

The Best of Hawaii from \$80 a Day

There's no place on earth quite like this handful of sun-drenched mid-Pacific islands. Here you'll find palm-fringed blue lagoons, lush rainforests, hidden gardens, cascading waterfalls, wild rivers running through rugged canyons, and volcanoes soaring 2 miles into the sky. And oh, those beaches—gold, red, black, and even green sands caressed by endless surf.

Unfortunately, even paradise has its share of stifling crowds and tourist schlock. If you're not careful, your trip to Hawaii could turn into a nightmare of tourist traps selling shells from the Philippines, the hokey faux culture of cellophane-skirted hula dancers, overpriced exotic drinks, and a 4-hour timeshare lecture before you get on that "free" sailing trip. That's where this guide comes in. As Hawaii residents, we can tell the extraordinary from the merely ordinary. We're here to steer you away from the crowded, the overrated, and the overpriced—and toward the best Hawaii has to offer. This guide will make sure that your every dollar is well spent.

THE HAWAII FROM \$80 A DAY PREMISE

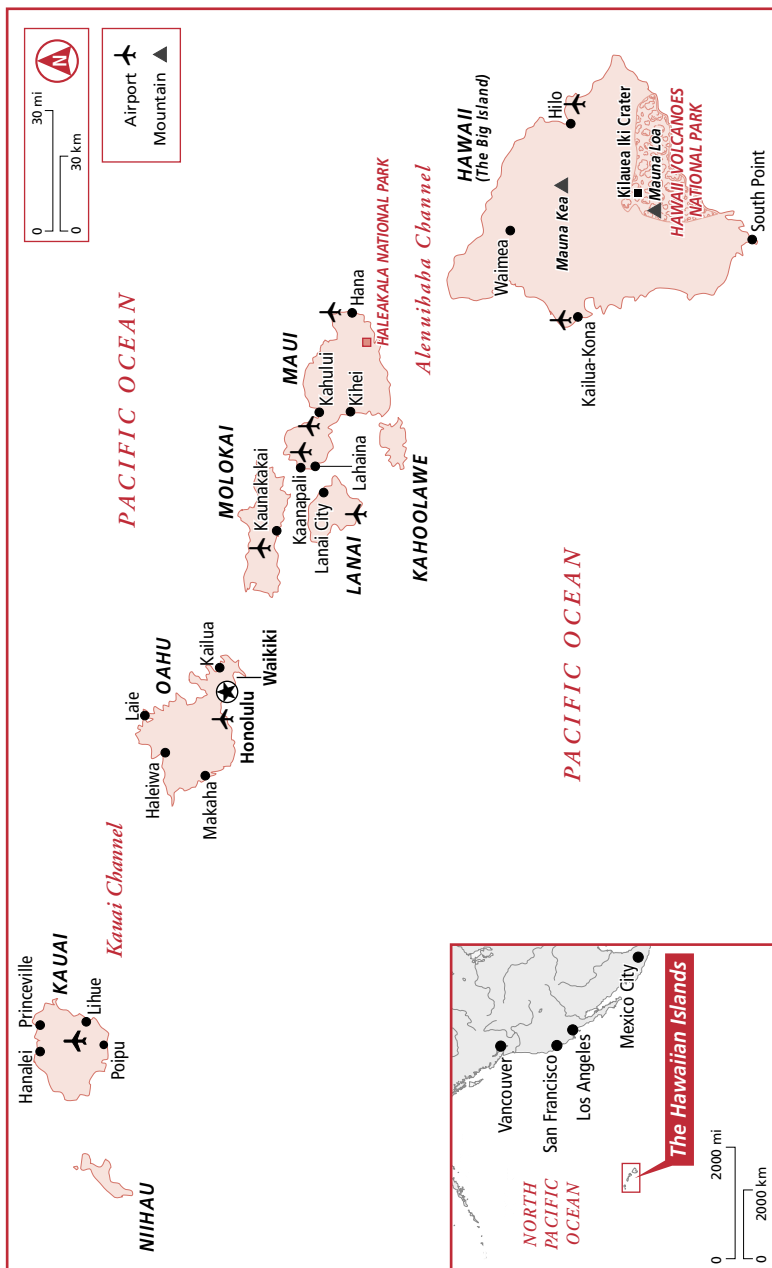
This premise might seem like a pipe dream, but it's not. The idea is this: With good planning and a watchful eye, you can keep your basic daily living costs—accommodations and three meals a day—down to as little as \$80 per person. This budget model works best for two adults traveling together who have at least \$160 a day to work with and can share a double room (single rooms are much less cost-efficient). This way, if you aim for accommodations costing around \$100 for a double, you'll be left with about \$30 per person per day for food (less drinks and tips).

If you want to keep things even cheaper, we'll show you how to do that, too. But, in defining this basic premise, we at Frommer's have assumed that you want to travel comfortably, probably with your own room rather than a hostel bunk (even if it does mean a shared bathroom),

and dining on good food rather than fast food at every meal. This book will also serve you well even if you don't need to keep your two-person budget to an absolutely strict \$160 a day, but you want to keep the tabs down and get the most for your money at every turn. It will, on the other side of the coin, also meet your needs if you want to travel on the ultra-cheap—for less than \$80 a day—by camping out in clean hostels and eating as cheaply as possible.

