

PART ONE

GETTING ACQUAINTED *with* HAWAII

ABOUT *the* ALOHA STATE

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, in the middle of the sea and far removed from any continent, are an irresistible lure to anyone who's ever heard the word *aloha*. People from all over the world pay handsomely for the privilege of flying at least five hours to this jacks toss of islands in the tropical North Pacific. Hawaii is the most isolated population center in the world, 2,390 miles from California, 3,850 miles from Japan, 4,900 miles from China, and 5,280 miles from the Philippines. Only 7 of the 132 blips in the Hawaiian Islands archipelago are even inhabited, and one of those, Niihau, is a private ranch.

Despite the remoteness of the destination, more than 7.4 million people find their way annually to Hawaii to roam the sandy shores and volcanic peaks, enjoy the nearly perfect weather and easygoing lifestyle, gaze at the spectacular natural beauty, and dream of ways to drop out of sight and stay here forever.

Plenty of people have done just that. Since the Islands were discovered in about AD 650 by Polynesian seafarers, probably from the Marquesas, a wide range of folks have washed ashore—British and European explorers; field workers from Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean; German planters; Scottish merchants; American missionaries and whalers; South Pacific and other Polynesian Islanders; Southeast Asian refugees; and rogues of all nations who jumped ship and were unwilling, or unable, to leave. Some early-20th-century wayfarers ran out of fuel, crash-landed their planes in the sea, and swam ashore. It's a colorful history that led to the racial rainbow of people and cultures of which modern Hawaii is composed. These islands, America's only former royal kingdom complete with a fairy-tale palace, have been a state since 1959. In Hawaii's remarkable population, people of mixed blood outnumber other groups, no one is a majority, and the rarest soul of all is a pure Hawaiian.

In the beginning the Islands were empty slates, volcanic slopes in a beneficent climate rich with potential to sustain the good life. Creatures and plants blew in or were carried by the settlers, along with their heritage, customs, and languages. Imports mingled and thrived in the fecund tropical atmosphere, often at the expense of earlier arrivals. The riotous birds that wake the day and the fragrant flowers, lush plants, and towering trees that dress the landscape hail from India, the Americas, Asia, and still more distant regions. Subtle native plants and shy native birds were crowded into small corners or vanished altogether. As a result, Hawaii has the dubious reputation of being the endangered species capital of the world, with more than 75% of native birds extinct or threatened, and more than 250 species on the endangered list.

Without the enemies of their homelands, exotic species have a good life in the Islands. You don't often see the only native mammals, the hoary bat and the endangered monk seal, but men introduced hooved cattle, pigs, donkeys, deer, and sheep that went wild and flourished, to the detriment of the fragile landscape. Houseplants got loose to climb tree trunks, where they sprouted leaves as big as your face. The ficus trees pampered in pots in many a mainland living room are two-story giants with massive canopies in Hawaii. The bright lantana blooming in the wild is said to have sprung from a single garden plant tossed into a garbage heap. Anything grows, larger than life, including the cityscape of Honolulu and the elaborate, world-famous beach resorts where each building component, investment dollar, computer, bedsheet, fork, vehicle, and tourist was shipped thousands of miles from another shore. Hawaii is not only a special place; for better or worse, it's a marvel.

You can look forward to an unforgettable experience in Hawaii, which is likely to call you back again. Hawaii enjoys one of the highest repeat-visitor rates of any destination.

Open your window shade on the plane when the final descent begins, after miles of open sea, and look for Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa looming through the clouds. Maui's Haleakala appears next, then the low red-dirt plains of Lanai across from moody Molokai. As the plane approaches Honolulu, the water seems to get bluer. Then Oahu appears, with the world's most remote and unlikely city sprawling along its southern shore. Excitement builds as you touch down and glide into Honolulu International Airport. You emerge into the open air, which smells of flowers, and feel the warm breeze on your skin. Welcome to Hawaii.

CHOOSING YOUR ISLAND

WHICH ISLAND SHOULD YOU SEE FIRST? It depends on what you want to do and who you're bringing along on this trip. Here's a thumbnail visitor's guide: The Big Island has active volcanoes,

accessible cultural history, landscape diversity, and luxury golf resorts in the lava. Maui has wintering humpback whales, its own complement of big-time golf courses, and plenty of visitors to its sunny beach resorts, ranging from affordable condos to plush hotels. Molokai is the quietest and least oriented to tourism. Lanai is a virtually private former pineapple plantation with two classy hotels and golf courses. Oahu is the vibrant heart of the Islands, with the cosmopolitan city of Honolulu and the primary tourist destination Waikiki on one side, and unspoiled country all around the outskirts. Kauai is the lush green movie set where nature pulls out all the beauty stops.

Want to simply kick back at a beach resort and get spritzed with Evian by the pool or have a butler fix your mai tais? Hawaii offers at least two dozen upscale luxury choices, most of them clustered on South and West Maui and the Big Island's Kona-Kohala Coast, where you can be pampered in butlered bungalows for thousands of dollars per night.

Want to hike spectacular sea cliffs or green rain forests? You can't miss on Kauai, with pure wilderness on its Na Pali ("the Cliffs") Coast, or on the Big Island with its *kipuka*, oases of green forest amid black lava, and Hamakua Coast waterfall valleys. Equally spectacular are Maui's upcountry cloud forests, Oahu's sheer Koolau ridges, and Molokai's haunting fern-forested northeast coast.

Traveling with your family? Your kids, especially the teenagers, will love Waikiki. Maui's Kaanapali Beach Resort is a top family destination, but kids love Poipu Beach on Kauai too. And what could be more educational than watching a Big Island volcano in action? You'll find kids are welcome, even cherished, all over the Islands.

Golf doesn't get much better than the spectacular courses of Maui, Lanai, Kauai, and the Big Island. Oahu adds its share, including the busiest and most difficult courses in the nation.

You'd need more than a week to do justice to Oahu, but the trick is to hit the road. Rent a car or ride the bus, but do get out of town and see the beauty of the Koolau Mountains, the Windward Coast, the North Shore, the central plains and pineapple fields, and other destinations. Wear your swimsuit if you want to stop every now and then to go for a swim at a roadside beach. Spend a morning snorkeling at crowded Hanauma Bay, break for plate-lunch surfer chow, then go find your own choice of an empty near-shore reef to snorkel in the afternoon. Save another day for learning how to surf at Waikiki; a day for hiking or riding in the Windward hills or watching big waves on the North Shore; a day at the USS *Arizona* and USS *Missouri*, the Bishop Museum and Honolulu Academy of Arts; a day browsing the designer boutiques; a day exploring Honolulu's natural history; a day kayaking or windsurfing at Kailua Beach; and a day to rest after

 **unofficial TIP**
Many of Hawaii's attractions and adventures will fill at least a day.

attending a Hawaiian music concert at Waikiki Shell and then boogieing all night. Pretty soon it adds up to a really good time.

If you're island-hopping, it's important to realize that many of Hawaii's attractions and adventures—including a visit to the Polynesian Cultural Center on Oahu, a Zodiac boat ride along Kauai's Na Pali Coast, coasting on a special bike from Maui's lofty summit of Haleakala down to the sea, a snorkel cruise to Lanai, and a mule ride down Molokai's sea cliffs—take up most of a day or more. You need more than a day to fully explore the natural wonders of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, home of fire goddess Pele and her ever-erupting Kilauea Volcano.

To get the most out of your Hawaii visit, mix and match experiences: Combine the sparkle of Honolulu on Oahu with the meditative beauty of Hanalei, Kauai, or Hana, Maui. Supplement your big-game fishing adventure on the Big Island with a rugged trail ride down into Maui's Haleakala Crater. Soak up the sun in Wailea's luxury resorts on Maui, then sail across the channel to Lanai to cool off under the upcountry pines.

THE WEATHER REPORT

BLUE SKIES, TRADE WINDS, and sunshine with almost 12 hours of daylight every day of the year: There's no better climate than Hawaii's. The reason is geographic. The Hawaiian Islands are located in the North Pacific, 1,700 miles north of the equator, inside the Tropic of Cancer (stretching from 154 degrees 40 minutes to 179 degrees 25 minutes west latitude, and 18 degrees 54 minutes to 28 degrees 15 minutes north latitude, to be precise).

While the Islands share latitudes with Havana, Hong Kong, Calcutta, and the Sahara Desert, they enjoy a key advantage over those hot spots. Hawaii has natural air-conditioning. The Islands are 2,781 miles south of Anchorage, Alaska, across open sea. The cold northeast winds, which historically propelled merchants' ships to Honolulu from the West Coast to earn the name "trade winds," still sweep down the Pacific, softening as the water warms. The tamed breezes arrive in Hawaii as cooling trade winds, welcome whether gentle or blustery. Now and then, they die off in what is called *kona* (meaning leeward) weather, which is hot and still and fretful.

The coldest spot in Hawaii is atop Mauna Kea, where the February average is 31.1°F; however, a minimum temperature of 11°F was once recorded. The warmest spot is nearly 14,000 feet below at Puako, near Mauna Lani Resort on the Kohala Coast of the Big Island, with an August average of 80.7°F. Pahala, at the island's southern tip, once reached 100°F.

Hawaii's year-round average temperature of 77°F is judged the best in the United States. The difference between winter and summer, and between night and day, is about 5 to 10 degrees on the shorelines, where most people live. Daytime highs are usually

somewhere in the 80s, although they can be lower in winter, when storms hide the sun, or rise to the low 90s in steamy August and September. Nights are in the 70s in summer and 60s in winter, with rare dips into the 50s. Winter nights at the coldest record in decades got down to 55°F in Honolulu, where summer highs are unlikely to be higher than 94°F. The rest of the thermometer seems superfluous.


unofficial TIP

The temperature drops 3.5° for every 1,000 feet above sea level. If the heat gets you down, go up and cool off.

But it's not that easy. The Aloha State encompasses 21 of the 22 world climatic zones and features no fewer than 88 ecosystems, ranging from snowy mountaintops, rain forests, wetlands, and deserts to sea cliffs, beaches, and volcanoes.

Temperature zones vary with altitude, rather than with latitude. Around the coastlines, all of the islands are warm (highs in the 80s) and mostly sunny. As you gain altitude in the Upcountry, with 2,000- to 3,000-foot elevations, the weather cools off on all islands and is often wetter too. On the mountaintops, 10,000 feet and higher, the chill can be downright alpine, and the moisture turns to snow from time to time. You may need a jacket or sweater and a blanket at Kula, Maui; Waimea on the Big Island; Nuuanu on Oahu; Kokee State Park on Kauai; and Lanai City, Lanai.

