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YOUR GUIDE TO
THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

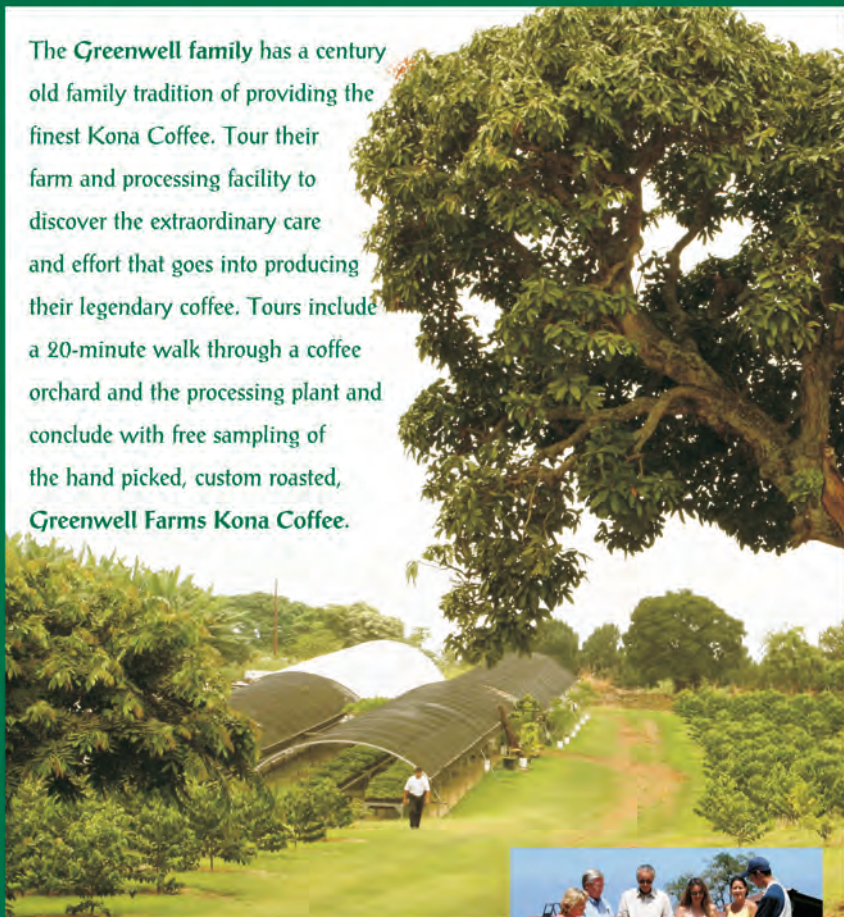


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- Protect businesses and jobs that support the sale of not only locally grown cigars but also premium, handmade cigars. The current 50 percent unlimited tax negatively impacts our economy.
- Create fairness and help Hawai'i cigar retailers who pay their taxes, compete with mail-order businesses that sell cigars within Hawai'i without paying taxes and whose customers do not file usage taxes.
- Protect a local agricultural industry that pays higher tobacco taxes as a result of higher production costs.
- Support and protect tax revenue generated from the sale of large cigars in Hawai'i.

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Add personal comments here or attach additional testimony:

Please leave this petition with retailer for collection or fax to: 808-822-9731

For more information on the Hawaii Cigar Association please visit

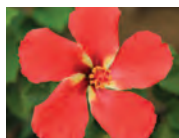
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Tips for the Visitor

Aloha! You're a lucky traveler—you're on a vacation in Hawai'i. This guide will help you get the most out of your trip by pointing out the best on each of the main Hawaiian Islands, especially if you're here for the first time. But before we begin, let's cover some general information and some dos and don'ts for your trip of a lifetime.



Hawai'i is a friendly and welcoming place. It's a mix of different cultures, languages, ethnicities and stories. Still, let's

remember the phrase, "When in Rome do as the Romans do." In Hawai'i that means driving slowly, yielding for everyone and showing aloha to everyone you meet. It means staying relaxed and friendly even when things aren't working out the way (or as quickly) as you'd like. It means showing respect for the people—and the places—you meet. No matter the color of your skin or your income, if you extend aloha, you'll get it in return from residents of these Islands.

Be careful. Much of Hawai'i's tranquility can be deceiving. The ocean here can be unpredictable and powerful, with hidden currents, rogue waves and swiftly changing conditions. Many visitors, even those who are extremely comfortable in the water, have perished because they didn't respect the power of the ocean here or they disregarded warning signs. Always heed warning signs posted at beach parks and consult lifeguards about the safety. The local safety motto for the beach is, "When in doubt, don't go out!"

The same holds true for hiking in the

Islands, where trails can be extremely steep, slippery and unstable. Every week several hikers must be rescued from forest areas because they became lost or stuck on a ridge. Many hikers fall and die because they do not stay on the trails. Do not hike alone, always carry a mobile phone, bring the appropriate gear (water, rain and sun protection) and never leave the designated trails.

Whether you have a fair or darker complexion, be sure to apply (and reapply!) sunscreen that blocks both UVA and UVB rays, even if you are going out in the sun for only a short time.

Remember to take off your rings (this one's for you, newlyweds) and any other jewelry before going into the water—there are no statistics about how many wedding rings have been lost in Hawai'i's waters, but the total value would undoubtedly buy you a house on the beach.

Hawai'i is the only state in the country that has two official languages: English and Hawaiian. You will often encounter Hawaiian words in conversation, in reading and on road signs and maps. Below are a few tips to help you get started with reading and understanding Hawaiian.

Don't be daunted by the length of some

Hawaiian words. To pronounce them, slowly break them down into individual syllables, and remember that there are no silent letters. The 'okina, which looks like an open quotation mark, marks a glottal stop—a break in between syllables. For example, the word "O'ahu" has a brief stop after the O. Likewise "Kaua'i" is properly pronounced "kawa-ee," and not "kawai."

The letter W is usually pronounced as a V when it appears in the middle of a word (though rarely at the beginning). So "Hawai'i" is pronounced "hawai-ee," while "Waikiki" is pronounced "why-kee-kee."

You won't often hear the Hawaiian language spoken, but you might hear Hawaiian pidgin, a hybrid of Hawaiian, English, Chinese and Portuguese that evolved out of the plantation era. Arguments rage about whether or not pidgin is a "real" language, but whatever one's opinion, it is the colorful and comically expressive vernacular of the Islands.

Locals will pepper their conversation with Hawaiian and pidgin words, which is only a real problem for visitors when getting directions. Instead of the usual north/south/east/west, locals might say "mauka," meaning "toward the mountains," or "makai," meaning "toward the sea." Given that every island has at least one mountain and a lot of sea, these terms are helpful wherever you happen to be. Also, if you're in Honolulu, a local might say "Diamond Head" and "Ewa" instead of "east" and "west." (Diamond Head is east and the Ewa plain is west of Honolulu.)

Hawai'i is a tolerant, multicultural place, but there are a few terms worth keeping in mind:

- A "local" is someone who was born and raised in Hawai'i.
- A "resident" is anyone who lives in Hawai'i year round.
- A "Hawaiian" is a person of Native Hawaiian ancestry.
- A "kama'aina" (literally "child of the land") is a person who has lived in Hawai'i long enough to be considered local, but whose family might not be from the Islands originally.
- A "haole" may mean different things depending on the context. In the strictest sense, it means anyone who's a foreigner to the Islands. In a more general sense, it indicates any white person, whether or not they were born here. The term may be used as a racial epithet, but most often it's a neutral word meant to indicate a Caucasian person.
- A "hapa" person is someone with mixed ancestry, usually Hawaiian and something else. "Hapa" is Hawaiian for "half," so a "hapa-haole" would be someone who's part white and part Hawaiian (at least).
- A "malihini" is a newcomer or a visitor—that's you!

With all that out of the way, enjoy your trip; whichever island or islands you plan to visit, you're almost guaranteed to have a magical experience!

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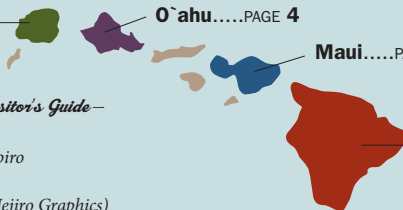
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THE GATHERING PLACE

O'ahu



If you're a first time visitor to Hawai'i, O'ahu is probably your first stop. This is the "main" island—the most developed and the most populated. Some of the state's iconic attractions, like Diamond Head, Waikiki Beach, Iolani Palace and Pearl Harbor are located on O'ahu's south shore. O'ahu is where you go for the urban Hawai'i experience—it's home to Honolulu, the capital city, with its shopping, dining, arts and culture—but the island is also home to some of the finest beaches and most beautiful mountain vistas in the state; you just have to be willing to get out of Waikiki to see them.

O'ahu is called "The Gathering Place" because in the 1800s Honolulu Harbor provided safe anchorage to whalers, traders and other visitors. Since 1794, when a British ship first navigated the narrow entry to the harbor, Honolulu has grown into the state's center of commerce, government and culture. About 80 percent of Hawai'i's 1.3 million residents live on this third largest Hawaiian island, with an area of nearly 600 square miles and 230 miles of coastline. A broad valley separates its two mountain ranges, the Ko'olau and the Wai'anae.

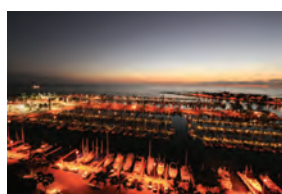
Officially the entire island is considered the City & County of Honolulu, but residents call Honolulu and its suburbs simply "town," while they call other areas of O'ahu by unofficial names: the North Shore (also known as "country"), the Windward Side to the east, the Leeward or Wai'anae Side to the west.

