

HAWAII

FOUR SEASONS RESORT HUALĀLAI UNVEILS NEW SPA



When it comes to relaxation, Four Seasons Resort Hualālai on Hawai'i Island pulls out all the stops. The Hualālai Spa benefited from the property's recent \$40 million enhancement with an expansion that was unveiled this June. The best place to start unwinding is The Waiea Garden. Waiea, a Hawaiian word meaning "water of life," is reflected in this co-ed relaxation area with its stone-lined stream surrounded by indigenous, tropical plants.

A spa concierge consults with spa goers prior to their treatment in the new Apothecary. Here, 20 natural Hawaiian ingredients are available for customizing scrubs, wraps and massages. A few to indulge in – crushed macadamia nuts, volcanic clay and red Hawaiian sea salt. True bliss is next on the itinerary with a couples' massage in a thatched-roof hale replete with private whirlpool, indoor/outdoor showers and relaxation area. Later, rendezvous at the Beach Tree Bar for wiggling newly massaged toes in the sand and sipping an Aloha Margarita to end a perfect day of laid-back luxury. For more information, call (808) 325-8000 or 1-888-340-5662, or visit www.fourseasons.com/hualalai.

A ROYAL FEAST AT THE PINK PALACE OF THE PACIFIC

Befitting royalty is the weekly 'Aha 'Aina, A Royal Celebration feast held on the recently redesigned and historic

The Royal Hawaiian. Part of Starwood Hotel & Resort's Luxury Collection, the majestic hotel has been a part of Waikiki's history for more than 82 years. Recounting that history is the 'Aha 'Aina experience.

The Monday evening program begins with a traditional lei greeting followed by time for participants to get hands-on with cultural activities such as kapa-making, poi pounding and na lawai'a or the tending of fishing tools. The sound of a conch shell announces it's time for a dinner of traditional Hawaiian fare. As guests dine, their appetites are whet for entertainment to come with storytelling, singing and hula performances.

Following is the main attraction – the rich stories behind Helumoa, the playground of Hawaiian Royalty, which is today the sacred ground upon which The Royal Hawaiian is built. Music, dance and song combine to bring history back to life and provide a whole new perspective on the Pink Palace of the Pacific. Mondays, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; \$175 plus tax per person; \$75 plus tax for children ages five to 12; children under five free with paying adult. For more information, call (808)921-4600 or visit www.luxurycollection.com/royalhawaiian.

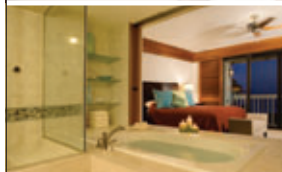
HO'OLEI GRAND WAILEA OFFERS PRIVILEGED ACCESS TO DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

A member of The Waldorf Astoria Collection, the Grand Wailea has been equated with all the trappings and opulence that come with luxury for the past 18 years. Further personalizing stays are accommodations in their Ho'olei at Grand Wailea private residences. Located in a 30-acre gated community adjacent to the Grand Wailea Resort are 120 villas that range from 3,200 to 4,000 square feet, each with three bedrooms and three-and-a-half baths.



Pampering begins at check-in where a dedicated concierge is at the ready to tend to guests' every need. Accommodations come complete with a private interior elevator and attached garage that makes for speedy getaways to the nearby Wailea Golf Course and Wailea Tennis Club. Lavish surroundings, however, make lingering over Pacific views a worthy pastime with floor-to-ceiling windows in the Great Room, or a private Lāna'i just right for taking in ocean breezes.

Another place to soak in the atmosphere is Ho'olei's dedicated swimming pool with its 19-foot waterfall and swim-in grotto. Of course, the Grand Wailea's 10 renowned swimming pools, restaurants and Spa Grande are



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available to guests of Ho'olei at Grand Wailea as well, giving them access to the best of both worlds. For more information, call 1-800-232-4604 or visit www.hooleiatgrandwailea.com.