Of course, the cost of sightseeing, transportation, and entertainment are all extras. But don't worry—although many of Hawaii's outings and eco-adventures are quite pricey, we've got plenty of suggestions on how to keep those bills down, too. Only you know how much money you have to spend; but with our advice, you'll be able to make informed decisions on what to see and do. If you stick to our recommendations, it'll be money well spent.

The Hawaiian Islands



1 The Best Beaches

- **Lanikai Beach** (Oahu): Too gorgeous to be real, this stretch along the Windward Coast is one of Hawaii's postcard-perfect beaches—a mile of golden sand as soft as powdered sugar bordering translucent turquoise waters. The year-round swimming pool-calm waters are excellent for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. To complete the picture, there are two tiny offshore islands that function not only as scenic backdrops but also as bird sanctuaries. See “Beaches” in chapter 5.
- **Hapuna Beach** (Big Island): This half-mile-long crescent regularly wins kudos in the world's top travel magazines as the most beautiful beach in Hawaii—some consider it one of the most beautiful beaches in the whole world. One look and you'll see why: Perfect cream-colored sand slopes down to crystal-clear waters that, in the summer, are great for swimming, snorkeling, and bodysurfing; come winter, waves thunder in like stampeding wild horses. The facilities for picnicking and camping are top-notch, and there's plenty of parking. See p. 283.
- **Kapalua Beach** (Maui): On an island of many great beaches, Kapalua takes the prize. This golden crescent with swaying palms is protected from strong winds and currents by two outstretched lava-rock promontories. Its calm waters are perfect for snorkeling, swimming, and kayaking. The beach borders the Kapalua Bay Hotel, but it's long enough for everyone to enjoy. Facilities include showers, restrooms, and lifeguards. See “Beaches” in chapter 7.
- **Papohaku Beach** (Molokai): One of Hawaii's longest beaches, these gold sands stretch on for some 3 miles, and are about as wide as a football field. Offshore, the ocean churns mightily in winter, but the waves die down in summer, making the calm waters inviting for swimming. Papohaku is also great for picnics, beach walks, and sunset watching. See “Beaches” in chapter 8.
- **Hulopoe Beach** (Lanai): This golden, palm-fringed beach off the south coast of Lanai gently slopes down to the azure waters of a Marine Life Conservation District, where clouds of tropical fish flourish and spinner dolphins come to play. A tide pool in the lava rocks defines one side of the bay, while the other is lorded over by the Manele Bay Hotel, which sits prominently on the hill above. Offshore, you'll find good swimming, snorkeling, and diving. Onshore, there's a full complement of beach facilities, from restrooms to camping areas. See “Beaches” in chapter 9.
- **Haena Beach** (Kauai): Backed by verdant cliffs, this curvaceous North Shore beach has starred as Paradise in many a movie. It's easy to see why Hollywood loves Haena Beach, with its grainy golden sand and translucent turquoise waters. Summer months bring calm waters for swimming and snorkeling, while winter brings mighty waves for surfers. There are plenty of facilities on hand, including picnic tables, restrooms, and showers. See “Beaches” in chapter 10.

2 The Best Destinations for Low-Cost Vacations

- **The Hamakua Coast** (the Big Island): For an affordable vacation with plenty of hiking and ocean swimming among some of Hawaii's greatest natural beauty, come to the Hamakua Coast. Steeped in myth, the majestic Waipio Valley once supported a community of 40,000 Hawaiians in a garden of Eden etched by streams and waterfalls. Today, only about 50 Hawaiians live in this sacred place, which stretches from a black-sand beach to the cathedral-like cliffs that mark the valley wall some 6 miles away. Affordable B&Bs abound in nearby Kukuihaele and the historic village of Honokaa, which also has a good number of reasonably priced restaurants. See chapter 6.
- **Hilo** (the Big Island): This quaint, misty, flower-filled city by the bay offers bargains galore for the traveler on a tight budget. Comfy rooms start at just \$55 for two, filling Hawaiian-style plate lunches go for only \$7, and there are plenty of bargains to be found in the unique boutique shops downtown. Explore nearby waterfalls and tropical gardens, take in the historic sites, and lazily drift in the warm ocean waters offshore. Spectacular Hawaii Volcanoes National Park—with its still-spewing volcano, miles of trails through desolate lava deserts and verdant rainforests, and the bargain-basement admission fee of just \$10 per car (good for an entire week!)—is less than an hour's drive away. See chapter 6.
- **Huelo** (Maui): This place is so special and such a deal, we almost hate to spill the secret. On the road to Hana, on steep ocean cliffs out past the congestion of Kahului and the funky, bustling windsurfing capital of Paia, lies the quiet community of Huelo. This is the place to get away from it all. Those staying at Huelo's one-of-a-kind B&Bs wake early to catch the sunrise over the Pacific; they venture out to waterfalls and swimming holes after a leisurely breakfast; in winter, they scan for whales from vantage points along the cliffs. At sunset, they dine on simple meals they've prepared themselves as they watch the sky fade from blue to magenta. Huelo is ideal for a quiet, simple vacation rich in nature, serenity, and affordability. See chapter 7.
- **Molokai**: Often called "the real Hawaii," Molokai is the kind of place where time moves more slowly. Reasonably priced condos and B&Bs dot the island; you can even stay on the ocean for just \$80 a night. Restaurants cater to the locals, for whom eating out is a treat, not a necessity, so prices are low. Entertainment is homemade: early-morning swims, day hikes through the forest, sunset picnics on the beach. Best of all, a stay on Molokai is a sojourn back to an era where people smile and wave to strangers, and nothing is more important than stopping to appreciate natural beauty. See chapter 8.
- **Kauai's Coconut Coast**: This once-royal land on the road to the North Shore abounds with sparkling waterfalls and lush rainforest as well as bargain-priced accommodations and restaurants. With lots of activities to offer—from water-skiing on the Wailua River to offshore kayaking—this is heaven for active travelers. At the center of the action is Kapaa, a restored plantation town that hasn't lost its funky charm. And the central location makes this a great base for exploring the entire island—nothing is much more than an hour away. See chapter 10.

