



RETURN FLIGHTS



10 NIGHT STAY



HAWAIIAN CULTURAL SHOW



RENTAL CAR



SUNSET CRUISE

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### FLIGHTS & 10 NIGHT STAY

from **\$3289** pp share twin

flying Hawaiian Airlines from Auckland  
Travel: 01-21 Sep & 03 Oct-26 Nov 19  
Or travel: 01-21 Mar 20 from **\$3399** pp share twin



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### YOUR HAWAIIAN EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

- RETURN FLIGHTS TO Waikiki and Maui.
- 5 NIGHT STAY at Sheraton Princess Kaiulani in Waikiki\*.
- 2 TICKETS TO Te Moana Nui Luau (show only) at Sheraton Princess Kaiulani, Waikiki.
- 5 NIGHT STAY at Ka'anapali Beach Hotel in Maui with breakfast and 1x US\$50 dining credit.
- 3 DAY CAR RENTAL in Maui.
- LAHAINA SUNSET CRUISE in Maui - includes dinner & 2 drinks.

**HURRY SALE ENDS 29 JUL 19**

**"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY IN MAUI & WAIKIKI EVEN BETTER."**



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CONDITIONS: Valid for new bookings only until 29 July 19 or until sold out • Pricing valid as at 10 Jul 19 • Travel dates vary, blackouts apply • Flights are based on return Economy Class airfares flying Hawaiian Airlines from Auckland • \*Sheraton Princess Kaiulani in Waikiki; Excludes daily Resort Charge Fee of US\$33 + tax - payable direct to hotel • For full terms & conditions visit hot.co.nz/ha0719 CMPHA0719



separated and he is taken



Karen Drummond, centre, takes Laurie and Toff Mylchreest through their Walkato property in search of truffles, the world's most expensive food. **TOM LEE/STUFF**

## We're going on a truffle hunt

### Aaron Leaman

Describing the smell of truffles can be as challenging as finding the culinary delicacy itself.

Some people compare the scent to garlic. Others liken it to chocolate.

"Sometimes it can resemble smelly feet," truffle hunter Karen Drummond reckons. "Or sometimes it just smells like dirt."

Typically, the sight of three adults crouched on the ground sniffing handfuls of dirt would raise eyebrows. But when you're on the hunt for truffles, the world's most expensive food, dropping to your knees and inhaling clumps of soil is par for the course.

The winter months are a busy time for Drummond and her cocker spaniel Indigo as they travel the North Island in search of truffles.

It's late Saturday afternoon and the pair are at Laurie and Toff Mylchreest's Te Kawa property, south of Te Awamutu.

The Mylchreests planted 350 hazelnut and oak trees more than nine years ago.

The trees were infected with truffle in the hope of creating a passive income, Toff says. Truffles grow in and around the roots of infected trees.

"We found our first truffle last year," Toff

says. "It weighed 22 grams and was worth \$66. It was a magical moment."

After 15 minutes of enthusiastic sniffing, Indigo hones in on a spot underneath an oak tree.

An animated Drummond calls out to the Mylchreests as she begins to dig at the loose earth.

"She interested, she's very interested," Drummond says as she rubs Indigo's head.

Everyone grabs clumps of dirt and begins inspecting - and sniffing - them. They find nothing.

Of the different types of truffle, Drummond is in search of black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*).

"Truffle is so valuable because there are so many unknowns associated with it. There are people who have had their trees for 18 years and they still haven't produced a truffle."

Drummond started truffle hunting eight years ago and now has 60 clients she visits from June to September. She's training two more dogs in the art of truffle sniffing.

"The scent work is really easy because you're teaching them to find a scent. It's actually when you take it out of the house and start putting it into the real environment ... that's when the work starts."

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