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Spring Fever Hawai'i-Style

With spring break just around the corner, an itch develops to travel where palm trees sway and the sea is bathtub warm. Budgets are consulted to see which destinations will fit the bill without emptying wallets. The answer—Hawai'i. The Hawaiian Islands beckon with outings, expeditions and activities—with everything from horseback rides and art nights to hiking through ancient villages and canoe surfing—that won't break the bank and will imbue travels with a sense of aloha.

BY BEKAH WRIGHT



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Hawai'i's cowboy culture comes to life at Parker Ranch.

SADDLING UP ON HAWAI'I ISLAND

Some famous residents of Hawai'i Island to visit—the paniolo, otherwise known as Hawai'i's cowboys. Livestock arrived in Hawai'i in 1793, followed soon after by horses in 1803. King Kamehameha then hired Mexican and Spanish vaqueros to teach Hawaiians horsemanship and ranching; skills the paniolo soon perfected. Today, modern day paniolo can be seen in action in Waimea at the 1847-built Parker Ranch, at 130,000-acres, one of the largest working ranches in the United States.

To learn about the history of the ranch, visitors can embark on a horseback ride through the Cowboys of Hawai'i. There's much to see while trotting through pastureland from old stone corrals where cattle were herded down to from the slopes of Mauna Kea to the rodeo arena and racetrack where thoroughbreds were trained. Guests leave with an education about Hawai'i's cowboy culture and having become a paniolo at heart. For more information about Parker Ranch visit www.parkerranch.com or phone 808-885-1046.

FRIDAY NIGHT ART ON KAUA'I

The equation for a perfect Friday night on Kaua'i—a quaint swinging bridge, movie locations and art galleries staying open late with a party-like atmosphere. This is Hanapepe, also known as "Kaua'i's Biggest Little Town." Get there in the afternoon for strolling past Hanapepe Salt Pond Beach Park, historic buildings and the Hanapepe Swinging Bridge.

**Friday Night Art Walk kicks
into gear with myriad galleries
featuring everything from
ceramics to photography,
staying open late**

Look familiar? Scenes from "The Thorn Birds" were filmed here and the town also served as inspiration for the filmmakers of "Lilo & Stitch."

From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday Night Art Walk kicks into gear with myriad galleries



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Hanapepe's Friday Night Art Walk.

featuring everything from ceramics to photography, staying open late, and local artisans chatting with the public. A few galleries to check out—the Banana Patch Studio, Arius Hopman and Angela Headley's Island Art. A great way to end the evening—sipping on a cup of coffee from the Talk Story Bookstore and listening to Westside Smitty perform live music on the front porch.

HIKING AND HISTORY ON LĀNA'I

Signs of Lāna'i's history are prevalent on the island from lush fields once used for pineapple farming to the cluster of colorful homes in Lāna'i City that speak to its plantation years. A place to delve into Lāna'i's history - the Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center (LCHC). Here, exhibits, artifacts, documents, family memorabilia

and historic photos tell the stories of the years of Hawai'i residency on the island from 1000 to 1800 AD. Cultural materials from both Hawaiians and immigrants from countries such as Japan, Korea, Portugal, and the Philippines tell the story of Lāna'i plantation era from the 1850s to 1950.

Hungry to experience more of Lāna'i's past? Recently opened through the LCHC efforts is the Kapihaa Village Trail. Located on 28 acres on the leeward side of the island, the interpretive trail through this ancient village is a veritable one-mile roundtrip walk into Lāna'i's history. Fifteen sites and more than 60 features in the preservation area give glimpses into how Lāna'i residents lived, worked and worshipped there over 200 years ago. The LCHC is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn more about the Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center visit www.lanaichc.org or phone 808-565-7177.



Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center.

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HYATT REGENCY MAUI RESORT AND SPA



Feats of daring and beauty from Cirque Polynesia.

CIRQUE POLYNESIA ON MAUI

From hula to surfing, awe-inspiring moves can be seen at every turn when visiting the islands of Hawai'i. Kicking things up a notch on Maui are maneuvers performed during Cirque Polynesia, a show filled with aerial acrobatics and illusions, masters of balance and contortionists.

