

Hawaii Escape

Especially Prepared for: The Bakers



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Sunday, Jan 15, 2017

Hawaii, United States

Hawaii, United States

Sunday, January 15, 2017 - Saturday, January 28, 2017

Overview

Introduction

There's enough beauty and activity in Hawaii to fill more vacations than we could take in a lifetime. With so much to choose from, first-time visitors need to be selective. Our recommendation is to settle first on the Hawaii you want to see. It might be beaches, a luau and nightlife; it might be rare orchids and hikes in the rain forest; it might be quiet countryside, small towns and scenic drives. Whatever the combination, there is almost certainly an island or islands best suited to your Hawaii vacation dreams.

Hawaii, quite literally, is growing. Active lava flows from Kilauea Volcano are forming new land daily. There's even a new island forming a few thousand feet/meters below the surface of the ocean, off the southeastern coast of the Big Island, that will someday become the newest Hawaiian island. In fact, it already has a name: Loihi.

Everyone will find something enjoyable in Hawaii, and different islands will appeal to different people. Each island is unique, with distinctive attractions, special places and geophysical features.

Here's a look at the eight primary islands and their major attractions:

Hawaii Island

Hawaii Island is commonly known as the Big Island for good reason. It's larger than all the other islands combined. But aside from Hilo (the county seat), Kailua-Kona (a popular visitor destination) and the luxurious resorts along the Kohala coast, it retains a rural flavor.

Major Destinations on the Big Island: the Kona coast; Kailua-Kona; Hilo; Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, with two active volcanoes (Mauna Loa and Kilauea); Mauna Kea (the world's tallest mountain).

Big Island Attractions: If you're into the outdoors, this is the place for you. Attractions include sandy beaches in shades of green, red and black; beautiful coral reefs; snorkeling; deep-sea fishing; gorgeous flowers, including most of the orchids for lei made in the state; cattle and horse ranches; horseback riding; mesmerizing landscapes; cascading waterfalls; golf; watersports; and hiking. Nightlife and shopping are limited.

Kahoolawe

Access to this former U.S. Navy bombing target is strictly limited. Much of the island remains unusable because of unexploded ordnance.

Kauai

Kauai is the oldest and northernmost of the inhabited Hawaiian islands. Nature is its biggest draw.

Major Destinations on Kauai Island: Waimea Canyon, Kokee State Park, Poipu, Lihue, Napali Coast, Princeville, Hanalei.

Kauai Island Attractions: Mountains; valleys; waterfalls; spectacular beaches; hiking; fishing; golf; whale-watching; kayaking and sailing; bird-watching; ziplining; and snorkeling, surfing and other watersports. Shopping and nightlife are limited.

Lanai

The smallest of the main islands is quiet and uncrowded. It is 98% privately owned by Larry Ellison, CEO of Oracle Corp. Tourism is now the mainstay of the economy.

Lanai Island Attractions: Sailing, fishing, golfing, ocean rafting, hunting and back-road exploring.



Hawaii boasts pristine beaches and landscapes.

Maui

Maui is the second most-visited Hawaiian island, after Oahu.

Major Destinations on Maui Island: Haleakala National Park, Iao Valley, Hana, Ka'anapali, Kihei, Lahaina, Wailea and Wailuku.

Maui Island Attractions: Wonderful beaches; calm ocean bays; stunning mountain and volcano vistas; sugarcane fields; highland ranches; twisting mountain roads; whale-watching; upcountry agriculture tours; golf; hiking; ziplining; sailing and other boat excursions; deep-sea fishing; and watersports such as snorkeling, scuba diving, surfing, windsurfing and parasailing.

Molokai

This rural island is best suited for travelers who want to see the old Hawaii and unwind quietly.

Major Destinations on Molokai Island: Kaunakakai, Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Halawa Valley.

Molokai Island Attractions: Isolated beaches, mountains, waterfalls, deep-sea fishing, history, hiking and relaxing.

Niihau

This tiny, privately owned island is also known as the Forbidden Island. Home to about 200 native Hawaiians who live a traditional lifestyle, it is off-limits to visitors. Only those who book a tour with Niihau Helicopters can land there.

Oahu

Oahu is the political, social, economic and population hub of Hawaii. It attracts the most visitors of all the Hawaiian islands.

Major Destinations on Oahu Island: Downtown Honolulu, Waikiki, Diamond Head, Pearl Harbor, Hanauma Bay, the North Shore.

Oahu Island Attractions: City life, including theater, opera, museums, shopping, nightclubs and fine dining; lush greenery; beautiful beaches; great historic sites; sailing; surfing, windsurfing, kayaking and other watersports; golf; and hiking.

Geography

The state of Hawaii comprises eight main islands—Kauai, Niihau, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and Hawaii—and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a string of mostly uninhabited atolls, small islands and reefs that stretch across nearly 140,000 sq mi/362,598 sq km of the Pacific Ocean.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands harbor more than 7,000 species of undersea creatures, one-fourth of which are found nowhere else in the world. Former U.S. President George W. Bush designated this region Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in 2006. It is the single largest conservation area in the U.S.

Of the main islands, Kauai, with tiny Niihau off its leeward coast, is the oldest and northernmost. As you travel south down the island chain, you'll find Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, Kahoolawe and Hawaii, or the Big Island. There, Ka Lae, also known as South Point, has earned distinction as the southernmost point in the U.S. The Hawaiian Islands are volcanic in origin, with active eruptions continuing on the Big Island.

Honolulu, the state capital, is located on Oahu. The other islands are sometimes referred to as the "Neighbor Islands."

History

Polynesians arrived in the Hawaiian Islands more than 1,500 years ago, one of many moves these people had undertaken over the centuries. Evidence suggests that these first settlers of Hawaii set out from the Marquesas Islands in present-day French Polynesia—and never expected to return there. Their oceangoing canoes were filled with domesticated animals (chickens, dogs and pigs), plants and seeds—everything they needed to start their new home. In time, the islands came to be ruled by a powerful hierarchy of chiefs and nobles, who oversaw elaborate agricultural projects and the construction of many ceremonial shrines and temples.

In January 1778, British explorer James Cook and his two ships reached Kauai. (This may have been the first Western contact with Hawaii, though another theory holds that a Spanish ship may have visited the area in the 1500s.) Cook's party traded with the locals and reported that the Polynesians were fascinated by anything made of iron. Common nails became valuable items for trade, and sailors used them to woo Hawaiian women, from whom they received a very cordial welcome. Unfortunately, this contact passed venereal disease to the Hawaiians, the first of many Western ailments that would devastate the population.

When Cook returned to the islands the next year, things didn't go as smoothly. A dispute arose when Hawaiians on the Big Island at Kealahou Bay, Kona, took one of the ship's small boats. Violence broke out, and Cook was killed. For many years, the islands were known in the West by the name Cook gave them, the Sandwich Islands (after the Earl of Sandwich, Cook's benefactor who financed his voyages of exploration).

At roughly the same time that Europeans first came in contact with Hawaii, internal politics and warfare were also redefining the islands. Each island was ruled independently until King Kamehameha I (1758-1819) united them by force. The continuing presence of Westerners played a role in the wars: The armaments of the newcomers were a decisive factor in Kamehameha's victory. Greater encroachment by outsiders took place in the 1800s, with two rather divergent groups—Calvinist missionaries and whale-hunting seamen—leading the charge.

In the mid-1800s, another group, sugar planters, became a force in Hawaii. They gained control of large parcels of land, imported foreign workers and eventually, in 1893, orchestrated the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani, the last reigning Hawaiian monarch.

The Hawaiian Islands were annexed to the U.S. in 1898, though the island election approving annexation excluded most native-born Hawaiians. Hawaii became a U.S. territory in 1900. In 1941, the Japanese attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base on Oahu brought the U.S. into World War II. Following the war, the movement favoring statehood gained strength, and on 21 August 1959, Hawaii became the 50th U.S. state.

Most of Hawaii's sugar plantations closed by the mid-1990s. Since then, crops have diversified. Farmers statewide now grow coffee, flowers, macadamia nuts and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Tourism now is the state's major industry.

Snapshot

Hawaii's foremost attractions are beaches, volcanoes, surfing, luau, lush scenery, waterfalls, Polynesian culture, ravishingly beautiful (and rare) tropical flowers and plants, hiking, relaxation, historical sites, shopping, watersports, deep-sea fishing and friendly people who exude the "spirit of aloha."

Potpourri

Aloha Oe, perhaps the most famous Hawaiian song, was written by Queen Liliuokalani, the last reigning monarch of the islands.

There is no "s" in the Hawaiian language, so the proper plural for lei is lei, luau for luau, and so forth.

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. is the only sugar plantation still operating in Hawaii. Its 37,000-acre/14,973-hectare plantation in central Maui produces more than 60% of the sugar consumed in the state.

Venture up 3,379-ft/1,048-m Lanaihue (Lanai's highest point) on a clear day, and you'll see Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe and the Big Island in one magnificent panorama.

Virtually all of the tropical fruits and flowers associated with Hawaii, including orchids, plumeria, pineapple, papaya and mango, were introduced from other countries.

Molokai claims the highest sea cliffs in the world. They rise nearly 4,000 ft/1,240 m along the island's northeast coast.

Hawaii has some 300 endangered plants and animals—which represents about one-quarter of all endangered species in the U.S. Both its state mammal (the humpback whale) and state bird (the nene or Hawaiian goose) are endangered.

Passed in 1972, Kauai County's "Coconut Tree Ordinance" prohibits the construction of buildings taller than 55 ft/17 m (four stories or roughly the height of a mature coconut palm). There are, however, two exceptions: the Kauai Marriott (which was built as the Kauai Surf in 1961, before the law was passed) and the St. Regis Princeville Resort (which is 11 stories, but eight stories go down the side of a cliff).

The world's most powerful telescope will be situated atop Maunakea on the Big Island. When completed, the Thirty Meter Telescope (or TMT) will have nine times the light-gathering power of today's best telescopes. The US\$1.2 billion telescope is expected to be operational in 2018.

About 70% percent of Hawaii's population live on Oahu, which represents just 9% of the state's total land area.

Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. where coffee, vanilla and cacao (which is used to make chocolate) are grown commercially.

Hawaii is the only U.S. state that has royal palaces: Hulihee Palace in Kailua Village on the Big Island and Iolani Palace and Queen Emma Summer Palace in Honolulu on Oahu. King Kalakaua installed electric lights in Iolani Palace in 1887—four years before any were installed in the White House.

See & Do Sightseeing

Hawaii's attractions are as diverse as its people. Everything you might expect to find in a sophisticated, cosmopolitan destination is there, including museums, art galleries, temples, gardens, zoos, marine parks, and cultural and historical sites. The Aloha State also claims award-winning wineries and breweries, some of which offer public tours. Nature lovers will enjoy exploring Hawaii's eight national parks (<http://www.nps.gov/state/HI/index.htm>) and 53 state parks (<http://www.hawaiistateparks.org>), some of which have cabins, fire pits, showers, restrooms and other facilities for camping.

Among the "musts" for first-time visitors: Bishop Museum, Iolani Palace, Honolulu Academy of Arts, Polynesian Cultural Center, Hanauma Bay and Pearl Harbor (Oahu); Haleakala National Park, road to Hana (with a stop at the Garden of Eden Arboretum and Botanical Garden), Maui Ocean Center, Upcountry Maui and Iao Valley State Park (Maui); Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park, Hulihee Palace, Lyman Museum and Mission House, Imiloa Astronomy Center and Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden (Big Island); Waimea Canyon, Kokee State Park, Napali Coast State Wilderness Park, Kauai Museum and Na Aina Kai Botanical Garden (Kauai).