3 The Best Free or Cheap Experiences

- **Hitting the Beach:** A beach is a beach, right? Not in Hawaii. With 132 islets, shoals, and reefs in the tropical Pacific and a general coastline of 750 miles, Hawaii has beaches of all different sizes, shapes, and colors, from white to black; the variety on the six major islands is astonishing. You can go to a different beach every day for years and still not see them all. And, whether you're looking for a scene or want to get away from it all, there's one for everyone. See the "Beaches" sections in the individual island chapters.
- **Taking the Plunge:** Don mask, fin, and snorkel and explore the magical world beneath the waves—exotic corals and kaleidoscopic clouds of tropical fish; a sea turtle may even come over to check you out. Can't swim? Rent a life jacket that will keep you afloat while you peer below the surface. Whatever you do, don't miss the opportunity to go under—if you come to Hawaii and don't see the underwater world, you're missing half the fun.
- **Reliving the Tragedy of Pearl Harbor** (Oahu): After December 7, 1941, the day that Japanese warplanes bombed Pearl Harbor, the United States could turn its back on World War II no longer. Standing on the deck of the USS *Arizona* Memorial, which stands as an eternal tomb for the 1,177 sailors and Marines trapped below when the battleship sank in 9 minutes, is a moving experience you'll never forget. Admission is absolutely free. See p. 184.
- **Meeting Local Folks:** Get out of the resort areas to learn about Hawaii and its people. Just smile and say "Owzit?" ("How is it?"). "It's good," is the usual response—and you'll usually make a new friend. Hawaii is remarkably cosmopolitan—every ethnic group in the world seems to be represented here—and it's fascinating to discover the varieties of food, culture, language, and customs.
- **Touring an Entire Island for Just a Couple of Bucks** (Oahu): A buck-fifty gets you around the island of Oahu on TheBus's Circle Island line. From Ala Moana Center, no. 52 goes clockwise around the island, and no. 55 goes counterclockwise. It takes 3 to 4½ hours to circumnavigate the island, in which time you'll see the majority of its scenic beauty. It's the best sightseeing deal in the islands, hands down. See chapter 5.
- **Watching the Hula Being Performed:** On Kauai, the **Coconut Market Place** hosts free hula shows every day at 5pm. Get there early to get a good seat for the hour-long performances of both *kahiko* (ancient) and *auwana* (modern) hula. The real show-stoppers are the *keiki* (children) who perform. Don't forget your camera! See chapter 10.
- **Ogling the Day's Catch** (the Big Island): Daily weigh-ins of big game fish catch usually get underway at the Honokohau Harbor Fuel Dock between 4 and 5pm. It doesn't cost a thing to sit in the bleachers at the weigh-in area and watch as 1,000-pound Pacific blue marlin, fat yellowfin tunas in the 100- to 200-pound range, and a host of other eye-popping catches are strung up to the scale and weighed. See p. 293.
- **Visiting the National Parks:** Hawaii's national parks are the nation's most unusual. Maui's Haleakala National Park features one of the biggest volcanic craters on earth; it's an otherworldly place that holds the

secrets of past millennia. Sunrise here is a mystical experience. The Big Island's Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, on the other hand, holds the key to the future: At its heart is still-erupting Kilauea volcano, where you can watch nature in action, sculpting the island before your eyes. You can actually walk up to the flow and watch it ooze along for an up-close-and-personal encounter, or you can stand at the shoreline and watch with awe as 2,000°F (1,093°C) molten fire pours into the ocean, adding to the island's density. If you have to choose just one park in Hawaii, choose Hawaii Volcanoes; it's simply

spectacular. See "Seeing the Sights" in chapters 6 and 7.

• **Hiking into Kalaupapa (Molokai):**

Even if you can't afford to fly or ride a mule in, don't pass up the opportunity to see this hauntingly beautiful peninsula. It takes nothing more than a pair of hiking boots, a permit (available at the trail head), and some grit. Hike down the 2.5-mile trail (with 26 switchbacks, it can be a bit tricky) to Molokai's legendary leper colony. The views are breathtaking: You'll see the world's highest sea cliffs and waterfalls plunging thousands of feet into the ocean. See p. 479.