WESTJET VACATIONS HAVE CLIENTS SEEING GREEN

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Knowing this, WestJet Vacations offers several getaways with elements that will make golfers' hearts sing.

Known by many as host to the PGA TOUR's SBS Championship is The Plantation Course at Kapalua Resort, which is also home to The Bay Course. Both 18-hole courses are havens for Hawai'i's indigenous birds as they are certified Audubon sanctuaries. Travellers can find a home away from home through WestJet Vacations accommodations in the luxurious one-, two- and three-bedroom The Kapalua Villas. Many rooms offer views of both courses, along with the West Maui Mountains and the Pacific. Through WestJet Vacations, a seven-night stay at the villas is \$1,704.28 per person. An additional \$810.28 per person includes unlimited rounds of golf. Those looking to challenge their game can also take lessons through the Kapalua Golf Academy. As for challenges off the course, Kapalua Adventure Center offers ziplining and a ropes challenge course at the nearby Pu'u Kukui Preserve.

Two other golf hot spots are on O'ahu. Golfers choosing the \$1,471.89 per person package get airfare from Vancouver as well as seven nights at the Turtle Bay Resort on the island's North Shore. An additional \$530.17 per person brings with it daily rounds of golf split between the resort's two 18-hole championship courses. The Palmer course was designed by its namesake, Arnold Palmer, along with Ed Seay. The course may cause golfers to blink with a front nine reminiscent of Scottish links followed by a back nine that meanders through both jungle-like terrain and the wetland preserve of Punaho'olapa Marsh. The Fazio Course, designed by George Fazio, offers sweeping ocean views, sprawling fairways, deep bunkers and sculpted greens. A great way to cool off afterwards? Surf lessons on property from the renowned Hans Hedemann Surf School.

Last, but not least, is a \$928.71 per person package with airfare from Vancouver and seven nights at Makaha Resort and Golf Club. An additional \$623.73 per person brings with it four

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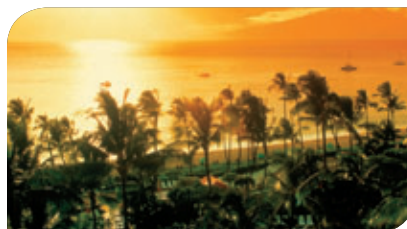
Best Places to Stay Gold List Condé Nast Traveler Magazine



#1 Best Value in Hawai'i Travel & Leisure Magazine

rounds of golf, two at the Makaha Resort Golf Course and two at the Ko Olina Golf Club. Makaha Resort is located on O'ahu's western shore and set on the rugged cliffs of the Waianae Mountains. To extend play time to seven rounds, guests can pay \$873.55 per person. The resort's 18-hole course sprawls through the lush Makaha Valley. Preening for golfers' delight are the colourful, resident peacocks. Nearby is the 18-hole, championship Ko Olina Golf Club. In store for golfers – tight fairways, spacious landing areas, multi-tiered greens and 16 water features on eight different holes. For more information, call 1-877-737-7001 or visit www.westjetvacations.com.

HAWAII UP CLOSE THROUGH SUNSPOTS



Sunspots Holidays has added an extra component to their customized holidays packages that will bring adventure and romance to the itineraries of travellers. Newly launched are

activities and tours on the islands of O'ahu and Maui that allow visitors to get up close and personal with the islands.

The tours on O'ahu involve various modes of transportation from catamaran and canoe to an airplane. The 'Dolphin and Snorkel Adventure' makes its way up the Waianae coastline to sacred Ka'ena Point. Along the way, participants learn the history behind the region while keeping an eye out for dolphins frolicking in the surf. A stop is made for diving into the warm Pacific waters and snorkelling amongst Hawai'i's colourful tropical fish.

