



NĀ MEA HOU O KA PAE 'ĀINA

- News, Updates and Aloha from the Hawaiian Island of O'ahu -

Welcome to the Hawaiian Island of O'ahu! As Hawai'i's gathering place, there's no limit to the energy of O'ahu. The island is a fusion of urban excitement on its south shore and natural tropical island country on all other sides. O'ahu is rooted Hawaiian yet connected to Polynesia and America. This vibrant place is contemporary while steeped in Hawaiian and global history. From small-town charm to urban sophistication, from the North Shore's legendary surf to world-class museums and trend-setting culinary experiences, O'ahu is the heart of Hawai'i.

ARTS & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

'Iolani Palace

The historic 'Iolani Palace, commissioned by King Kalākaua in 1882, was the pride of the Hawaiian Kingdom and is the only official royal palace on U.S. soil. Popular tour options include a Guided Tour with a Palace Docent and a Self-Led Audio Tour. Both options include a tour of the first and second floors of 'Iolani Palace followed by a self-guided exploration of the basement gallery exhibits.

- The new **Kalākaua Legacy tour** is an immersive experience offering a unique glimpse into the life and legacy of King Kalākaua, Hawai'i's last reigning monarch. The tour provides historical accounts and showcases personal artifacts, highlighting his significant local and global achievements and how his visionary creation, 'Iolani Palace, continues to profoundly impact the preservation of Hawaiian history and culture.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

Bishop Museum is debuting several educational program series this year, including:

- The new **Kamāla'ulahiwa 'Ohana Learning Space** is located adjacent to the Museum's Nā Ulu Kaiwi'ula Native Hawaiian Garden, this innovative structure is designed as a dynamic community education space. It will host new displays and special programming specifically crafted to inspire deeper understanding of traditional land management, local food security, and Hawai'i's sustainable future.
- The new **Coral Reef Exhibit in the Richard T. Mamiya Science Adventure Center** offering an in-depth exploration of the rich biodiversity within Hawai'i's coral reefs. This comprehensive exhibit is divided into two distinct sections: the ground level will immerse visitors in the familiar, sunlit shallow reef systems, highlighting the native corals vital to our islands' marine ecosystems. Descending to the lower level, guests will delve into the mysterious mesophotic coral reefs, often called the ocean's "twilight zone," where light barely penetrates. This new exhibit promises to be a captivating and educational experience offering a unique perspective on Hawai'i's precious underwater world. www.BishopMuseum.org

Pearl Harbor – a historic destination with four attractions that Honor the Past and Inspire the Future.

- **80th Anniversary of the End of World War II Commemoration** — At 9:02 a.m. (HST) on September 2, the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Pearl Harbor will host a ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the historic signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945, which brought World War II to a close. The ceremony will include reflections on the significance of the occasion and the unveiling of a new interactive exhibit, "Pathway to Peace: USS Missouri's World War II Experience," offering visitors an immersive journey through the ship's pivotal role in the war and the experiences of her crew. www.USSMissouri.org
- **Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum**. The Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum opened the Ford Island Control Tower to the public for the first time. The World War II icon is part of the new Top of the Tower tour that includes access to the historic Operations Building, the Firehouse Exhibit, historic pictures and videos of the upper cab, and the upper cab of the control tower with 360-degree views of the Pearl Harbor.
- After immense renovations, the **Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum** now offers hands on, interactive experiences that tell the history and story of the *Silent Service* and the submariners that served. The

museum, with advance notice, offers up to six guests a special tour of the USS Bowfin Submarine with the former submarine Commanding Officer.

- ➡ Pearl Harbor National Memorial and Pacific Historic Parks launched a new queuing system for guests unable to secure shuttle boat reservations online prior to their visit. The system allows guests to register up to six people per phone number using their mobile phone. It then notifies guests when to head to the standby line for their shuttle ride to the USS Arizona Memorial, shortening guest wait times to 20-30 minutes on average and allowing more time to visit the park's two other World War II museums, new Virtual Reality Theater and experience the Narrated Multimedia Tours hosted by actor Jamie Lee Curtis. Visit www.USSArizonaTours.com to book your visit in advance and skip many of the lines.

Wahi Pana: O'ahu's Storied Places

A public art initiative sharing the layered and profound *mo'olelo* (stories) of the *'āina* (land) and offering educational experiences for all who experience its installations. Each installation, crafted by local artists, encourages the public to engage beyond surface knowledge, inviting deeper understanding of the people and places that inspired each location. Access the Bloomberg Connects app, as well, for *mele* (song) and stories, enhancing your immersive cultural experience. www.WahiPana.com

UNIQUE AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

'Auana – A Cirque du Soleil Show

'Auana is Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group's first resident production in Hawai'i and its first show to be curated around its host destination. The production will introduce Cirque du Soleil's performance artistry to Hawai'i through the guidance and vision of a several Native Hawaiian creatives. Tickets for 'Auana are available now. For more information about the partnership between OUTRIGGER Hospitality Group and Cirque du Soleil, visit www.CirqueDuSoleil.com/auana.

Foster Botanical Garden

Following a four-year hiatus, Foster Botanical Garden has resumed its free 90-minute docent-led tours every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The 10:30 a.m. tours are included in the price of admission. Reservations for the tours are recommended but not required. www8.Honolulu.Gov/DPR/Honolulu-Botanical-Gardens/Foster-Botanical-Garden

Mana Cruises

Native Hawaiian-owned, Mana Cruises, which offers private and shared yacht charters, now features cruise experiences out of Waikiki and Ko Olina resort, and more opportunities for guests to explore O'ahu's coastlines. On departures from both locations, guests can sail past Lē'ahi (Diamond Head State Monument) or along the West O'ahu coastline, with personalized service, dining options and other amenities. MANACruises.com

Mānoa Chocolate Cacao Farm Tour and Chocolate Tasting

Join Mānoa Chocolate in their Kamananui Cacao orchard for a unique experience on O'ahu's North Shore. Immerse yourself in a working cacao farm to see how the fresh fruits are harvested and cultivated. Enjoy an extensive tasting of chocolate both grown and made right here in Hawai'i. manoachocolate.com

GETTING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Wai Kai at the Hoakalei

Wai Kai at the [Hoakalei Resort](#) in West O'ahu is O'ahu's new surf-centric entertainment destination. Experience Hawai'i's first deep-water standing surf wave, *Wai Kai Wave*, powered by citywave® technology, the *Wai Kai Wave* creates authentic surfing conditions with perfect endless and adjustable waves ranging from 2- to 6-feet for all skill levels. Also, a 52-acre Wai Kai Lagoon for water sports with a 40,000-square-foot floating playground, *Wai Kai AquaVenture*, open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the AquaVenture features a series of interconnected inflatables, with monkey bars, slides, bridges, balance beams, towers and more. Wai Kai features three amazing restaurants.

Kualoa Ranch Private Nature Reserve

Kualoa Ranch, on O'ahu's windward side, is a working ranch, Hollywood location favorite and, most of all, a sacred site for both ancient and contemporary Hawaiians. They recently added a new 3-hour deluxe semi-private UTV tour. Offered six-times daily, the guided tour utilizes off-road UTV vehicles for a behind-the-scenes adventure to the backcountry of the ranch's Ka'a'awa and Hakipu'u valleys. Guides share the historic and cultural importance and sacredness of the place, Hawaiian legends, farming, aquaculture and ranching practices and stories of Hollywood movies filmed in the valley.