4 The Best Adventures for Special Splurges

Branch out while you're in Hawaii; do something you wouldn't normally do—after all, you're on vacation. Following is a list of adventures we highly recommend. They may be pricey, but these splurges are worth every penny.

• **Year-Round Whale-Watching with Captain Dan** (the Big Island; ☎ 808/322-0028):

During humpback season—roughly December to April—when Hawaii's most impressive visitors return to the waters off the Kona Coast, Capt. Dan McSweeney will take you right to them. In the other months of the year, he'll take you out to see Hawaii's year-round whales: pilot, sperm, false killer, melon-headed, pygmy killer, and beaked whales. A whale researcher for more than 20 years, Captain Dan has no problem finding whales—in fact, he guarantees a sighting, or he'll take you out again for free. He frequently drops an underwater microphone or video camera into the depths so you can listen to whale songs or actually see what's going on. See p. 289.

• **Night Diving with Manta Rays** (the Big Island): These harmless creatures

of the deep, with wingspans of 10 to 14 feet, frequent the waters of Kona looking for a meal of microscopic plankton, which are attracted to the shore lights. Watching these graceful fish spin, barrel roll, and pirouette in the lights is an experience you'll never forget. See p. 292.

• **Big-Game Fishing off the Kona Coast** (the Big Island):

Don't pass up the opportunity to try your luck in the big-game fishing capital of the world. This is one of the few places where 1,000-pound marlin are taken from the seas just about every month of the year. Not looking to set a world record? Kona's charter boat captains specialize in conservation, and will be glad to "tag and release" any fish you angle, letting the fish go so someone else can have the fun of fighting a big game fish. See "Watersports" in chapter 6.

• **Riding a Mule to Kalaupapa** (Molokai):

Even if you have only a single day to spend on Molokai, spend it on a mule. The trek from "topside" Molokai to the Kalaupapa National Historic Park, Father Damien's world-famous leper colony,

with **Molokai Mule Ride** (☎ 800/567-7550 or 808/567-6088) is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. The cliffs are taller than 300-story skyscrapers—but Buzzy Sproat’s mules go up and down the narrow 2.9-mile trail daily, rain or shine, without ever losing a rider or mount on any of the 26 switchbacks. From 1,600 feet on the nearly perpendicular ridge, the sure-footed mules step down the muddy trail, pausing often to calculate their next move. Each switchback is numbered; by the time you get to number 4, you’ll catch your breath, put the mule on cruise control, and begin to enjoy Hawaii’s most awesome trail ride. See p. 484.

- **Day Tripping to Lanai:** If you’d like to visit Lanai, but you only have a day to spare, the best way to go is on **Triloggy Excursions**’ (☎ 800/874-2666 or 808/661-4743) daylong sailing, snorkeling, swimming, and whale-watching adventure from Maui. For more than 2 decades, the members of the Coon family have taken visitors

on personalized tours of their favorite island. They make the 6:30am departure as painless as possible with their home-baked hot cinnamon rolls (mom’s own secret recipe) and just-brewed Kona coffee. After several hours of snorkeling, swimming, and just laying around in the sun, the crew whips up a Hawaiian-style barbecue, after which they take you on a guided van tour of the island. The afternoon sail back can be relaxing or wet ‘n’ wild, depending on the wind gods. See p. 410.

- **A Helicopter Ride over the Na Pali Coast** (Kauai): Streaking low over razor-thin cliffs, fluttering past sparkling waterfalls and down into the canyons and valleys of the fabled Na Pali Coast—there’s almost too much beauty to absorb as you fly over this spectacular, surreal landscape. It’s the best way to see the dazzling beauty of Kauai. See “Seeing the Sights,” in chapter 10 for recommended outfitters.

5 The Best of Natural Hawaii

- **Volcanoes:** The entire island chain is made of volcanoes; don’t miss the opportunity to see one. On Oahu, the entire family can hike to the top of the ancient volcano, world-famous **Diamond Head**. At the other end of the spectrum is fire-breathing Kilauea at **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**, on the Big Island, where you can get an up-close-and-personal experience with the red-hot lava ooze. On Maui, **Haleakala National Park** provides a bird’s-eye view into a long-dormant volcanic crater. See chapters 5, 6, and 7.
- **Waterfalls:** Rushing waterfalls thundering downward into sparkling

freshwater pools are some of Hawaii’s most beautiful natural wonders. If you’re on the Big Island, stop by **Rainbow Falls**, in Hilo, or the spectacular 442-foot **Akaka Falls**, just outside the city. On Maui, the Road to Hana offers numerous viewing opportunities; at the end of the drive, you’ll find **Oheo Gulch** (also known as the Seven Sacred Pools), with some of the most dramatic and accessible waterfalls on the islands. Kauai is loaded with waterfalls, especially along the North Shore and in the Wailua area, where you’ll find 40-foot **Opaekaa Falls**, probably the best-looking drive-up waterfall on Kauai. With scenic mountain peaks in the

background and a restored Hawaiian village on the nearby river banks, the Opaekaa Falls are what the tourist-bureau folks call an eye-popping photo op. See “Seeing the Sights,” in chapters 6, 7, and 10.