Recreation

You certainly won't have trouble finding things to do in Hawaii; in fact, you may have trouble paring the list down to something manageable. There truly is something for everyone. The main attraction, of course, is the beaches. Waikiki is Hawaii's most famous beach, but be sure to check out some of the other gems, too—there are amazing stretches of white, green, red and even black sand scattered throughout the islands. Try swimming, snorkeling, surfing, scuba diving, kayaking, windsurfing, stand-up paddling and boogie-boarding. If you want to get offshore, charter a fishing boat or take a dinner cruise.

For those who prefer to stay dry, there are world-class golf courses, bus tours, biking, hiking and horseback riding. The Big Island is great for camping and stargazing, and thrill seekers will want to zipline on Maui and Kauai. Ask your hotel concierge about festivals (there are at least a few happening every month in Hawaii) and "agtourism" opportunities—visits to working farms and ranches.

At the end of your busy days, pamper yourself with a *lomilomi* massage, seaweed wrap or some other exotic treatment; Hawaii's spas rank among the best in the country.

Shopping

Shop for a Niihau-shell, seed or flower lei; native wood products; aloha shirts and muumuus; black pearl, cultured pearl or shell jewelry; local artwork and crafts; ceramics; ukuleles; Hawaiian books, and bath and beauty products; and slack-key guitar and other CDs by local singers and musicians.

Food items make great gifts and souvenirs. Think cookies; chocolate-covered macadamia nuts; preserves and confections made from tropical fruit; local tea and honey; locally made rums, vodkas and other spirits; and local coffee, which is grown and processed on all islands except Lanai.

Be aware that most fresh fruit and some lei (there is no "s" in the Hawaiian language) can't be taken out of Hawaii. For specifics, phone 808-834-3220 or visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet/fsheet_faqs/notice/notice_hawaii.html.

Popular shopping spots include Ala Moana Center, Waikiki, Aloha Stadium Swap Meet and Waialeale Premium Outlets (Oahu); The Shops at Wailea, Whalers Village, Queen Kaahumanu Center, Paia and Lahaina (Maui); Kings' Shops, Queens' Marketplace, Kailua Village and Prince Kuhio Plaza (Big Island); Hanalei, Hanapepe and Kukui Grove Center (Kauai).

Farmers' markets, craft fairs and museum gift shops are other places that carry wonderful island wares.

Shopping Hours: Generally, mall shops are open Monday-Saturday 9 or 10 am-9 pm and Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Smaller shops may close entirely on Sunday or have shorter hours, and shops in tourist areas may have longer hours.

Dining Dining Overview

Virtually none of the food sold in Hawaii is true "Hawaiian food." It is a mix of cuisines and products introduced from other countries.

Island chefs have developed a style of Hawaiian regional cuisine that incorporates fresh locally grown meats, seafood, fruits and vegetables in a multicultural infusion of flavorings, ingredients, spices, sauces and cooking methods. This is the creative cuisine that many of Hawaii's finer restaurants serve.

The islands also have everything from fast-food chains to Mexican, French, Italian, Indian, Filipino, Greek, Chinese, Japanese and Korean restaurants.

Available at diners, cafes and mobile lunch wagons throughout the islands, the popular plate lunch supposedly was born during the plantation era. Field workers would eat (and sometimes share) lunches packed in tin boxes, which usually consisted of rice with whatever was left from dinner the night before. Today, favorite plate lunch entrees reflect this diversity: *kalua* pig (Hawaiian), teriyaki beef (Japanese), *shoyu* chicken (Chinese), *kalbi* (Korean) and pork *adobo* (Filipino). The main dish is accompanied by "two scoops rice" and a scoop of macaroni salad. True, plate lunches are high in fat, cholesterol and calories—but they're *ono* (delicious).

Possibly the only true traditional food enjoyed by the original Polynesian settlers is *poke* (*po-kay*). It consists of fish or other seafood that has been cleaned and deboned. It is then cubed and served with traditional condiments such as sea salt, seaweed and *limu* (algae). When the onion was introduced by Spanish settlers during the 19th century, it began to be included as well.

A luau, or feast, is a celebration of Hawaiian culture, music, dance and, of course, food. It is usually associated with an event such as a graduation, birthday, anniversary or wedding.

The luau starts with the uncovering of the *imu* (earth oven in which the *kalua* pig is cooked) and the removal of the pig and other foods. Tables are then laden with a variety of traditional dishes, including *kalua* pig; *laulau* (steamed pork, chicken or fish wrapped in ti leaves); *lomilomi* salmon (mixed with chopped tomatoes, and onions—similar to a salsa); fresh island fish; baked taro, sweet potatoes and *ulu* (breadfruit); poi (cooked taro, pounded into a thick paste); salmon (mixed with chopped tomatoes and onions); and perhaps *opihī* (limpet, an island delicacy).

Other local foods you may encounter at a luau include *pipikaula* (beef jerky), sashimi (raw fish, a dish of Japanese origin), chicken long rice, barbecue chicken and *pupus* (hors d'oeuvres).

Hotels and resorts offer luau that feature a show of Polynesian music, songs and dances, and the wonderfully diverse food of the islands. It's a fun, entertaining performance that usually includes numbers from Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand and Samoa. The thrilling Samoan fire knife dance is always a highlight.

Security Personal Safety

Violent crime doesn't pose a great danger in Hawaii for the most part, but it's wise to be careful. Theft from automobiles is the most common hazard faced by visitors, so don't leave anything of value in your car when you're away from it. And don't leave your purse, wallet, cell phone or camera unattended on the beach while you're swimming or snorkeling. Use caution and common sense when walking along the beaches, day or night. Muggings and robberies have been known to occur in some areas, especially on less-populated shores. Steer clear of deserted areas after dark.

Civil defense warning sirens are affixed to poles in coastal, business and residential areas throughout the islands. They've been set up to warn people of a potential threat—for example, a tsunami, earthquake or enemy attack. The old sirens look like yellow speakers. They're being replaced by a solar-powered system, which looks like a stack of green discs, so you'll see both systems on all islands.

The sirens are tested at 11:45 am on the first working day of each month. If you hear the sirens blaring at any other time, that means an emergency situation exists, and you should turn on your radio to get directions on what to do.

For more information on how to stay safe when visiting Hawaii, visit the Travel Smart Hawaii website. <http://www.travelsmarthawaii.com/en>.

Health

Hawaii maintains sanitation standards on par with other states in the U.S., and visitors should expect no unusual hazards related to food and water. Make sure to apply sunscreen liberally every day and to drink plenty of water when hiking to avoid dehydration.

If you're cut while swimming, keep a close watch on the wound and see a doctor at once if it doesn't heal properly. Coral cuts can easily become infected. Keep an eye out for box jellyfish warnings. The little stinging critters appear near shore about once a month (usually eight-12 days after the full moon), and their arrival typically is well-publicized on the news and at area beaches.

Portuguese men-o-war also pack a mean sting. They're drifters whose movement depends on wind conditions and, to a lesser degree, ocean

currents. When the wind is blowing toward shore, they will be seen in that area.

Excellent hospitals, dental facilities and pharmacies are available on Oahu, Maui, the Big Island and Kauai. Medical services are limited on Molokai and Lanai.

Facts Dos & Don'ts

Don't use the expression "back in the States." Hawaii is part of the U.S., so say "on the mainland." Local residents who are of native descent are referred to as Hawaiians. Residents who have lived in Hawaii a while are considered *kamaaina*. Foreigners (generally Caucasians) are known as *haole*.

Don't be surprised if you see people waving their hands with the thumb and pinky extended. It's the *shaka* sign that is generally used in place of a wave when meeting or parting. It is a goodwill gesture that says "hang loose."

Do pay attention to the civil defense warning sirens affixed to poles in coastal, business and residential areas throughout the islands. Be aware: The sirens are tested at 11:45 am on the first working day of each month.

Don't leave the islands without sampling Hawaiian shave ice (ice shavings packed into a paper cup and topped with flavored syrup). Stores that are serious about their shave ice offer more than two dozen flavors, including unusual ones such as green tea, root beer, cotton candy, bubble gum and salty *li hing mui*. Perk yours up with ice cream, *azuki* (sweet red) beans and/or condensed milk.

Don't underestimate the power of the surf and the ocean currents. Newcomers to Hawaiian beaches should be exceedingly careful to follow all posted guidelines and warnings. Never turn your back on the ocean. In general, don't swim alone and never swim where others aren't swimming. If you're caught in a rip tide, don't fight the current—swim parallel to the beach until you escape the current, and then swim to shore.

Do limit your time in the sun and use plenty of sunscreen whenever you're outdoors. Excessive exposure to the sun's rays can cause nausea, dehydration and permanent damage to your skin.

Do take off your shoes when entering homes in Hawaii; this is a Japanese custom that *kamaaina* have adopted.

Weather

Hawaii has four distinct seasons, although their differences are subtle. Winter is significantly cooler, windier and wetter than the other seasons. Visitors will encounter more variations between elevations and coast exposures (windward or leeward) than seasons. The windward (eastern) sides of the islands are wetter than the leeward because of exposure to the prevailing northeast trade winds, which bring rainfall. The leeward (western) sides tend to be much hotter and drier. Individual islands also have variations in temperature and rainfall.

The best times to visit are mid-April to early June and mid-September to mid-November, when days are in the 70s-80s F/22-32 C, and nights in the 60s-70s F/17-27 C. (These are also the least crowded periods.) Winter is the wettest time, but rain generally won't spoil a vacation, as it is often interspersed with sunshine.

Regardless of when you go, take a sweater for the evenings. If you're heading to mountainous areas during the winter months, you will need a heavier coat, as it can be cold at higher elevations.

Halekulani, Honolulu, HI

Halekulani, Honolulu, HI

Sunday, January 15, 2017 - Saturday, January 21, 2017

2199 Kalia Rd
Honolulu, HI

Year Renovated: 2012
Check in Time: 3:00 PM
Check out Time: 12:00 PM
Number of Floors: 17
Total Number of Rooms: 453
General Manager: Ulrich Krauer

STAR Rating: ★★★★★

Amenity Rating: ✓✓✓✓✓



Like a diamond on a rhinestone cap, this exceptionally elegant hotel is a standout in the heart of Waikiki.

Aptly named, Halekulani means "House Befitting Heaven" in Hawaiian. And like its namesake, this ethereal retreat hovers gracefully above the competition, overshadowing all but the Royal Hawaiian and Kahala. This hotel's hallmarks are service and an atmosphere that is both exotic and residential. Maintenance is impeccable, and the 2013 renovation cemented its current status. Management has undertaken a few updates, with new soft goods apparent in some of the rooms. Alterations in the suites are perhaps the biggest change since last inspection.

The hotel is set across a narrow lane from its smaller, trendy sibling Waikiki Parc, and guests here arrive beneath a grand porte cochere with large-scale art and beautiful landscaping. All arrivals are treated like dignitaries, personally welcomed and then

escorted to their rooms for registration. Flowers, fruit and a welcoming tray of house-made chocolates await them.

Three lounges and a pair of restaurants are scattered among the five connected buildings. The only structure remaining from the original hotel is the skylighted 1917 building where the superb La Mer restaurant perches above the Lewers Lounge. The latter has an urbane edge that is attracting a younger moneyed crowd in search of the "it" factor. And this place, with its rich koa accents and chic lighting, has plenty of it.