All islands share another climatic trait: The weather is drier and hotter on the leeward sides and cooler, wetter, and windier on the windward sides. The line between is a northeast-southwest diagonal echoing the trade wind flow. Resorts tend to be located on the leeward coasts for the reliable sunshine: Waikiki and Ko Olina on Oahu; Makena, Wailea, Kihei, Lahaina, and Kaanapali on Maui; Kailua-Kona and the Kona-Kohala Coast on the Big Island; and the South Shore of Kauai around Poipu Beach.

Vacationers may not always agree, but rain is a good thing on islands too remote to import water. Hawaiians wrote chants about rain. And they created onomatopoeic words for water—*wai huihui* (cool water), *wai kapihi* (sprinkling water), *wai konikoni* (tingling water), *wai noenoe* (misty water), and *wai kai* (brackish water). And more familiar, Waikiki (spouting water) was named not for the ocean but for the fresh springs that gushed there. Oahu's municipal water is some of the best in the world, even better than the bottled designer kind because it is filtered through lava for a half-century before reaching the water table.

The average humidity level in the state ranges from 56 to 72%, but annual precipitation varies widely. Waikiki gets 25 inches of rain a year, but Manoa Valley, five miles inland, receives 158 inches.

Two of the wettest spots on Earth are found in Hawaii:

- Mount Waialeale on Kauai gets more than 400 inches of rainfall a year. Waialeale means “rippling or overflowing water,” an apt title for the Kauai peak that one year received 950 inches of rain, nearly 80 feet.

 **unofficial TIP**

If it rains, don't expect to get really wet—the shower will probably be gone in a minute or two.

- Puu Kukui, the 5,871-foot-high summit of the West Maui Mountains, gets 350 inches a year. In 1982, it had a record rainfall of 654.83 inches, or 54.5 feet.

Hilo, on the Big Island, meanwhile, has the soggy distinction of being the wettest city in the United States, averaging 128 inches of

rain per year. A word about rain showers: Don't worry about getting wet. It feels good. No one wears a raincoat. Umbrellas are more often used to keep off the sun than the rain, and showers often come on winds that turn umbrellas inside out. If it rains while you're on the

 **unofficial TIP**

Locals don't use the familiar directions of north, east, south, and west. Instead, they use *ma uka* (inland, toward the mountains) and *ma kai* (toward the sea).

beach, get in the water or under a tree. If it rains during your alfresco brunch, put up the table umbrella and don't sit under the drip. The shower will probably be gone in a minute or two. With the ubiquitous Hawaiian "pineapple juice" showers that drift over while the sun shines brightly, everyone just gets wet one moment and dries off the next. Showers are considered blessings.

Weather can get extreme on these mid-Pacific pinpricks of land, but it's uncommon (see Perils of "Paradise" below).

**A WORD ABOUT DIRECTIONS**

THE FAMILIAR DIRECTIONS OF NORTH, east, south, and west won't be terribly helpful in Hawaii. Local usage has little to do with the compass. The words you want to know are *ma uka* (uphill, inland, toward the mountains) and *ma kai* (toward the sea). The other directions are known by a bewildering variety of local landmarks. In Honolulu, these are generally *Ewa* (west, or where the Ewa plantation used to be) and *Diamond Head* (that one's easy).

PERILS OF "PARADISE"

NO PLACE IS PERFECT, even this one, which is heavenly enough that many call it paradise. While nobody in Hawaii likes to "talk stink" (say anything bad), each island has certain drawbacks that you should be aware of.

Oahu suffers hellish chronic traffic congestion—too many cars and not enough roads—which is worst at rush hour and lunchtime. Traffic is much lighter in summer when school is out. If you drive, be patient and polite. Let cars merge in front of you. Remember that it's bad manners to honk in Hawaii unless you are signaling a friend, and rude gestures can get you in trouble. Don't worry unduly about mileage on your rental car. On Oahu, you run out of island in less than 50 miles between Honolulu and the end of the road at Mokuleia. Parking is inexpensive in downtown Honolulu compared to that in other big cities, but it can mount up unless you get validations from restaurants

and offices you visit, or park in municipal lots. Hotels in Waikiki and Kaanapali Beach Resort on Maui charge for guest parking. Metered parking on the streets is inexpensive, so long as you pay attention to the hours and tow-away zones.

Maui gets really windy most afternoons, when the breezes kick up whitecaps in the ocean, sling stinging sand in your face at the beach in Kihei, and make for bumpy landings at Kahului Airport. It's a natural phenomenon. Near-constant trade winds accelerate when they pass through Maui's funnellike isthmus.

Maui and Kauai both have traffic jams when big jets unload passengers around quitting time for local businesses. On Maui, the jam is worst between Lahaina and Kaanapali. On Kauai, it's worst between Lihue and Kapaa. You'll also encounter crowds at rental-car stands when DC-10s and 747s arrive. The best policy is to slow down and cool off. Allow more time. Strike up a conversation. Island pace just isn't as *wikiwiki* (speedy) as the stressful life you're vacationing from back home, so you might as well get used to it. It's called "Hawaiian time."

Kauai is nicknamed the Garden Island because it is so green, lush, and tropical. It thrives because it gets watered a lot, especially on the North Shore where short torrential downpours are common. The little one-way bridge over Hanalei River gets flooded at least once a year, briefly cutting off the North Shore from the rest of the world (there's no more celebrated excuse for being late for work). Residents put up with it because the old bridge guards their beautiful home ground from major bus and truck traffic and full-scale development. Lots of Hawaiian songs celebrate Kauai's beauty, but it takes rain, and sometimes lots of it, to make those triple rainbows and waterfalls. That's even more true of Hilo and the Hamakua Coast on the Big Island, where the verdant waterfall valleys and profusion of orchids, anthuriums, fruit, nuts, and other crops are a live giveaway to the moist climate.

The Big Island of Hawaii can thank its two active volcanoes, primarily Kilauea, for the hazy condition it often suffers, known as *vog*. That's short for "volcanic fog," which cloaks Kailua-Kona on many afternoons with a gray overcast that looks like doomsday. Sometimes a shift in the winds will carry the vog north to other islands. Something more acute, called *laze*, occurs close to active lava flows when volcano-produced sulfuric acid mixes with cool seawater and becomes hydrochloric acid, sometimes in a burst of steam. This is harmful to your health.

Molokai's only hotel is the Hotel Molokai near Kaunakakai (luxury resort facilities on the West End have closed), but bungalows and condos still operate near Kaluakoi and along the East End's fishpond shore. The island receives milk and staples by once-a-week

unofficial TIP

It's bad manners to honk at strangers in Hawaii, and rude gestures can get you in trouble.

unofficial TIP

Vog, or volcanic fog, can pose a discomfort to asthma victims and make you drowsy or headachy.

barge from Honolulu. If you shop the markets for food, you have to plan dinner around what there is to buy.

Clouds that delay takeoffs and landings often shroud the island of Lanai. You may spend more time on Lanai than you planned. Since the island is remote and there are only two resorts, everything is more costly, a fact of little concern to most of its high-budget visitors. An exception to the pricey picture is the small historic lodge, Hotel Lanai.

Besides the drawbacks we've mentioned, real perils are few, but be forewarned: Insects love tropical Hawaii—huge centipedes (and they bite, painfully); delicate, small scorpions (with a bite like a bee sting); several species of scary-looking cockroaches that don't bite; huge, fast, hairy but harmless cane spiders; several sizes of ants; your average fly and superfly; and mosquitoes that seem to prefer tender flesh from the mainland. You might see a bold fruit rat traveling on a power line.

But sunburn is a much bigger danger than bugs. Don't underestimate the power of tropical sun. It's strongest from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Do what you want when you want, but slather everyone with high-SPF, waterproof sunscreen, and use sunglasses and hats as well. If you get scorched, slather on even more aloe vera gel.

Shark attacks are rare in Hawaii, but sharks are not. Those clear blue waters harbor a variety of the creatures, which according to Hawaiian legend are more revered, as *aumakua* or family guardian spirits, than feared.

The Islands are subject to earthquakes, mostly small Big Island rumbles from Kilauea Volcano. Rogue waves can sweep you out to sea, and riptides can carry you off toward Tahiti. You can slip off a

cliff trail or fall into the volcano. All of these awful things have happened to people on a holiday in normally benign Hawaii.

Hawaii's most threatening perils are the occasional tsunami, high surf, and the temporary flash flooding that occurs when tropical cloudbursts, usually brief and intense, run off steep slopes. Sudden, heavy rains pose flash-flood danger, particularly in a downhill

waterfall valley or on a road that briefly becomes a raging waterfall course. If you get caught by a squall while hiking by a stream, go immediately to higher ground.

unofficial TIP

Sudden, heavy rains pose flash-flood danger. Go immediately to higher ground. If driving, park and wait an hour or two until the water flows out to sea.

The ISLANDS *by* GEOGRAPHIC AREA

OAHU: THE GATHERING PLACE

OAHU HAS A LOT TO BRAG ABOUT: two mountain ranges, natural beauty, world-class shopping, lots of sandy beaches, accommodations

OAHU FACTS

Flower Ilima	Color Yellow
State Capital, County Seat Honolulu	Area 608 square miles
Length 44 miles	Width 30 miles
Population 909,863	Coastline 112 miles
Highest Point Kaala Peak (4,025 feet)	

ranging from surf shacks to five-star hotels, sleepy country villages, international sophistication, a modern city and urban resort with clean air and water, open space, high-rise towers, a multicultural population, nightlife, a major university, and considerable wealth, drawn by the quality of life.

Small wonder everyone sooner or later ends up on Oahu, America's gateway to the Pacific and most-visited island in the chain. Ironically, an island famous for so much gets a bad rap from critics who complain of too many buildings and people. Perhaps they never left Honolulu. The truth is that the entire cityscape (including downtown), the urban resort of Waikiki, and the lion's share of suburban housing are squeezed into a narrow 26-mile-long corridor between the Koolau Mountains and the Pacific. Leave that corridor, and you have another Oahu. Within minutes of downtown, you could be hiking in a verdant waterfall valley. You need only cross over the mountains to the cool, scenic Windward Coast or head up the central valley between the Koolau and Waianae mountain ranges to the North Shore to discover Oahu's more natural side.