A canoe ride is part of the tour to O'ahu's Polynesian Cultural Center. This popular venue introduces visitors to Polynesian culture with seven native villages featuring different South Pacific regions to explore. Along with a canoe ride of their own, guests can take in a canoe pageant as well as the 'Horizons: Where the Sea Meets the Sky' evening show, which offers 90 minutes of dancing, singing, drumming and fire knife dancing.

Taking to the air is the 'Deluxe One Day Flight Tour.' Passengers board an airplane bound for Hawai'i Island where a ground tour of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park awaits with sights such as Volcano Crater Rim Drive and Thur-

ston Lava Tube. Extra special – looking for current lava flows while airborne.

A helicopter is the way to fly on the ‘West Maui Deluxe Flight Tour.’ Guests get a birds-eye view of the island’s pineapple and sugar cane fields en route to locales such as the Wall of Tears (17 simultaneously flowing waterfalls), the historic whaling harbor of Old Lahaina Town with its giant banyan tree and tucked away valleys like Launiupoko, Olowalu and Ukumehame.

Romance can be found once the sun goes down on the Maui Sunset Cruise. The Maui Princess whisks visitors off the Maui coast to catch the sun setting over the Pacific. After dinner and toasting the perfect holiday getaway, dancing is called for under the stars. Sunspots Holidays works with all major airline carriers, including their signature partners, American, USAir, Delta and WestJet. For more information, visit www.sunspotsholidays.com.

RITZ-CARLTON, KAPALUA CAPITALIZES ON VIEWS



Though the views from D.T. Fleming Beach are hard to beat, just up the hill a different vantage point can be had at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua’s 10,000 square-foot, three-tiered swimming pool. A bonus – VIP treatment awaits. Reserve one of seven luxury cabanas and a personal cabana attendant is on hand to provide complimentary cold towels, tropical fruit platter and non-alcoholic beverage service. Along with delivering a steady stream of pineapple samples and mini smoothies, they’ll also clean sunglasses or deliver a cocktail or snack upon request.

Though reclining on a cabana chaise lounge decked out in island floral colours will likely bring on naps, there are also iPod docking stations, a

high-speed Internet connection and flat-screen TV with DirecTV offerings to keep guests entertained. To ensure sunset isn’t missed, the attendant will happily procure reservations for dinner just steps away at The Banyan Tree restaurant. Chef de cuisine Ryan Urig serves up entrees like braised ocean trout and grilled lamb loin by soft tiki torchlight, but perhaps the best feature of all is the sigh-worthy view of the Pacific. For details, call (808) 669-6200 or 1-800-262-8440, or visit www.ritzcarlton.com.

FOUR SEASONS RESORTS IN LĀNA’I LURE WITH LUXURY

Hawai’i’s picturesque Lāna’i island lures discerning travellers to its shores with two Four Seasons properties. Four Seasons Resort Lāna’i at Manele Bay and Four Seasons Resort, The Lodge at Koele each has its own special ways of providing guests with a stay that’s pure luxury. Chief among them? Fantastic fairways and unique gourmet meal experiences.

Daytime hours call for a round on one of two championship golf courses – The Challenge at Manele or The Experience at Koele. The 18-hole courses will have guests feeling they’re on two separate islands with diverse landscape that ranges from rugged, red lava cliffs overlooking the Pacific to upcountry parkland shaded by Cook pines. Making it possible to experience the same beauty by starlight is a private dinner for two prepared by executive chef Fabrice Huet at the tee, or spot, of their choice.

Another place to steal away for an intimate dinner is Four Seasons Resort Lāna’i at Manele Bay’s Ocean Hale tucked away on the Plumeria Lawn with a view of Hulopo’e Bay. The perfect ‘starter’ is a couples’ lomilomi massage that takes duos from dusk to starlight. Afterwards, toasting is called for over the five-course ‘Dinner Under the Stars’ tasting menu. A perk without a price tag – watching the moonrise over the ocean. For more information, call 1-800-321-4666 or visit www.fourseasons.com/lanai.



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