A word of caution to first-time visitors trying to find their way around O'ahu: Residents probably won't identify highways by their numbers. Instead they'll use the names:

Kamehameha, Pali, Likelike, Kalaniana'ole, Nimitz, etc. Visitors, though, should follow the numbers on the maps, because in some places highways mysteriously change names. You can drive around O'ahu in one day, but that won't leave you much time to savor the beautiful beaches and quaint towns. If you're not driving, TheBus is a great way to get around; many routes start in Waikiki and go to the Ala Moana Shopping Center, where you can hop on a bus to almost anywhere. The Circle Island route, which begins at Ala Moana, is great for those wanting to tour the island. (Be sure to ask for a transfer when you board the bus in Waikiki so you can change at Ala Moana without paying an additional fare.)

Honolulu

While thoroughly modern, Honolulu retains some elements of old Hawai'i, like Iolani Palace (the only royal palace in the United States), and other monarchy and territorial-era buildings. The **Ala Wai Golf Course** is a beautiful and relatively inexpensive public course, and several parks provide free access to the city's spectacular beaches. There are restaurants running the gamut in cuisines and prices. Try some authentic Hawaiian food (lulau, poi, chicken lu'au, haupia); local plate lunches (with the entrée you get a scoop of mac salad, rice, and kim



Ala Wai Boat Harbor

chee); the local favorite—Spam—comes in sushi form as "Spam musubi" (try it before you judge it).

For a finer Hawai'i dining experience, try a restaurant specializing in Hawai'i Regional Cuisine, like Roy's or Alan Wong's. Shopping also runs the gamut, from tony shops in Waikiki to tiny boutiques in Kaimuki.

Downtown Honolulu is the administrative and commercial heart of the city, with government and business offices, restaurants, condominiums and a small but vibrant **Chinatown**. On the outskirts of downtown are several historical sites within walking distance of each other. **Iolani Palace** was built in 1882 by King David Kalakaua (otherwise known as "The Merrie Monarch"). A progressive thinker, Kalakaua had Iolani wired for electricity and telephones—the first government building in the world to have such technology, even before the White House. The palace grounds are the site of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893, and it's where the last monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani, was imprisoned in 1895. Many of the rooms have been restored to their monarchy-era splendor. Across from the palace is the **statue of King Kamehameha I**, the iconic image featured on the back of the 2008 Hawai'i quarter. Nearby is **Kawaiaha'o Church**, the first Christian church in Hawai'i where services are still held, and the **Mission Houses Museum**, which offers a look at the cultural influences brought by the missionaries from New England, who began arriving in 1820.

In the heart of downtown is **Chinatown**, with restaurants, acupuncturists, herbalists, noodle factories, art galleries, tattoo parlors and food markets. Two plazas worth visiting—for those with some olfactory

fortitude—are the **Chinese Cultural Plaza** and the **Maunakea Marketplace**. Chinatown has recently become the epicenter of a thriving arts and culture renaissance, with a number of new galleries and music venues. Every first Friday of the month, the streets are closed to traffic, the galleries and shops are open late and Chinatown becomes a pedestrian-only street party that throbs into the morning hours.

Makai of Chinatown, across Ala Moana Blvd., is **Aloha Tower Marketplace**, a large outdoor shopping/dining complex built primarily to serve passengers on incoming cruise ships. Across Vineyard Blvd. just mauka of Chinatown is **Foster Botanical Garden**, one of the finest urban gardens in the country, where you can see specimens of rare and endangered native plants as well as the famous Bodhi tree—a descendant of the tree in India under which the Buddha is said to have achieved enlightenment.

A few miles mauka and 'Ewa of downtown is **Bishop Museum**, which houses the world's largest Pacific natural history and Hawaiian culture collections. The museum's Watumull Planetarium offers astronomy buffs a chance to learn about the sophisticated astronomical knowledge of the Polynesians. The centerpiece exhibit at Bishop Museum, Hawaiian Hall, was recently given a multimillion-dollar renovation to better display its unparalleled collection of Hawaiian artifacts, including priceless feather caps and headdresses worn by the ali'i, or royalty.

The **National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific**, called **Punchbowl** because it's located in a bowl-shaped volcanic crater, is a somber and impressive monument; there are more casualties of Pacific-theater action buried here than anywhere else in the United States. At the edge of the crater is a lookout area from which you can get a panoramic view of the city and the ocean beyond. If you're a history buff, don't miss the various monuments located around **Pearl Harbor**: the USS *Arizona* and the USS *Oklahoma* Memorials as well as the USS *Missouri*, the ship on which the Japanese surrendered to Gen. Douglas MacArthur to end WWII.

Iolani Palace and the statue of King Kamehameha



USS Arizona Memorial



Ala Moana

Proceeding toward Diamond Head along Ala Moana Boulevard from downtown Honolulu, you'll come to **Kaka'ako Waterfront Park**, Ala Moana Beach Park and **Ala Moana Shopping Center**. The center is the largest outdoor mall in the world, and it offers a shopping experience like no other. Residents and visitors from all parts of the world rub elbows; high-end boutiques, local craft shops and Asian department stores cater to a variety of shoppers, from thrifty locals to international jetsetters, all in a breezy, tropical setting adorned with Hawaiian flora and koi ponds. From the shopping center you can walk across Ala Moana Boulevard to Ala Moana Beach Park and "**Magic Island**," which offer swimming, surfing and beautiful sunset views. You can also walk into to Waikiki or take a bus from the lower level of Ala Moana Shopping Center to any part of the island.

Look toward the mountains, and you'll see one of O'ahu's natural gems: **Manoa Valley**, the location of the **University of Hawai'i** and the site of almost daily rainbows. Drive to the very back of the valley to stroll through **Lyon Arboretum**, with its incredible collection of plants from all over the world, including indigenous species, or park and walk the easy, mile-long trail to **Manoa Falls**, a thread-thin waterfall in the heart of a tropical rainforest.

Waikiki

Going further east along Ala Moana Boulevard, you'll come to **Waikiki**, where the beaches are within easy walking distance of most hotels. This is the world-famous stretch of sand with the iconic profile of **Le'ahi** (otherwise known as **Diamond**



Diamond Head

Head) in the background. Historically Waikiki was a playground for Hawaiian royalty. It was once a wetland abundant with fishponds and taro patches bordered by groves of coconut trees. By the 1920s the golden age of luxury liners established Waikiki as a premier tourist destination. In the 1960s jumbo jets began landing at Honolulu International Airport, ushering in a new era of tourism centered around Waikiki. Here the ocean is calm (ideal for swimming) and the waves are perfect for beginning surfers. At **Kuhio Beach Park** near the eastern end of Waikiki, the **statue of Olympic hero Duke Kahanamoku**



The statue of Duke Kahanamoku

welcomes you with open arms. Regarded as the father of modern surfing, Duke surfed Waikiki at the turn of the century. You can rent watersports equipment here—surfing, stand up paddling and snorkeling—and the entrepreneurial beach boys are only too happy to teach you to surf or simply plant an umbrella over your chaise lounge (for a fee). Near the Diamond Head end of Waikiki are the **Honolulu Zoo**, the **Waikiki Aquarium** (where you can see endangered Hawaiian monk seals) and **Kapi'olani Park**. Jogging, walking, tai chi, hula, yoga and soccer are among the many activities in the park.

For a bird's-eye view of Waikiki, there's an easy 0.8-mile trail to the top of **Diamond Head State Monument**. On a clear day you might see the island of Moloka'i. For cooler and more pleasant hiking conditions, it's best to go in the morning or late afternoon. If you're a surfer who's outgrown the bunny slopes of Waikiki (or who's just looking for less crowded waves), there are several breaks along Diamond Head, as well as comparatively secluded beaches at the foot of the mountain. Just park along the coast road and head down one of the paved paths to the shore. On the mauka slopes of Diamond Head is **Kapi'olani Community College**, which has a showcase **Culinary Institute**

of the Pacific program. Make reservations for lunch or dinner at its restaurant on the college campus, where you'll be treated to a first-rate meal and a great view. Early Saturday mornings, a popular farmers market in the college's parking lot attracts residents from all over the island to sample locally grown produce and other foods.

East Honolulu

East of Honolulu, H-1 turns into Kalaniana'ole Highway; head in this direction, and the natural beauty of O'ahu will unfold. You'll pass through a series of suburban neighborhoods defined by the valleys along Maunaloa Bay: Kahala, Wailupe, 'Aiea, Haina, Niu, Kuli'ou'ou and **Hawai'i Kai**. At **Koko Marina Shopping Center** in Hawai'i Kai, you'll find a number of watersports outfits offering everything from jet skiing to parasailing. Looking east, you'll see the giant cone of **Koko Crater**; there are hikes to the summit for the intrepid, and for the less adventurous there's a botanical garden inside the crater with one of the largest and oldest groves of plumeria trees in the state. Access is free.

Head up the hill along Kalaniana'ole Highway to **Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve**, an idyllic bay with azure, calm waters good for snorkeling. The bay is one of O'ahu's most visited areas, and the large numbers of people have put pressure on the reef. One measure instituted to protect the ecosystem is a daily quota on the number of people allowed in, and on Tuesdays it's closed entirely. Anyone wishing to visit the bay must first pass through the Marine Education Center, with exhibits of dolphins, whales, penguins, and sea lions. Get there early or you might find the parking lot is full.

Heading farther east along the highway, you'll drive along the spectacular and wild **Ka Iwi coastline**. There are several lookouts along the highway; if it's whale season (November through May), there's a good chance

you'll see humpbacks spouting (or breaching if you're lucky) from one of them. Stop at **Halona Blowhole** lookout and watch a sixty-foot jet of ocean spray forced through a hole in the reef; to the right of the lookout parking lot is a tiny cove beach nicknamed **Eternity Beach** (because it's the location of that famously racy scene in *From Here to Eternity*). You can walk down the rock path and swim in the cove, where you're almost guaranteed to see Hawaiian green sea turtles lazing. Use caution and don't swim here if conditions are rough.