La Mer continues to rank among the finest in the state. Orchids' a la carte menus at breakfast, lunch and dinner feature fine samplings of Pacific Rim fare and equally fine service. House Without a Key wows locals and well-heeled visitors with its exceptional entertainment, breakfast buffets, and regional lunch and dinner menus. A special kiawe wood grill menu is featured Tuesday and Thursday, and sunset cocktails are offered under a centuries-old kiawe tree. A small lawn buffers diners from beach strollers. When room service arrives in the morning, a toaster accompanies the breads and bagels. Afternoon tea is a local ritual in the courtyard-facing Veranda.

More than 1 million tiles make up the spectacular mosaic of an orchid emblazoned on the bottom of the pool. Next to the pool is the handsomely furnished deck, and beyond is the hotel's thin strip of beach that comes and goes with the tide. The full-service day spa is one of Waikiki's finest.

Active guests have free use of the well-equipped gym. Golfers benefit from a program in partnership with Nike that allows guests to rent top-of-the-line golf clubs and equipment so they don't have to bring their own.

The ballroom can accommodate 600 people for receptions, and meeting rooms handle up to 360. High-end shops dot the arcade. Parking is available and comparatively reasonable at \$35 (valet only).

All of the units boast state-of-the-art electronics while maintaining a subdued and elegant style that helps to justify some of the highest rates in the islands. The oversized rooms are intelligently designed and fitted with more than enough amenities to satisfy demanding sybarites.

Entered through marble foyers, the rooms feature neutral color schemes incorporating multiple shades of white. Spacious sitting areas come with exquisite custom furnishings that include loveseats and coffee tables, and large desks are standard. Automatic blinds filter sunlight. All afford spacious lanais, but views vary from lackluster to dazzling—the best are from premium Diamond Head Ocean Front units in the Ewa Wing.

Accoutrements include electronic locks, three cordless phones, new, larger flat-screen TVs with DVD players and audio in the baths, MP3





and CD players, safes, king or twin beds, full-length mirrors and hair dryers. Refrigerators greet arrivals with complimentary water and juice, and complimentary wireless Internet access raises the high-tech ante here.

The baths have stall showers, soaking tubs with hand-held showerheads, fresh flowers on marble counters, suntan lotion in the amenities baskets, and a scale. Unique features include dual door sets that allow guests to access closets from both the bath and sleeping area.

Most of the 45 suites provide generous wraparound lanais. The extravagant Vera Wang Suite was recently reconfigured into the top-end Halekulani suites, which have one- and two-bedroom configurations. It takes up most of the second floor of the Ewa Building and its terrace is a favorite of traveling dignitaries; it's perfect for a rousing cocktail party, and it can be rented as a gathering space, depending on availability. The hotel's Royal Suite is a whopping 4,066 sq ft of understated residential elegance. It is more traditional and mature than the other suites. Views from this suite are

amazing, and the light makes you feel as if you are hovering over the ocean below.

All suites in the Premier category offer such benefits as butler service, customized culinary programs and a personal concierge. These guests also get VIP privileges with the hotel's "For You, Everything" program, which offers complimentary access to a number of cultural attractions.

Room service is on call around-the-clock at the Halekulani, and guest histories are stored, often for decades. Pets are not permitted.

Both management and staff are as solid, reliable and professional as they come, and able to anticipate guests' needs. As a result, the upper-echelon clientele enjoys near-perfection here.

Latest Revision: February 2016

Basic Information

Year Renovated: 2012
Number of Floors: 17
Number of Rooms: 453

Rates & Policies

Meals: Continental Plan
Deposit Policy: 1st night's deposit guarantee
Cancellation Policy: Cancel least 72 hr prior to arrival

Credit Cards Are Accepted
Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

Location

On Waikiki beach, 4 mi to business district. Beach.
Nearest Airports:
Honolulu Intl- 11 mi, 25 min drive

Restaurants On-Site

Dining: 3 restaurants and 1 bar On Site

La Mer (Fine dining/American)
Orchids (Asian cuisine)
Lewers Lounge (Cocktail Lounge)

Room Amenities

Recreation

(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)

Air Conditioning
Balcony/Terrace
Daily Maid Service
Mini-Bar
Free Newspaper
Rooms for Non-smokers
Telephone
Refrigerator
Safe (In Room)
Cable/Satellite Television
Television
DVD/VCR (some)

NEARBY

Boating/Sailing
Golf Course
Scuba Diving
Shopping Mall/Area
Snorkeling
Tennis (Indoor Tennis, Outdoor Tennis)
Water Skiing

ON-SITE

Beach
Health Club
Health Spa/Massage
Jogging Trails
Pool (Outdoor Pool)

Hotel Facilities

GENERAL SERVICES

ATM/Bank
Babysitting/Child Care
Barber/Hair Stylist
Car Rental
Children/Teen Programs
Complimentary Coffee
Concierge Services
Currency Exchange
Gift Shop
Laundry Room
Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service
Multi-lingual Staff
Paid Onsite Parking
Room Service
Wheelchair Access to Common/Public Areas

BUSINESS SERVICES

A-V Equipment
Business Center
Copier
Fax
Meeting Facilities
Administrative Services

SECURITY

Smoke Alarm in Rooms
Sprinkler in Rooms
Valet Parking Service

Meetings Facilities

3 Meeting Rooms
1,800 sq ft of Meeting Space
8,046 sq ft of Exhibit Space

Ballroom

Location: Floor 2, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet
Capacity: Theater- 500, Classroom- 260, Reception- 600, Banquet- 380

Hau Terrace

Location: Floor 2, Portable walls Available, Flooring: wood
Capacity: Theater- 200, Classroom- 110, Reception- 300, Banquet- 150

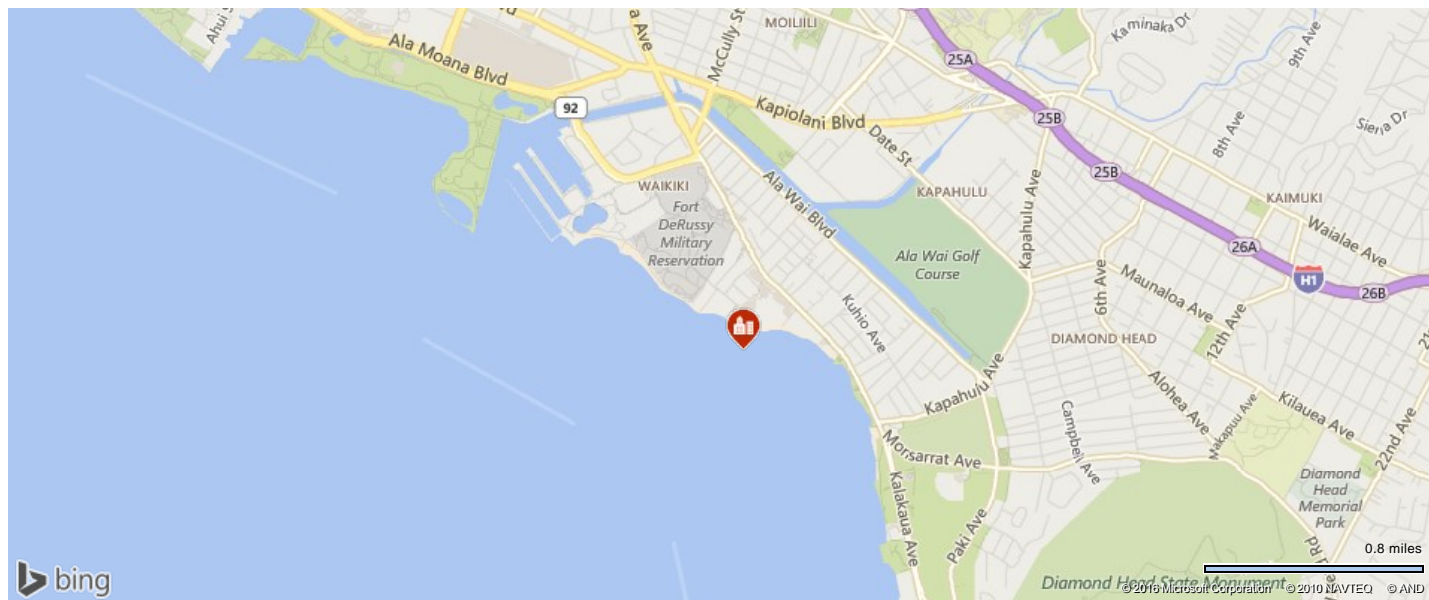
Garden Terrace

Location: Floor 1, Portable walls Available, Flooring: wood
Capacity: Theater- 140, Classroom- 90, U-Shape- 30, Reception- 150, Banquet- 120

Kiawe

Location: Floor 2, Portable walls Available, Flooring: carpet
Capacity: Theater- 50, Classroom- 30, Reception- 50, Banquet- 40

Hotel Map & Neighborhood



Honolulu, Hawaii

Honolulu, Hawaii

Sunday, January 15, 2017 - Saturday, January 21, 2017

Overview

Introduction

Visitors to Honolulu may hear that, because it's Hawaii's largest city, it is less "Hawaiian" than the rest of the state. The high-rise office buildings and traffic of Honolulu don't match people's romantic ideal of what Hawaii should be—remote, palm-fringed beaches and lavish resorts.

In truth, Honolulu is probably the most Hawaiian part of the state, because it best reflects the different things that Hawaii can be. Honolulu includes a multicultural mix of people, a beautiful landscape of greenery and ocean, and a place where amazing events have unfolded—many of them recounted in the city's historic sites and museums.

All that's exciting about big-city life—theater, opera, museums, shopping, nightclubs, fine dining—is set against Honolulu's backdrop of majestic mountains, lush rain forests and sweeping vistas.

And, with Waikiki along one edge of the city, travelers to Honolulu even have a beach resort. Waikiki remains Hawaii's busiest tourist spot and makes a good departure point for exploring recreation possibilities in Honolulu and the rest of Oahu. Active travelers can ramble through a rainforest and discover ancient religious shrines, swim with the green sea turtles off Waikiki Beach and surf past Diamond Head.

Other activities include hiking a coastline trail, watching for humpback whales, visiting World War II memorials or playing a round of golf at a variety of public and resort golf courses.



Honolulu Waikiki View

Visitors to Honolulu should take advantage of the city's bustle but also enjoy the quieter spaces.

Highlights

Sights—USS *Arizona* Memorial; Waikiki Beach; Polynesian Cultural Center; National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific; watching the sunset from one of the hotel lounges fronting the ocean.

Museums—Iolani Palace; Bishop Museum; Honolulu Museum of Art; Spalding House.

Memorable Meals—The fresh fish specials at Alan Wong's Honolulu; the delectable fusion of flavors in the Big Island pho at The Pig and the Lady; afternoon tea at The Veranda.

Late Night—Live jazz at Lewers Lounge; dancing at Rumors nightclub; mingling with local hipsters at the Mai Tai Bar.

Walks—Hiking through rain forest and bamboo groves at the Hawaii Nature Center; climbing to the top of Diamond Head; strolling among the noodle shops and street vendors of Chinatown; hiking the trail at Makapuu Point Lighthouse.

Especially for Kids—Critter Encounter and a slew of interactive activities at the Waikiki Aquarium; children's programs at the Hawaii Nature Center; hands-on exhibits at the Hawaii Children's Discovery Center.