- **Gardens:** The islands are redolent with the sweet scent of flowers. On Oahu, amid the high-rises of downtown Honolulu, the leafy oasis of **Foster Botanical Garden** showcases 24 native Hawaiian trees and the last stand of several rare trees, including an East African whose white flowers bloom only at night. On the Big Island, **Liliuokalani Gardens**—the largest formal Japanese garden this side of Tokyo—resembles a postcard from Asia, with bonsai, carp ponds, pagodas, and even a moon gate bridge. At Maui’s **Kula Botanical Garden**, you can take a leisurely self-guided stroll through more than 700 native and exotic plants, including orchids, proteas, and bromeliads. On lush Kauai, do not miss the incredible magical **Na Aina Kai Botanical Gardens**, on some 240 acres, sprinkled with some 70 life-size (some larger than life) whimsical bronze statues, hidden off the beaten path of the North Shore. See “Seeing the Sights,” in chapters 5, 6, 7, and 10.
- **Marine Life Conservation Areas:** Nine underwater parks are spread across Hawaii, most notably **Waikiki Beach** and **Hanauma Bay**, on Oahu; the Big Island’s **Kealahou Bay**; **Molokini**, just off the coast of Maui;

and Lanai’s **Manele and Hulopoe bays**. Be sure to bring snorkel gear to at least one of these wonderful places during your vacation here. See “Water-sports,” in chapters 5, 6, 7, and 9.

- **Garden of the Gods** (Lanai): Out on Lanai’s North Shore lies the ultimate rock garden: a rugged, barren, beautiful place full of rocks strewn by volcanic forces and shaped by the elements into a variety of shapes and colors—brilliant reds, oranges, ochers, and yellows. Scientists use phrases such as “ongoing post-erosional event” or “plain and simple badlands” to describe the desolate, windswept place. The ancient Hawaiians, however, considered the Garden of the Gods to be an entirely supernatural phenomenon. Natural badlands or mystical garden? Take a four-wheel-drive trip out here and decide for yourself. See “Seeing the Sights,” in chapter 9.
- **The Grand Canyon of the Pacific—Waimea Canyon** (Kauai): This valley, known for its reddish lava beds, reminds everyone who sees it of Arizona’s Grand Canyon. Kauai’s version is bursting with ever-changing color, just like its namesake, but it’s smaller—only a mile wide, 3,567 feet deep, and 12 miles long. All this grandeur was caused by a massive earthquake that sent all the streams flowing into a single river, which then carved this picturesque canyon. You can stop by the road and look at it, hike down into it, or swoop through it by helicopter. See p. 578.

6 The Best Golf Courses with Reasonable Greens Fees

Believe it or not, there are golfing bargains to be had in Hawaii—not at the world-famous resort or PGA courses, but at little-known local ones offering breathtaking views, challenging play, and affordable greens fees.

- **Kahuku Golf Course** (Oahu; ☎ 808/293-5842): We admit that this nine-hole budget course is a bit funky: There are no facilities (except a few pull carts that disappear with the first handful of golfers), no club

rentals, and no clubhouse. But golfing here is a great way to experience the tranquillity and natural beauty of Oahu's North Shore. The views are fantastic, especially from holes 3, 4, 7, and 8, which are right on the ocean. Duffers will love the ease of this recreational course. The cost for this experience? Just \$8 on weekdays and \$10 on weekends for 9 holes. See p. 173.

- **Hamakua Country Club** (the Big Island; ☎ 808/775-7244): This par-33, 2,520-yard course was built in the 1920s on a very steep hill overlooking the ocean. With really only enough room for about 4½ holes, architect Frank Anderson somehow managed to squeeze in 9 by crisscrossing holes across the fairway. The cost to play this course—open weekdays to nonmembers—is just \$15. See p. 299.
- **Pukalani Country Club** (Maui; ☎ 808/572-1314): This cool par-72, 6,962-yard course at 1,100 feet elevation is a fun one to play. High-handicap golfers will love it, and more experienced players can make it more challenging by playing from the back tee. Greens fees, including carts, are only \$55 for 18 holes, even cheaper after 11am. See p. 424.
- **Ironwood Hills Golf Course** (Molokai; ☎ 808/567-6000): One of the oldest golf courses in the state, Ironwood Hills is a real find. Built in

1929 by the Del Monte Plantation for its executives, this unusual course delights with its rich foliage, open fairways, and spectacular views of the rest of the island. Greens fees range from \$15 to \$20, depending on how many holes you play. See p. 480.

- **Cavendish Golf Course** (Lanai): To play this 9-hole course next to the Lodge at Koele in Lanai City, just show up and put a donation (\$5–\$10 would be nice) into the little wooden box next to the first tee. The par-30, 3,071-yard course was built by the Dole plantation in 1947 for its employees. The greens are a bit bumpy—nothing will roll straight here—but the views of Lanai are great. See p. 504.
- **Kukuilono Golf Course** (Kauai; ☎ 808/332-9151): This fun 9-hole course has spectacular views of Kauai's entire south coast. You can't beat the price: \$7 for the day, no matter how many holes you play—you can even play the course twice, if you like. This course is well maintained and relatively straightforward, with few fairway hazards, but there are plenty of trees in this wooded area to keep you on your game. When you get to the second tee box, check out the coconut tree dotted with yellow, pink, orange, and white golf balls that have been driven into the bark. Don't laugh—your next shot might add to the decor! See p. 571.