Just past Halona Blowhole is **Sandy Beach**, one of the best bodyboarding beaches in the world—and also one of the most



dangerous. The shorebreak has a reputation for broken necks and backs, so if you don't know what you're doing, it's best to stay on the beach. Talk with the lifeguards before venturing in if you aren't sure. Continuing along, you'll come

to **Makapu'u Point**, where you can park and take the short hike on a paved road up to the **Makapu'u Lighthouse**. Here you'll be rewarded with a stunning view of the Windward side. On the nights of the full moon, this is a popular spot for locals who hike up to watch the moonrise over Moloka'i, which is usually visible on the eastern horizon.

The Windward Side

(Please note that you have been guided along the scenic route to the Windward side; you can get here more quickly via the Pali Highway or Likelike Highway from Honolulu or via H-3 if you're coming from the Leeward side.)

As you continue east along Kalaniana'ole Highway, you'll pass over Makapu'u saddle. You're now officially on the Windward side, with its awe-inspiring vistas, lush vertical cliffs and crystal-blue ocean. Almost immediately you'll come upon **Sea Life Park** on the mauka side of the highway—dolphin shows, a central display tank with hammerhead sharks and other Hawaiian marine life, and even a resident “wholphin,” a hybrid of a

false killer whale and a dolphin.

Continuing along Kalaniana'ole, you'll come to **Waimanalo**, with its beautiful, white-sand beach. Waimanalo is where the locals go for picnics on a Saturday afternoon—lots of beach, good swimming, no crowds. Turn off the highway at the sign for **Waimanalo Beach Park** (there are showers and bathroom facilities here). A couple of miles past Waimanalo town is the quaint beach community of **Kailua**, with its magnificent pair of beaches: **Kailua Beach** and **Lanikai Beach**. With its powder-white sand, calm water and view of the **Mokulua Islands**, Lanikai is consistently rated among the top ten beaches in the United States (and often no. 1). Kailua Bay and Lanikai offer great stand up paddling, kayaking and swimming; Lanikai also has some good snorkeling on calm days. There are several companies in Kailua that rent watersports gear. Best to get to these beaches before 5 p.m., as they are northeast-facing and often in shadow by late afternoon.

A quick detour from the coastal route takes you to the **Nu'uuanu Pali Lookout**, where you'll see a beautiful panorama of Windward O'ahu. (You can also get here from Honolulu by taking H-1 to the Pali Highway.) You'll be treated to a spectacular view—**Kane'ohe Bay**, **Kane'ohe town**, Kailua town and a magnificent stretch of vertical mountains to the north. Winds can be strong at the lookout, so be prepared for weather. This is also the site of one of the most significant events in Hawaiian history. In the final battle to unite the Hawaiian Islands, King Kamehameha I drove O'ahu's defending army up through Nu'uuanu to the cliff at the pali lookout. Rather than be captured or killed, O'ahu's warriors threw themselves from the cliff.



Kailua Beach

To continue heading up the Windward side, take Kamehameha Highway (locals call

it “Kam Highway”) through Kane'ohe. Be sure to stop at **Byodo-In Temple** in the **Valley of the Temples** in **Kahala'u**. This replica of a Buddhist temple in Japan sits in a lush, serene place; you'll be tempted to spend some time soaking in the tranquility. Back on Kam Highway again, notable sites along the way to the North Shore include **Kualoa Regional Park**, where you can swim, picnic, sunbathe and walk on long stretches of sand with a view of **Chinaman's Hat**, the islet nicknamed for its conical shape. You'll pass through the town of **La'ie**, where you can visit the **Polynesian Cultural Center**, **Brigham-Young University** and a large **Mormon temple**. Be sure to stop off in **Kahuku** for locally farmed shrimp served from one of several lunch trucks you'll see on the right side of the highway—you've never had garlic shrimp never that good. Small roadside booths also sell fresh pineapple, bananas, coconuts, sugar cane, sweet corn and other in-season produce.

The North Shore

The North Shore beaches, stretching for almost twenty miles, provide myriad opportunities for sunbathing, swimming in turquoise waters and of course surfing. However, only expert surfers should attempt to ride North Shore waves, even when they appear small. During the winter months, though, they're rarely small: Monstrous waves reaching heights of up to fifty feet provide spectators a chance to see the world's greatest surfing in competitions held at **Waimea Bay**, **Banzai Pipeline** (at **Ehukai Beach**), **Sunset Beach** and **Hale'iwa**: The Vans Triple Crown of Surfing is held every November/December, and the Quiksilver Eddie Aikau Invitational is held at Waimea Bay only if the waves reach at least forty feet. If you happen to be on the North Shore during non-winter months, the ocean is as placid as a lake, and spots like Waimea Bay become idyllic swimming and snorkeling beaches. On calm days, the large tidepools at **Pupukea** (a spot affectionately called “**Shark's Cove**,” even though there are no sharks) provide a safe and beautiful swim-



ming spot for even very small children.

The social and artistic hub of the North Shore

is the town of **Hale'iwa**, where historic plantation buildings house a mixture of surf shops, cafés and art galleries. This is also the perfect place to grab a bite of 'ono (delicious) food after a day at the beach. If you're in the mood for something sweet, **Matsumoto's** in Hale'iwa serves one of the best shave ices on the island.

If you're not interested in the beach, there's still plenty to do on the North Shore. The arboretum at **Waimea Falls** has 2,500 plant species from around the world in over thirty botanical collections. For a glimpse of ancient Hawaiian culture, visit **Pu'u o Mahuka Heiau**, a stone temple where chiefs gave birth, located mauka of Waimea Bay. For hiking, head out to **Ka'ena Point**, the northwestern-most point of O'ahu (you can get there from either the North Shore by heading west from Hale'iwa toward Mokule'ia or from the leeward side past Makaha). This seemingly barren landscape is home to a number of native plants and seabirds, like Laysan albatross and wedge-tailed shearwaters. Bring water and protection from the sun, as Ka'ena is a forbidding and shadeless place; it was from this point, the ancient Hawaiians believed, that the souls of the dead leapt into the afterlife.

The Leeward Side

You can't get to the Leeward, or western, side of the island directly from the North Shore. Instead, you have to go around the Wai'anae Mountains by heading south and then taking H-1 west to Farrington Highway. Before reaching the highway, though, you'll pass a vast area of new development known as **Kapolei**, which is currently being developed into O'ahu's "second city." Just past Kapolei is a resort development called **Ko'Olina**, the site of a posh **JW Marriott** and also **Disney's Aulani Resort**.

The Leeward Coast is usually sunny and dry, with miles of beach and several prime surfing spots. Heading north on Farrington Highway, you'll pass through the towns of **Nanakuli**, **Wai'anae**, and **Makaha**. In Wai'anae, **Poka'i Bay**, protected by a coral reef from heavy surf, provides good swimming conditions all year long. **Ku'iloloa Heiau** at the end of a peninsula offers great views of the coast. The heiau is 150 feet long and 35 feet wide, with three platforms surrounded by the ocean. The **Kane'aki Heiau** in **Makaha**, an agricultural temple, was built between 1450 and 1640; it has been restored by the Bishop Estate and the National Park Service. The beach at **Makua**, which is past the last town of Makaha, is a wild and undeveloped stretch of sand where you can camp out under the stars and then go for an early morning swim with the pod of dolphins that frequents the coast. Continuing past Makua, you can access **Ka'ena Point** from the end of the highway.

Whatever your age, whether or not you have children, whether you are an ocean or hiking enthusiast, whether you like spending time in museums or surfing, you can find something to make your visit to O'ahu rewarding. You can try new sports, eat foods you've never heard of, hike in rainforests, play on beaches, take in WWII history and not least you can experience what life in a truly multiethnic society looks like.

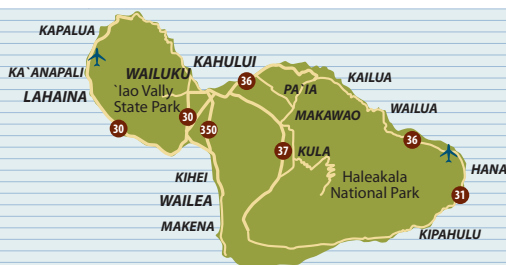


Top 5 Things To Do On Your Visit...

O'ahu

1. Enjoy some of the world's best beaches at Waikiki, Lanikai, Kailua, Waimanalo and Waimea.
2. Visit the USS *Arizona* Memorial, the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial and the USS *Missouri* at Pearl Harbor
3. Learn about Hawai'i's monarchy at 'Iolani Palace
4. Learn about Hawai'i's history at Bishop Museum
5. Shop at the world's largest outdoor mall, the Ala Moana Shopping Center

THE VALLEY ISLE

Maui

Maui is second to O'ahu in terms of development and resort options for visitors. Whether you're heading to the ragged coast of Kapalua, the lush valleys of Hana or the nightlife in Kihei, there are four- and five-star hotels, golf courses, stunning beaches, great food and nightlife. But the Valley Isle is also rich in cultural and historical sites and opportunities to experience Hawai'i's unique natural heritage up close.

It's called the "Valley Isle" for a good reason: A large saddle separates the West Maui mountains from Haleakala to the east. The older western mountains, which rise to 5,788 feet at their highest, are eroded and cut by numerous gullies. The younger Haleakala rises to more than 10,000 feet above sea level (and more than five miles from the sea floor). Its summit is often shrouded in the clouds, and in the winter it can get cold enough for snowfall. Maui offers a variety of microclimates and terrain within a small area; you'll be amazed by the diversity of ecosystems, geology and weather as you explore.

South Shore

The South Shore resort area, which includes **Kihei**, **Wailea** and **Makena**, offers a wealth of accommodation and activities: fishing, whale watching, world-class golf courses and more. But south Maui is really all about the beaches, which seem to stretch on forever. This is the sunniest area on the island—Haleakala protects it from rain and clouds—and water temperatures average around 74 degrees in the winter and 80 degrees in the summer, making south Maui the perfect watersports playground.