Geography

Honolulu is on the south shore of Oahu; it dominates the island. The city's government administers all of Oahu, and this is also the state's capital. Oahu itself is a volcanic mass divided into sections by two separate mountain ranges. Both ranges run northwest to southeast: the Waianae Range on the western side of the island, and the Koolau Range to the east. The Koolau separates the city of Honolulu and its hotel-choked neighborhood of Waikiki from the windward side of the island and the towns of Kailua and Kaneohe.

Honolulu's neighborhoods have distinctive identities. The office buildings of downtown Honolulu are just north of Honolulu Harbor. To the south of downtown is Waikiki, which is bordered by Diamond Head. Makiki, to the north of downtown, surrounds the Punchbowl, a crater that is the home of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

History

The history of Honolulu is really the history of Oahu. The island was an independent fiefdom controlled by a succession of Polynesian chiefs until the 1780s. That's when the ambitious king of Maui, Kahekili, conquered Oahu and killed its chief—his own stepson—in a bid to enlarge his territories.

After Kahekili's death, his sons battled one another for control of the islands. This division made it easier for the now-legendary Kamehameha I to conquer all of the Hawaiian Islands.

With the help of Westerners with firearms, Kamehameha's troops took Oahu in 1795 in a rout that ultimately forced the defenders to flee to the mountains behind Honolulu and over the cliffs at Nuuanu Pali. His court was set up in Waikiki, then moved to Honolulu in 1809.

By the 1840s, Honolulu was a busy port town doing a brisk trade in the sandalwood harvested on the island. Sandalwood later gave way to sugar, and laborers from China, Japan, Portugal and the Philippines were brought in to work the plantations.

After U.S. sugar companies engineered the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893, which led to the U.S. annexation of the Hawaiian Islands in 1898, Oahu's Pearl Harbor became the centerpiece of U.S. naval operations in the Pacific. On 7 December 1941, a squadron of some 400 Japanese planes attacked the base, killing more than 2,400 people and marking the entrance of the U.S. into World War II.

With the advent of jet travel in the postwar years, Honolulu became the gateway for millions of paradise-seeking vacationers, and developers built the towering hotels of Waikiki.

Port Information

Shore Excursions

A variety of worthwhile shore tours and other activities are available. Several tour companies offer bus excursions around the island that take you to some of Oahu's most scenic and interesting areas, such as Diamond Head, Hanauma Bay, the Halona Blowhole and Pali Lookout. There are also tours that visit single destinations such as Pearl Harbor and the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Getting right back on another boat may not appeal to some landlubbers, but many enjoyable offshore excursions are available, from sunset sails off Waikiki (often with drinks included) to full-blown dinner cruises with a show. Consider a whale-watching trip when Hawaii's beloved humpback whales are nearby (December-May).

Do-it-yourselfers may want to stretch their legs with a walking tour of either Chinatown (practically across the street from Honolulu Harbor), with its neighborhood of art galleries and eateries, or the adjacent downtown area, taking in Iolani Palace, King Kamehameha's statue and the Hawaii State Capitol.

Check with your travel advisor for additional information. If your cruise begins or ends in Honolulu, investigate cruise-hotel packages: Most ships offer them for passengers who want to spend an extra day or two in the city. Most cruise lines also offer Oahu tours for disembarking passengers whose planes depart late in the afternoon from Honolulu.

Free local print guides abound—check in any major shopping area for a display with maps, shopping guides, dining guides and discounts.

Potpourri

The Royal Hawaiian Hotel was the Western White House for U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Poet and writer Robert Lewis Stevenson lived in Hawaii for some time and was befriended by King David Kalakaua and the Princess Victoria Kaiulani, who had a common bond with him in their Scottish heritage.

Hawaii's federal roads are referred to as interstates, although technically they are intrastate arteries built to connect its military bases.

Iolani Palace had electricity and telephone service before the White House.

An average of 4,000 guests per day and 1.8 million guests annually visit the USS *Arizona* Memorial in Pearl Harbor.

Honolulu's Royal Hawaiian Band performs more than 300 times a year at various state, city and military functions. Started by King David Kalakaua, it is the only band in the U.S. with a royal legacy.

In Hawaii, May 1 is Lei Day. In Honolulu, it's celebrated with a lei-making contest and all-day festival in Kapiolani Park.

Mark Twain once called Hawaii the "loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean."

See & Do Sightseeing

The best way to see Honolulu is to first decide what most interests you and then group your choices according to their physical location. You might spend a morning exploring Chinatown, stop for lunch at one of the many excellent Asian restaurants there and relax on the beach at Ala Moana or Waikiki in the late afternoon when the sun's rays are less intense.

Or you might plan tours of Iolani Palace and the Mission Houses Museum, eat a picnic lunch on the Palace grounds and spend the afternoon trekking on one of the Hawaii Nature Center's short rain-forest trails.

Pearl Harbor, on the edge of Honolulu, is a poignant reminder of the event that catapulted the U.S. into World War II. There you can visit the USS *Arizona* Memorial, the USS *Missouri* and other vessels.

Nearby is the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet with its hundreds of stalls. Venturing farther afield, you might plan a driving tour along Oahu's rugged eastern shore. Stop at Hanauma Bay for a swim and snorkel and have lunch in Kailua. Then buy ripe fruit at a roadside stand, visit the Byodo-In Temple in Kaneohe and return to Waikiki through the Likelike Tunnel.

For full immersion in Polynesian culture, be sure to visit the Bishop Museum (it has a good planetarium), the Iolani Palace and the Polynesian Cultural Center. The Honolulu Museum of Art offers an excellent collection of art from Hawaii, Asia and elsewhere. If you make reservations in advance, you can see Shangri La, the beautiful home of philanthropist Doris Duke, which has a stunning collection of Islamic artwork. (The tours are run in conjunction with the Honolulu Museum of Art.)

Because of accidents at Halona Blowhole and nearby China Walls in Portlock, the blowhole itself has been caged to keep curious visitors who peer into the hole from being sucked down and getting thrust into an ocean cave below or wedged between rocks beneath this ledge. Along the east side, dangerous and rocky shorelines draw many fishermen, but they are experienced and only rarely do they get swept out to sea. These are areas that are spectacular to visit, but exercise care.

The Dole Pineapple Plantation is a great stop on the way toward the North Shore and is a destination in and of itself. The gardens are spectacular. You can get an education about the various species of pineapple, and you can try to work your way through the maze built with native Hawaiian plants and hibiscus.

Whatever you decide to do, remember not to rush. Outside the city, Oahu is a laid-back island, so relax and take things slowly.

Oahu Island, Hawaii

Oahu Island, Hawaii

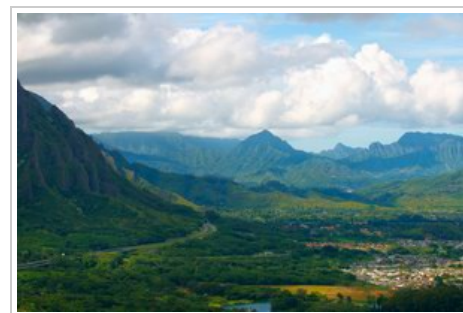
Sunday, January 15, 2017 - Saturday, January 21, 2017

Overview

Introduction

Oahu is the political, economic and population hub of Hawaii, assuming a place of importance that sets it apart from the rest of the state, which is often clumped into the designation of "Neighbor Islands."

Oahu is dominated by Honolulu, Hawaii's largest city. Although the high-rise office buildings and traffic-snarled freeways don't match many people's romantic ideal of what Hawaii should be, we feel that the multicultural mix of the island is the best reason to go. In a way, Oahu has the best of all the islands: vibrant city life, lush greenery, beautiful beaches and great historic sites.



Windward side from Pali Lookou

Geography

Oahu is a volcanic mass divided into sections by two separate mountain ranges. Both ranges run northwest to southeast: the Waianae Range on the western side of the island and the Koolau Range to the east. The Koolau separates the city of Honolulu and its hotel-choked neighborhood of Waikiki from the windward side of the island and the towns of Kailua and Kaneohe. Travelers can take one of three tunnels—Pali, Likelike or the H-3 Highway—to cross from one side to the other.

Between the two mountain ranges is a central plain. To the south of this plain is Pearl Harbor; to the north is the legendary big-wave winter surfing area known as the North Shore.

Honolulu's neighborhoods have distinctive identities. The office buildings of downtown Honolulu are just north of Honolulu Harbor. To the east of downtown is Waikiki, which is bordered by Diamond Head. Makiki Heights, to the north of downtown, surrounds the Punchbowl, a crater that is the home of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Inland from Waikiki is lovely, rainy Manoa, where you will find the University of Hawaii. Farther east are Hawaii Kai and Kahala, both known for their expensive homes.

Residents of Oahu rarely use compass directions to express where things are. Instead, islanders have developed a system of reference points that take Oahu's unique geography into account. You may be going toward the mountains (*mauka*) or the sea (*makai*). If you are on the leeward side of the island heading west, you are going *ewa* (pronounced *evah*), because the town of Ewa is on the southwestern tip of Oahu. If you are heading east, you are going "Diamond Head."

History

Oahu was an independent fiefdom controlled by a succession of Polynesian chiefs until the 1780s. That's when the ambitious king of Maui, Kahekili, conquered Oahu and killed its chief—his own stepson—in a bid to enlarge his territories. After Kahekili's death, his sons battled one another for control of the islands. This division made it easier for the now-legendary Kamehameha I to conquer all of the Hawaiian Islands. With the help of Westerners with firearms, Kamehameha's troops took Oahu in 1795 in a rout that ultimately forced the defenders to flee to the mountains behind

Honolulu and over the cliffs at Nuuanu Pali. His court was set up in Waikiki, then moved to Honolulu in 1809.

During the first half of the 1800s, Oahu saw the same influx of foreign missionaries and whalers that arrived on other Hawaiian Islands. By the 1840s, Honolulu was a busy port town doing a brisk trade in the sandalwood harvested on the island. Sandalwood later gave way to sugar, and laborers from China, Japan, Portugal and the Philippines were brought in to work the plantations.

After U.S. sugar companies engineered the takeover of the Hawaiian Islands (they were annexed by the U.S. in 1898), Oahu's Pearl Harbor became the centerpiece of U.S. naval operations in the Pacific. On 7 December 1941, a squadron of some 400 Japanese planes attacked the base, killing more than 2,400 people and marking the entrance of the U.S. into World War II.

With the advent of jet travel in the postwar years, Honolulu became the gateway for millions of paradise-seeking vacationers, and developers built the towering hotels of Waikiki.

Potpourri

If you want to look like a local, stick out your pinky and thumb, while tucking down your other three fingers. Called the *shaka*, the gesture means "hey," "great" or "thanks."

Geckos (small lizards) are rampant in Hawaii. Don't be scared of them—they're harmless, they eat bugs, and they're considered good luck.

When choosing a guava to eat, remember: The bigger the navel, the sweeter the fruit.

Flip-flops are called "slippers" in Hawaii and are acceptable footwear just about everywhere.

The highest point on Oahu is Mount Kaala, rising 4,025 ft/1,227 m.

Oahu enjoys greater ethnic diversity—and thus a wider range of cuisines in its restaurants—than any other Hawaiian Island.

Flights and Connections

Flights and Connections

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Here is where your Flight and Connection information will be stored.