7 The Best Cultural Experiences

Hawaii isn't just any other beach destination. It has a wonderfully rich, ancient history and culture that's worth getting to know while you're in the islands.

- **Watching the Ancient Hawaiian Sport of Canoe Paddling** (Oahu): From February to September, on weekday evenings and weekend days, hundreds of canoe paddlers gather at

Ala Wai Canal and practice the Hawaiian sport of canoe paddling. Find a comfortable spot at Ala Wai Park, next to the canal, and watch this ancient sport come to life. See p. 174.

- **Attending a Hawaiian-Language Church Service** (Oahu): Kawaiahao Church (☎ 808/522-1333) is the Westminster Abbey of Hawaii; the

vestibule is lined with portraits of the Hawaiian monarchy, many of whom were crowned in this very building. The coral church is a perfect setting to experience an all-Hawaiian service, held every Sunday at 10:30am, complete with Hawaiian song. Admission is free; let your conscience be your guide as to a donation. See p. 174.

- **Buying a Lei in Chinatown** (Oahu): There's actually a host of cultural sights and experiences to be had in Honolulu's Chinatown. Wander through this several-square-block area with its jumble of exotic shops offering herbs, Chinese groceries, and acupuncture services. Before you leave, be sure to check out the lei sellers on Maunakea Street (near N. Hotel St.), where Hawaii's finest leis go for as little as \$3.50. See chapter 5.
- **Visiting Ancient Hawaii's Most Sacred Temple** (the Big Island): On the Kohala Coast, where King Kamehameha the Great was born, stands Hawaii's oldest, largest, and most sacred religious site—the 1,500-year-old Mookini Heiau, used by kings to pray and offer human sacrifices. The massive three-story stone temple, dedicated to Ku, the Hawaiian god of war, was erected in A.D. 480. Each stone is said to have been passed hand-to-hand from Pololu Valley, 14 miles away, by 18,000 men who worked from sunset to sunrise. Go in late afternoon when the setting sun strikes the lava rock walls and creates a primal mood. See p. 310.
- **Hunting for Petroglyphs** (the Big Island): Archaeologists are still unsure who made these ancient rock carvings—the majority of which are found in the 233-acre Puako Petroglyph Archaeological District, near Mauna Lani Resort, on the Kohala Coast—or why. The best time to hunt for intricate depictions of

ancient life is either early in the morning or late afternoon, when the angle of the sun lets you see the forms clearly. See “Seeing the Sights” in chapter 6.

- **Exploring Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historic Park** (the Big Island): This sacred site on the South Kona Coast was once a place of refuge and a revered place of rejuvenation. Today, you can walk the same consecrated grounds where priests once conducted holy ceremonies and glimpse the ancient way of life in pre-contact Hawaii in the re-created 180-acre village. See p. 305.
- **Visiting the Most Hawaiian Isle:** A time capsule of 19th-century Hawaii, Molokai allows visitors to experience real Hawaiian life in its most unsullied form. The island's people have woven the cultural values of ancient times into modern life. In addition to this rich community, you'll find the magnificent natural wonders it so cherishes: Hawaii's highest waterfall and greatest collection of fish ponds; the world's tallest sea cliffs; plus sand dunes, coral reefs, rainforests, and empty, gloriously empty, beaches—pretty much the same Molokai of generations ago. See chapter 8.
- **Watching Salt Being Made** (Kauai): At Salt Pond Beach Park, Hawaiian families have practiced the ancient art of salt making for generations. During the summer, families—from the littlest *keiki* to eldest *kupuna*—work together in the ponds, evaporate the salt water, rake up the salt, and bag the Hawaiian salt, which is used in cooking and medicine. See p. 553.
- **Discovering the Legendary Little People** (Kauai): According to ancient Hawaiian legend, among Kauai's earliest settlers were the Menehune, a race of small people who worked at night to accomplish magnificent

feats. The Menehune Fish Pond—which at one time extended 25 miles—is said to have been built in just one night, with two rows of thousands of Menehune passing stones hand to hand. The Menehune were promised that no one would

watch them work, but one person did; when they discovered the spy, they stopped working immediately, leaving two gaps in the wall. Kayakers can paddle up Huleia Stream to see it up close. See p. 577.