Kihei is the most developed area, with shopping centers, restaurants, parks, hotels and condos all close to the water. Along Kihei's six-mile stretch of beach there are a number of spots for sunbathing, swimming, picnicking, etc. **Wailea** is an upscale resort area with expensive homes, championship golf courses, five-star hotels and some of the best beaches on the island. The hotels themselves are worth visiting for their stunning architecture and elaborate grounds. The **Grand Wailea**, for example, has one of the finest art collections in the state. These resorts have made the beaches they front fairly accessible to the public, with parking areas, showers and picnic tables. Because most hotel guests tend to lounge near the swimming pools, the beaches are relatively empty. Just past Wailea is the pristine coastline of **Makena**, a favorite of locals as well as adventurous visitors who love to swim, snorkel, bodysurf or lie in the sun. There's **Big Beach**, which is 100 feet wide and 3,000 feet long, and **Little Beach**, which can be accessed by walking over a cinder cone at the west end of Big Beach. A word of warning to the curious: Little Beach is notorious for nude sunbathing, even though nudity on Hawai'i's beaches is illegal.

Kama'ole Beach Parks I, II and III are at the south end of Kihei, all with facilities, picnic areas, calm waters, white sands and lifeguards. There's good snorkeling around the reef between the second and third beaches. **Keawakapu Beach**, where Kihei meets



Wailea, is a less crowded option. Wailea's five crescent beaches cover almost two miles of coastline and offer safe swimming and good snorkeling at the lava outcroppings. **Polo Beach** is a nice, long stretch of sand. Beyond Makena, you might want to check out **Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve**, a lava outcropping and an underwater preserve great for scuba. The Natural Area Reserves (NARs), which are maintained by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, have the highest protection status of any natural areas in the Islands, making them must-see destinations for those who want to see Hawai'i's indigenous flora and fauna. Farther down the road is **La Pérouse Bay**, a marine preserve providing Maui snorkeling at its finest. On a calm day you are sure to see myriad fish and green sea turtles. We can't leave the South Shore without mentioning **Molokini islet**, a crescent-shaped crater off the coast that's a prime snorkeling and scuba diving site. You can get there only by boat with one of several tour companies.

In the winter months, Maui is prime whale watching territory. The humpback whales migrate approximately 3,500 miles from Alaska each autumn and spend the winter months mating and calving in the warm waters off Maui. There are estimated to be about 3,000 humpbacks in the North Pacific, and they are protected by federal and state laws as an endangered species. You can take one of several whale watching tours, and you'll frequently see them breaching and spouting from the shore.

The West Side

The West Side is a nearly circular peninsula dominated by the **West Maui Mountains**. Once heavily planted with pineapple and sugar cane, the sunbathed leeward coast is now dominated by resorts, particularly at **Ka'anapali**, **Napili** and **Kapalua**. The town of **Lahaina** has a long, lively history as a whaling port; today it's home to galleries, jewelry stores and restaurants along Front Street. You can shop till you drop in Lahaina, or you can go for a more educational experience by visiting its historic spots: **Banyan**



Lahaina



Ka'anapali

Tree Park, a landmark for more than a century, is great place to escape the midday heat ("lahaina" means "merciless sun"); the building that was once a courthouse and prison now houses art galleries and the **Heritage Museum**, which showcases the town's whaling and missionary past. A replica of an eighteenth-century vessel serves as a museum of whaling with exhibits, videos and artifacts. The **Wo Hing Museum** provides a glimpse of life for the Chinese who immigrated to Hawai'i in the early 1800s. Lahaina is not coincidentally home to the **largest bronze Buddha outside of Asia**.

Beyond Lahaina are resort areas of **Ka'anapali** and **Kapalua**. Here the hotels themselves are the attraction, with their waterfalls and tropical landscaping. **Ka'anapali Beach** is the center of action for sunbathers, windsurfers and boaters. Swimming and snorkeling in this area are spectacular. Ka'anapali is home to four great resort hotels, a shopping center, fine restaurants and the **Whalers Village Museum**. **Black Rock**, in front of the **Sheraton**, is an all-around fun beach, with good swimming, lounging and snorkeling thanks to a huge lava outcropping loaded with coral and fish. Check out **Kahakili Beach Park**, also known as **Airport Beach**, where the water is generally very calm, and **Napili Bay**, which is great for kids. **Kapalua Bay** is an easy place to relax, with good snorkeling on the north side of the beach. **The Ritz-Carlton at Kapalua** is a beautiful resort that's gone to great lengths to promote Hawaiian culture; it offers a number of cultural experiences, including an ancient burial site on the hotel grounds. Further north is **Honolua Bay**, a good place to snorkel when the water is calm. You can see coral formations and sea turtles, called "honu" in Hawaiian. The **Nakalele Blowhole** often provides the spectacle of water shoot-

ing seventy feet high. **Kahakuloa** is a small fishing village at the end of the road. If the road is passable, you can go farther around the rugged coast for great views of pounding surf, steep cliffs and deep valleys.

With over fifteen golf courses, including several of world-class caliber, Maui can easily lay claim as one of the world's premier golf destinations. The courses offer panoramic views, and most are within an hour's drive of each other along a gorgeous tropical coastline. These courses offer virtually anything you'd want from a golf vacation (except maybe inexpensive courses): There are holes along the ocean, holes that climb a volcano and holes that open to fantastic ocean vistas with views of the neighboring islands.

The Central Plain

Central Maui includes **Kahului**, **Wailuku**, and Maui's main airport and commercial harbor, **Maui Community College**, the **Maui Arts and Cultural Center**, shopping centers and historic buildings. Most people zip through central Maui on their way to and from the airport, but the area is well worth a tour. Beyond the strip malls and the developments that house a third of the island's population there are noteworthy natural and historical sites. **Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary**, once an ancient Hawaiian fishpond, is now a nesting area for two critically endangered endemic birds, the Hawaiian stilt and the Hawaiian coot, two species that any birders will want to tick off their life lists. **The Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum** sits beside an operating sugar mill—the last in Hawai'i—and has informative displays on the lives of sugar

plantation workers from the 1870s through today. The **Maui Arts and Cultural Center** next to the community college provides a great venue for performing arts, including hula. A surprising number of big-name acts play here when they pass through Maui.

Ka'ahumanu Church in Wailuku sits on the site where the first church services—attended by Queen Ka'ahumanu, Kamehameha the Great's favored wife who converted to Christianity—were held on Maui in 1832. The structure is a beautiful historic building where Sunday hymns are sung in Hawaiian. Finally, there's the sacred **'Iao Valley** where at one time chiefs were buried. Today 'Iao Valley State Park is a must-see on any Maui itinerary. This lush tropical valley is rich in plant life and clear pools. The trails into this popular state park are paved, but you can escape the present and follow dirt paths more deeply into this magical valley. There are some incredible volcanic rock formations, the most famous being the towering emerald peak, **'Iao Needle**, which rises 1,200 feet from the valley floor. There are many rare and native plants throughout the park as well as scenic waterfalls and spectacular views of the valley from the lookout.

Upcountry

Maui might be best known for its resorts, beaches, whale watching and the winding road to Hana. But don't forget Upcountry, the area on the western flank of Haleakala that's home to quaint, historic towns. Upcountry Maui first attracted ranchers and farmers who preferred a solitary, rural life. Today there are upscale restaurants, art galleries, specialty produce, arts festivals and the Makawao Rodeo, yet people here still live a bit differently from those down below. They stoke their fireplaces at night and grow cool weather crops like lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes and sweet onions. There are flower farms growing exotic protea, ranches manned by modern-day paniolo (cowboys), and a vineyard, one of only two in Hawai'i.

Start in **Pa'ia**, continue through the ranching town of **Makawao**, then on to **Kula**, known for its flowers and vegetables,

'Iao Needle

Ka'ahumanu Church, Wailuku



and end at **'Ulupalakua**, where you can sip a glass of Maui wine. Outside of Pa'ia you pass through pineapple fields before coming to Makawao, one of the last paniolo towns. In the early 1800s, long before there were cowboys in the American west, paniolo came from Mexico to teach the Hawaiians how to herd cattle. Makawao is one of the few places on Maui that hasn't much changed, although its old buildings now house fashionable shops, galleries and a number of good restaurants. Cowboys still tie their horses to the hitching posts, and there are saddleries and feed stores; several rodeos are held each year, the most popular on the Fourth of July. The drive from Pukalani to Kula will take you through some beautiful country. Kula (literally "plain" or "open field") is the source of most of the island's produce. At approximately 3,000 feet, Kula produce includes sweet Maui onions, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes and goat cheese. There's an abundance of flowers such as protea, orchid, hibiscus and jade vines; dozens of varieties of lavender bloom in June, July and August. **The Kula Botanical Gardens** offers a nice hike among five acres of trees and flowering bushes, including native koa and kukui. **Polipoli State Park** features groves of imported trees: eucalyptus, cypress, sugi pines and redwoods. You can take a serene walk along the 1.7-mile **Redwood Trail**. Further Upcountry is Maui's only winery offering various wines made from local grapes.

The heart of Upcountry, though, is **Haleakala** (the House of the Sun). You can drive to the summit along a winding road that switches back slowly through changing climates and mist-hung meadows. **Haleakala National Park** is 28,665 acres, and the road to the summit climbs nearly

10,000 feet in thirty-eight miles. Just past the park entrance, turn off the main road to **Hosmer Grove**, where you can see some of the rarest birds in the world up close, in some cases without even getting out of your car: 'apapane, amakihi and the scarlet 'iwi flit among an 'ohi'a forest. From the summit, you can hike down into the barren crater, which, due to some unusual acoustic properties, is one of the quietest places on planet Earth. The crater is seven miles wide and 3,000 feet deep, and hiking through its moonscape-like beauty will leave you breathless (or maybe that's just the altitude). The crater is also home to the endangered silversword, a yucca-like plant with a huge flowering stalk that grows only at Haleakala. You can day hike along the **Sliding Sands Trail**, or you can camp overnight and hike the entire crater in two to three days. There are cabins available at designated campsites, but reserve them early, as they get booked quickly during the summer months. If you do head into the crater, be prepared for sudden changes in the weather; anticipate blazing heat and bone-chilling cold. It's best to see Haleakala early in the morning, preferably at sunrise when the sun rises over the rim. Several tours bring visitors up to the crater to see the sunrise, an experience that should be on everyone's bucket list.

