

O'AHU™

*One of the* HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

[GoHawaii.com/Oahu](https://GoHawaii.com/Oahu)



## FACTS ABOUT O'AHU

The island of O'ahu offers travelers experiences that energize the spirit, enrich the mind, honor its iconic history, and celebrate its vibrant mix of Hawaiian and multicultural traditions. The third largest of the eight Hawaiian islands, O'ahu is aptly named "The Gathering Place," and 70 percent of the state's population lives in the city of Honolulu. The island's 608-square miles measure 44 miles long and 30 miles wide. O'ahu's coastline spans 112 miles, and includes more than 125 beaches.

## CLIMATE & SEASONS

Hawai'i enjoys year-round sunshine with very little changing from season to season. The average yearly temperature is 75° F, with the coolest months of December and January fluctuating only around 5° F in either direction. During the warmest months of August and September, the temperature can reach 90° F. Although rain showers are brief in the early morning and evening, they are common atop O'ahu's mountainous ranges and lush valleys, creating a natural rainforest just minutes away from Waikiki. Sea water temperatures average between 74° and 80° F throughout the year, perfect for a variety of ocean activities to satisfy any beachgoer.

## TIME ZONES

Hawai'i Standard Time (GMT-10 hours), five hours behind the US East Coast, six hours behind during Daylight Saving Time (Hawai'i does not observe Daylight Saving Time).

## TRANSPORTATION

Daniel K. Inouye International Airport is at the crossroads between North America and Asia and is just eight miles west of Waikiki. The airport is serviced by most major airlines. Hawaiian Airlines, Mokulele Airlines and Southwest Airlines fly directly from O'ahu to various neighbor islands. Transportation on the island includes rideshare, taxi cabs, the Waikiki Trolley, and TheBus. There is a consolidated rent-a-car facility at the airport and agencies also located in Waikiki. Other means of transportation include mopeds and bicycles.

# The Heart of Hawai'i

## O'AHU IS ONE OF SIX VISITABLE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Called "The Gathering Place," O'ahu offers two experiences, "Town and Country" experiences, from urban to tropical and is an island of vibrant contrasts. Home to Honolulu, the state capital, Hawai'i's most diverse island is a fusion of modern and historic; of quiet hikes and explosive fireworks shows, of renowned chefs and mom and pop eateries. O'ahu can be the perfect relaxing getaway or exhilarating island adventure.

## ICONIC EXPERIENCES

### *Tips for visiting O'ahu's "Must-See" Attractions*

#### LĒ'ĀHI (DIAMOND HEAD)

The iconic 1.6 mile roundtrip hike is a "must-do" for many because of the panoramic views atop the 760-foot extinct volcanic tuff cone. NOTE: It's short but gets hot, sunscreen and water are recommended. Advance reservations are required for all out of state visitors. ▶ [gostateparks.hawaii.gov](https://www.gostateparks.hawaii.gov)

#### PEARL HARBOR NATIONAL MEMORIAL & HISTORIC SITES

There are FOUR major attractions: USS Arizona Memorial, constructed atop the sunken battleship as a memorial to the 1,177 crewmen who lost their lives, the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum, featuring a restored WWII submarine, the USS Battleship Missouri Memorial where the documents ending the war were signed and the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum with fighter planes, bombers and a flight simulator. NOTE: Advanced reservations are especially recommended for the USS Arizona. Admission is free but tickets are limited. With so much to experience, Passport to Pearl Harbor is a great multiday admission pass to all four attractions. ▶ [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

*O'ahu offers adventures for all ages, from little thrill-seekers to big nature enthusiasts.*

#### THE BIRTHPLACE OF SURFING

Did you know surfing literally began as the "Sport of Kings" in Hawai'i? Waikiki was a favorite place for Hawaiian royalty to showcase their surf skills. In the early 20th century, legendary surfer, Olympic swimmer and Waikiki native Duke Kahanamoku introduced the sport to the world. In the '50s, surfers started riding the huge waves in the North Shore's Waimea Bay, now widely regarded as the birthplace of big wave surfing. O'ahu has many options to experience surfing, either by watching the pros on 20ft+ waves or with lessons from the pros to get you hanging ten.