Death-defying feats are performed at 7 p.m. six nights a week at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa's outdoor Maui Moon Theatre. Taking the stage are international performance artists from destinations such as Hawai'i, Russia, Germany, Kazakhstan and Moldova. Among the 12 acts seen during the 75-minute show are members of the Flying Wallenda family performing high wire moves 40-feet above the "big top,"



**Fairmont
Kea Lani**

Simon Arestov, formerly of The Moscow State Circus, showing off his signature "Rolla Bolla" balancing act and O'ahu native Raymond Silos displaying his own acrobalance skills.

Tickets are \$65 for adults and \$29 for children ages 12 and under. Also available is The Cirque Polynesia Dinner and Show Package with dinner at Hyatt Regency

Taking the stage are international artists performing death-defying feats six nights a week.

Maui's Umalu or Son'z Maui restaurants that begins at \$99 per adult and \$39 per child ages 12 and under. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.CirquePolynesia.com or phone the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa at 808-661-1234.

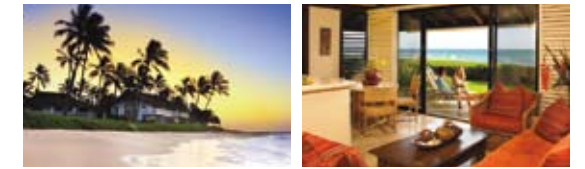
THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO MMM... ON MOLOKA'I

An experience pleasing to the senses awaits via a walkabout at Kumu Farms on Moloka'i. Located on the Mahana-Ho'olehua Plain (five minutes from Moloka'i Airport), the 120-acre property is considered an estate farm, where all produce, from seed to market-ready, is taken care of on premises. Visitors are welcome to get hands-on while touring the farm, sampling certified organic produce straight from the vine. A definite must-partaking in the SunRise/Strawberry Papaya, the only Oregon Tilth certified organic papaya exported from the State of Hawai'i. Kumu Farms' apple bananas are a palate pleaser as well with their tangy, nectarine flavor. The herb gardens lure with their scents of basil, sage, thyme, lavender, parsley, rosemary and dill. Those hungry for more can purchase produce on the spot, get an education about farming tropical fruits and get culinary tips for making the most of these flavors from the island.



The palate-pleasing apple banana from Kumu Farms.

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EMANUELA VICIGUERRA / SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR KUMU FARMS

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An outrigger canoe on O'ahu.

Walkabouts available Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Farmers' Market open Tuesday through Friday from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m.. For more information visit www.KumuFarms.com or phone 808-351-3326.



Honua Kai

CANOEING ON O'AHU

See the crystal blue waters of O'ahu and the urge to dive in comes on. A way to do so—through a Keawe Ocean Adventures outing. Located at The Kahala Hotel & Resort, the company offers myriad activities including surfing, stand-up paddling, spear fishing, fly-fishing and tackle fishing. Ideal for travelers on a budget are their canoe adventures.

Getting the lay of the land can be done via Keawe Ocean Adventures' one-hour Canoe Tour (\$35 per adult, \$25 for kids under 12). Participants are given a safety briefing and life vests on Kahala Beach before taking off in a 24-foot, Hawaiian-made outrigger canoe. During the tour, guests learn the history of the area as well as take in sights such as Koko Head, Diamond Head and the Ko'olau Mountain Range.

Ready to take on a wave or two? The

30-minute Canoe Surfing outing (\$75 per person) may be in order. A Keawe Ocean Adventures guide steers an outrigger canoe past the Kahala Beach reef to where sets of waves promise a thrilling ride. Guests who want to get up close to marine life should consider the one-hour Canoe Snorkel Tour (\$65 per person). Outrigger canoes make their way to a pristine coral reef at Maunaloa Bay to snorkel amongst manini (convic tang), weke (goat fish), eels, manta rays and honu, Hawaiian Green Sea Turtles. To learn more, visit www.keaweadventures.com or phone 808-780-1253.

Spring Fever Hawai'i-style Resource Directory

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www.aquaresorts.com/sea

ASTON HOTELS & RESORTS
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