The park encompasses terrain that includes the crater, forest, desert and tropical valleys. You can hike atop the highest peaks of the crater or hike across desolate deserts. Nearer to sea level, you can visit lush tropical areas full of waterfalls and streams, particularly on the **Kipahulu** side. Many visitors come to see Haleakala's wildlife and scenery, but others come to experience the unique energy of the place. In ancient times, only kahuna (priests) lived here, drawing mana, or power, from the volcano.

The Hana Highway and Kipahulu

Sometimes called the "road to heaven," the **Hana Highway** is a journey like no other. Of all the places on all the islands, the road to Hana has the look and feel of unspoiled Polynesia, with lush forests, empty



Haleakala

beaches, secluded coves, remote valleys and waterfalls flowing into exquisite pools. You will cross fifty-four one-lane bridges, make 600 hairpin turns, pass by numerous waterfalls and pools, and end up in Hana, where people are laid back and friendly. It's not the destination, though, that makes this an exciting adventure; it's the journey. The Hana Highway hugs a coastline carved by streams, rivers and windward rains. This is a part of Maui where people still speak Hawaiian, grow taro, offer homegrown fruits and flowers for sale along the road (don't forget to stop for some amazing homemade banana bread at any one of many roadside stands) and share aloha. The drive takes several hours, not just because of the bridges and hairpin turns, but because you'll want to make a lot of stops along the way.

Plan on spending a whole day to drive the Hana Highway. Ideally you can make it an overnight affair, and if you plan well in advance, there are some lovely accommodations. If you have only a day, leave early in the morning from Pa'ia, the former plantation town when sugar was king and today home to a hip and vibrant art scene. If the winds are pumping, stop at **Ho'okipa Beach Park** to view some of the world's best kitesurfing and windsurfing; the waves are usually too rough for swimming but make for great aerial tricks by the talented riders. Ho'okipa is the site of the O'Neill International Windsurfing Championship held each spring. After passing through **Ha'iku** and the tiny villages of **Huelo** and **Kailua**, the road heads through denser tropical vegetation fed by frequent rains. Stop to take the one-mile **Waikamoi Ridge Nature Trail**, and **Puohokamoa Stream**, with its waterfalls, pools and picnic tables. Bathrooms are available just a bit further at **Kauma-**



Hana Highway

hina State Wayside Park overlooking **Honomanu Bay** with a mind-blowing vista of the **Ke'anae Pen-**

insula. A mile further is **Honomanu Valley**, which stretches back five miles with 3,000-foot cliffs and a



Ho'okipa Beach

1,000-foot waterfall. The villages of **Ke'anae** and **Wailua** are sparsely populated by Hawaiians who tend their taro patches. The picturesque **Coral Church** in Wailua was built in 1860 from coral washed up on the beach. Further along are **Waikane Falls** and a road that leads to the village of **Nahiku**. **Wainapanapa State Park** offers a black sand beach and a trail leading to lava caves.

Once you arrive in **Hana**, you'll have time to explore this peaceful town. Swim and sunbathe at **Hana Beach Park**, or hike to the secret and isolated **Kaihalulu Beach**, also known as **Red Sand Beach** for its red cinder sand. Several miles beyond Hana is the ultimate tourist destination: the pools at **'Ohe'o Gulch**. This is at the far end of Haleakala National Park and includes pools overlooking the Pacific, a path through a bamboo forest and close-up views of the 400-foot **Waimoku Falls**. If weather conditions make the road passable, you can continue around the island from here, but you'll need a four-wheel drive vehicle, stamina and a sense of adventure. The rugged road takes you past a couple of lovely Hawaiian churches, and then civilization ends until you find yourself back in Upcountry.

On Maui you'll find varied terrain, flora and fauna, geology and climates. You'll find more than 120 miles of shoreline, the world's largest dormant volcano, tropical forests and world-famous golf courses all on one amazing island.

Top 5 Things To Do On Your Visit...

Maui

1. See the sunrise from Haleakala
2. Snorkel Molokini islet
3. Visit 'Iao Valley State Park
4. Sports! Hiking, swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, surfing, golfing ...
5. Drive the Hana Highway

THE ORCHID ISLE

Big Island

Welcome to Hawai'i, a.k.a the Big Island, a.k.a the Orchid Isle. You probably landed in either Hilo or Kona, and because we can't begin our tour from both places, we'll start this guide in Kona and proceed counterclockwise around the island. (If you landed in Hilo, just flip ahead and start from there.) The only other way to travel between Kona and Hilo is the rough Saddle Road, which many car rental agencies consider off-limits. The Saddle Road is currently being upgraded, however, and some car companies now permit travel over it.

At just over 4,000 square miles, Hawai'i Island is the largest of the Hawaiian Islands. At less than half a million years old, it's also the youngest, a place where the volcanic hotspot that created the rest of the chain is still adding new real estate. (In about 100,000 years, when the Lo'ihi seamount off the southeast coast of the Big Island breaks the surface of the Pacific, Hawai'i will lose its status as the youngest island.) Comprised of five shield volcanoes (Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, Kilauea, Hualalai and Kohala), Hawai'i Island is a place of extremes: the barren lava deserts of Kona to the verdant rainforests of Hilo, the snowy summits of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea to the sun-scorched plains of Ka'u. It's a place where fire meets water: The lava flow from Kilauea, which began its current eruption cycle in 1983, meets the ocean at the southern end of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, sending a plume of steam into the sky. It's a place of superlatives: the world's tallest mountain, the world's longest lava tubes, the

country's biggest island, the world's clearest night skies. It's a place of strange and magnificent landscapes, a volcanic wonderland that will inspire and amaze you.

Kailua and North Kona

The district of North Kona is the busiest area of the mostly sleepy Big Island; it's the site of the biggest airport, most of the major resorts and the quaint seaside village of **Kailua-Kona**. Until the nineteenth century, Kailua was a fishing village; later Kailua served as a harbor for exporting



Kona Coffee

cattle, coffee and sugar. The town itself had always been a sleepy village; up until the early 1970s the population was no more than 700. Today it's around 40,000 and growing. Now Kailua is the epicenter for Big Island tourism and Kona coffee, and it's not unusual to see giant cruise ships anchored in its small bay. Kailua town is home to a number of historical and cultural sites, many

relating to the ali'i nui, or monarchy, of old Hawai'i. Beside the Kailua pier is **Ahu'ena Heiau**. This comparatively modern temple (built in 1817) was dedicated to the patron deities of learning, the arts and healing. King Kamehameha I also made his home here; he could maintain control over traffic in the bay and monitor farming activity. Stroll along Ali'i Drive, the coastline road through Kailua, for both shopping and historical sites. **Moku'aikaua** is the first Christian church built by missionaries in Hawai'i in 1820. Across the street is **Hulihe'e Palace**, a nineteenth-century vacation home for the monarchy. Hulihe'e was built in 1838 and

recently restored; today it's a museum open to the public. Throughout the week, keiki (children) practice hula in the courtyard under the shade of giant banyan trees. At the northern end Ali'i Drive in **Keauhou** is a remarkable heiau complex that's currently under reconstruction; the 600-year-old **Hapaiali'i Heiau** served as a solar calendar, and at high tide it's completely surrounded by water.

Kailua town isn't noted for its beach action; there are very few sandy beaches in Kailua itself, and the Big Island as a whole has fewer beaches than the older islands. But a short drive north of town on Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway past the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor takes you to the beaches of **Makalawena** and **Mahai'ula**, which require a short hike to access. Within Kailua town itself, though, are **Kahalu'u Beach Park** and **Magic Sands** along Ali'i Drive. There's ample parking at both, and you don't have to hike to them; the tidepools at Kahalu'u Beach Park offer some of the safest and best snorkeling on the island (you're almost guaranteed to see honu (sea turtles) lazily swimming among the coral).

Holualoa

Holualoa is well worth the fifteen-minute drive from Kailua. Days pass slowly in the artists' retreat town, almost like the gentle breezes wafting through the coffee groves on the slopes of Mount Hualalai. Steeped in natural beauty, this upslope coffee town blends modern art with simple country living. The village's many private galleries showcase the work of local artists in a variety of media, and a number of small coffee shops and bistros serve superlative Kona coffee.

South Kona

There is perhaps no other region on the Big Island more historic than the district of South Kona. Whether it's the origin of Kona coffee, the ancient Hawaiian sites at Pu'uhoonua O Honaunau (Place of Refuge) National Park or the Painted Church overlooking Kealahou Bay—where English



Painted Church

Pu'uhoonua O Honaunau National Park



explorer Captain James Cook met his fate—South Kona will keep the historically minded visitor busy. Coffee first came to Kona in 1828, when the Reverend Samuel Ruggles brought plant cuttings to Kealahou. Japanese immigrants cultivated many of Kona's first farms and engineered the system of milling and processing coffee; you can experience that history firsthand at **Greenwell Farms** in Kealahou, which is both a working coffee farm and living history exhibit. On highway 160, among the coffee farms on the slopes above Kealahou Bay, is the **Painted Church**, where between 1899 and 1904 Father John Velje, a Belgian missionary, painted images depicting biblical scenes of heaven and hell on the interior walls of the church. At the bottom of Napo'opo'o Road is **Hikiau Heiau** at Kealahou Bay; the white obelisk marking the spot where Cook was killed in 1779 (that spot is still British territory today) is visible across the bay. A coastal road connects Kealahou Bay to **Pu'uhoonua O Honaunau National Park**. In ancient Hawaii'i, people who broke kapu (sacred laws) would flee to places of refuge; if they could reach this sanctuary, their lives would be spared. Today visitors can see loko (fishponds), hale (thatched roof homes), heiau (temples) and rock walls as well as demonstrations of ancient Hawaiian crafts such as canoe building and ki'i (tiki) carving.