8 The Best Affordable Accommodations

- **Royal Grove Hotel** (Oahu; ☎ 808/923-7691; www.royalgrovehotel.com): This small, family-owned hotel, with plenty of old-fashioned aloha, has *the* bargain of Waikiki. For \$45 (about the same price a couple would pay to stay in a private room at the hostel in Waikiki), you get a clean room in the older Mauka Wing, with a double bed or two twins, plus a kitchenette with refrigerator and stove. And it's only a 3-minute walk to the beach. See p. 119.
- **Backpackers Vacation Inn** (Oahu; ☎ 808/638-7838; www.backpackers-hawaii.com): If your dream of Hawaii is staying on the North Shore of Oahu where monstrous waves roll in during the winter, this multi-accommodation property is for you. It's not just for backpackers (although they do have dorm beds starting at \$20 and private rooms for \$66). This North Shore property has oceanfront studios, which sleep four, starting at \$96, and other oceanview homes at budget prices. See p. 129.
- **Kona Islander Inn** (Big Island; ☎ 800/622-5348; www.konahawaii.com): This is the most affordable condo in Kailua-Kona with studio apartments beginning at \$80 a night. These plantation-style, three-story buildings are surrounded by lush, palm-tree-lined gardens with torchlit pathways that make it hard to believe you're smack-dab in the middle of downtown. The central location—across the street from the historic Kona Inn Shops—is convenient but can be noisy; but at these rates, you can afford earplugs. See p. 243.
- **Kona Tiki Hotel** (the Big Island; ☎ 808/329-1425): Right on the ocean, away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Kailua-Kona, is one of the hottest budget deals in Hawaii. Although it's called a hotel, this small, family-run operation is more like a large bed-and-breakfast, with a continental breakfast buffet served by the pool every morning. The price? Just \$61 to \$75 for a double, or \$84 for a room with kitchenette. See p. 244.
- **Makai Inn** (Maui; ☎ 808/662-3200; www.makaiinn.net) This small apartment complex located right on the water (okay, no white-sand beach out front, but what do you want at these eye-popping prices that start at \$75 a room). The closest white-sand beach is just a 10-minute stroll, and the center of Lahaina town is a 20-minute walk away. The units are small (400 sq. ft.) but clean and filled with everything you could possibly need for your vacation: full kitchens, views of the ocean (in most units), separate bedrooms, and a quiet neighborhood. See p. 359.
- **Pineapple Inn Maui** (Maui; ☎ 877-212-MAUI, ext. 6284; www.pineappleinnmaui.com): This charming inn (only four rooms, plus a darling two-bedroom cottage) is not only an

exquisite find, but the prices, at just \$99, are terrific. Located in the residential area, with panoramic ocean views, this two-story inn is expertly landscaped in tropical flowers and plants with a lily pond in the front and a giant saltwater pool and Jacuzzi overlooking the ocean. Each of the soundproof rooms is professionally decorated with a small kitchenette (fridge, coffeemaker, toaster, and microwave), comfy bed, free wireless Internet access, TV/VCR, and an incredible view off your own private lanai. See p. 367.

- **Kamalo Plantation Bed-and-Breakfast** (Molokai; ☎ 808/558-8236; www.molokai.com/kamalo): This lush 5-acre spread includes an ancient *heiau* ruin in the front yard, plus leafy tropical gardens and a working fruit orchard. The plantation-style cottage is tucked under flowering trees and surrounded by swaying palms and tropical foliage. It has its own lanai, a big living room with a queen sofa bed, and a separate bedroom with a king bed, so it can sleep four comfortably. The kitchen is fully equipped (it even has spices), and there's a barbecue outside. A breakfast of fruit and freshly baked bread is served every morning, all for just \$85 for a double. See p. 468.

- **Kauai Country Inn** (Kauai; ☎ 808/821-0207; www.kauaicountryinn.com): Run to the phone right now and book this place! Hard to believe that nestled in the rolling hills behind Kapaa, this old-fashioned country inn exists. Starting at \$95, each of the four suites is uniquely decorated in Hawaiian art deco with a touch of humor—complete with hardwood floors, private baths, kitchen or kitchenette, your own computer with high-speed connection, and lots of little amenities. Everything is top drawer, from the furniture to the Sub-Zero refrigerator. See p. 530.

- **Victoria Place** (Kauai; ☎ 808/332-9300; www.hshawaii.com/kvp/victoria): Hostess Edee Seymour lavishes her guests with attention and aloha in her spacious, skylit, U-shaped house that wraps around the swimming pool and garden of bougainvillea, hibiscus, gardenia, and ginger. There's also a secluded studio apartment ("Victoria's Other Secret") down a private path. Edee's breakfasts are truly a big deal: at least five different tropical fruits, followed by something from the oven, such as homemade bread, scones, or muffins—all for just \$90. See p. 522.

9 The Best Affordable Family Accommodations

- **Aloha Punawai** (Oahu; ☎ 808/923-5211; www.alternative-hawaii.com/alo hapunawai): Here's one of Waikiki's best-kept secrets: a low-profile, family-operated (since 1959) apartment hotel just 2 blocks from the beach and within walking distance of most Waikiki attractions. The Aloha Punawai offers some of the lowest prices in Waikiki (\$95 for studios and \$105 for a one-bedroom); if you stay a week, prices drop even more. And

the location is great, just across the street from Fort DeRussy Park and 2 blocks to Grey's Beach—the same great beach facing the luxury Halekulani and Sheraton Waikiki hotels. See p. 109.