Hawaii's Plantation Village, Waipahu, HI

Hawaii's Plantation Village, Waipahu, HI

Sunday, January 15, 2017

This outdoor museum provides a fascinating glimpse into the lives of Hawaii's sugar-plantation workers, most of whom were immigrants. The buildings, both original and replicated, include a cookhouse, a general store, a Japanese temple and shrine, a Japanese *furo* (bathhouse), a Chinese social hall, a dental office and typical workers' homes, all furnished as they were in the 1800s and early 1900s. The museum requires visitors to join one of the 90-minute guided tours, which start on the hour.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-2 pm. US\$13 adults.

94-695 Waipahu St. (a 30-minute drive from downtown take the H-1 Freeway west past Pearl Harbor to the Waipahu exit)
Waipahu, HI

Phone: 808-677-0110

<http://www.hawaiiplantationvillage.org>

Monday, Jan 16, 2017

Chinatown, Honolulu, HI

Chinatown, Honolulu, HI

Monday, January 16, 2017

Morning is the best time to visit this colorful community. The sidewalks are bustling with people shopping for their daily meat and produce or inspecting the vendors' incense sticks, green tea and Chinese candies. Flowers are everywhere—this is where most of Honolulu's lei stands are located. You'll also find trendy art galleries, herb shops, acupuncture practitioners, noodle shops and the venerable Hawaii Theatre, a beaux-arts performance hall built in 1922. Some of the city's best Chinese, Thai, Korean and Vietnamese restaurants are in the neighborhood, too. Efforts have been made to clean up the area, making it safer for visitors, but exercise caution and avoid walking around at night.

Foster Botanical Garden, Honolulu, HI

Chinatown (bordered by Nuuanu and Nimitz avenues, and Beretania and River streets)
Honolulu, HI

Foster Botanical Garden, Honolulu, HI

Monday, January 16, 2017

Bordered on one side by Honolulu's H-1 Freeway, this botanical oasis in the heart of Honolulu is packed with more than 4,000 species of tropical flora, including a wild-orchid garden and hybrid-orchid display. The town's photographers frequently go there to record weddings and family portraits in the beautiful settings.

Daily 9 am-4 pm. A guided tour is offered at 1 pm Monday-Saturday (reservations advised). US\$5 adults.

Hanauma Bay State Park, Honolulu, HI

Hanauma Bay State Park, Honolulu, HI

Monday, January 16, 2017

This is Oahu's most famous snorkeling site. The sheltered emerald cove offers the opportunity to see many colorful—and surprisingly tame—tropical fish. The bay's focus is shifting from recreation to conservation, however, with its Marine Education Center, which is designed to educate visitors about the bay and its ecosystem. All visitors must watch a short orientation video on reef etiquette to reduce damage of human contact on the reef and its denizens. The education center also houses a variety of marine-life exhibits, eye-catching murals and sculpture. A tram shuttles visitors between the bay and the parking lot. It's a popular spot and parking is limited, so plan to arrive by 7 am—visitors are turned away when the parking lot is full. You can also catch TheBus.

Wednesday-Monday 6 am-6 pm in winter and 6 am-7 pm in summer—but changes are possible, so call to confirm before you make the drive. US\$7.50 for nonresidents. US\$1 parking per vehicle. The tram ride down to the bay costs US\$1, the ride back up is US\$1.25. Snorkel equipment is available for rent starting at US\$12. Lockers are available at the rental shop for US\$7.

Tuesday, Jan 17, 2017

Ehukai Beach Park, Haleiwa, HI

Ehukai Beach Park, Haleiwa, HI

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Its Hawaiian name means "sea spray," and there's plenty floating in the air when the surf is up. The surf here breaks in perfect tubes, which is why it's called the Banzai Pipeline. The ocean is spectacular and dangerous when it is "cranking" in the winter months.

Haleiwa Farmers Market, Haleiwa, HI

Haleiwa Farmers Market, Haleiwa, HI

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Shop for locally grown produce and meet the growers at the Haleiwa Farmers Market on Oahu's North Shore. The market aims to be totally green, so take your own shopping bag. Monthly festivals celebrate holidays, seasonal crops and Hawaiian traditions.

Thursday 2-6 pm.

Haleiwa, Hawaii

Haleiwa, Hawaii

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Sunset Beach Park, Haleiwa, HI

Sunset Beach Park, Haleiwa, HI

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

180 N. Vineyard Blvd.
Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-522-7066

<http://www.honolulu.gov/parks/hbg.html>

7455 Kalanianaʻole Highway (about 15 mi/24 km east of downtown, off the coastal road)
Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-396-4229

<http://www.hanaumabaystatepark.com>

59-337 Ke-Nui Road
Haleiwa, HI

59-864 Kamehameha Highway (Waimea Valley opposite Waimea Bay)
Haleiwa, HI

Phone: 808-388-9696

<http://www.haleiwafarmersmarket.com>

Surfing and sunning are both superb there. Swimming and snorkeling are also good in summer, when the waters are calmer, but be aware of the notorious riptide and dangerous winter shorebreak.

59-104 Kamehameha Highway
Haleiwa, HI

Wednesday, Jan 18, 2017

Aloha Stadium Swap Meet, Aiea, HI

Aloha Stadium Swap Meet, Aiea, HI

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

You could get lost at this huge swap meet at Oahu's Aloha Stadium. There's so much new and used stuff—including T-shirts and tourist souvenirs, secondhand furniture, books, toys, colorful fabrics and farm-fresh fruits and vegetables—that it's hard to see everything in one day. Many of the vendors pack up to leave by 2 pm and offer reduced prices before they go.

Wednesday and Saturday 8 am-3 pm, Sunday 6:30 am-3 pm. US\$1 admission.

Diamond Head, Honolulu, HI

Diamond Head, Honolulu, HI

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

In the early 1800s, British sailors found calcite crystals in the rocks on the slopes of this extinct volcanic crater. Thinking the crystals were diamonds, the sailors named the crater Diamond Head. Today, the crater is a state monument. Enter through a tunnel in the crater wall and you'll find a visitor information booth, exhibits on the crater floor and a trail to the summit, where you get a spectacular panorama of Oahu's south shore. If you're relatively fit, we recommend taking the 1.5-mi/2.5-km (round-trip) hike to the top. Much of the trail is steep and on uneven terrain, so we recommend taking your time, exercising caution and wearing appropriate footwear. You'll have to climb 273 steps and navigate a lengthy but lighted tunnel as well as a narrow spiral staircase through several levels of an old military bunker. You can avoid some of the steps and the bunker by opting for an alternate route at the end of the tunnel. There is little shade, so consider an early hike. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Allow about two hours for the hike, or longer if you feel like lingering at the top.

Opens at 6 am daily; last entry for hiking is 4:30 pm, and gates lock at 6 pm. US\$1 per person if arriving on foot or US\$5 per car, more for large vans and buses.

99-500 Salt Lake Blvd.
Aiea, HI

Phone: 808-486-6704

<http://www.alohastadiumswapmeet.net>

Diamond Head Road (between Makapu'u
Avenue and 18th Avenue)
Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-587-0300

<http://www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/hiking/oahu/diamond-head-summit-trail>

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, HI

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, HI

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

This museum offers a variety of exhibits and aircraft, including the McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle that protected the skies above the islands for 16 years after spending 15 years flying for the U.S. Air Force. Visitors to the museum can see the Attack Wall showing the intricate choreography of the Japanese Imperial Navy attack on 7 December 1941. There's also an aircraft engine design exhibit, another bombing display, a 1940s aircraft restoration shop, an Aviator's Tour and a combat flight simulator.

Daily 8 am-5 pm. US\$25 adults, US\$35 for a guided tour.

319 Lexington Blvd., Hangars 37 and 79,
Ford Island
Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-441-1000

<http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org>

USS Arizona Memorial, Honolulu, HI

USS Arizona Memorial, Honolulu, HI

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

During the bombing of Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, more than 1,000 men were entombed when the USS *Arizona* sank near Ford Island. Today, weather permitting, a Navy launch takes you to the brilliant white memorial that spans the still-visible sunken ship. A 20-minute documentary film re-creates the attack. Many visitors take lei to place at the base of a memorial marble wall engraved tightly with the names of all the men who died there. Appropriate dress (no bathing suits or bare feet) is required, and lines for the free tour are long—sometimes the wait can be as long as two hours. Plan to arrive early and take something to occupy you while you wait, or, for a US\$1.50 fee, make a reservation at <http://www.recreation.gov>. Security is tight—only cameras and video recorders are allowed. Purses, bags, backpacks and fanny packs are prohibited. Lockers are available for a fee in the parking lot.

Tours daily 8 am-1 pm, visitors center open 7 am-4:30 pm. Free. Self-guided audio tours are available for US\$7.50.

Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu, HI

Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu, HI

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

It may be small compared to its U.S.-mainland counterparts, but the award-winning Waikiki Aquarium, established in 1904, is admired by the creators of other aquariums worldwide for its innovative and captivating exhibits. Inside the cavelike corridors, you'll find the chambered nautilus, which normally lives at depths of up to 1,000 ft/300 m; a whip-tailed zebra shark; giant clams; and a host of brightly colored Pacific fish that flit in and out of living coral beds. Endangered Hawaiian monk seals inhabit an outdoor exhibit. The aquarium also offers guided reef explorations, behind-the-scenes tours, an aquarium-after-dark event and other educational excursions. These fill up fast, so it's best to book at least a month in advance.

Daily 9 am-4:30 pm. US\$12 adults.

Thursday, Jan 19, 2017

Manoa Valley, Honolulu, HI

Manoa Valley, Honolulu, HI

Thursday, January 19, 2017

At the head of lush Manoa Valley is the University of Hawaii's main campus, a bustling institution constantly humming with the activities of students and visitors. But in a matter of one residential block, Manoa Valley becomes a quiet sanctuary. Stately homes and quiet neighborhoods carpet the valley to the foot of the Koolau Mountains. Manoa Valley is known for its hiking trails, waterfalls, the peaceful Chinese cemetery in the back, and a little commercial district that caters to nearby residents as much as to the passing traveler. Manoa Valley Theatre is as off-Broadway as you might get, but the productions—whether local works or something timeless—are a top-notch experience.

Friday, Jan 20, 2017

Byodo-In Temple, Kaneohe Bay, HI

Byodo-In Temple, Kaneohe Bay, HI

Friday, January 20, 2017

Located in a large cemetery known as the Valley of the Temples, this authentic replica of a 900-year-old Japanese temple contains gardens, pebbled pathways, decorative arched bridges and a pond stocked with brightly colored carp. There's also a 2-ton bronze statue of Buddha. Remember to remove your shoes before entering the temple. For good luck, visitors can ring the giant gong after placing an offering in the slot. The temple and its cemetery nestle at the base of the picturesque and rugged Koolau mountain range on Oahu's windward side, which is a 25-minute drive from downtown Honolulu.

Daily 9 am-5 pm. US\$3 adults.

Kailua Beach Park, Kailua, HI

Kailua Beach Park, Kailua, HI

Friday, January 20, 2017

1 Arizona Memorial Place
Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-422-3300

<http://www.nps.gov/usar>

2777 Kalakaua Ave.
Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-923-9741

<http://www.waikikiaquarium.org>

47-200 Kahekili Highway
Kaneohe Bay, HI

Phone: 808-239-9844

<http://byodo-in.com>

This eastside beach features lovely white sand, typically calm waters and the steady tradewinds that make for great windsurfing conditions. Beachgoers also can watch skilled kite surfers practice their art. However, be sure to obey lifeguard caution signs and stay on the beach if water conditions are unsafe.