Kealahou also has one of the most popular beaches on the Big Island; it's not a sandy beach (it's a shelf of smooth lava), but the water's calm, there's excellent snorkeling and a resident pod of dolphins can be seen almost every day. Arrive early, as parking is sometimes a challenge.

Ka'u

The Ka'u district is a sparsely populated and wild area stretching from South Kona to Puna. It's an agricultural area, primarily (it was once a sugar cane producing area, and it's now home to a nascent coffee industry), but there are a number of fascinating natural features, including a massive lava tube system in the deserts of Ocean View and a giant pit craters, formed when a lava tube collapses, filled with native plants.

The spot where Polynesians first set foot in Hawai'i will always remain a mystery, but it was probably somewhere near **Ka Lae**, or **South Point**. When sailing north from anywhere else in Polynesia (the Marquesas Islands being the most likely point of origin), voyagers would likely have spotted the Big Island first, and South Point would have been the nearest landfall. There's archeological evidence supporting that theory: Lava tube excavations near Ka'iliki'i and Wai'ahukuni suggest that people were using them by 750 AD, and other evidence indicates that people were in the area as early as 200 AD—about the time the islands were thought to have first been settled. Ka Lae today is a wild and intense place, as befits the southernmost extreme of the United States. Fishermen today moor off the cliff near **South Point Park**, which is a rich source of fish. The cliff rises about forty feet high and goes down another thirty feet below the surface of the water. Ladders hung to make access to the boats easier swing freely in the air just above the sea. While it's tempting to leap into the water and climb back up the ladder, don't try it—the swift longshore current can drag swimmers straight out to sea. It's called the Hala'ea current for a chief who was carried by it to his death. One of South Point's scenic spots is **Mahana Beach**, also called **Green Sands Beach** for its distinctive golden-green color. The grains of green sand are olivine (also called peridot, though the sand isn't gem quality).

Up the coast from South Point's main town, **Na'alehu**, and heading toward Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, you'll pass

by **Punalu'u black sand beach** and later a sign marking the road to **Pahala**. The short drive to Pahala is worth the excursion. There are the remains of the old Pahala Theater and a community supported by macadamia nut farming as well as scores of small family-owned coffee farms on the lush hillsides. Many of the homes date back to the early twentieth century, including the two-story plantation manager's home, which is now a museum. Pahala is a great place to get a glimpse of life on a sugar plantation a hundred years ago. Take time to drive into the lush **Wood Valley** and to a Buddhist temple.

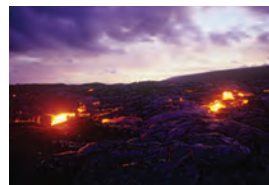
Volcano

Welcome to Madame Pele's house. **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park** has one entrance off Route 11, thirty miles south from Hilo or ninety-five miles south-east from Kona. The park is open twenty-four hours a day all year round (though the roads within the park might sometimes be closed because of volcanic activity). If you enter the park after hours, you may pick up a brochure and map at the Kilauea Visitor Center located a quarter-mile from the entrance on Crater Rim Drive. Carefully read the park regulations and guidelines; the volcano fumes can be dangerous to pregnant women, infants and people with heart or respiratory problems. People at risk should avoid Sulphur Banks, Halema'uma'u Crater and other areas where volcanic fumes are present.

Overnight trips in the park require a backcountry permit that you can obtain free at the Kilauea Visitor Center. To learn about



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park



the park's volcanic activity and history, visit the **Thomas A. Jaggar Museum** on Crater Rim

Drive; also of interest along Crater Rim are the **Volcano House**, **Thurston Lava Tube** and many scenic vistas. The highlight is, of course, **Halema'uma'u**, the active crater at the top of Kilauea. Depending on when you visit, you might have a chance to see the volcano erupting. A forty-five-minute drive to the end of **Chain of Craters Road** and a short hike will take you to the most recent lava flow area; the best time to view lava is at sunset, when the red glow stands out against the darkening sky. Be sure to bring a flashlight to negotiate the rough lava on the return hike. Also be aware that this new coastline is unstable and could collapse at any time without warning. The park also offers many other hiking opportunities, which are mapped out in the park brochure. A favorite is **Kilauea Iki**; this easy, four-mile hike takes you across a frozen lava lake and through native 'ohi'a forest, where you can also see native forest birds. A reminder: please drive carefully while touring the park so as not to hit the nene, the Hawaiian goose.

Puna and Pahoa

The residents of the **Puna** district sometimes brag that of all the six Big Island districts, theirs never submitted to Kamehameha the Great's rule; Puna remained independent while the warlike king went on to conquer the rest of the Big Island and the other islands. Puna today still retains a sense of that separateness and ruggedness; it's a place most visitors pass through rather than explore, though there's tremendous beauty here.

If you want to experience the feeling of old Hawai'i, **Pahoa** retains a sense of its past. First a rugged sawmill town, then a sugar town and also a crossroads on the old railroad, **Main Street** Pahoa has maintained its old West-style storefronts and wooden boardwalks. The town is home quaint shops—from surf to curio—and restaurants that span the ethnic flavors of the globe. Also located in Pahoa is the **Akebono Theater**, Hawai'i's oldest theater.

The Puna countryside is filled with natu-

ral wonders like the **Lava Tree State Park**, steam vents, groves of papaya, warm springs (visit the ponds at **Ahalanui**) and black sand beaches along the rugged coast. The town of **Kalapana**, which was mostly buried by lava in 1990, is at the southwestern end of the Puna district and offers a surreal look at the risks of living in the shadow of an active volcano.

Hilo and East Hawai'i

At the corner of Pauahi and Kamehameha Highway you'll see the statue of Kamehameha the Great, placed here because you're standing on his father's land. Nestled among royal palms and behind is the mouth of the Wailoa River, with its winding waterways and a fishpond. You're in **Hilo** town, the second largest city in the Islands. Downtown Hilo is both quaint and urban, with a number of good restaurants and a farmers market (Wednesdays and Saturdays) along a section of the main road locally called "Front Street" (actually Kamehameha Avenue). But there's also a wealth of natural beauty nearby. An easy-to-find waterfall is **Rainbow Falls**, located along the Wailuku River at the north end of town. If you're lucky you will see the rainbow for which it's named arcing over the falls. Accommodations in Hilo town are few; apart from a couple of hotels by the water, your best bet is the b&bs, some of which are hidden away in beautiful jungle locations.

The drive north from Hilo takes you over scenic gorges once crossed by cane-hauling trains in the heyday of sugar. The waterfalls and the river mouths under the bridges on the road leading north up the Hilo coast are awesome sights. Take the four-mile scenic coastal route off the main highway to pass **Onomea Bay**. The lush ravines and botanical gardens are well worth the detour.



Rainbow Falls



Hilo

The village of **Honomu** and **'Akaka Falls State Park** can be reached by taking Highway 220. Once you reach the park, a short paved trail will take you past a network of small waterfalls and colorful foliage to a lookout where you'll see 'Akaka Falls plunging 422 feet to a pool below.

Honoka'a and Hamakua

The **Hamakua** coast, once among the most productive sugar cane growing regions, is today home to a small-scale agricultural revolution. Small farmers are growing an enormous variety of crops, some of them exotic and even almost unheard of in the United States. If you see it at a Big Island farmers market, there's a good chance it was grown somewhere in Hamakua.

In the early twentieth century, it was quite a trip across the coastal ravines to get to **Honoka'a**, which was the third largest city in the Territory of Hawai'i. From Hilo, vacationers and soldiers on leave would travel up the Hamakua coast to Honoka'a, where nightlife was king. A dance hall was built above the **Botelho building**, which housed the first car dealership in the town. Now there's a curio and antique shop, but one can easily imagine what a Friday night might have been like at the Botelho in the 1940s. Many of Hawai'i's old theaters are being restored, and the historic **People's Theater of Honoka'a** is no exception. The theater shows feature films every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. If going to a movie isn't on the itinerary for your Hawaiian vacation, go for the nostalgia, which is definitely present once you're inside the huge old movie hall.

North of Honoka'a is **Waipi'o Valley**, a dramatic and storied landscape. Legend has it that it was in Waipi'o Valley, "the land of the falling water," that King Kamehameha I received his leadership training and learned to surf. Today a few family homes still dot the area, which is bisected by a river. Local farmers continue to farm taro and fish along the shore of this peaceful and remote valley. The valley can be accessed only on foot or horseback, and several tour operators on the

Mauna Kea

Big Island offer excursions above and into Waipi'o.



Outside of Waipi'o Valley and Honoka'a are other early and small settlements of the Hamakua region, such as **Pa'auilo**, **Kukuihaele** and **Laupahoehoe**. These towns are all filled with the rich and local culture that happily survives in this region of the Big Island.

Waimea

Between snow-capped Mauna Kea and the Kohala mountains, the green hillsides of North Kohala roll under wispy white clouds, and afternoon rainbows frequent the skies above Waimea. Herds of cattle graze in sloping pastures filled with cactus and dry brush as Hawaiian cowboys work the range on horseback. Ranching began here after King Kamehameha appointed a young seaman named John Parker to thin the herds of wild cattle that had grown uncontrollably since Captain George Vancouver brought a few head as gifts to the king in 1793. Parker managed to domesticate a herd of his own before marrying a Hawaiian chiefess. The marriage gave Parker the land he needed to found the 250,000-acre **Parker Ranch** in 1847.

Today the town of **Kamuela**, more often referred to by its district name Waimea, remains immersed in the ranching lifestyle. The brightly colored Victorian houses and shops, tidy yards filled with flowers and the skeletal remains of wagons give visitors the opportunity to see yet another aspect of the diversity of cultures that exist in Hawai'i. Being close to the big resorts in South Kohala, Kamuela is surprisingly cosmopolitan, with a number of top-flight restaurants and even its own symphony orchestra.

North Kohala

Following highway 270 north, visitors will encounter a landscape filled with historical landmarks including the original **King**

Kamehameha statue, Kalahikiola Church and Mo'okini Heiau, which is regarded as the oldest pre-Western contact temple in Hawai'i. King Kamehameha is believed to have been born at Mo'okini in 1758. Also in North Kohala are the remnants of a once-thriving sugar industry of the 1880s, which are still visible in the old storefronts of **Hawi** and **Kapa'au**.

Highway 270 leads through North Kohala's fertile pasturelands, forests and ultimately to **Pololu Valley**, which offers one of the best scenic lookouts on the island. If you plan to hike into Pololu and beyond, be ready for a trek. The trails are narrow, steep and slippery and should not be attempted by novice hikers. If the skies are clear in North Kohala, you might catch a view of Maui to the west. Between December and April, you're almost guaranteed a humpback whale sighting off the coast of North Kohala.

Kohala Coast

Almost always under sunny skies, the Kohala coast is a tropical playground. It was once a retreat for Hawaiian royalty, and today it's the site of luxury resorts and spas sprawling through the otherwise barren lava fields: **The Four Seasons Hualalai**, the **Mauna Lani**, the **Fairmont Orchid**, the **Hilton Waikoloa** and the **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel**. There are a number of historical sites along the Kohala coast, and one of the country's best beaches is at **Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area**. Hapuna's long, white sand beach, rolling surf, clear skies and accessibility make it a popular destination. There are several renowned championship golf courses. Seen from a distance or from the air, the green fairways

stand out in stark and beautiful contrast against the black lava. Connecting this forty-plus-mile coastline is the **King's Trail**, an ancient road used by ali'i and by runners who transported pond-raised fish wrapped in ti leaves to the tables of Hawaiian royalty down in Kailua-Kona. Today the King's Trail passes through several resort properties, through **Pu'ukohola Heiau** and scores of petroglyph fields. The impressive Pu'ukohola ("whale mountain"), now a national park, was the last Hawaiian temple built during King Kamehameha's reign. A popular trail for viewing ancient petroglyphs starts near the King's Shops on **Waikoloa Beach Drive**. A massive ancient fishpond system has been restored on the grounds of the Mauna Lani resort, which is worth a visit.

The Saddle Road

The infamously rough, rutted and twisting Highway 200 traverses fifty-three miles between the Kona and Hilo sides of the island; traffic is usually commercial or military, there are no towns, services or gas stations, and many rental car agencies forbid drivers from traveling on it. But the adventurous will be rewarded (not least by the shortest route between Hilo and Kona). From the Kona side, the road rises through ranch lands filled with wild turkeys, francolins, wild donkeys and, if you're lucky, the pueo or native short-eared owl (which is active during the day). If you're in a four-wheel drive vehicle, you can turn off at the **Mauna Kea Access Road** and drive to the top of the tallest mountain in the world (bring a jacket—it's usually extremely cold at 13,796 feet). You'll see the seven astronomical observatories at the summit, built there to take advantage of what are some of the clearest night skies on Earth (the public is not permitted inside the observatories). If you're not in a four-wheel drive vehicle, do not attempt to reach the summit. Instead stop at the **Ellison Onizuka Center for International Astronomy** at 9,300 feet, where on any given night amateur astronomers come to set up their telescopes and stargaze. Several Big Island operators offer Mauna

Top 5 Things To Do On Your Visit...

Big Island

- 1.** Visit a Kona coffee farm
- 2.** View an active volcano at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
- 3.** Sample fresh produce from a local farmers market
- 4.** Visit a sacred Hawaiian heiau
- 5.** Stargaze from the summit of Mauna Kea

Kea stargazing tours, which is often the best way to visit the summit of the mountain.

Continuing on Saddle Road, you'll pass through the Pohakuloa training area, where you might get stuck behind armored personnel carriers. Twenty-two miles west of Hilo at about 6,000 feet, you'll come to the **Pu'u O'o trailhead**. This easy trail winds through

high-elevation koa and 'ohi'a forest, where birdwatchers will be able to view some of the most endangered birds in the world up close. Along the trail are several kipuka, or protected forest areas, filled with remnants of native forest. Walking through one is as close to "the real Hawai'i" as most people will ever get.

Kaua'i



Touching down on Kaua'i, some people feel that they've arrived at a spiritual place, one of the planet's "power spots." Whatever that might mean to you, you will be enchanted by Kaua'i: Ocean and sky, streams and rivers, forests and mountains will all embrace you as you find your own connection with the spirit of Kaua'i.

Apart from Ni'ihau, Kaua'i is the oldest of the main Hawaiian Islands, having formed some five million years ago. Its majestic central peak, Mount Wai'ale'ale, was until recently renowned as the "wettest spot on Earth" (that title is now held by a bog on Maui), and the rainwater flows down its verdant faces to feed Kaua'i's five rivers. On a clear day, you can see Wai'ale'ale as you fly into Lihue, the Kaua'i County seat.

This topography allows for only one highway, which hugs the coast and goes almost all the way around (except for the impassable Na Pali coast on the North Shore). From Lihue until it ends in the north, the road is called the Kuhio Highway. From Lihue until its end in the west, the road is called the Kaumuali'i Highway. The junction in Lihue where the name changes is at Rice Street is the main road leading to Kalapaki Bay and Nawiliwili Harbor. Because this major and only artery on Kaua'i is two lanes,

be careful while driving: Don't make sudden stops or U-turns (drivers have died recently because they were attempting a U-turn) and expect traffic congestion.

From the airport, you can go in one of two inviting directions: You can explore the East Shore and then head up to the North Shore, or you can head for the South Shore and then cruise out to the West Shore. Each area has its own natural and social environments, including special beaches, climates, vegetation, secret valleys, river mouths, waterfalls and hiking trails as well as dining, shopping, strolling and resorts.

The East Shore

The East Shore runs from Lihue to the edge of Kapa'a town. It's the most densely populated part of the island and offers everything from shopping and dining to river valleys and ancient Hawaiian heiau (temples).

From the airport you can see **Ha'upu** (also called "Hoary Head"), the massive, rounded peak that marks the southern edge of the East Shore. **Kaua'i Community College** is across Kaumuali'i Highway from it. Residents say that clouds on the top of Ha'upu forecast a short, refreshing rain. As you leave the airport, you can go one of

three ways: Straight takes you into Lihu'e town, left leads to **Nawiliwili Harbor** and right goes to the North Shore.

Lihu'e town was the first business center on the island and still serves as the civic and commercial heart of Kaua'i. **Wilcox Hospital**, the main post office, **Kukui Grove Shopping Center** and the main offices of several banks are here. Visit the **Kaua'i Museum** on Rice Street to learn about the history and culture of the Garden Island. After the museum, head to the **Nawiliwili Harbor** area. Here you'll find **Kalapaki Beach**, where locals and tourists mix for sun, swimming and surfing. Kalapaki is a good beginner's beach for surfers, and it's also a home base for several Hawaiian outrigger canoe paddling teams. A pleasant walkway hugs the beachfront here on resort property, and at the resort or nearby malls you'll find several places to dine or have a drink with a view of the bay. At the first left after Kalapaki on Hulemalu Road heading toward the harbor, the narrow winding road will take you up to **Alekoko (Menehune) Fishpond** outlook. Archaeologists estimate the fishpond was constructed about 1,000 years ago. Go back to Nawiliwili Road, turn left and you're a minute away from the Kukui Grove Shopping Center where you'll find national chain stores as well as many local businesses.

As you leave Lihu'e heading east on Kuhio Highway, set your sights on the **Wailua River**. If you want to view Wailua Falls, turn mauka just past Wilcox Hospital where the highway dips. After passing through the old plantation town of **Hanama'ulu** back on Kuhio Highway, you'll soon see the **Wailua Golf Course**. Keep an eye out for the turn-off to **Lydgate Beach Park**, a well-maintained haven of grassy fields, pavilions, swimming areas, a playground and a segment of the coastal walk/



bike path, which upon completion will be several miles long.

Wailua River

The mouth of the Wailua River has been a sacred place since ancient times, not only for Hawaiians but for Polynesians in general. There are seven heiau beginning near the river mouth and going deep inland. These sites are still used for spiritual purposes and are protected by law; if you visit, please respect them by neither taking anything from them nor leaving anything behind.

The Wailua area, though largely residential, provides opportunities to kayak or canoe up the Wailua river and view **'Opaeka'a Falls**, which is on the right when you drive up Kuamo'o Road. Just

across from the falls, a road winds steeply down to **Kamokila Hawaiian Village**, a replica of a native village. Farther up Kuamo'o Road between mile markers two and three, look for a trail on the right snaking to the top of "Sleeping Giant" (the profile of the mountain seen from Kapa'a town). It's an easy hike with a rewarding view. At the end of Kuamo'o Road is the **Keahua Forestry Arboretum**, a refuge for relaxing, hiking, swimming and simply enjoying Kaua'i's clean air. The resort property at the corner of Kuamo'o Road and Kuhio Highway was once the **Coco Palms**, Kaua'i's first resort hotel where *Blue Hawaii* was filmed. It was damaged by Hurricane 'Iniki in 1992, and its reconstruction remains in limbo. Across the highway from the hotel is **Wailua Beach**, where the water can either be very calm or rough and where there may be surfable waves depending on the time of year.



'Opaeka'a Falls

Past the Coco Palms and Wailua Beach is another resort area and a famous coconut grove. Then you'll pass through the towns of **Waipouli** and **Kapa'a**, each with specialty restaurants, gift shops, grocery stores, cafés and a range of accommodations. You'll also find tour companies offering kayaking, snorkeling, zipline adventures and other activities such as movie location tours or lu'au. These once small and sleepy towns have undergone

development in recent years, so be prepared for traffic congestion and general busy-ness.

The North Shore

Where does the North Shore of Kaua'i begin? Some say it begins at **Kealia Beach**, which is popular with boogie-boarders and shortboard surfers. Something dramatic happens when you arrive in the area: The comparatively urban landscape gives way to ocean panoramas and mountain vistas, waterfalls and white sandy beaches, azure oceans, gentle mists and rainbows. Wherever the North Shore technically begins, it's the most lush and soothing area of Kaua'i.