- **Schrader's Windward Marine Resort** (Oahu; ☎ 800/735-5071 or 808/239-5711; www.hawaiiscene.com/schrader): Nestled in a tranquil, tropical setting on Kaneohe Bay, only a 30-minute drive from Waikiki, this

complex is made up of older cottage-style motels and a collection of older homes with budget prices starting at \$72 for a one-bedroom, \$127 for a two-bedroom, \$226 for a three-bedroom, and \$446 for a four-bedroom. See p. 127.

- **Volcano Guest House** (Big Island; ☎ 808/967-7775; www.volcano-guesthouse.com): If you're planning to visit Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, here's the place to bring the family. A mother herself, Bonnie Gooddell has completely child-proofed her house and installed a basketball hoop in the driveway; her truckload of toys will keep the kids happy for hours. You can make yourself right at home in Bonnie's free-standing two-story guest cottage, which comes outfitted with everything, even down to extra wool socks for cold nights. And at \$85 for two plus \$15 for each of the kids, it's easy on the family budget. See p. 260.
- **The Spinnaker** (Maui; ☎ 808/662-3200; www.makaiinn.net): This residential complex on a side street in Lahaina offers extremely affordable one- and two-bedroom budget apartments offered only by the week, but at prices that families can afford (\$500 a week for the one-bedroom or \$600 a week for the two-bedroom). All units have full kitchens, phones, television, and all the comforts of home. There is a pool in the complex and a whirlpool and barbecue area. There's no maid service, but at these prices you can clean up on your own. See p. 359.
- **Wailana Kai** (Maui; ☎ 800/541-3060; www.bellomaui.com): Bello Realty, which has searched out the best deals in Kihei, has added this renovated, two-story, 10-unit one- and

two-bedroom apartments to its collection. With one-bedroom units starting at \$85, this is a deal that will not last long. It's located at the end of a cul-de-sac street and just a 1-minute walk to the beach. All units have full kitchens, concrete walls (sound-proof!), and the second floor has ocean views. Also on property are a small pool, coin-operated laundry, and a barbecue area. See p. 369.

- **Moanui Beach House** (Molokai; ☎ 808/558-8236; www.molokai.com/kamalo): If you're looking for a quiet, remote beach house, this is it: a two-bedroom beach house, right across the street from a secluded white-sand cove beach. The A-frame has a shaded lanai facing the ocean, a screened-in lanai on the side of the house, a full kitchen, and an ocean view that's worth the price alone, which is just \$140. See p. 468.
- **Nihi Kai Villas, Poipu Crater Resort, and Waikomo Stream Villas** (Kauai; ☎ 800/325-5701; www.grantham-resorts.com). Here's a deal for you: These three wonderful Poipu properties with large, perfectly wonderful one- and two-bedroom condos a stone's throw from the beach—from just \$89 a night! What you're not getting is new carpet, new furniture, new drapes, and a prime location on the sands. What you are getting is a clean, well-located, well-cared for unit at a bargain price. The sofa bed in the living room allows even the one-bedroom condos to sleep four comfortably. Such on-site amenities as swimming pools, tennis and paddle courts, and barbecue and picnic areas make these value properties an even better bargain. See p. 523 and p. 524.

10 The Best Hawaii Websites

- **Big Island Home Page (www.bigisland.com):** Though not the most beautifully designed site, it does include lots of listings for dining, lodging, and activities, most with links to more information and images.
- **Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau (www.gohawaii.com):** This site provides an excellent, all-around guide to activities, tours, lodging, and events, plus a huge section on weddings and honeymoons. But keep in mind that only members of the HVCB are listed.
- **Internet Hawaii Radio (www.hotspots.hawaii.com):** A great way to get into the mood, this eclectic site features great Hawaiian music, with opportunities to order a CD or cassette. You can also purchase a respectable assortment of Hawaiian historical and cultural books.
- **Kauai: Island of Discovery (www.kauai-hawaii.com):** Extensive listings cover activities, events, recreation, attractions, beaches, and much more. The Vacation Directory includes information on golf, fishing, and island tours; some listings include e-mail addresses and links to websites. You'll also find a clickable map of the island with listings organized by region.
- **Maui Island Currents (www.islandcurrents.com):** Specializing in arts and culture, Island Currents gives the most detailed lowdown on current exhibitions and performance art. Gallery listings are organized by town, while in-depth articles highlight local artists. Consult restaurant reviews from the *Maui News* "Best of Maui" poll for suggestions and prices.
- **Maui Net (www.maui.net):** The clients of this Internet service provider are featured in this extensive directory of links to accommodations, activities, and shopping. The Activity Desk has links to outfitters' sites, where you can learn more and set up excursions before you arrive.
- **Molokai: The Most Hawaiian Island (www.molokai-hawaii.com):** This is a complete site for activities, events, nightlife, accommodations, and family vacations. Enjoy the landscape by viewing a virtual photo tour, get driving times between various points, and learn about local history.
- **Visit Lanai (www.visitlanai.net):** Everything you wanted to know about the island of Lanai from activities and accommodations to maps, a calendar of events, even romance.
- **Visit Oahu (www.visit-oahu.com):** This site provides an extensive guide to activities, dining, lodging, parks, shopping, and more from the Oahu chapter of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau.