-water experience for guests ages four and older), Dolphin Aloha (on dry land for all ages), Sea Lion Encounter (on dry land for guests ages eight and older) and Shark Snorkel (a shallow-water experience for guests ages four and older). www.SeaLifeParkHawaii.com

The **Westin Maui Resort and Spa, Kā'anapali** has partnered with **We Paddle Maui** to introduce guests to the traditional Hawaiian sport of outrigger canoe paddling. The collaboration, aligning with Westin's commitment to wellness and cultural immersion, offers an opportunity to experience the heritage and physical benefits of paddling. The 60-minute guided experience, with scenic views of West Maui from the water, is available Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., departing from Kā'anapali Beach. The activity is open to guests aged six and older and provides hands-on instruction. www.WestinMaui.247Activities.com

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

For a full list of events around the Hawaiian Islands, visit GoHawaii.com/Events.

- ◆ **April 18-19, 2025**
33rd Annual Celebration of the Arts (Maui) — The Ritz-Carlton Maui, Kapalua's Celebration of the Arts is one of Hawai'i's premier arts and cultural festivals, as well as a celebration of Hawaiian culture and the spirit of *aloha*. Its upcoming 33rd annual edition will welcome more than 125 cultural practitioners, artisans, educators, speakers, fashion designers, photographers and entertainers from across the state to celebrate, share and perpetuate Hawaiian culture. www.KapaluaCelebrationoftheArts.com
- ◆ **April 20, 2025**
Kaua'i Brewers Festival — Craft beer fans will want to take in this fest's local-beer tasting, food offerings, live music and yard-game tournaments, including Portuguese horseshoe, cornhole and beer pong. The festival will feature more than 30 different local-made beers and food from 10 Kaua'i restaurants. www.instagram.com/KauaiBrewersFestival
- ◆ **April 20-26, 2025**
Merrie Monarch Festival (island of Hawai'i) — Celebrating its 62nd year in 2025, the world's premier *hula* festival will again present the best *hālanu hula* (hula schools) from Hawai'i and the continental U.S., honoring Hawai'i monarch King Kalākaua and his contributions to the revitalization of *hula*. Held at Hilo's Edith Kanaka'ole Multipurpose Stadium, the weeklong celebration is highlighted by the prestigious, three-night Merrie Monarch Hula Competition, which is broadcast live on Hawai'i television and live-streamed globally. www.MerrieMonarch.com
- ◆ **April 26, 2025**
29th East Maui Taro Festival — Spotlighting all the uses of the Hawaiian food staple *kalo* (taro), the East Maui Taro Festival also offers attendees an opportunity to immerse themselves in

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knowledge of Hawaiian culture and area agriculture through live demonstrations, interactive activities and tasty Hawai'i eats, as well as local crafts, art and products. Admission to the family-friendly festival is free. www.TaroFestival.org

♦ **April 27, 2025**

30th "I Love Kailua" Town Party (O'ahu) — Presented by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle, this annual block party on Kailua Road features food booths with shave ice, malasadas, plate lunches and more. Over 75 local artists and handcrafters will sell their work, alongside plant and orchid vendors and an "I Love Kailua" booth with limited-edition apparel. Enjoy live entertainment, shopping and family activities at this free event from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to use multimodal transportation. www.LKOC.org

♦ **May 7-15, 2025**

We Are Samoa Festival: World Fireknife Championships (O'ahu) — Watch talented fire knife competitors from around the world vie for the title of World Fireknife Champion. Cheer on competitors from men's, women's and children's divisions as they take the stage for performances. www.WorldFireknife.com

♦ **May 10, 2025**

9th Annual Ko Olina Children's Festival (O'ahu) — The event is a benefit for Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, donating 100% of every dollar in support of programs and services at the O'ahu maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty medical center. The festivities also celebrate the joy of childhood with hands-on learning opportunities, arts and crafts, fun food and live entertainment. www.KoOlinaChildrensFestival.com

♦ **June 11-21, 2025**

King Kamehameha Day Celebrations (Statewide) — Celebrated across the state of Hawai'i, the Kamehameha Day festivities honor Kamehameha I, the island of Hawai'i chief who united the Hawaiian Islands under his rule in 1810. Celebrations will happen on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i and the island of Hawai'i, featuring statue *lei* draping ceremonies and parades. The celebrations also include *pā'u* (skirted) horseback riders representing Hawaiian royalty, local food and family-friendly activities. View the full schedule of events online at www.Hawaii.gov/Kamehameha.

♦ **July 10-13, 2025**

Kapalua Wine and Food Festival (Maui) — One of Hawai'i's longest-running culinary festivals, the Kapalua Wine and Food Festival annually celebrates the delicious pairing of great food and great wine with a four-day culinary extravaganza. The festival's aim is to explore trends in the gastronomic world, bringing together winemakers, master sommeliers, chefs and industry insiders for themed tastings, seminars and gala evening culinary events. www.KapaluaWineAndFoodFestival.com

♦ **July 20, 2025**

48th Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival (O'ahu) — This annual Hawaiian cultural event honors beloved Hawai'i monarch and *hula* enthusiast Kamehameha V (born Lot Kapuāiwa) and gathers *hula* practitioners and admirers for an exhibition of performances by invited *balau hula* (hula groups). One of Hawai'i's most revered cultural events, the festival will be held at Thomas Square in Honolulu this year, offering residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the beauty, skill and spirit of the Hawaiian tradition of *hula*. MoanaluaGardensFoundation.org

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Hawai'i Tourism United States (HTUSA), managed by the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau, is contracted by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) for marketing management services in the continental U.S. The HTA, the state of Hawai'i's tourism agency, was established in 1998 to ensure a successful visitor industry well into the future. Its mission is to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with the state of Hawai'i's economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires and visitor industry needs. For more information about the Hawaiian Islands, visit gohawaii.com.

Special note to media: *HTUSA recognizes the use of the 'okina [ʻ] 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 Lāna'i). However, HTUSA respects the individual use of these markings for names of organizations and businesses.*

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