



SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS FIND PARADISE ON O‘AHU

Unparalleled natural beauty, year-round sunshine and an abundance of clean air make sporting events and fitness activities a perfect match for O‘ahu. Learn to catch waves with a Hawaiian surfing legend, tee off on a world-class golf course overlooking the Pacific Ocean, hike to the top of Diamond Head and take in sweeping views of Honolulu, or practice yoga under towering palm trees. For the sports fan, adventure seeker, or health enthusiast, O‘ahu offers an array of activities that are sure to thrill. The abundance of sporting events and fitness activities offer a glimpse into why O‘ahu is often named one of the nation’s healthiest cities.

Sporting Events

The island of O‘ahu has played host to several of the world’s largest and most watched sporting events. O‘ahu is where Vijay Singh won the Sony Open in 2005, where Kelly Slater and Andy Irons have captured the Triple Crown of Surfing, and where Ichiro Suzuki honed his skills before becoming one of the best and most highly-respected players in Major League Baseball. In 2008, David Beckham, the world’s most recognizable athlete, will compete against other professional soccer stars in the inaugural Pan-Pacific Championship at Aloha Stadium.

NFL Pro Bowl (February 10)

Following the Super Bowl, the biggest names and hardest hitters in the National Football League (NFL) travel to O‘ahu for the NFL Pro Bowl. Peyton Manning, Tony Romo, LaDanian Tomlinson, Terrell Owens, Lofa Tatupu, and other all-star professional football players battle for conference bragging rights at Aloha Stadium. Events prior to the game include an autograph session, ‘ohana (family) day, cheerleader appearances, and tailgate party. www.nfl.com/probowl

SBS Open at Turtle Bay (February 14-16)

The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) officially kicks off its season with the SBS Open on February 14-16 at Turtle Bay Resort’s Palmer Course on O‘ahu’s North Shore. The 2008 field of professional women golfers includes defending champion, Paula Creamer, Grace Park, Lorena Ochoa, and Ai Miyazato. www.sbsopen.com

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Pan-Pacific Championship (February 20-23)

In February, premier professional soccer clubs from North America, Australia and Asia will visit O‘ahu to face off in the inaugural Pan-Pacific Championship. Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup champion Houston Dynamo, Yamazaki Nabisco Club champion Gamba Osaka (J-League), SuperLiga finalists Los Angeles Galaxy, and a team from Australia’s Hyundai A-League Final Series will participate in the single-elimination tournament that will kick off on February 20 with the championship match held on February 23. International soccer star David Beckham and O‘ahu’s own Brian Ching are expected to play in the tournament. www.ppchampionship.net

Fields Open in Hawai‘i (February 21-23)

Scenic Ko Olina Golf Club at Ko Olina Resort and Marina will host the 2008 Fields Open in Hawai‘i. The Fields Open in Hawai‘i is the second event of the LPGA season. Last year, the field of professional women golfers included Michelle Wie, Paula Creamer, Christie Kerr, Natalie Gulbis, Ai Miyazato, and 2006 Champion, Meena Lee. www.fieldsopen.com

Moloka‘i World Championships (May 18; Moloka‘i/O‘ahu)

The Moloka‘i Challenge is the world’s premier ocean race and the World Surf Ski and OC1 Championship. Over 100 watermen participate in the event each year to earn the coveted title. The solo race begins near the west end of the island of Moloka‘i, crosses the volatile Kaiwi Channel – considered one of the roughest ocean channels in the world – and finishes at Hawai‘i Kai on the island of O‘ahu. www.molokaiworldchampionships.com

OHCRA Championship Racing Series (August-October; Moloka‘i/O‘ahu)

O‘ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCRA) sponsors an annual championship racing series that consists of the Moloka‘i Hoe, a 41-mile open ocean men’s World Championship outrigger canoe race that launches from Hale O Lono Harbor on Moloka‘i and ends at Duke Kahanamoku Beach in Waikiki, O‘ahu, and the Na Wāhine O Ke Kai women’s race from Moloka‘i to O‘ahu. OHCRA is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating the original sport of Hawaiian Koa canoe racing. www.ohcra.com

Hawai‘i Winter Baseball (October-November)

During the Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Japanese Baseball League off-season, some of the leagues’ brightest minor league prospects play in Hawai‘i to improve their game. Games are played

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on the islands of O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i, with the majority of games, including the championship, played on O'ahu at Hans L'Orange Field in Waipahu and Les Murakami Stadium in Mānoa. MLB all-stars who are alumni of Hawai'i Winter Baseball include Ichiro Suzuki, Jason Giambi, Derek Lee, Todd Helton, and 2007 ESPN NEXT athlete, Joba Chamberlain. www.hawaiiwinterbaseball.com

Vans Triple Crown of Surfing (November 12-December 20; O'ahu/Maui)

The Vans Triple Crown of Surfing returns to the North Shore of O'ahu for the men's series and women's Roxy Pro at Sunset Beach. Kicking off with the Op Pro at Haleiwa, the series continues with the O'Neill World Cup of Surfing and women's Roxy Pro at Sunset Beach, and lastly the Billabong Pipeline Masters at the famous Banzai Pipeline. O'ahu's North Shore is home to these final events on the Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) 2008 calendar that will crown surfing's new world champions. www.triplecrownofsurfing.com

Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl (December)

The Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl pits a team from the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) against a team from the powerful PAC-10 in the annual college football bowl game played at Honolulu's Aloha Stadium. Exciting past Hawai'i Bowl games included the University of Hawai'i's three-overtime victory over the University of Houston in 2003 and the University of Hawai'i's win over Arizona State University in 2006 that solidified Hawai'i's star quarterback, Colt Brennan, as one of the nation's best. www.sheratonhawaiiibowl.com

Quiksilver Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau (December 1-February 29)

Each winter, the world's best big wave surfers are invited to Waimea Bay on O'ahu's North Shore to compete in the Quiksilver Big Wave Invitational In Memory of Eddie Aikau. The Eddie can only be held when surf measures at least 20 feet (Hawaiian scale) for a full day. The holding period for the event is between December 1 and the last day in February. When the surf is big enough, thousands flock to watch the likes of Kelly Slater and Andy Irons compete in the prestigious surfing competition. www.quiksilver.com

XTERRA Trail Run World Championship (December 7)

Kualoa Ranch on O'ahu will host the inaugural XTERRA Trail Run World Championship in 2008. XTERRA, which is known worldwide for its challenging off-road triathlons, is introducing its half-

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marathon distance “Xduro” at the race. The XTERRA Trail Run World Championship is the final race off the 2008 XTERRA Trail Running Series. Relay races, a charity walk-a-thon, live music, food, and other family events will also be offered. www.xterraplanet.com

Sony Open in Hawai‘i (January 12-18, 2009)

The Sony Open in Hawai‘i kicks off the PGA Tour by bringing 144 of the world’s best professional golfers to O‘ahu’s exclusive Wai‘alae Country Club each January. Past participants include 2005 winner, Vijay Singh, 2003 and 2004 winner, Ernie Els, and Hawai‘i’s own Michelle Wie and Tadd Fujikawa. The six-day event is the largest charity event in the state of Hawai‘i and has raised approximately \$8 million for local not-for-profits since 1999. www.sonyopeninhawaii.com

Turtle Bay Championship (January 2009)

The PGA Champions Tour begins its season with the Turtle Bay Championship on O‘ahu’s North Shore. The tournament is played on The Palmer Course at the Turtle Bay Resort, a 72-par course designed by Arnold Palmer that surrounds a 100-acre wetland preserve. Proceeds from the event benefit Friends of Hawai‘i Charities which fund’s not-for-profit organizations in Hawai‘i that assist women, children, youth, and needy programs. www.pgatour.com

Fitness Activities

Great Aloha Run (February 18)

The Great Aloha Run is an 8.15-mile foot race that starts at Aloha Tower in Honolulu and ends at Aloha Stadium in Hālawā. A three-day Sports, Health and Fitness Expo occurs during the weekend of the race and includes an array of exhibition booths offering unique products and services, entertainment, workshops, and more. The annual event was recognized nationally by *Runners’ World* magazine as one of the top “100 Great Road Races.” www.greataloharun.com

31st Annual Straub/Kapi‘olani Women’s 10K (March 2)

Hawai‘i’s premier women’s race is a 6.2-mile course from Kapi‘olani Park through Diamond Head and Kāhala, looping back to the park. www.straubhealth.org or www.kapiolani.org

Honolulu Triathlon (May 17-18)

Triathletes from around the world visit O‘ahu each May to compete in the Honolulu Triathlon. The triathlon will be held on May 18 and features a 1.5K swim, 40K bike and 10K run courses that begin

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and end at Ala Moana Park. Events leading up to the triathlon include “Hustle Up the Hyatt Stair Race” and a short-distance kid’s triathlon at Kapi‘olani Park in Waikīkī.

www.HonoluluTriathlon.com

Duke’s OceanFest (August 16-24)

Duke’s OceanFest is a weeklong series of events that serve to honor famed Hawaiian waterman, Duke Kahanmoku. Surf contests, surf polo, tandem surfing, and a special lū‘au are just a few of the events that will take place during the week at Waikīkī Beach. Funds raised from OceanFest will benefit the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation college scholarship and athletic grants program. www.dukefoundation.org

Honolulu Century Ride (September)

The Honolulu Century Ride is Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest cycling event, attracting approximately 4,000 people around the world each year. Participants can choose to ride 20, 25, 40, 50, 75, or 100 miles at their own pace. Proceeds from the annual fun ride support the Hawai‘i Bicycling League and its efforts to promote cycling for health, recreation and transportation through advocacy, education and events. www.hbl.org

Honolulu Marathon (December 14)

Thousands of runners from around the world travel to O‘ahu each year to participate in the Honolulu Marathon. The 26-mile scenic course includes spectacular views from world famous Waikīkī Beach and Diamond Head. www.honolulumarathon.org

Waikīkī Community Center Ala Wai Challenge (January 2009)

This all-day affair, held at Ala Wai Community Park, features Hawaiian sporting events including ancient Hawaiian games, outrigger canoe race, and food booths accompanied by Hawaiian entertainment. www.waikikicommunitycenter.org.

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