#### GUNSTOCK RANCH

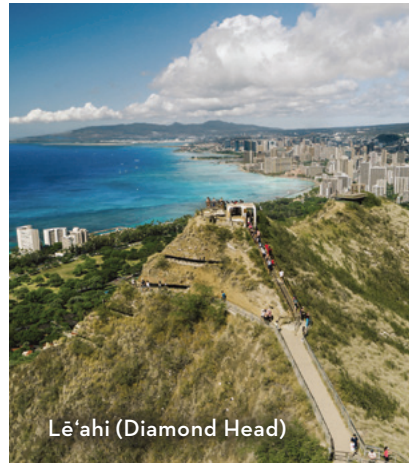
This family-owned working ranch is home to O'ahu's first Hawaiian Legacy Forest, an endemic tree reforestation initiative. Enjoy a sunset horseback ride, jump into off-road vehicles, or join hiking and walking tours. You can also give back by planting and dedicating a tree to a loved one. ▶ [gunstockranch.com](https://www.gunstockranch.com)

#### KUALOA RANCH PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

Offering majestic mountain views on one side and the Pacific on the other, the ranch offers an exhilarating array of outdoor fun by ATV, catamaran, ebike, jeep, zipline or horseback. Set on 4,000 acres, the historic family-run business offers a variety of tours including their Mālama ka 'Āina voluntourism cultural experience in their *lo'i kalo* (taro patch) and their very popular Jurassic Movie Tour. ▶ [kualoa.com](https://www.kualoa.com)



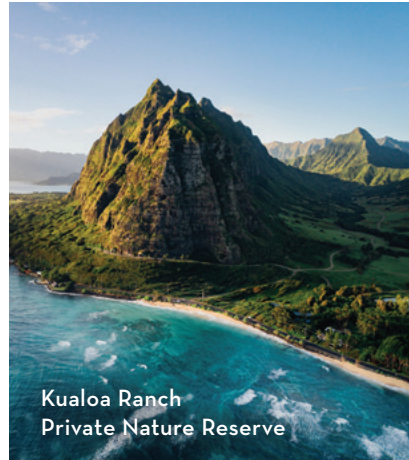
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum



Lē'ahi (Diamond Head)



Pearl Harbor National Memorial



Kualoa Ranch  
Private Nature Reserve



Hānaikamalama,  
Queen Emma Summer Palace



'Iolani Palace

## HISTORY & CULTURE

*Discover the unique and rich history, culture and traditions of Hawai'i.*

### BERNICE PAUAAHI BISHOP MUSEUM

A perfect place to start learning about Hawai'i and its history and culture is the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, the largest museum in Hawai'i and largest state museum in the country. With 125,000 library titles, over one million archival objects, and two million archaeological and cultural objects, it is the largest museum in the world devoted to Native Hawaiian and Pacific history and culture. Learn about the island's rich past as well as traditions being preserved in the present. Don't miss a chance to walk through a volcano at the family-friendly science center and learn how Polynesian voyagers navigated using the stars to sail the Pacific at the planetarium.

► [bishopmuseum.org](http://bishopmuseum.org)

### HĀNAIAKAMALAMA, QUEEN EMMA SUMMER PALACE

The secluded summer retreat for King Kamehameha IV, Queen Emma and their son, Prince Albert, remains a hidden gem. The historic 1847 building, furnishings and regalia are remarkably preserved. Travel back in time to see how the family lived during the Hawaiian Kingdom while learning about the family's contributions to education, health care and culture.

► [daughtersofhawaii.org](http://daughtersofhawaii.org)

### 'IOLANI PALACE

Walk across the floors and up the grand koa staircase at what was once the only official royal residence in the United States. Learn about the innovation of King Kālakaua, the overthrow of his sister, Queen Lili'uokalani, the global respect for the Hawaiian royals, and life for the monarchs in the pivotal 19th century. Visit on Friday for a free concert by the Royal Hawaiian Band, which has entertained Hawai'i since 1836. ► [iolanipalace.org](http://iolanipalace.org)

### WAIMEA VALLEY

One of the last partially intact *ahupua'a* (traditional land division) on O'ahu, Waimea Valley has been a sacred place for more than 700 years of Native Hawaiian history. "The Valley of the Priests," gained its title around 1090 when the ruler of O'ahu gifted the land to the *kāhuna nui* (high priests). Descendants lived and cared for the Valley until 1886. Today, visitors can enjoy archaeological sites, cultural activities, a world class 150-acre botanical collection with over 5,000 kinds of plants including native and endangered flora and fauna as well as a beautiful rain-fed waterfall that allows swimming, weather permitting. ► [waimeavalley.net](http://waimeavalley.net)

## RESORT AREAS



### WAIKĪKĪ / SOUTH SHORE

- Largest range of accommodations
- Central location, close to major activities/attractions
- World class dining and shopping



### EAST SHORE

- Kāhala Hotel & Resort



### NORTH SHORE

- Small towns, quaint shops
- Turtle Bay Resort Area
- 1 hour from town



### WEST O'AHU

- Ko Olina resort area
- Man-made lagoons
- 40 minutes from town

## REGIONS OF O'AHU



### HONOLULU & SOUTH SHORE

- The "town"
- Includes Kaka'ako, Chinatown, Ala Moana, Waikiki, and Kāhala
- Home to 'Iolani Palace, Bishop Museum, Lē'ahi and Pearl Harbor
- Hub for the island's museums, arts and dining



### NORTH SHORE

- The "country"
- From Lā'ie to Kā'ena Point
- Home to Hale'iwa and Waimea
- Surfing capital of the world
- Legendary coastline



### LEEWARD COAST

- Expansive area that lies on the coastal side of the Wai'anae Mountains
- Includes Ko Olina, Kapolei and Mount Ka'ala, O'ahu's highest peak



### WINDWARD COAST

- From Maunaloa Bay to Hau'ula
- Home to Kualoa and Valley of the Temples
- Lush valleys and scenic landscapes



### CENTRAL O'AHU

- Between the Wai'anae Range on the west and Kō'olau Range on the east
- Island's plantation heritage
- Charming historic towns
- Agricultural region





# Buy & Eat Local

O'ahu is home to amazing local artisans creating unique foods, art, clothing and crafts. Each reflecting and embodying the island's unique blend of cultures and influences from the first Polynesian settlers, to the whalers and missionaries to plantation workers from China, Japan, Portugal and other countries.

## BUY LOCAL

Find everything and more at Ala Moana Center, the world's largest open-air shopping center with 2.4 million square feet of retail space, home to more than 350 stores. For a more intimate shopping experience, SALT at Our Kaka'ako serves up world class street art, local microbreweries, boutiques and cafés. Royal Hawaiian Center and International Market Place conveniently located in the heart of Waikiki, offer name brand, luxury and local retail and dining as well as free cultural programming.

## NEIGHBORHOODS WITH LOCAL FLAVOR

For a cultural explosion, visit O'ahu's unique Chinatown which offers fragrant lei stands, bustling produce markets, local upscale boutiques, art galleries, and traditional Chinese fare but also some of the island's most prominent and innovative chefs. A trip to Wahiawā is rewarded with locally-loved bakeries and trendy new eateries reflecting its diverse resident population. For some old neighborhood charm, check out mom and pop's alongside some of the newest and hottest eateries and confectioneries in Kaimuki. So close but worlds apart, Kapahulu Avenue is not just a road connecting Waikiki to Kaimuki but "a venue" with some of the islands' most iconic eateries from sweet treats like malasadas and shave ice to the quintessential savory local plate, you can find it all in just one tasty mile.



## LŪ'AU LIST

**Aloha Kai Lū'au**  
alohakailuau.com

**Ka Moana Lū'au**  
moanaluu.com

**KA WA'A - A Lū'au at Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa**  
disneyaulani.com/activities/luau

**Pā'ina Waikiki**  
painawaikiki.com

**Paradise Cove Luau**  
paradisecove.com

**Polynesian Cultural Center Ali'i Luau**  
polynesia.com/dining

**Queens Waikiki Lū'au**  
queenswaikikiluau.com

**Royal Hawaiian Aha'aina Luau**  
royal-hawaiian.com/  
dining-overview/ahaaina-luau

**Waikiki Starlight Luau**  
hiltonhawaiianvillage.com/luau



## FESTIVALS

- **Honolulu Festival** (March)
- **Waikiki SPAM JAM®** (April)
- **The Hapalua** (Hawaii's Half-marathon - April)
- **Lei Day Celebration** (May 1)
- **We Are Samoa Festival, World Fireknife Championship** (May)
- **Lantern Floating Hawai'i Ceremony** (Memorial Day)
- **Pan-Pacific Festival** (June)
- **King Kamehameha Celebration** (June)
- **Prince Lot Hula Festival** (July)
- **Duke Kahanamoku Ocean Festival** (August)
- **Hawai'i Book & Music Festival** (Fall)
- **Made in Hawai'i Festival** (Fall)
- **Aloha Festivals** (September)
- **Okinawan Festival** (September)
- **Honolulu PRIDE** (October)
- **Hawai'i Food & Wine Festival** (Fall - Oct/Nov)
- **Hawai'i International Film Festival** (November)
- **Vans Triple Crown of Surfing** (Winter - Nov/Dec)
- **Honolulu Marathon** (December)

# Mālama

*To mālama is to take care, protect, and preserve. We ask that you mālama and respect our island home by giving back and enjoying the “get back” through experiences that will stay with you for a lifetime.*

Please learn about our Vision of Regenerative Tourism for O‘ahu – O‘ahu Destination Management Action Plan: [bit.ly/OahuDMAP](https://bit.ly/OahuDMAP)

Enrich your stay and give back and get back with the Mālama Hawai‘i program. [Learn more at gohawaii.com/malama](https://gohawaii.com/malama)



## STAYING SAFE

### LAND SAFETY TIPS

- Stay on the trail to avoid trail damage, keep yourself and others safe
- Do not trespass or park illegally to get to trailheads
- Brush shoes off before and after hiking to avoid spreading invasive species

For more info, visit: [hawaii.trails.hawaii.gov/trails](https://hawaii.trails.hawaii.gov/trails)

### OCEAN SAFETY TIPS

- Protect coral reefs. Don't step on and damage them. Use reef-safe mineral sunscreen.
- Never turn your back on the ocean
- Swim only at beaches with lifeguards
- Heed all posted warning signs

For more info, visit: [hioceansafety.com](https://hioceansafety.com) and [hawaii beachesafety.com/oahu](https://hawaii beachesafety.com/oahu)

## ISLAND ETIQUETTE

### DRIVE WITH ALOHA

Show aloha on the road. Wave or shaka thanks when let into lanes to show appreciation. Only park in designated areas.

### STAY WITH ALOHA

Illegal short-term rentals are a community concern for residential neighborhoods. For more info, visit [honolulu.gov/dppstr](https://honolulu.gov/dppstr)

### SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Find some ocean-friendly eateries at [oahu.surfrider.org/ofr](https://oahu.surfrider.org/ofr) and eco-friendly tour operators at [sustainabletourismhawaii.org](https://sustainabletourismhawaii.org)

### RESPECT WILDLIFE

Hawai‘i is known as the “endangered species capital of the world.” Please respect marine wildlife and enjoy them from an appropriate viewing distance.

[bit.ly/NOAA-Wildlife-Viewing](https://bit.ly/NOAA-Wildlife-Viewing)



Official O‘ahu Travel Planner

### FIND US ON

**Consumer:** [gohawaii.com/oahu](https://gohawaii.com/oahu)

**Travel Advisor:** [agents.gohawaii.com](https://agents.gohawaii.com)

Facebook.com/OahuHawaii

@OahuVB

**#VisitOahu**

### DOWNLOAD FOR INFO ON THE GO:

**GOHAWAII APP** for travel advice ▶ [hvcb.org/app](https://hvcb.org/app)

**HNL Info App** for traffic and emergency alerts ▶ [hnl.info](https://hnl.info)

### HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TOOLKIT

Help represent and honor Hawai‘i and its language (‘ōlelo Hawai‘i), ‘āina (land), and community in a pono (correct) way.

**Learn how at [bit.ly/MaemaeToolkit](https://bit.ly/MaemaeToolkit)**