Waikiki

Historic leader among world beach resorts, Waikiki had been largely skidding on its laurels for many years, while swanky luxury resorts blossomed elsewhere in Hawaii and claimed increasing shares of the tourist dollar. Then Outrigger Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, the local chain which had opened Waikiki to the masses in the first place in the 1970s by building warrens of undistinguished, off-beach budget hotels, led an extreme makeover by private and public interests with the Waikiki Beach Walk project. Billions of dollars later, Waikiki looks to re-establish its command of international chic with the likes of Trump International Hotel & Tower, whose 464 luxurious condos sold in one day for more than \$700 million; Embassy Suites' 421 all-suites hotel; Outrigger's own \$100-million renovation and expansion of Outrigger Reef on the Beach; well-appointed 48-unit new Outrigger Regency boutique condo-hotel; and upgraded Ohana Islander Waikiki, as well as restaurants, shops, park-like greens, and other improvements. Just around the corner, a major face-lift of the low-rise concrete Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center on three blocks of Kalakaua Avenue aims to present a more Hawaiian facade with

the small Royal Grove park and performance stage, with lush native gardens and trees. Neighboring hotels of all descriptions have been classing up, renovating buildings and surroundings, and acquiring enticing new restaurants.

Throughout the district, the streets of Waikiki sport new gardens, walkways, pools, and lighting, as well as an emphasis on projecting Hawaiian culture to guests in the un-Hawaiian environment of tall buildings and busy streets.

If you think of Waikiki as a lively urban resort where an incredible variety of people enjoy the most famous beach in the world, you'll love it, as public theater if nothing else. If you seek the good old days when cruise-ship passengers were met by maidens who jumped in the sea and swam to the boats, then escorted passengers to a handful of hotels where they resided royally for months, then you will surely be disappointed. You won't find grass shacks to sleep in—sadly, the Uniform Building Code outlaws even thatched roofs in most instances. You can see hula and Hawaiian arts and crafts; hear Hawaiian music; and watch surfers for free, as long as you want.

Waikiki packs into a square mile of space an average of 72,000 visitors per day in 33,000 units in 175 hotel and condo properties, plus apartments that house some 20,000 residents, restaurants, boutiques, theaters, nightspots, fast-food joints, museums, beaches, boats, churches, and just across the Ala Wai Canal, a major convention center. The district is a narrow peninsula between **Waikiki Beach** and the canal paralleled by Kalakaua Avenue, the main one-way inbound boulevard; secondary thoroughfare Kuhio Avenue, a block back from the beach; the one-way outbound Ala Wai Boulevard; and the canal, which defines the district on two sides. Kapahulu Avenue more or less defines the Diamond Head end. One big chunk of Waikiki at the beginning of the man-made peninsula is **Fort DeRussy**, the open spot along this end of the beach. This fortunately situated Army installation has a couple of high-rises for military visitors, plus low-rise buildings and lots of green. With even fewer buildings and more green, 170-acre **Queen Kapiolani Park** at the other end, the foot of Diamond Head, is a similar beachfront respite from congestion. King Kalakaua created the park in 1877 and named it for his queen. It is the home of the **Waikiki Band Shell**, an outdoor entertainment venue, and the **Honolulu Zoo**. It's a wonderful place for running, flying kites, having picnics, holding cultural festivals, and playing softball and tennis.

You could say Waikiki, where an estimated 100,000 people sleep on any given night, is the antithesis of urban sprawl. The compaction puts everything within walking distance or a short bus ride. Waikiki is like a city within a city, and while they might have done it better (no planners were used in the making of Waikiki), the resort accommodates, amazingly well, the millions who seek sun and sand, as well as a good time in a tropical urban setting.

Our suggestion is to visit Waikiki for at least two or three days, time enough to get your bearings, shake off jet lag, and press on, either elsewhere on Oahu or to a neighboring island.

At night, the sidewalks of Kalakaua and Kuhio are constant parades of passersby, including visitors from every corner of the globe. Plenty of free entertainment, such as hula performances and torch-lighting, competes with outstanding people-watching.

Waikiki is a safe area. The Honolulu Police Department maintains a strong and reassuring presence. After years of traffic congestion during Waikiki's face-lift, residents tend to avoid the tourist district, although the new developments court their attention. Venture outside Waikiki to experience the local lifestyle of Oahu.

Greater Honolulu

Honolulu has been the capital of Hawaii since 1850, when it was the heart of the kingdom. Today, its realms are financial, political, commercial, and cultural—during the daytime at least. The lively downtown shuts down at night, but an after-dark scene of hip bars, coffeehouses, galleries, and restaurants is replacing the old, sleazy nightscape of neighboring Chinatown. Retail continues unabated into the evenings in the out-of-downtown shopping centers.

The main downtown thoroughfare is Bishop Street, a continuation of the Pali Highway that goes one way *ma kai* all the way to Honolulu Harbor. The companion *ma uka*—bound thoroughfare is Alakea Street. The downtown area extends several blocks around them. Other boundaries are Ala Moana Boulevard, paralleling the harbor front, and Vineyard Boulevard on the uphill side, named for onetime wine vineyards planted long ago by a Spaniard, Don Marin. Through the middle, King and Beretania Streets, a pair of key one-way (through downtown) connectors, link neighborhoods for miles on either side of town. The downtown architecture is an interesting mix of historic buildings and new high-rises that speak of continued prosperity. Street trees and park areas, not to mention the mountain and ocean views at either end of the streets, make for a very attractive district. The government buildings and **Capitol District**, which includes **Iolani Palace** and other historic structures, are just *Diamond Head* of downtown, within easy walking distance.

Just *Ewa* of downtown is the historic Chinatown district, now populated more by Vietnamese than Chinese. Twice in the past, Chinatown burned to the ground and was rebuilt. Crime and drugs comprised the latest assault, but citizens banded together to salvage Chinatown. One key advance was the \$30-million renovation of the 1,400-seat Hawaii Theatre, a masterpiece in gilt and 1920s style.

unofficial TIP

In Honolulu, the directions locals use are *Ewa* (west, or where Ewa Plantation used to be) and *Diamond Head*.

Windward Oahu

For peace and scenic splendor without high-rise canyons, go over the mountains to the Windward side to find **Kailua**, where hotels are banned but vacation rentals and bed-and-breakfasts offer affordable access to excellent beaches; **Haleiwa**, former plantation town and home of big-wave surfers on the North Shore; or **Ko Olina Resort**, the neighbor island–style luxury spread in west Oahu.

No signs point the way to Kailua, the quaint beach town at the other end of the Pali Highway from downtown. There's no tourist booth either, but tourists find their way over the mountain in search of boutique shopping, restaurants, and Kailua's great beaches, largely unknown to visitors until recently.

unofficial TIP

Kailua Beach Park and Lanikai Beach are great for families with small kids, who can safely play in gentle waves.

Kailua Beach and **Lanikai Beach** rank as two of America's best. Kailua and neighboring Kaneohe, at the foot of the Likelike Highway through the Koolau, are bedroom communities of about 36,000 each and the bed-and-breakfast capital of Oahu.

Bed-and-breakfasts in Hawaii are most often rooms or suites in people's houses with breakfast or light kitchen facilities, rather than quaint inns. Many operate underground since the city and county of Honolulu, in a poor display of civic aloha, banned new bed-and-breakfasts years ago. Nonetheless, plenty of B&Bs and vacation rentals on or near beaches can be found on the Internet.

Windsurfing, kayaking, swimming, and snorkeling are the main water attractions here in the home of Robbie Naish, former world champion windsurfer who also pioneered kitesurfing (see details on page 295). The scenic **Mokulua**, two photo-op islets off Lanikai, are the most popular kayaking destinations. Rent all the gear you need right in Kailua Beach Park or at one of the shops in town.

Hikers scale 603-foot-high **Kaiwa Ridge** behind Lanikai for a panoramic view of the Windward side or hike other trails through the Koolau Rainforest along the Windward Coast. Fearless hikers with sheer-cliff experience can test their mettle on the spiky pinnacle of Olomana and the tougher backcountry Koolau hikes.

Opting for a vacation rental is one way to control expenses while maximizing exposure to local life—discovering unfamiliar foods in the supermarkets, for instance, or at the People's Market that moves from community to community around Oahu. Kailua is a favorite of many visitors seeking to live Hawaiian style. A rental car is necessary to make the most of it and to enjoy the surrounding Windward Coast. Farther up the reef-protected Windward shore, more than 50 miles of empty beaches (busier on weekends) are suitable for snoozing, swimming, shore fishing, spearfishing, learning to surf, or snorkeling.

Natural attractions include Kaneohe Bay, one of the most beautiful in the Pacific, with snorkel and dive trips departing from Heeia Pier; Kualoa Ranch, a 4,000-acre cattle ranch with 75 horses for trail

rides and myriad other outdoor activities; and Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden, a 400-acre municipal garden with Hawaiian ethnic plants at the foot of the cathedrallike Koolau Mountain Range.

North Shore

Year-round, the sleepy North Shore sugar town of **Haleiwa** offers another alternative on Oahu, with its modest plantation-style buildings that house surf shops, clothing stores, art galleries, and restaurants.

The pace quickens considerably when the surf rises in winter, drawing the world's best wave riders and people who simply have never seen a 25-foot wave, much less someone surfing on it.

The North Shore has relatively few places to stay—a youth hostel; a few beach cottages, campgrounds, and private vacation rentals; plus the condo units and hotel rooms of Turtle Bay Resort. It is a great day-trip destination that shows Oahu's country face.

To the west from Haleiwa to road's end is **Mokuleia**, relatively undeveloped stretches of wild beach fronting old sugar lands. The road ends shortly after **Dillingham Airfield**, where gliders, skydiving, biplanes, and other aerial thrill rides are based. Oahu may have nearly a million residents, but it doesn't have a road that goes around the entire island. **Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve** (see below) is a wilderness area for hiking and other pursuits. You can walk or bike around to the Waianae Coast, but you can't drive there.

Agricultural landscapes still dominate the middle and upper central valley areas that culminate in the North Shore.

Leeward Coast

The hot, dry **Waianae Coast** is sheltered from view and separated from the rest of the island by the Waianae Range. The beach area of **Makaha**, long a popular surf break, remains relatively unexplored and nearly unknown to visitors since the lone resort hotel closed several years ago. Some condos and time-shares exist—you can find affordable lodging in condos like the Hawaiian Princess and Makaha Beach Cabanas and in vacation rentals listed on the Internet.

Makaha means “gate” in Hawaiian, and it serves as the entry to Oahu's last true shoreline wilderness area, **Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve**, a world removed from Waikiki. On this remote shore at Oahu's westernmost point, albatross nest in sand dunes, Hawaiian monk seals loll on empty beaches, and humpback whales cruise by in winter. Winter and spring bring the huge swells that draw surfers like magnets to this shore as well as to the North Shore communities around the point. But the paved road doesn't go through. You can drive to the end at **Yokohama Bay** (an old train used to stop here and drop off Japanese fishermen to fish the bay). Then it's a 90-minute walk down a dirt road to Kaena Point.

On the city end of the coast, the welcome mat will be out at the nearest resort hotel, **J. W. Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa**, a luxurious retreat

and elaborate spa with a man-made beach lagoon, beachfront suites, two fine-dining restaurants, and nearby, 18-hole **Ko Olina Golf Club**.

Central Oahu

The valley formed by Waianae Mountains on the west and Koolau Mountains on the east is a broad, scenic plain that from the sky resembles an avenue leading to **Pearl Harbor** and its war memorials. That's one path the Japanese warplanes took in 1941. On the way they bombed **Schofield Army Barracks** installation, halfway along the plain.

Aloha Stadium, the 50,000-seat facility that is home to annual NFL Pro Bowl games and other sports and entertainment events, neighbors **Pearl Harbor Naval Base**.

Today the Central Valley is still bucolic in the northern reaches, carpeted with gray-green rows of pineapple in the rich red dirt and wild cane where sugar plantations used to hold sway. You can stop at the **Dole Plantation** to learn about and taste the golden fruit, once a major Hawaii crop. Toward the southern end are the newer suburbs of housing and shopping centers, including **Waialeale Premium Outlets**.

MAUI: THE VALLEY ISLE

MAUI FACTS

Flower Lokelani (rose)	Color Pink
County Seat Wailuku	Area 729 square miles
Length 48 miles	Width 26 miles
Population 139,800	Coastline 120 miles
Highest Point Haleakala (10,023 feet)	

MAUI'S SUNNY RESORTS on its south and west coasts are mainly the reasons why just about everybody knows the name of this island, Hawaii's second largest. Maui is composed of two volcanic masses joined by a valley with golden beaches and blue sea on either end. Then there's 10,023-foot Haleakala, the dormant volcano whose sheer bulk forms more than half the island. But Maui seems to have more appeal than the sum of its parts. It combines a hint of the flash of Oahu with the genuine country attitudes of a rural plantation island and the sophisticated influence of its luxury spreads, as well as the people who frequent them.

Central Maui

Departing Kahului Airport, you may wonder why you came so far to see such familiar big-box landmarks (Costco and Walmart, for example). Wander farther into this amorphous waterfront town to find more shopping centers, neighborhoods, the port, and beaches. When you come to the shore, turn left or right—either way, you will discover why everyone raves about Maui.

The famous windsurfing areas, **Kanaha** and **Hookipa** beaches, are to the right, just beyond the airport on the way to Paia and Hana. They are justifiably famous for their beauty and wiggly route through myriad waterfall valleys. In the opposite direction, a small road wanders off toward Waihee and eventually around the whole northwest shoulder of Maui to Kapalua and the western resort coast. This is one of Maui's most scenic and unspoiled drives along sea cliffs and through large ranches, although housing developments are threatening to overtake parts of it. The pavement narrows to one lane often as it winds around the base of the **West Maui Mountains**, so watch the road.

Neighboring Kahului on the *ma uka* side is the quaint historic county seat of **Wailuku**. The countryside gets greener as you approach **Iao Valley State Park**.

When you face the opposite way, you see the isthmus valley, a sea of waving green sugarcane fields, a vanishing sight in the Islands. Above it pokes the smokestack of still functional **Puunene Sugar Mill**.

From Kahului Airport the main roads lead to resort areas: Follow the signs to Kihei/Wailea/Makena in South Maui, Maalaea in the middle, and Lahaina, Kaanapali Beach Resort, and Kapalua Resort in West Maui. The Haleakala Highway leads up the flank of the mountain, and the Hana Highway along the North Shore leads around the back of Haleakala to the ranch village of Hana, hiding near the end of this winding road.

South Maui

From Kahului Airport a 20-minute ride through the cane brings you to the resort coast. **Wailea, Makena, and Kihei** are the resorts of choice to the left in South Maui. Straight ahead is **Maalaea**, home of condo resorts, the **Maui Ocean Center Aquarium**, and the harbor where boats depart for many snorkel, whale-watching, and other cruise tours.

If you're on a budget, go to Kihei. When money's no object or you're pining for spectacular golf, go to **Kapalua** or **Wailea**. Got your sociable kids along? Go to **Kaanapali**, where they can enjoy the action. Or head to serene Makena at Maui's southern end for more solitude. When time is no object, go to **Hana** and stay awhile in the quaint seaside village with its singular low-key but pricey hotel.

Thrifty travelers find affordable condos in Kihei, a beachside strip lined with shops and malls. Kihei is also the home of many people who work in the neighboring resorts, as well as the U.S. Air Force Maui Supercomputing Center nearby. The town fronts a ten-mile coast indented by black lava reefs that frame some excellent gold-sand pocket beaches and broad strand beach parks. Most popular is **Kamaole Beach III**, in the heart of Kihei with a tree-shaded grass picnic area and park, views of Lanai and Kahoolawe, and free parking.

Hollywood celebrities, incentive winners, conference-goers, and honeymooners love **Wailea Resort**, a lush, groomed beauty spot where four luxurious hotels—**Grand Wailea Resort Hotel & Spa, Four Seasons**

Resort Maui, Marriott Wailea Beach, and Arabian fantasy-style **Fairmont Kea Lani**—share great beaches with plush waterfront condos, separated by park-like green spaces but united by a waterfront trail. The lower slope of Haleakala helps hide the mid-rise hotels and boutique shopping center from view. These temples of pleasure vary from refined retreat to swanky playground with a super-sized spa and elaborate water complex with water-powered elevator.

Find seclusion beyond Wailea at **Makena Resort**, where the **Maui Prince Hotel** stands alone amid 1,800 acres of dryland *koa* forest and several splendid beaches. South Maui is punctuated by Puu Olai, a cinder-cone peninsula that juts into the sea. Makena is an old village where cattle from the upland Ulupalakua Ranch were once herded into the water to swim for the ships that would take them to market. The tiny community has a picturesque Hawaiian-language church by the water. Haleakala's last eruption spilled down to the sea south of Makena in about 1790. It's now traversed by rough hiking trails across the lava after the road ends.

Wailea Resort has three scenic golf courses, and Makena adds two more. Horseback riding, a sporting-clay shooting range, hiking, a coastal trail, a competition tennis complex, the **Shops at Wailea** shopping village, and a shuttle bus to connect them are all part of the South Maui appeal.

West Maui

Head to the right from Maalaea around the foot of the West Maui Mountains, and you'll approach historic **Lahaina** town and **Kaanapali Beach Resort**, prize-winning progenitor of the planned resort complex popular in Hawaii and other destinations.

Lahaina, the old whaling capital, retains charm because of its quaint and preserved historic buildings. It's a happy, honky-tonk jumble of art galleries, coral jewelry and T-shirt boutiques, bars, restaurants ranging from David Paul's Lahaina Grill to waterfront Pacific'O to Cheeseburger in Paradise, and *Ulalena*, the best theatrical show on Maui (see page 454 for details). You can stay at the century-old **Pioneer Inn** for a real taste of history. It was once the hangout of lusty whalers on R&R, until the disapproving missionaries prevailed. Lahaina also has a variety of condo resorts, inns, vacation rentals, and B&Bs. In Lahaina many people stop what they're doing and gather to watch when the sun starts dropping like a fireball behind Lanai and the boats in Lahaina Harbor.

Kaanapali is a three-mile hop north of Lahaina, but when the traffic is heavy, it can take more than half an hour to get there. After more than 40 years, verdant Kaanapali continues to reinvent itself and remains a popular destination. The 600-acre resort has two golf courses, mid-rise blocks of deluxe and luxury hotels, time-shares and condos that line the four-mile beach and dot the hillside behind it, restaurants with a full range of open-air, ocean-view dining, and

Whalers Village Shopping Center. The shops include upscale European boutiques in an effort to attract Japanese shoppers. Kaanapali also features beachfront tennis, a boardwalk and beach parks, and a shuttle that connects to Kapalua–West Maui Airport (small aircraft).

unofficial TIP

If Kapalua is outside your budget, the resorts and condos of Napili Beach next door are a good alternative.

Farther north, the luxury coast culminates in **Kapalua Resort**, part of a 23,000-acre pineapple plantation with rows of spiky plants that stretch for miles in hilly fields below Puu Kukui, second tallest peak on Maui. This is the most beautiful part of West Maui, its wide-open vistas framed by Molokai offshore and wildlands to the north. A hotel, executive homes and luxury condos, two notable golf courses, and—for contrast—the tidy, prim red plantation buildings of the original pineapple plantation, still operated by Maui Land & Pineapple Company, share this setting. The roads are lined with signature Norfolk and Cook Island pines. Kapalua-bound guests can fly from Honolulu to nearby West Maui Airport and avoid the congestion of Kahului.

Upcountry Maui and Beyond

From central Kahului, a country road runs up Haleakala's lower slope and winds through the cool, pastoral community of **Kula**, where, at 3,000 feet, protea, roses, carnations, and blue jacaranda trees bloom. Visitors can stay at **Kula Lodge** or in a variety of bed-and-breakfast bungalows. Kula is on the way to **Haleakala National Park**. It's an escape from tropical heat sought by many of Maui's full-time residents, a fairly linear community on the shoulder of the mountain with wonderful views, botanical gardens, flower farms, and the winery at Ulupalakua, **Tedeschi Vineyards**. They sell a lot of pineapple wine, but you can also taste other vintages and sparkling wine at the tasting room. A cool, grassy setting under old avocado trees is fine for picnics. The road continues along the wide-open back side of Haleakala, seldom seen. You can drive all the way to Hana if you're a good, unflappable, and adventurous driver and the weather is good.

Maui's most famous road—the **Hana Highway**—gets to tiny Hana the other way, from Kahului and quaint little Paia. It winds by magnificent sea views, waterfalls, and botanical gardens on a skinny road for 53 miles to the ultimate tropical retreat. Count on three hours each way for the drive to Hana, more if you stop to swim in waterfall pools. The small coastal village is populated by Hawaiians (and a few celebrities) who wisely resist change. The rich and famous fly to Hana in small planes, and you can too. There is a small airport served by flights from Kahului.

A stay on Maui promises sunny beaches, great golf on championship courses, winter whale watching, snorkeling and sailing, hikes, sunrise viewing at Haleakala Crater, and a quiet nightlife outside of Kihei and Lahaina.

The island caters to the wealthy and free-spending corporate-incentive winners at many elegant hotels and resort condos, but it also offers some affordable bargains for budget travelers. Hikers and campers like Maui for its natural attractions and parks.

Folks who live on Maui have the motto *Maui No Ka Oi*, which means “Maui is the best.” Readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* agree. For years in a row, they named Maui the “best island in the world.”

HAWAII: THE BIG ISLAND

HAWAII FACTS

Flower Lehua	Color Red
County Seat Hilo	Area 4,028 square miles
Length 93 miles	Width 76 miles
Population 171,191	Coastline 266 miles
Highest Point Mauna Kea (13,796 feet)	

LONG BEFORE TOURISM became Hawaii’s livelihood, the pluckiest visitors were those who journeyed high above Hilo more than a century ago to see a live, erupting volcano, one of the few in the world where observers could get fairly close in relative safety. That volcano shows no sign of stopping. In its current phase, **Kilauea Volcano** has been erupting since January 1, 1983, adding ever more real estate to the already big Big Island of Hawaii. **Mauna Loa**, the most voluminous structure on Earth, is quiet but still active. It last erupted in 1984.

If you have but one day to spend on the Big Island, see Kilauea at **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**. Bring your children. The park is good even when the volcano is not cooperating.

The Big Island not only has five volcanoes (**Kilauea**, **Mauna Kea**, **Mauna Loa**, **Hualalai**, and **Kohala**) but it also has a sixth one, a work in progress named **Loihi**, now a seamount emerging from the ocean floor off the southeast coast. You can stargaze at the 9,000-foot-level visitor center of the 13,796-foot Mauna Kea, the tallest mountain in the tropical Pacific. There, the air is so clear and dark that scientists have set up a forest of high-tech telescopes to peer into deep space. If you are hardy, hike to the subarctic summit of slightly shorter 13,680-foot-high Mauna Loa. Both mountains rise more than 30,000 feet from the ocean floor, making them technically the tallest mountains on the planet.

Some visitors head for **Ka Lae** or **South Point**, the windswept southernmost point in the United States, where early Polynesians arrived around AD 650, according to carbon dating of ancient fishhooks. Others go to Holualoa, an artists’ village amid backyard coffee farms on the hillside over Kailua-Kona. And lucky ones enjoy a sunny day in **Hilo**, gateway to the volcano park.

The Big Island is the only Hawaiian island big enough for a road trip of more than an hour or two. Plan on three days to see

natural attractions like **Akaka Falls, Waipio Valley**, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the catch of the day at **Honokohau Harbor**, the coffee plantations of **Kona**, and **Puuhonua O Honauau National Historical Park**, the ancient refuge where hapless victims and lawbreakers could find sanctuary. Nowadays, adventurers, vulcanologists, astronomers, marlin fishermen, and lovers of the outdoors share this singular island with golfers, international conferees, and the rich and famous.

Kona

Kona is the word for “leeward” in Hawaiian, and it usually means warm and still. The Big Island’s Kona Coast is the area where several hulking volcanoes act to block the ever-blowing northeast winds and calm the sea. **Kailua-Kona** is the fishing village-turned-junior Waikiki that serves as headquarters for the Kona District. It’s filled with affordable condos, hotel rooms, and suites (none of them terribly appealing), as well as shopping plazas, restaurants, and bars. Beaches are noticeably in short supply, although the **King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Hotel** has one. Instead, this is primarily a rocky shoreline where the waters are so dependably docile that walkways, restaurants, and rooms hang right over the floodlit waves in several places.

To the south of Kailua-Kona is the somewhat tonier **Keauhou Resort**, with a championship golf course, revamped Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa (formerly Kona Surf) with a meetings-oriented layout, as well as deluxe condo complexes and the moderately priced **Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort**. The Keauhou Beach has historic features (King Kalakaua’s summer cottage and a small fishpond) on its grounds, and the hotel extends over a reef tide pool. Neighboring **Kahaluu Beach Park** and nearby **Disappearing Sands Beach** offer swimming, snorkeling, and surfing.

To the north of the airport and Honokohau Harbor, where the world-famous Kona Coast marlin fishing fleet is moored, the lava spilled by Hualalai Volcano some 200 years ago lines the highway in endless, desolate reaches of black. The first time we saw it, we had decided to hold green Kauai for another visit and opted instead for the raw island of big hot volcanoes. Somewhere north of Kailua-Kona, our hearts sank. Then we cut across the lava to find palm-edged oases by the sea and discovered some of the world’s greatest beach resorts.

The first is the area of **Kaupulehu**, an ancient fishing village before it was overrun by lava and later metamorphosed into low-rise bungalow resorts. Honeymooners, CEOs, and families seek the **Kona Village Resort**, a casual but expensive enclave of traditional Polynesian-style private bungalows on the ancient village site between the beach and surrounding protective lava. Kona Village has petroglyph fields, a famous luau, a beautiful cove, tennis, and many other pluses, but it is the only resort along this stretch of coast without a world-famous championship golf course. Next door is its opulent and equally romantic modern neighbor, **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai**, which

borders a golf course, exclusive condos and homes, and has several swimming pools, including one made to look like a natural lava tide pool, complete with tropical fish.

Up the highway at **Waikoloa Beach Resort**, the **Hilton Waikoloa Village** is a fantasy resort where you can swim with captive dolphins, ride a sleek silver tram to your tower, or take an Italian launch on a rail through a second-story waterway. The pools, falls, and waterslide are so elaborate that you can almost forget there's no natural beach. But a postcard-perfect beach is next door at **Anaehoomalu Bay**, fronting the completely revamped deluxe **Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa**. Both hotels have spas, and the resort features two golf courses, the **Kings Village** shops, restaurants, and well-maintained historic features.

Next up the highway to the north is **Mauna Lani Resort**, with golf, tennis, walking trails, historic features, and the luxurious bungalows—butlered hideouts beside the beach. At **Orchid at Mauna Lani** you can bliss out with a massage in a tent by the sea at a “spa without walls.”

Just north of Mauna Lani is **Mauna Kea Beach Resort**, home of the venerable **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** and newer **Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel**, two golf courses, access to the two best beaches on the island (Kaunaoa, fronting the Mauna Kea, and Hapuna Beach), and all the amenities wealth can summon. Hotels and golf courses on sites carved from beachfront lava can be traced to 1965, when Laurance Rockefeller opened the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel on a prime beach that belonged to **Parker Ranch**, then the largest privately held cattle spread in the nation. The simple, elegant resort became a top choice of executives in search of a comfortable retreat, and their heirs kept up the tradition. (“Now I know where old Republicans go to die,” once quipped Merv Griffin.) The art-filled hotel, with its signature architecture of soaring open spaces, ponds, and gardens under roof, set the tone for luxury Hawaii beach resorts to come.

History is right on the surface throughout this coast—Kona Village, Waikoloa, and Mauna Lani Resort all serve as stewards of petroglyph fields, lava beds that served as message boards for ancient travelers who carved them with thousands of primitive drawings. Mauna Lani and Waikoloa also boast well-kept historic fishpond complexes with signage to tell you how they work. Federal and state parks preserve cultural monuments throughout this area.

Vacation rentals and bed-and-breakfasts can be found in **Upcountry Holualoa**, the coffee country above Kailua-Kona, and in **Waimea**, Parker Ranch headquarters and a charming ranch town. Parker Ranch has a historic compound and rodeo grounds in addition to vast stretches of pastureland and open countryside.

Hilo and Volcano

Hilo tourism facilities were set up decades ago with great expectations for a tourism boom that didn't quite materialize. Some of the large hotels on Banyan Drive on **Hilo Bay** were transformed into

residential dwellings. Reasonable rates predominate at the remaining ones, and some have been upgraded in recent years.

Hilo has a historic downtown district and a quiet charm. It gets plenty of rain and has the attributes of a wet, warm place—abundant flowers and tropical fruit (bananas hang in the lobbies of some hotels), huge shady trees, waterfalls and streams, and triple rainbows. Our recommendation is to stay a night or two at **Shipman House**, a restored Victorian bed-and-breakfast in a beautiful Hilo neighborhood, and to spend your days exploring Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and the nearby lava-watch area at Kalapana, where hot lava may still be rolling to the sea when you are there. Both are less than an hour's drive away. Stroll through one of Hilo's famous gardens, such as the **Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden at Onemea Bay**, go for a swim in Hilo Bay, and enjoy the uncrowded pace. The **Lyman Museum & Mission House** in downtown Hilo is an excellent small facility whose exhibits will give you a feel for the life of early immigrants to the area.

Vacation rentals and bed-and-breakfasts make up the accommodations in upcountry Volcano, where you'll find charming lodging and tasty dinners at **Kilauea Lodge and Restaurant** in the misty fern forests.

If your goal is to get back to nature, the Big Island is your choice; there is too much to see and do in the great outdoors for just one week, including skiing on the occasionally snowcapped cinders. But if you only have a week, spend two days at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, staying in Hilo or a nearby cottage, two days sightseeing or pursuing other activities, then splurge for three days at Kona Village Resort, Four Seasons Resort Hualalai, or Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, some personal favorites.

KAUAI: THE GARDEN ISLE

Kauai

KAUAI FACTS

Flower Mokihana	Color Purple
County Seat Lihue	Area 549 square miles
Length 33 miles	Width 25 miles
Population 63,004	Coastline 90 miles
Highest Point Kawaikiki Peak (5,243 feet)	

The island's a beauty all right, where roadside forests are a riot of flowering vines and mangoes fall ripe to the ground. But it's not just a pretty place. It's tough and gritty and made for adventure. In modern times, it survived two monster hurricanes in a decade. In the late 1700s, it was the only island to resist Kamehameha the Great's military attempt to unite the kingdom, although its independent-minded chiefs gave up without a fight later. While the young Big Island is still black with lava in many spots and raw with new life, Kauai is

the oldest major island, and its jagged peaks, mantle of green over steep cliffs, and shoreline of beaches are all testimony to the scenic inevitability of erosion.

The combination of rough nature and indulgent luxury is all the rage in Hawaii. When you go can hang out at a fancy hotel in **Princeville on the North Shore** or **Poipu Beach** on the South Shore, or choose the so-called **Coconut Coast** in between, sipping Blue Hawaiis by the pool. Instead, you can get out and discover the island's true nature. Or enjoy both.

Some hike into the 3,000-foot-deep **Waimea Canyon**, a multicolored chasm, or brave the cliff-side 11-mile **Kalalau Trail** that winds along the remote **Na Pali Coast**. Some go up to **Kokee State Park** and venture into the cloud forests on the boardwalk trail into **Alakai Swamp**, last haunt of the Kauai Oo, a black bird with bright yellow thigh feathers. This 20-square-mile highland bog is home to rare plants, native birds, Hawaii's only native land mammal, the hoary bat, and a mosquito-eating plant.

Others angle for big-game fish off nearby **Niihau**, snorkel **Kee Beach's** fishy lagoon, and helicopter up to the 5,243-foot-high summit of **Mount Waialeale**, a crater ribboned with waterfalls as befitting one of the wettest spots in the world. Twenty inches of rain in a single day is common.

All that water refreshes Kauai's seven rivers (you can kayak on the **Huleia**, **Hanalei**, and **Wailua**) and keeps the Garden Island the great green place that it is.

Where to stay depends on the weather. Any place on Kauai can be sunny and hot, but showers are most likely to cool the moody green Hanalei (heavenly garland) area on the North Shore, a real-life version of movie land's Bali Hai (*South Pacific* was shot here). **Princeville Resort**, a development on a sea-cliff plateau with a spectacular view, has homes, condos, the luxurious St. Regis Princeville Hotel, shopping, restaurants, a spa, and world-famous golf at Princeville Golf Course. Part of it overlooks **Hanalei Bay**, the taro patches of the **Hanalei River Valley**, a mile-long beach, and the bowl of 4,000-foot cliffs creased by waterfalls that surrounds the valley. Seven miles beyond friendly, picturesque Hanalei town, the road ends at **Kee Beach** and an ancient footpath leads into Na Pali wilderness. No roads cross the northwest section of the island, a series of dramatic deep valleys carved by ancient streams.

Midway between Hanalei and Poipu is the Coconut Coast, including a number of small communities from **Kapaa** past the Wailua River to **Lihue**, the county seat and site of the airport. Affordable to deluxe beachfront condos and hotels share a golden beach. Water conditions can be rugged for all but surfers and body surfers. There is a sheltered swimming area at **Lydgate State Beach Park** by the river mouth. **Coco-nut MarketPlace** offers most of the shopping and restaurants.

Lihue, mostly devoted to commerce and county government, has a museum worth a stop—the small coral-block **Kauai Museum** on Rice Street. Kauai Lagoons by the airport was once a pinnacle of the fantasy resort movement. What's there now is the **Kauai Marriott Resort & Beach Club**, part hotel and part time-shares, with an opulent lobby and ballroom–conference complex, a seven-acre pool, an extensive art collection, two golf courses, and other amenities. Heading south, the highway passes a historic manor on the right known as **Kilohana**, which houses boutiques, galleries, and a restaurant. It will give just a taste of how sweet life was on Kauai for the onetime owners, the Wilcox family, when sugar was king.

Sunseekers and families like **Poipu Beach Resort**, a coastal complex with a good swimming beach, golf courses, a tennis complex, several notable restaurants, a wide range of plentiful condo resorts, and a hotel row redefined from time to time by hurricanes. Hotels never get too old on Kauai. Poipu features the **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa**, a fine example of Hawaii-style Art Deco architecture, on the southern end and the **Sheraton Kauai Resort** on the northern end.

Children and adults enjoy **Spouting Horn Blow Hole**, a lava tube where surf sometimes shoots seawater 50 feet into the air. Inland is **Koloa**, where the Hawaiian sugar industry was born more than 150 years ago. Now it's a collection of restaurants, bars, and surf-n-sun shops that you pass through to get from the highway to the beach.

Looking for flowers on the Garden Isle? Serious green thumbs go to **Lawai** to visit **National Tropical Botanical Garden**, a congressionally chartered research facility. Its 186 acres include an important collection of rare tropical plants, tropical experimental gardens, and, for contrast, the finely trimmed formal gardens of a former royal estate. Honeymooners and couples seeking a romantic getaway will enjoy Kauai, as will those who come back with tiny shells in their pockets and red dirt on their hiking shoes.

MOLOKAI: THE FRIENDLY ISLE

Molokai

MOLOKAI FACTS

Flower White kukui blossom	Color Green
County Seat Kaunakakai	Area 260 square miles
Length 38 miles	Width 10 miles
Population 7,404	Coastline 88 miles
Highest Point Kamakou Peak (4,961 feet)	

If you crave bright lights and busy nights, avoid Molokai. One of Hawaii's main islands, Molokai can be described by what it doesn't have: traffic lights, shopping malls, nightclubs. The lifestyle is slow

and unpretentious, and people pride themselves on being a traditional Hawaiian community.

For better or worse, Molokai has spurned, or been spared, “progress.” Actually, the island has sustained a number of economic hits over recent years—sugar and pineapple production ceased, residents decided against new hotels and tourism, and federal officials ordered all the cows killed to stamp out an obscure ailment that had been around for decades.

Islanders grow prized produce: watermelons, sweet potatoes, boutique veggies, honey, coffee, and macadamia nuts. Molokai folks are uncommonly friendly and down-home. And honest. Once we left an airplane coupon ticket at the rental-car counter in Molokai’s tiny airport. Three days later, it was still there—not far from the sign reminding passengers that airline rules prohibit carrying watermelons in the overhead racks.

The island is not a destination for everyone, especially those who like creature comforts. The beaches are wild and lengthy but not usually safe or desirable for swimming. The greatest natural feature, the world’s tallest sea cliffs on the jungled North Shore, is virtually inaccessible. The most famous, and poignant, attraction is an isolated but still inhabited former leprosy colony and the mule ride down a steep switchback trail to get there. **Kalaupapa National Historical Park**, where victims of Hansen’s disease were banished by royal edict in the 1860s, was the last home of famed Belgian priest Father Damien, who gave his own life treating the sick.

Why go to Molokai? There’s plenty to do: hiking, snorkeling, diving, kayaking, and fishing. The Nature Conservancy runs preserves and offers hiking programs at **Moomomi Dunes**, where bones of flightless birds have been found, and at **Kamakou** in the high country, a cloud forest filled with rare native plants. Hikers have been known to trek through scenic **Halawa Valley** wilderness on the East End, although the ancient Hawaiian settlement was declared off-limits to visitors by the private owner. Check the status when you are on the island.

Sightseers find an odd assortment of natural and historic sites like ancient fishponds, the **Smith-Bronte Landing Site** (where the first airplane to Hawaii crash-landed in 1927), **Mapulehu Mango Grove**, and **Ililiopae Heiau**, temple ruins of an ancient school of sacrificial rites.

The frontier-like town of **Kaunakakai** is a sleepy crossroads with a handful of stores and a beloved bakery. At Hoolehua Post Office, you can address, stamp, and send a Molokai coconut home like a postcard.

Turn left out of town onto Kamehameha V Highway and you’ll soon find the **East End**—lush, green, and tropical with ancient fishponds lining the coco-palm coast where condo resorts, bed-and-breakfasts, and vacation beach houses are available.

Go right and you'll encounter the arid **West End**, spiked with cactus, roamed by cows, and home still to some condo resorts, although **Molokai Ranch** is closed and **Maunaloa** is virtually a ghost town. The Singapore-based owner of the ranch, which encompassed a third of the island, shut down the ranch, resort, and town operations after islanders vetoed a proposed upscale subdivision that might have offset some of the \$80 million in ranch losses.

LANAI: THE PINEAPPLE ISLAND

Lanai

LANAI FACTS

Flower Kaunaoa	Color Orange
County Seat Lanai City	Area 141 square miles
Length 18 miles	Width 13 miles
Population 3,193	Coastline 47 miles
Highest Point Lanaihale (3,366 feet)	

A short flight from Honolulu, Lanai is a world removed. On this smallest of Hawaii's six accessible islands, you can see most of the island chain from its loftier spots.

Buildings are dwarfed by the rolling terrain of what was the world's biggest pineapple plantation until the owners changed in the 1980s and planted resorts and upscale tourism instead. The quaint plantation cottages of **Lanai City** are still there, in remarkable contrast to the elegant **Four Seasons Resort Lanai, The Lodge at Koele** which resembles a British hill station, and the Mediterranean-style **Four Seasons Resort Lanai** at Manele Bay nestled on a coastal hillside.

When your plane lands in Palawai Basin, where pineapple grew as far as the eye could see, you discover an island of anomalies. It is rural yet sophisticated, with only three paved roads but a 100-mile network of red-dirt plantation lanes and a fleet of small SUVs to go four-wheeling on them for fun. In former times, the days started with a plantation whistle at 5 a.m. Now, days in the sun begin with more discreet wake-up calls.

Lanai is owned mostly by an American tycoon who acquired it incidentally in a corporate purchase. It is inhabited largely by Filipinos who immigrated to work the pineapple fields and stayed to retrain as luxury-hotel workers. Most plantation families still live there, sharing the streets of town with well-heeled world travelers and, increasingly, wealthy neighbors.

Golfers play either of the island's magnificent 18-hole courses—the ocean-side **Challenge at Manele** or the upland **Experience at Koele**, possibly the most beautiful course anywhere. Yet while visitors are signing up for substantial fees, locals choose the little nine-hole

upland course where fees are paid on the honor system, a few bucks in a tin can.

When it was a plantation, nobody went to Lanai unless invited or fortunate enough to get one of the 11 rooms in the 1920s-era **Hotel Lanai**. Now the island appeals to those with means enough to enjoy peace and solitude. Pricey spreads are going up on the hillside so that vacationers can stay longer under their own roofs.

Honeymooners, this is your island. Bill and Melissa Gates took over the island to get married here. Outdoors lovers like it too. You can shoot clay pigeons or hunt real game like turkey, mouflon sheep, and axis deer. Lodge facilities include a riding stable and croquet on the lawns. Hiking trails lead off through the woods. Nightlife, however, is limited to whatever amusements the hotels have lined up.

Anyone who seeks peaceful surroundings with luxurious accommodations will want to visit Lanai, if only to explore a most atypical Pacific island. It is a combination of hot, dry coastal cliffs and cool uplands with Cook pine groves planted by a farsighted plantation manager long ago to trap clouds and bring water to the dry island. Lanai is no tropical wonderland; its deep gorges and eroded plains speak of a hard agricultural life. But there's beauty to its hinterlands, headlands, and wide-open red-dirt valley touched only by blue sky and puffy white clouds. While prowling the four-wheel roads, explorers can find historic sites like a crumbled sugar town and an ancient king's summer fishing residence.

On a clear day, from **Lanaihale**, the 3,379-foot island summit, you can see five of the seven main Hawaiian slands in a single glance. Only distant Kauai and Niihau remain over the horizon.

Lanai will appeal to anyone looking to get away from it all, whatever the price. In addition to a half-dozen bed-and-breakfasts, you have two swanky resort choices and the affordable, historic little Hotel Lanai with its appealing restaurant, and you can go back and forth by shuttle van. Four Seasons Resort, The Lodge at Koele sits on a 1,700-foot-high hill at the head of a lane lined with tall pines, and it looks so ostentatious that you think a king might greet you instead of a uniformed hostess with a flower lei. It is cooler here, especially at night, which is why the lodge is a favorite with weekendening Honolulu residents who love to dress up in sweaters and sit by a roaring fire. Downhill, beside the only safe swimming beach at **Hulopoe Bay**, the Manele Bay simmers around its pool, a lobby full of Asian art, and tropical gardens around a man-made stream teeming with koi carp.

A drive into Lanai City is like entering a time warp. Most of the island's residents live in tidy little tin-roofed plantation houses with a riot of flowers, fruits, and vegetables growing in their front yards.

Stop and "talk story" with the locals about the not-so-good old days when pineapple farming dominated life. By all means, frequent the shops, restaurants, and art galleries in the tree-lined town square.

A BRIEF HISTORY

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS were formed millions of years ago, each rising from a single “hot spot” on the floor of the Pacific Ocean and then moving north with shifting tectonic plates. The Islands were barren until seeds carried by the wind or ocean currents took root and began to grow. Slowly but surely, birds and insects found their way to these islands, and humans too.

Historians believe seafaring Polynesian voyagers first discovered Hawaii in the fourth century AD and took residence along the coasts and valleys where fresh water was plentiful. They introduced dogs, pigs, chickens, and plants, including taro, coconut, breadfruit, banana, sweet potato, and sugarcane. A second wave of Polynesian seafarers, this time from Tahiti, arrived some 500 years later.

The early Hawaiians embraced a simple lifestyle. Taro was a chief food source: its root was pounded and mixed with water to make *poi*, the paste-like starch that remains a staple of Hawaiian diets and appears at every luau. Ahead of their time in understanding nature’s ecosystem, early Hawaiians built and maintained large fishponds to ensure their chiefs an abundant supply of fish. Back then, a typical *hale* (house) was a wooden frame covered with pili grass; it looked like a haystack.

Hawaiians lived under a strict caste system, and high-ranking *al* (chiefs or rulers) wielded power by imposing many *kapu* (laws or prohibitions). In some cases, even to cross the shadow of a powerful *al* meant sure death. This system brought much bickering among the people, adding to the hostilities among chiefs eager to gain more territory under their rule.

Still, the Hawaiians thrived. When Captain Cook arrived in the Islands in 1778, an estimated 400,000 Hawaiians were living on Oahu, the Big Island of Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Niihau, and Kahoolawe.

CAPTAIN COOK’S ARRIVAL

ON JANUARY 21, 1778, Captain James Cook, commander of Britain’s HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Discovery*, became the first European to set foot on Hawaiian soil, landing at Waimea on the west coast of Kauai. Cook and his crew spent five days on Kauai before a short visit to Niihau, where they traded salt and yams for goats, pigs, and water.

Cook’s second contact with the Hawaiians occurred a year later, this time at Kealakekua on the Big Island. As fate would have it, his arrival coincided with the Hawaiians’ annual *makahiki* celebration, a four-month festival honoring Lono, the god of peace, agriculture, and fertility. (Today, this event is echoed in the statewide Aloha Festivals.) Historians believe the Hawaiians, seeing these strange vessels heading for shore, thought it was Lono himself returning to

the island. Cook and his men were treated to the greatest welcome in Hawaii's history: Hawaiians greeted the ships by the thousands. Cook wrote: "I have nowhere in this sea seen such a number of people assembled in one place; besides those in the canoes, all the shore of the bay was covered with people, and hundreds were swimming about the ship like shoals of fish."

After the *makahiki* ended and Lono-like Cook began to act more human, however, the Hawaiians were no longer quite so hospitable. A scuffle broke out and more than 200 warriors attacked Cook's landing party. Five British marines were killed, including Cook himself. His remains were buried in the deep blue water of Kealakekua Bay.

THE KAMEHAMEHA DYNASTY

ONE BIG ISLAND WARRIOR who took great interest in the foreigners was Kamehameha I. He had been wounded by a gun during the fight, and he realized that any chief who possessed such powerful weapons would have a decided advantage during battles.

Kamehameha set out to conquer all the Hawaiian Islands and bring them under his rule. He secured Maui and Lanai in 1790, then conquered Maui again after losing it for a short time. He had his chief rival on the Big Island killed to claim sole leadership over the island. Then he conquered Molokai and Oahu, but two attempts to invade Kauai failed. In 1810 Kauai's chief peacefully surrendered his island (and the neighboring island of Niihau) to his persistent rival. The entire Hawaiian kingdom was finally unified under one ruler: King Kamehameha I.

Under Kamehameha's reign, trade with Europeans increased. Foreigners particularly valued Hawaii's sandalwood, and the king allowed the exportation of the precious wood to China until the forests were cut to the ground and the supply exhausted.

Kamehameha succumbed to a lengthy illness in 1819 in the area now known as Kailua-Kona on the Big Island. His bones were hidden at a secret location "known only to the moon and the stars," believed to be somewhere on the Kona Coast. Historians estimate he was in his early 60s when he died.

His son and successor, Liholiho (Kamehameha II), had a short but eventful reign. Kaahumanu, the favorite of Kamehameha's numerous wives, made herself the joint ruler, or queen regent, of the Hawaiian kingdom and almost immediately abolished the despised *kapu* system of religious prohibitions. She did so by persuading Liholiho to sit down with her at a feast (it was *kapu*, or forbidden, for men and women to eat together). Seeing that the gods did not punish the guilty parties, Hawaiians' faith in their system crumbled. Kaahumanu and Liholiho declared that all idols and temples be destroyed.

Without their places of worship, the Hawaiians experienced a gaping spiritual vacuum. They were ripe for conversion when fate intervened. In 1820, 14 American missionaries from New England

arrived aboard the brig *Thaddeus*. They preached in Honolulu and in Kona for what was supposed to be a one-year trial period. They never left, marrying Hawaiian royals and gaining land and power.

Liholiho and his queen, Kamamalu, died of the measles in 1924 in London, where they had journeyed in hopes of meeting King George IV. Liholiho's successor was his younger brother, Kamehameha III. Kaahumanu, meanwhile, embraced Christianity and announced a new system of laws based on the missionaries' teachings.

The missionaries' impact on Hawaii overwhelmed the old culture. They built churches and schools throughout the Islands and condemned the people for their manner of dress. Hula, regarded by the missionaries as lewd, was banned. Christianity became the new religion in Hawaii. The chiefs were converted first, and the commoners followed suit.

Kamehameha III took control of the kingdom in 1825. By then the whaling industry had replaced the exhausted sandalwood trade. From the mid-1820s through the 1850s, when whale blubber was replaced by oil as a source for light, the whaling industry was the kingdom's economic savior, and Lahaina became one of the most vital ports in the Pacific.

The king's 29-year reign was marked by several landmark events. The first came in 1843, when the Hawaiian kingdom fell to British control for a brief time. More significantly, in 1848 Kamehameha III issued The Great Mahele, which divided Hawaii's lands among the monarchy, government, and common people. For the first time, the working class could own land. Just two years later, foreigners were also allowed to own land, and 40 years after the Great Mahele was decreed, two-thirds of all government lands belonged to foreigners.

By this time, the introduction of foreign diseases, including syphilis and smallpox, to the Hawaiians who had no immunity was taking a terrible toll. At the end of Kamehameha III's reign, the Hawaiian population had dropped to 70,000.

Sugar was fast emerging as the new lifeblood of the Islands' economy, and Kamehameha III knew he had to find more laborers to work in the plantations. He turned to contract workers from other countries—the Chinese first, in 1852, when 293 laborers began working on the plantations for \$3 a month. Then came the Japanese, Portuguese, Filipinos, Koreans, Puerto Ricans, Okinawans, Germans, Russians, and Spaniards. By the turn of the century, Polynesians no longer made up the majority of Hawaii's population.

Kamehameha III died in 1854, and his nephew Alexander Liholiho ascended the throne as Kamehameha IV. He reigned for eight years before dying of an asthmatic attack at 29. His brother, Lot (Kamehameha V), served as king from 1863 to 1872, and upon his death, William Lunalilo was elected his successor. Lot's cousin, the Princess Bernice Pauahi, had been next in line to take the throne but adamantly

refused. Lunalilo's reign was short-lived, however—he died after only a year as king.

THE “MERRIE MONARCH”

DAVID KALAKAUA WAS ELECTED to succeed Lunalilo, and his tenure as Hawaii's king proved to be as colorful as the man himself. Known as the Merrie Monarch because of his passion for Hawaiian music and dance, Kalakaua began to restore traditional culture. He commissioned construction of Iolani Palace, an extravagant masterpiece. With a fondness for the good life, he took a trip around the world, hosted gala balls, and bet on local horse races.

Kalakaua was the first reigning king to visit Washington, D.C., to meet with the president, Ulysses S. Grant, and Congress. The *New York Herald* reported, “[Kalakaua] is no common king, but one to whom we can give our allegiance with a clean conscience, for we believe him to be a good man who has the happiness of his nation at heart.” Kalakaua returned home with a desirable reciprocity treaty giving Hawaii “favored nation” status and eliminating tariffs on sugar. While recognizing the benefits of a strong relationship with the United States, Kalakaua fought to maintain Hawaii's independence. The stronger the sugar industry grew, however, the more power shifted from the king to influential American businessmen. In 1887, an armed insurrection by this foreign political group forced Kalakaua to accept a new constitution that severely diminished his authority. The king's remaining years weren't happy ones, as he was relegated to a figurehead role in government. His health failing, he sought treatment in California in 1891. He died that year in San Francisco's Palace Hotel.

END OF THE MONARCHY

KALAKAUA'S SUCCESSOR, his sister Liliuokalani, was determined to restore the Hawaiian monarchy to power. But the queen was severely outmatched. In January 1893, pro-annexation forces struck. John B. Stevens, the United States minister in Hawaii, ordered American Marines from the visiting USS *Boston* to occupy Honolulu. It was a daring move that was not authorized by Washington, but it worked: The next day, a new government led by Sanford B. Dole was in place. Liliuokalani was forced to abdicate her throne.

President Grover Cleveland was dismayed by the action, calling it “an act of war against a peaceful nation.” His attempts at reinstating Liliuokalani as Hawaii's ruler, however, were resisted by Congress. In 1894, the new government, the Republic of Hawaii, named Dole as its first president.

In January 1895, a group of royalists led by Robert Wilcox attempted a coup. The battle lasted for two weeks, with skirmishes erupting at Diamond Head Crater and at Manoa Valley, Punchbowl, and other sites on Oahu. Ultimately, the revolt failed, and the government

arrested the royalists and the queen, charging them with treason. She was imprisoned at Iolani Palace—her own home—for nearly a year.

In 1898, members of the republic got what they had wanted all along: Hawaii was annexed to the United States. Two years later, it became a United States territory.

WORLD WAR II AND STATEHOOD

THE NEXT FOUR DECADES brought the birth of Hawaii's tourist industry, as well as the sweet days of pineapple and sugar, the backbone of the Islands' economic system. Then came December 7, 1941, when Japanese warplanes bombed Pearl Harbor. The bombs sunk the USS *Arizona* and sent 1,200 sailors aboard the 608-foot battleship to a watery grave. The air raid on Hawaii brought America to war with the battle cry: "Remember Pearl Harbor!"

Islands residents, devastated by the attack, enlisted and did what they could at home to support the U.S. war effort. In Waikiki, hotels were closed to visitors, then reopened to accommodate servicemen. The famed "Pink Palace," the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, was turned into an R&R center for military officers on leave. Barbed wire was strung all along the beach.

In the years following the war, Hawaii pursued statehood and finally won it on August 21, 1959. *The Honolulu Advertiser* reported, "A phone call from Governor Quinn in Washington today is expected to set off the biggest wingding in Island history to celebrate Statehood Day . . . the 52 air-raid sirens on Oahu will start screaming out the news . . . Every church bell in town will begin pealing. Every ship in harbor will blow her whistle. Most folks will do a little shouting on their own, and, of course, there's nothing to stop you from hula-ing in the streets if you want to." And they did. President Dwight D. Eisenhower made it official, signing the proclamation welcoming Hawaii as the 50th state in the union.

Not all Hawaiians favored statehood, but they were too few to stand in the way of history, and a once-proud Polynesian nation became an American state.



HAWAII'S DIVERSE POPULATION

ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES of Hawaii is the diversity of its people. In the 50th state, no single ethnic group represents a majority of the population, although, taken together, Asians and part-Asians make up an estimated 55%, the largest proportion of any state, says the U.S. Census Bureau. Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and part-Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders compose 21% of the state's total population. Ironically, of the 1 million Americans

who claim Hawaiian and Pacific Island heritage, only about a quarter (269,000) live in Hawaii, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The racial breakdown is as follows (U.S. Census Bureau 2008 estimates):

Asian (Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Southeast Asians) 39.3%	Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders 9.1%
Caucasian 24.9%	Hispanics 8.7%
Mixed race (about half are part Hawaiian) 18.3%	African American 3.1%
	Other .6%

Each ethnic group has made its mark on Hawaiian culture, contributing its foods, arts, music, customs, and political clout to Hawaii's melting-pot community. Many cultural groups hold annual festivals in Honolulu to celebrate their heritage—a great chance to sample the food, music, dance, national dress, and pride of the culture at hand. Several cultures share a passionate affinity for fireworks, which are more abundant in Hawaii than anywhere else in the country. Fireworks are big for western New Year, Chinese New Year, Japanese New Year, Fourth of July, and, for good measure, every Friday night at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki.

The Chinese were the Islands' first immigrants. Nearly 300 workers from southeastern China came to the Islands in 1852 after signing five-year contracts to work the sugar plantations for food, clothing, shelter, and a salary of \$3 per month. Most of the Chinese lived near Honolulu Harbor on Oahu and Lahaina on Maui. It was in Honolulu where Dr. Sun Yat-sen, regarded as the father of modern China, founded the Hsing Chung Hui, a revolutionary group instrumental in China's movement against foreign powers. The Chinese influence on the local community is visible today in the distinctively Hawaiian-style Chinese New Year celebrations, Chinese cuisine and arts, Chinese heritage of prominent citizens, and a little Chinese blood in many local residents.

The first Japanese immigrants arrived in 1868 to work on the plantations. Although the conditions were often miserable, more Japanese made their way to what they referred to as Tenjiku, or "heavenly place." By the beginning of the 20th century, more than 60,000 Japanese laborers and their families lived in Hawaii. Like all immigrants, Japanese faced racial prejudices, but far more so after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Many Japanese Americans were taken away to internment camps on the mainland, and many more lost their family businesses, even though not a single case of Japanese American treason or sabotage was ever documented. But they rebounded strongly in Hawaii after the war, gained prominence in politics and education, and integrated Japanese customs and design into everyday life. Today, Japanese Americans are a major presence in Hawaii, and most residents embrace at least some degree of Japanese custom, including removing shoes before entering a home. Sushi, sashimi, mochi, and miso soup are served on the Hawaiian table.

In 1903, the first Koreans arrived to work on the plantations. Ambitious and hardworking, Koreans today have the highest education and income level per capita of any ethnic group on the Islands. Korean cuisine is extremely popular among Hawaiian residents, and you'll find Korean restaurants in every town. Try *kal-bi* (marinated beef) with rice and spicy *kimchi* (pickled vegetables).

A group of 15 Filipino laborers began working on Islands plantations in 1906; by midcentury, that number had swelled to 125,000. Every summer, the Filipino Fiesta festivals, held throughout the state, celebrate the colorful traditions and customs of the Filipino culture. Dishes such as chicken *adobo* and *lumpia* are favorites on local menus.

Samoans are among the newer ethnic groups in Hawaii, arriving from American Samoa shortly after the end of World War I. Most settled in the Mormon community in Laie on Oahu. Their many contributions to the Islands include the celebrated fire-knife dance that highlights most Polynesian luau. Local Samoans have also made their mark in the world of football: In the 1990s, Jesse Sapolu (San Francisco 49ers), Mark Tuinei (Dallas Cowboys), and Maa Tanuvasa (Denver Broncos) all played significant roles in helping their teams win Super Bowl championships.

In multicultural Hawaii, intermarriage is the norm rather than the exception, and a dizzying number of ethnic groups coexist at both the top and bottom of the economic scale. This tends to even things out. The ability to get along, born of necessity in plantation villages and perfected in the modern mix, may be Hawaii's most valuable contribution, far more lasting than a suntan and an aloha shirt.

In order to get along, plantation people from around the world had to communicate, so they developed Hawaiian pidgin—a true creole language according to many scholars, one that borrows words and grammar from several languages. Pidgin endures today, despite efforts of many inside and outside the education system to stamp it out, at least in school. Unofficially, it is lovingly cultivated as a kind of jive talk among kids, families, friends, and lovers. You'll see graffiti in pidgin. It's also still useful, since myriad ethnic immigrants continue to arrive. (See page 180 for a quick lesson in pidgin basics.)

Most people are proud of their diversity, but ethnic prejudices and stereotypes still exist. Caucasians can be the targets of slurs and jokes, along with everybody else. The word *haole* (foreigner) is widely used to refer to Caucasians, usually in a descriptive way. When using words to describe Islanders, beware of a linguistic minefield. Don't call us "Hawaiians" unless you mean native Hawaiians, not just residents of the Islands. Don't call anyone a "native" unless you're wearing your pith helmet, although "native Hawaiian" is still acceptable to distinguish the cultural group. "Local" is a somewhat more loaded word in Hawaii than elsewhere, applying to the multicultural

people with broader antecedents who were born here. It's more neutral when it means the opposite of "just visiting." *Kamaaina* (child of the land, as described earlier) and *malahini* (newcomer) refer to length of stay rather than race or culture. Now you see why the most popular pidgin phrase is *da kine* (as in "the kind"), a handy catchall to refer to anything you can't or don't want to name specifically.



LOCAL CUSTOMS and PROTOCOL

- When going to the *lua* (restroom) make sure you know the difference between *kane* (man) and *wahine* (woman), since many restrooms are only identified in Hawaiian.
- Close your middle three fingers of either hand while keeping your thumb and pinkie finger fully extended. Shake your hand a few times in the air. That's the *shaka* sign, a hand gesture expressing acknowledgment, goodwill, or appreciation. It's like *mahalo* (thank you).
- Every Friday is Aloha Friday, when residents wear aloha shirts and *muumuu* in celebration of Islands culture and lifestyle. Aloha wear is so in these days that it is worn any day. The first aloha shirt was sold in the mid-1930s in Honolulu. Boys during the time had been wearing similar shirts made from Japanese prints, and the idea caught on. The origin of the first muumuu traces to missionary days when the missionary wives sewed "Mother Hubbard" nightgowns to clothe the half-dressed Hawaiian women.
- If you get lucky and are invited to a *kamaaina* home, remember that most follow the custom of removing shoes before entering the house. The forest of shoes in front of the door is your reminder.
- Local people of all kinds profess a deep reverence for the *aina* (land), although all that litter along Hawaii's roads can't be from visitors alone. This is a beautiful place that deserves respect. Please don't trash it.