450 Kawaihoa Road
Kailua, HI

Sea Life Park Hawaii, Waimanalo, HI

Sea Life Park Hawaii, Waimanalo, HI

Friday, January 20, 2017

Worth a trip just for its spectacular ocean setting east of Diamond Head, Sea Life Park has sea lions, giant stingrays, penguins and a lagoon-theater where dolphins and other finned creatures swim. The park has a number of interactive programs (not included in regular park admission), most of which are open to those age 8 and older. The Dolphin Adventures program allows you to loll about in the water with these intelligent creatures. Or you can don an underwater helmet and breathing unit and take a dip with sharks, stingrays and fish.

Daily 9:30 am-5 pm. Reservations are required for all interactive programs. US\$39.99 adults.

Kalaniana'ole Highway
Waimanalo, HI

Phone: 808-259-2500. Toll-free 866-365-7446

<http://www.sealifeparkhawaii.com>

Saturday, Jan 21, 2017

Hans Hedemann Surf, Honolulu, HI

Hans Hedemann Surf, Honolulu, HI

Saturday, January 21, 2017

After a two-hour lesson (which includes board rental), you'll be hanging 10 at Waikiki Beach—or at least making the attempt.

Daily 8 am-5 pm. Group lesson US\$75 per person, private lesson US\$150.

2586 Kalakaua Ave. (Waikiki Parc Shore Hotel)
Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808-924-7778

<http://www.hhsurf.com>

Sunday, Jan 22, 2017

Maui Island, Hawaii

Maui Island, Hawaii

Sunday, January 22, 2017 - Saturday, January 28, 2017

Overview

Introduction

The island of Maui, Hawaii, deserves its reputation as a top vacation destination: It's covered with pristine white-sand beaches, calm ocean bays and thrilling surf, stunning mountain and volcano vistas, sugarcane fields, highland ranches, waterfall-fed pools and twisting mountain roads.

But Maui is no hidden gem—it's the second most-visited Hawaiian island, and you'll have to do some work to find tropical solitude. Still, Maui's beauty and the mix of different areas make it a good choice. Regardless of where you're staying, the entire island can be seen in a series of day trips.

Most Maui hotels and resorts line the leeward, dry western shores of the island in West Maui and South Maui. The majority of the island's visitors stay there. Beyond the perimeters of the beautiful resort areas, however, the rest of Maui is open for exploration.



Hana Highway along Maui north shore

Highlights

Sights—Whale-watching December-April in the shallow ocean channels or by boat; lounging on any of the island's fantastic beaches; Art Night Fridays in Lahaina.

Museums—Alexander and Baldwin Sugar Museum; Bailey House Museum; the Whalers Village Museum; Hana Cultural Center.

Memorable Meals—An appetizer and a drink at the secluded Mama's Fish House outside Pa'ia; sushi at Sansei Seafood Restaurant and Sushi Bar; celebrity chef cuisine at Star Noodle; dinner and a show at the Old Lahaina Luau.

Late Night—Local entertainers at Charley's Restaurant & Saloon in Pa'ia; *Ulalena* at the Maui Theatre, the live show of Hawaii's history; bar crawling along Lahaina's strip of historic whaling-era bars.

Walks—The short, paved walk to view the Iao Needle cinder cone in Iao Valley State Park; any of the public walkways near the resorts; a stroll along the path stretching across Ka'anapali Beach; the manicured coastal trail in Wailea.

Especially for Kids—The walk-through aquarium tunnel of Maui Ocean Center; the Maui Golf & Sports Park for miniature golf, bumper boats and the X-treme trampoline; the ziplines at Maui Tropical Plantation.

Geography

Maui's shape resembles a lopsided figure-eight, composed of two volcanoes. The dormant volcano Haleakala (10,000 ft/3,000 m tall) and the rolling hills of Upcountry Maui are to the east. On the opposite side are the dramatic mountains of the West Maui Range (with peaks rising more than 5,000 ft/1,500 m).

In between, a central valley cleaves the island, giving Maui its nickname, the Valley Isle. The island's major roads and towns follow the coastline and run along the central valley. Maui overlooks the neighboring volcanic islands of Hawaii, Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe, and the crescent-shaped Molokini.

History

Polynesian navigators from the Marquesas Islands and Tahiti journeyed thousands of miles/kilometers to first settle the chain of Hawaiian Islands beginning around AD 500. Maui's Chief Kahekili was the first to nearly unite the islands under one command, but it wasn't until 1810 that King Kamehameha of the Big Island accomplished the feat. Lahaina, Maui, served as the Kingdom of Hawaii's capital from 1820 to 1845.

British Capt. James Cook made the first recorded Western contact in 1778. International trade in sandalwood, whaling, sugar and pineapple developed in the 1800s. The islands became known for their sugarcane plantations, and immigrant workers arrived from around the world. At the same time, Christian missionaries arrived on the islands from the U.S.

The Hawaiian monarchy was overthrown in 1893 and six years later, the U.S. annexed the islands. Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959.

The mainstay of the economy, the sugarcane industry, began to falter in the 1990s. The state has since diversified to other industries, including tourism, agriculture and construction. The Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Co. on Maui operates the last sugar plantation in Hawaii.

Port Information

Shore Excursions

Some ships spend the day in Maui, and others overnight there. Take the opportunity to explore Maui's volcanic wonders on a tour of Haleakala crater, visit picturesque Hana, take a helicopter ride over the island's dramatic scenery, bike and hike, visit some of the many shops, swim and snorkel, or go whale-watching with a certified marine mammal specialist. Check with your travel agent for additional information.

Potpourri

Removing stones or sand from Hawaii is not only archaeologically and environmentally frowned upon, but locals believe all rocks belong to volcano goddess Pele and doing so will invite her wrath. Each year visitors mail back stones and sand to visitor bureaus and other offices, citing bad luck.

Maui is the only Hawaiian island that still grows sugar.

Bats are the only warm-blooded land animals native to Hawaii. The mongoose was imported from India to eradicate rats, thought to have stowed away on boats to run rampant there. The experiment was a failure: The mongoose hunts in daytime, while rats are nocturnal.

There are no billboards on Maui to mar the views.

Every winter some of the world's best surfers compete on waves towering more than 40 ft/12 m at Maui's famed Jaws surf break. Spectators can watch safely from the cliffs above as Jet Skis tow the surfers into the waves.

The oldest school west of the Mississippi is the Lahainaluna School in Lahaina, established in 1831 by U.S. missionaries.

Hawaiian written language, devised by missionaries, uses only seven consonants: h, k, l, m, n, p and w along with the vowels a, e, i, o and u.

Pi'ilani Heiau, at the Kahanu National Tropical Botanical Garden, is the largest temple complex remaining in all of Polynesia.

See & Do Shopping

Maui's shopping options range from inexpensive novelty gift shops to upscale luxury boutiques.

Kitsch is alive and well in Maui's souvenir stores: You'll find dolphin ashtrays, glass whale paperweights, shell jewelry boxes, "Just Mauied" T-shirts and grass skirts. But the island also has other souvenir possibilities.

Look for *pareau* (colorful skirts worn over swimwear), Hawaiian shirts, handmade tapa products (a soft paperlike material made from the bark of the mulberry tree), freshwater pearls, *kukui*-nut jewelry, handmade quilts, koa-wood sculptures, tropical-fruit jams and teas, macadamia nuts and Kona coffee. Tropical fruits and flowers are also available but must be approved for export (many stores will ship products for you).

Front Street in Lahaina probably has the island's largest collection of small shops and art galleries. Everything from T-shirt stalls to fine jewelry stores are there. Shopping can be crowded and chaotic, depending on the day and time, but it's a fun place to people-watch.

Shopping centers are dotted across the island. Don't overlook the shopping arcades in the big hotels—you won't find many bargains there, but you'll almost always discover unusual shops and gift ideas.

Various shuttle buses operate within the Lahaina-Ka'anapali, Kapalua and Wailea areas and provide shuttle service to and from the main shopping centers, golf courses and the resorts. Inquire with the hotel concierge or desk staff.

Shopping Hours: Monday-Saturday 9 am-9 pm and Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Some shopping malls may stay open later in the evenings.

The Fairmont Kea Lani Maui, Wailea, HI

The Fairmont Kea Lani Maui, Wailea, HI

Sunday, January 22, 2017 - Saturday, January 28, 2017

4100 Wailea Alanui
Wailea, HI

Year Renovated: 2013
Check in Time: 4:00 PM
Check out Time: 12:00 PM
Number of Floors: 7
Total Number of Rooms: 450
General Manager: Charles Head

STAR Rating: ★★★★★

Amenity Rating: ✓✓✓✓✓



Wedged between Polo Beach Club's multimillion-dollar condos and the sophisticated Four Seasons Maui, this is one of Fairmont's finest, and one of the most unusual hotels in the islands.

Thanks to its winning all-suite formula, imaginative design, creative chefs and cunning owners, Fairmont Kea Lani competes with its neighbor and even gives the Grand Wailea a run for its money. Its reputation with Wailea-bound families is second to none, outside of perhaps Polo Beach Club and Wailea Elua, Ekaho and Ekolu.

Never content to rest upon its laurels, the hotel recently completed a guest room refurbishment to the tune of \$70 million dollars. Returning guests will also discover new menus and spry new decor in the poolside grill. But the hotel isn't just concerned with aesthetics and comfort. It is environmentally conscious too, with a long roster of eco-friendly initiatives in play, including recycling containers in guest rooms; low-flow showerheads and toilets; energy-efficient lamps; biodegradable trash bags; reusable packaging; linen-washing reduction; and beach clean-ups.

One of the hotel's most trendsetting features is its Eco-Mode thermostats that automatically turn on when a guest checks in and shut off when

a guest checks out. The smart thermostat detects when a door is opened, signaling motion detectors to scan the room. If no motion is detected, the temperature adjusts five degrees higher. It also shuts off when doors to the lanai are opened and monitors humidity.

Set on a swath of golden sand, bookended by a colorful reef that beckons snorkelers, this hotel eschews the area's standard concrete architecture for whimsical Moorish design bathed in dazzling white. A wide range of facilities are on-site: four restaurants, a delicatessen, three pools, an exemplary staff and a golden sand beach, which is constantly recognized as one of the island's top 10 strands.

This resort has an interesting layout composed of a dozen two- to six-story whitewashed structures dotting 22 verdant acres. In the parking lot, bougainvillea-draped arbors act as elegant parking dividers.

The big, breezy lobby has a pleasant blend of tropical and contemporary styles, but the eye-catcher is the views of the ocean. Mallorcan pottery and regional antiques give common areas exotic flair. The lobby overlooks the main restaurant, which also faces out to sea, providing a blue backdrop to its contemporary seafood menu. The signature restaurant Ko is one of Wailea's newer eateries, though that doesn't take away from the fact that reservations are often required if you want to guarantee a table during the peak summer and winter seasons. Ko, which means "sugarcane" in Hawaiian, serves Hawaiian, Chinese, Filipino, Portuguese, Korean and Japanese dishes, with pricey but predictably elaborate presentations of signature dishes from each country. The \$50 lobster tempura is a kick, and fans of Korean fare will love the \$40 Chap Chae.



A longtime favorite serving dinner only, Nick's Fishmarket is another top table in this foodie haven, dishing up creative seafood in romantic tropical surroundings. Breakfast is served in Kea Lani, an open-air venue, while Cafe Ciao Deli and the newly renovated Ama Bar & Grill offer variety at lunchtime. The deli gives guests an economical option that includes pizza, picnic supplies and packaged goods.

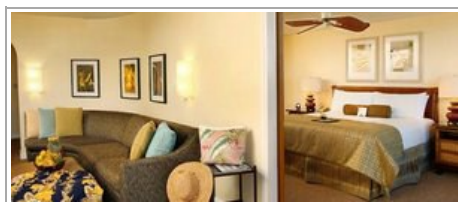
Watersports equipment is for rent at the beach, and use of the gym is complimentary. There are three pools with quartzite decks, including the adult-only plunge. The two free-form lagoon-style pools are connected by a waterslide. There is also a swim-up bar.

The revamped Willow Stream Spa offers 13 treatment rooms as well as three outdoor cabana options, including a couples' pavilion. For an additional fee of \$55 per person, those without treatments can access the segregated men's and women's relaxation areas, sauna showers that mimic weather, whirlpools and a nice little menu that includes fruit and elixirs. The 9,000 sq ft state-of-the-art facility also includes a nail bar for manicures that go above and beyond the call of duty.

Included in the \$35 resort fee is the hotel's exciting complimentary canoe experience that initiates guests to Hawaii's ancient seafaring traditions. Captains impart guests with local lore and a chance to see humpback whales during their winter calving and mating season, December-April. The resort fee also includes Wi-Fi, self-parking, watersports and beach chairs and umbrellas.

Meetings and weddings are big business. The ballroom, conference rooms and alfresco function areas can host groups from 20 to 600. Business services are available, as is valet parking for a daily fee of \$25. It is not included in the resort fee.

Despite all of the surrounding hoopla, the highlights are the hotel's capacious suites and one-, two- and three-bedroom villas that average around 900 sq ft. Full of quality and good taste, the newly refurbished suites blend Four Seasons' residential flair with a perkier designer slant that verges on boutique, though quality is exceptional. These rival the digs at The Kahala outside of Waikiki and Muana Lani Bay Hotel on the Big Island. All have spacious living areas, bedrooms and stunning marble-clad baths designed in a circular layout. Residential features include lighted closets, screened doors, oversized elliptical lanais, Wi-Fi and desks that double as dining tables for two.



The new decor is bright and upbeat, with custom furniture that is elegant and functional. Highlights include 50-inch flat-screen TVs with DVDs, CD players and video games. MP3 players are standard. Evocative Hawaiian art, sculpted carpeting, and rattan and exotic wood furnishings add to the look. The sectional sofa beds are good for families, and the bedrooms are easily sealed off from the living areas with double doors.

Three phones with data ports and voice mail, brisk air-conditioning, ceiling fans, thoughtfully placed mirrors and lighting are standard. King or paired twin mattresses are standard. Large foyers hold wet bars, microwave ovens, coffeemakers and refrigerators.

Spacious lanais are accessed from both living and sleeping areas, furnished with chaise longues and a dining table. Baths come with dual porcelain pedestal vanities, magnifying mirrors, stall showers, soaking tubs, yukata robes, toiletries, hair dryers and plush towels.

Knowledgeable travelers should request one of the one-bedroom suites in the -01 or -02 series, as these have oceanfront vistas from two furnished lanais.

Tops are the 37 villas set between the pools and the beach. These elegant, full-service apartments come with equipped kitchens, grocery service, full-sized washers and dryers, one full bath for each bedroom, and private plunge pools. Added services include barbecue and tub valets. The ones to request are in the South Wing.

Room service runs nonstop. Turndown and twice-daily housekeeping are de rigeur. Pets are permitted for a daily \$25 fee.

Compared with other Wailea resorts, the Fairmont Kea Lani provides superior value even though it lacks the faultless service of the Four Seasons and the theatrics of Grand Wailea. For well-heeled families, though, there is none better.

Latest Revision: March 2016

Basic Information

Year Renovated: 2013

Number of Floors: 7

Number of Rooms: 450

Chain: Fairmont Hotels & Resorts

Rates & Policies

Meals: No Meals Included

Deposit Policy: 2 nights deposit taken at time of booking.

Cancellation Policy: Full refund:21 prior to arrival

Restrictions: Special holiday policies apply

Credit Cards Are Accepted
Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

Location

17 mi from Kahului. On exclusive Polo Beach in the Wailea area of Maui. Beach.

Nearest Airports:

Kahului- 17 mi Northeast, 25 min drive

Nearby Points of Interest:

Haleakala National Park - 10,000 foot volcano (Nat'l Park)- 52 mi

Maui Ocean Center (Aquarium)- 14 mi to the North

Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Arts & Entertainment)- 26 mi to the Northeast

Restaurants On-Site

Dining: 4 restaurants and 4 bars On Site

Ko (Plantation inspired cuisine)
The Kea Lani Restaurant (Bountiful breakfast buffet, a la carte menu)

Polo Beach Grille & Bar (Lunch)

Room Amenities

(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)

Air Conditioning (some)

Balcony/Terrace

Coffeemaker

Daily Maid Service

Iron/Ironing Board

Kitchen/Kitchenette

Microwave Oven

Free Newspaper (some)

Rooms for Non-smokers

Telephone

Voicemail

Refrigerator

Safe (In Room)

Cable/Satellite Television

Television

DVD/VCR

Recreation

NEARBY

Bicycling

Fishing

Golf Course

Horseback Riding

Tennis (Outdoor Tennis)

ON-SITE

Beach

Boating/Sailing

Health Club

Health Spa/Massage

Hot Tub

Jogging Trails

Pool (Children's Pool, 3 Outdoor Pools)

Scuba Diving

Shopping Mall/Area

Snorkeling

Hotel Facilities

GENERAL SERVICES

ATM/Bank
Babysitting/Child Care
Barber/Hair Stylist
Car Rental
Children/Teen Programs
Complimentary Coffee
Complimentary Transportation
Concierge Services
Crib/Rollaway Bed
Currency Exchange
Gift Shop
Laundry Room
Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service
Multi-lingual Staff
Paid Onsite Parking
Room Service
Wheelchair Access to
Common/Public Areas

BUSINESS SERVICES

A-V Equipment
Business Center
Copier
Personal Computer
Fax
Meeting Facilities
Administrative Services

PET AMENITIES

Pets Allowed
Additional Fee for Pets
Size Limit of 20 lbs

SECURITY

Electronic Key/Lock
Parking Area Well Lit
Smoke Alarm in Rooms
Sprinkler in Rooms
Uniformed Security
Valet Parking Service
Surveillance Cameras On Site

Meetings Facilities

7 Meeting Rooms holding 500 people.
30,000 sq ft of Meeting Space
8,400 sq ft of Exhibit Space

Polo Beach Lawn

13,000 sq ft (65x200 ft)
Capacity: Theater- 400, Reception- 500

Kea Lani Ballroom

8,400 sq ft (60x140x17 ft)
Capacity: Theater- 750, Classroom- 500, Reception- 700, Banquet- 550

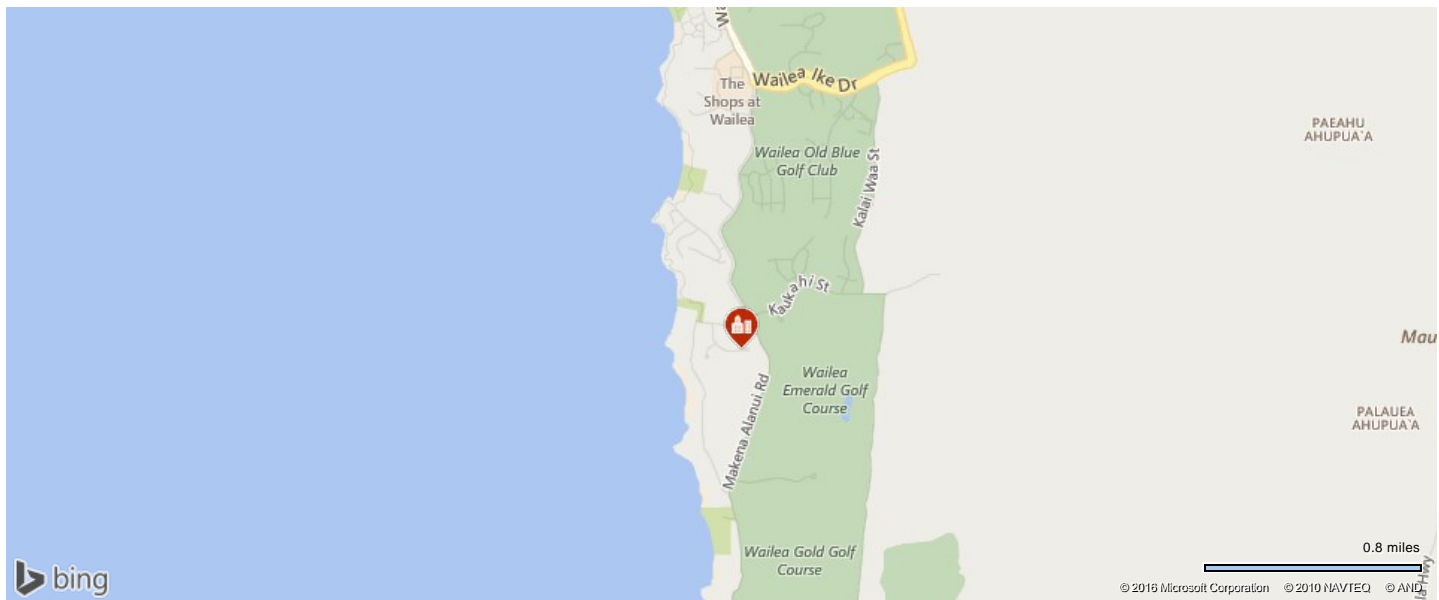
Adult Pool Lawn

6,050 sq ft
Capacity: , Reception- 500, Banquet- 400

Pre-Ballroom Foyer

4,000 sq ft (160x25x9 ft)
Capacity: , Reception- 275, Banquet- 250

Hotel Map & Neighborhood



Wailea, Hawaii

Wailea, Hawaii

Sunday, January 22, 2017 - Saturday, January 28, 2017

Overview

Introduction

Wailea is an exclusive resort area with world-famous spas and golf courses. The weather in South Maui is the kind that golfers dream of—long sunny days without wind or rain. The master-planned resorts of Wailea were designed around golf, with 54 championship holes. There are lots of great beaches, too, which you can enjoy even if you're not staying in one of the many resort hotels or condos. The upscale stores and restaurants at The Shops at Wailea cater to the flow of tourists.

Just offshore is the volcanic islet of Molokini, a marine-life preserve with the best snorkeling on Maui (though it can also be crowded). Arrange day trips to Molokini from your hotel or through local tour operators.

Iao Valley State Park, Wailuku, HI

Iao Valley State Park, Wailuku, HI

Sunday, January 22, 2017

This is one of the best places for a short hike on Maui. The Iao Needle, a 1,200-ft-/366-m-tall green monolith, is impressive. Maui's largest stream flows through the park, descending from one of the wettest spots on the planet: An average of 1 in/2.5 cm of rain falls each day on the peaks of the West Maui Mountains. Along the park's hiking trails are giant tree ferns, and moonstones sparkle in the creek beds.

Gate open daily 7 am-7 pm. US\$5 parking fee.

Tuesday, Jan 24, 2017



Wailea Kayaking

Iao Valley Road (northwest of Kahului)
Wailuku, HI

Phone: 808-984-8109

http://www.hawaiistateparks.org/parks/maui/Index.cfm?park_id=36

Hana, Hawaii

Hana, Hawaii

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Overview

Introduction

Located on the southeast side of Maui, Hana is our favorite spot on the island, and getting there is half the fun.

You can fly in, but we prefer the 50-mi/75-km drive along the Hana Highway. To call this a winding road is an understatement: There are 670 hairpin turns and 56 one-lane bridges along the way. Motion-sickness medication and/or frequent stops might be necessary for some travelers. The highway cuts through the lushest foliage on Maui and passes roadside waterfalls, beaches and dramatic coastal scenery. Pack a lunch and allow a whole day to drive there and back.

Be sure to stop at the Keanae Arboretum—many of the island's eye-boggling plants can be seen in natural settings along the park's trails. One of the most startling specimens is impossible to miss: The huge rainbow eucalyptus has a vibrant, multihued bark that makes it look like an elongated painter's palette. Be sure to take the side road down to Keanae itself to see terraced taro patches framed by a backdrop of waves crashing against volcanic formations along the coast.

Another recommended stop is Wai'anapanapa State Park, where you can visit eerie reflecting caves and a black-sand beach. (At low tide, look for an opening in the rocks to the right side of the beach—it tunnels out to a cave facing the open sea.) There's a coastal hiking trail that leads from the park to the town of Hana.

Although more people are visiting Hana than in the past, it's still fairly sleepy and less crowded than Maui's other tourist areas—a good place to relax and soak up the Hawaiian lifestyle. In the town of Hana, you'll see cottages with beautiful flower-filled gardens. Take a few minutes to browse the Hasegawa General Store. As the only store for 30 mi/50 km in any direction, it supplies Hana with everything from aloha shirts to chainsaws. Many visitors also make a stop at the Hotel Hana-Maui for lunch—it's the only resort in town.

On the road beyond Hana are some of Maui's top attractions: Waimoku Falls and the pools of Oheo Gulch, also known as the Seven Sacred Pools. The latter name—the result of an old publicity campaign—is rather misleading and its use is now discouraged: This area was never considered sacred by Hawaii's original inhabitants, and there are more than 20 pools, not seven. Go early in the day, before the pools get too crowded. You can choose between the lower pools (downstream, near the ocean) and the upper pools (upstream, on the way to Waimoku Falls). The lower pools are easier to reach but are more likely to be crowded.

Getting to the upper pools and the falls requires an easy 2-mi/3-km hike, but it can be muddy. You'll pass through an eerie bamboo forest and encounter a series of smaller waterfalls before reaching 400-ft-/120-m-high Waimoku Falls. The pools along the way are swimmable except during periods of drought or heavy rainfall. Check in at the ranger station for current advisories.

Just beyond Oheo Gulch is the village of Kipahulu. It is there, at the graveyard of Palapala Hoomau Congregational Church, that aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh is buried. (Lindbergh spent his last years in the Hana area.) The church is also worth a look: It was built in 1864 and has extremely thick walls and a window painting that combines Christian and Hawaiian motifs.

It is possible to continue south and west on the highway and return to the western half of the island via Kula and the Upcountry Maui area. Be aware, however, that the road becomes rough and narrows considerably beyond Kipahulu, and it is sometimes impassable because of heavy localized rainfall. Some rental car companies forbid you to take their cars on this stretch, and to do so may void your insurance coverage, making you personally responsible for any damage. If you decide to try it, inquire about road conditions, either with drivers passing in the opposite direction or by calling the county public works department Monday-Friday. Phone 808-248-8254.

Although it's possible to make a one-day round-trip between the western Maui resort areas and Kipahulu, you won't have enough time to enjoy all of the sights. We suggest at least a one-night stay in the Hana area so you can really explore this part of Maui. The number of hotels available in Hana and along this coast is limited, however. Bed-and-breakfast establishments have become more common, but they can be busy. Book well ahead.

Wednesday, Jan 25, 2017

Lanai Island, Hawaii



Hana Shoreline

Lanai Island, Hawaii

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Overview

Introduction

Lanai is the smallest of Hawaii's main islands, just 18 mi/29 km long. Once a plantation island used almost exclusively to grow pineapples, Lanai was sold by its former owner, Castle & Cooke, the parent company of Dole Pineapple, and is currently almost completely owned by Larry Ellison, CEO of Oracle Corp.

In the 1990s, pineapple production was halted and the company put its chips into upscale resort developments. (The pineapple farm workers were trained for hotel jobs.) As a result, most of the island's 3,000 residents work for one of the two Four Seasons resorts or elsewhere in the tourism industry.



Scenic view of Hulopoe Bay and the Sweetheart Rock

See & Do Recreation

Beaches

Kaiolohia

About 30 minutes north of Lanai City, visitors can explore an 8-mi/13-km stretch of beach that's rimmed by coral reef and a rocky channel. It's also known as Shipwreck Beach for the remnants of a 1940s oil tanker that's still caught in the reef. The beach is better for views and hiking than swimming, and can only be reached with a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Like most other Lanai Island locations, the roads to get there are unmarked.

Northern Tip
Lanai Island, HI

<http://www.gohawaii.com/lanai/regions-neighborhoods/north-lanai/kaiolohia>

Thursday, Jan 26, 2017

Haleakala National Park, Hawaii

Haleakala National Park, Hawaii

Thursday, January 26, 2017

Overview

Introduction

The eastern portion of Maui is actually a single volcanic mountain—Haleakala. It is the largest dormant volcano in the world, rising 30,000 ft/9,150 m from the ocean floor (only a third of it extends above the water). Encompassed within the national park are the crater of Haleakala and a wedge-shaped portion of the eastern flank that runs down to the coastline. A variety of ecosystems are found in this relatively small area.

Known as the House of the Sun, the mountain reveals its greatest beauty at dawn. The sunrise viewed from the summit inspired Mark Twain to say it was one of the loveliest sights he'd ever seen, and we're inclined to agree. You may have to leave hotels in Ka'anapali or Wailea as early as 3 am in the summer if you want to greet the sun on Haleakala, but it's worth the effort. You can get information about park closures and weather conditions inside the park by calling the ranger station 9 am-4 pm. Phone 808-572-4400.



Sunrise on the island of Maui from the top of Haleakala volcano

Arrive early enough to catch the entire show: First, you'll see an intense red line appear along the horizon, followed by a subtly changing spectrum of color moving into the sky. As the colors brighten, you suddenly realize you're looking down on a 7-mi-/11-km-long, 2-mi-/3-km-wide volcano crater filled to the brim with cotton-candy clouds. Once the sun has crested the horizon, it doesn't take long for the clouds to rise from the crater and obscure

the view from the summit.

The best observation point is from the top of White Hill, just a short hike up from the main viewing area. Take the warmest clothing you've got and grab the extra blanket from your hotel room—it's *cold* up there in the morning, and a strong wind often blows (in winter, it snows from time to time). A heated observation shelter helps those who don't have adequate protection, but arrive early if you want a front-row position along the picture window. An evening visit to watch the sun set and to stargaze is almost as pleasant.

If you want to explore the park, several hiking trails from the summit lead down to the crater floor, where you can see cinder cones, moonlike terrain and silversword plants (these spiky, highly reflective plants are an endangered species endemic to Hawaii and found on Haleakala and on the Big Island). Horseback rides to the crater floor are also available.

If you drive a car, allow time to make stops as you descend the mountain. There are several short trails that you can hike (ask for a trail map at the visitors center at the summit). If you didn't have a chance to see the silversword plants on the crater floor, some are planted outside the ranger station at the park's lower boundary. From there the landscape varies with the changes in altitude: You'll drive down through cattle ranches; carnation, rose and protea farms; and fields of Maui onions and cabbage.

It's possible to spend the night in the park, using campgrounds or basic cabins. Overnight stays should be arranged with park officials in advance of your arrival, as the few cabins available can be hard to come by even with advance preparation. You can also hike up or down the mountain, which requires overnight camping at the halfway point.

Waimoku Falls are within the park's boundaries, but they are not accessible from the summit—you have to leave the park and go around the mountain, which takes about half a day. Some days can be better than others to travel to Haleakala, so check on conditions before you go.

The park headquarters is open daily 7 am-3:45 pm and the Haleakala Visitor Center (at the summit) is open daily 5:30 am-3 pm. The park is open 24 hours with occasional closures because of weather. Admission is US\$10 per vehicle or US\$5 per person (hikers and bikers), and the pass is valid for three days. Phone 808-572-4400. <http://www.nps.gov/hale>.

Friday, Jan 27, 2017

Lahaina, Hawaii

Lahaina, Hawaii

Friday, January 27, 2017

Overview

Introduction

Before Lahaina became a thriving missionary and whaling village, it was the home of Hawaiian kings and queens. Today, this town on Maui Island hums with tourist activity. The main drag, Front Street, is lined with restaurants, art galleries and little shopping malls geared toward visitors.

But the town still manages to retain some charm, particularly along the harbor and around the square, which is dominated by the state's largest banyan tree—it was planted in 1873 and covers 0.5 acres/0.25 hectares. Some of the town's traditional atmosphere can be attributed to the Lahaina Restoration Foundation, whose preservation efforts have helped maintain many historic buildings.

Take a peek at the museum in the renovated Wo Hing Society Temple on Front Street. Another building on the grounds screens some of the earliest films of the islands, shot by Thomas Edison in the late 1800s. The Buddhist Hongwanjii Temple and Lahaina Jodo Mission are nearby. The Jodo Mission has a shrine, cemetery and a huge Amitabha Buddha.

While in Lahaina, you'll probably notice the Pioneer Sugar Mill's smokestack. The mill itself has been demolished, but it is evidence of the sugar industry that was an important economic force in the area for 140 years. On the hill above Lahaina is the Lahainaluna school. Established by missionaries in 1831, it was formerly a seminary and now serves as a high school. There are good views of the town and the ocean from the school's parking lot.

Lahaina is a center for water excursions. Whale-watching cruises are available December-April, when the humpbacks return to their wintering waters off of Maui to give birth. Other boats offer cruises along the coast, and small submarines take passengers underwater to view coral reefs and lava formations.



Lahaina Shoreline

Maui Tropical Plantation, Wailuku, HI

Maui Tropical Plantation, Wailuku, HI

Friday, January 27, 2017

This site is a landscaped model of a working plantation with fields of bananas, pineapples, sugarcane and macadamia nuts, as well as tropical flowers. You can explore the plantation on foot or take the tram. The on-site shop sells flowers and fruits that are approved for export to the mainland. The Stoop serves lunch daily 10 am-4 pm.

Open daily 9 am-4 pm. Free admission; tram ride is US\$16.50 adults, US\$6.25 children ages 3-12. Maui Ziplines runs a five-line, two-hour tour that starts behind Waikapu Grill for US\$110 per person.

The Shops at 505 Front Street, Lahaina, HI

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An ever-changing collection of cute boutique shops and eclectic dining in an English-style marketplace. Right on the beach and adjacent to historical sites.

Saturday, Jan 28, 2017

Bailey House Museum, Wailuku, HI

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This historical treasure is one of the earliest structures built by the missionaries. Once a women's seminary, the building now contains furnishings from the mid- to late 1800s, ancient Hawaiian artifacts, an art gallery, a gift shop and a 100-year-old dugout canoe.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm. US\$7 adults.

1670 Highway 30, Waikapu Valley
(between mile markers 2 and 3)
Wailuku, HI

Phone: 808-244-7643. Toll-free 800-451-6805

<http://www.mauitropicalplantation.com>

505 Front St.
Lahaina, HI

Phone: 808-667-2514

<http://www.505frontstreet.com>

2375-A Main St. (near the entrance to
Iao Valley)
Wailuku, HI

Phone: 808-244-3326

<http://www.mauimuseum.org>