After Kealia you pass through **Anahola**. You won't see much of the ocean on the long stretch of highway between Anahola and Kilauea, but turn off the main road onto smaller side roads that head towards the ocean. Often a trailhead or a breathtaking view awaits.

Kilauea, a former plantation town, is mainly a bedroom community today. It's the site of the **Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge**, where you'll see a lighthouse built in 1913 that marks northernmost point of the main Hawaiian Islands and that once guided boats traveling to and from Asia. The view from the point is stunning and includes **Moku'ae'ae Island bird sanctuary** just offshore. If you're lucky, you might see dolphins frolicking and, in season, whales breaching. The refuge is home to native and migratory birds including albatrosses, terns, tropicbirds, boobies, nene and shearwaters. You might see endangered Hawaiian monk seals sunning on the rocks below. You can take a self-guided tour and birdwatch. Stop at the visitor center, where you can borrow a pair of binoculars.

Between Kilauea and the Princeville resort development is **'Anini Beach**, which is great for windsurfing, walking, picnicking, camping and playing in the large grassy park. On Sundays the polo club plays across from the beach playground. Camping here is popular with island families, particularly during long holiday weekends (a permit is required).



Kilauea lighthouse

Hanalei



Princeville, the next stop as you travel north, is upscale Kaua'i.

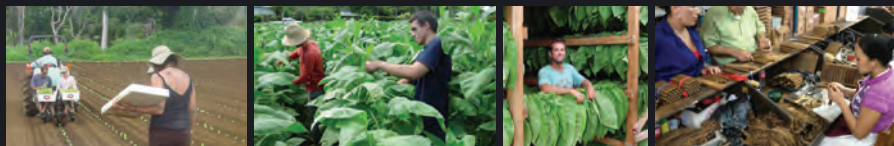
It's a playground of posh hotels, condos and vacation homes set among world-class golf courses. Enter at the massive fountain makai of the highway. At the end of the road is the **St. Regis Princeville hotel**, which offers one of the best panoramic views of Hanalei Bay; the hotel's lanai is a great place to have a cocktail and watch an unforgettable Kaua'i sunset. The Hanalei Bay Resort Hotel offers another spectacular view.

Before you drive down to Hanalei, you might want to view the valley from the overlook a few yards past the Princeville turnoff; it's a view that's included in every calendar collection featuring Kaua'i: fields planted in taro and the mountains beyond. The only way into Hanalei is via a one-lane bridge; when it rains excessively, the river overflows its banks and the bridge is closed. While the bottleneck causes traffic jams, the community has elected not to upgrade the bridge. The aim is to deter development in the valley; there's no way to truck in heavy loads of construction equipment and material over the current bridge.

Hanalei is a welcoming and easygoing place. Green mountains and waterfalls run down the mountains, a stunning backdrop to the taro patches and conservation forest. Rain clouds often shroud the mountain peaks. Hanalei town has many restaurants, galleries and shops selling jewelry, clothing, glass and watersports gear. Several places rent kayaks, surfboards and boogie-boards. Head toward the ocean on almost any street, and you'll soon find Hanalei Bay. Behind the buildings fronting the mauka side of the main street are taro patches that have been tended by farming (continued on page 26)

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(continued from page 23) families for generations.

Continuing north, you'll feel that you've entered an Eden. This is the "real" North Shore: one-lane bridges, beautiful beaches and forests. At **Ha'ena Beach Park** there's great snorkeling at a spot called **Tunnels**.

Limahuli Garden and Preserve, which is a part of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, showcases native plants and demonstrates how native Hawaiians farmed taro in terraced ponds. At the end of the road is **Ke'e Beach**, one of the best snorkeling spots on the island and perhaps the most spectacular setting from which to watch the sunset. The eleven-mile **Kalalau trail** takes off at Ke'e; day hikers can reach **Hanakapi'ai Beach** in a couple of hours; add more time if you want to hike up the valley to the waterfall. Be careful about crossing the river at Hanakapi'ai; if it has rained in the back of the valley, flash floods can sweep away the unwary. Only seasoned hikers should attempt the Kalalau trail and only when the weather has been dry for several weeks. The trail has been maintained by volunteers who realized how dangerous it had become in parts. From various points along the trail, you can see the **Na Pali coast** unfolding, but if you want a panoramic view, boat tour companies make it possible to view the Na Pali coast from the ocean. You can also view it from the air by helicopter. Whichever way you do it, make it a point to experience the Na Pali coast, as it's one of the highlights of Kaua'i—if not in all of the Hawaiian Islands.

The South Shore

Heading south on Kaumuali'i Highway from Lihu'e, the road is often lined by vegetation. Adding to this lushness are the invasive Hawaiian baby woodrose vines hanging from the trees and power lines. When the



Koloa

yellow blossoms dry they turn brown and are used for decoration. In some places along the highway there

are different kinds of ginger. On both sides of the highway are acres of former sugar plantation land. Kaumuali'i



Po'ipu Beach

Highway takes you to the South Shore area, where the sun is usually shining even when other parts of the island are overcast.

Turn left off the highway at Maluhia Road ("tunnel of trees" road), and you come to the former plantation town of **Koloa**. The tree tunnel was created with eucalyptus planted a century ago by one of the island's plantation families, the McBrydes. Koloa was Kaua'i's first sugar plantation town and had its own sugar mill. After the sugar bust, the town suffered. It was restored to some of its former cozy charm, and it's being transformed again, this time to an upscale residential and resort area similar to neighboring **Po'ipu**, which is closer to the shoreline. Po'ipu is a major resort area boasting a luxury hotel with a golf course (where the PGA Grand Slam of Golf was held for several years), vacation condo "villages," a mix of resident-occupied homes and vacation rentals, shopping centers with good restaurants and a fine beach. Po'ipu Beach itself headed Dr. Beach's list of America's Best Recreational Beaches in 2001. Other beaches in the area are **Brennecke** and **Shipwrecks**. The latter fronts the hotel, and if you go past the resort the paved road ends. Turn onto a dusty, bumpy road to **Maha'ulepu**, which is a perfect area to spend a day walking the shoreline, hiking up Ha'upu and taking in the beauty of the cliffs and lava formations. Back in the populated area of Koloa, at the opposite end of the shoreline from Po'ipu, visit the Spouting Horn, which sends a plume of water into the air at frequent intervals.

Back on Kaumuali'i Highway, you'll soon reach **Kalaheo**, another former plantation town now home to a public golf course and a mixture of middle and upscale residences. On the outskirts of Kalaheo, the landscape changes dramatically: Acres of former cane

fields, coffee trees and open terrain mark the transition to the dry West Shore.

The West Shore

The rain rarely reaches Kaua'i's West Shore, so it's drier, hotter and more barren than the rest of the island. You'll arrive first in Hanapepe, Kaua'i's "Biggest Little Town." As you approach, take the turnoff into historic **Hanapepe**, where you'll find a main street lined with art galleries. Friday night is art night, a good time to enjoy the galleries and shops. A stroll across the Hanapepe swinging bridge completes any daytime visit. At the edge of town turn left from Kaumuali'i onto Highway 543 and drive out to **Salt Pond Beach Park**, where there's an area of salt beds that are flooded by seawater from wells; after the water evaporates the salt is harvested by families who have made salt in this way for generations. This prized "Hawaiian salt" is available only from these families. Swimming at the beach is safe any time of year.

Waimea town is the next stop. A twenty-seven-foot obelisk memorializes the death of Captain James Cook who landed on Kaua'i in 1778—his first landing in Hawai'i. The Waimea ("reddish water," from the red dirt of the area) River meets the ocean at Waimea. (Swimming isn't recommended due to the runoff.) While in Waimea, you might want to taste one of the local specialties, including poke (pronounced "poh-kay"), a dish made with chunks of raw fish or other seafood (including octopus) and seasoned with seaweed and spices. Try it! It's one of Kaua'i's delicacies.

From Waimea, you can either drive farther along the highway to **Kekaha** and **Polihale** or go mauka on **Waimea Canyon Road**. If you decide to go out to **Polihale**



Waimea Canyon

Kalalau Valley



State Park, also called Barking Sands for the sound of the shorebreak, you'll first drive through Kekaha, where the road runs along the beach—it's a starkly beautiful area. At the Polihale turnoff, be prepared for a long, bumpy, and totally worth-it drive on a dirt road that leads to a pristine beach and views of the westernmost cliffs of the Na Pali coast. The beach is wide and long, running for seventeen miles from Polihale cliffs back down to Waimea. Swimming here is risky, so be careful. The shorebreak can be quite rough, and there are no lifeguards or facilities.

If you choose Waimea Canyon Road, be prepared to have your mind blown. Known as "the Grand Canyon of the Pacific,"

Waimea Canyon was formed by successive lava flows. The layering of the rock creates striations reminiscent of the Grand Canyon. As you drive up the road, more of the canyon comes into view. You'll soon enter **Koke'e State Park**, where you can take advantage of the lookout points and trails overlooking the Na Pali coast. On your way into the park visit the **Koke'e Museum** for maps and displays about native and introduced plants and animals.

You can't end a tour of Kaua'i without visiting its crowning glory: **Kalalau Valley** seen from the Kalalau Lookout. You'll view the valley from above (the only other vantage is from within the valley itself, accessible only to those who hike the Kalalau trail or boat in). There are no words for the beauty of this spot—it's unforgettable, just like Kaua'i itself. If the valley is shrouded in mist when you arrive, don't despair and don't leave. After a few minutes, when the mists part and the rays of sun touch the valley, you will experience something magical.

Top 5 Things To Do On Your Visit...

Kaua'i

1. Explore the North Shore
2. View the grandeur of Waimea Canyon and Kalalau Valley
3. Hike to Hanakapi'ai
4. See the Na Pali coast by boat, helicopter, or on foot
5. View the sunset over Hanalei Bay

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Kona Swiss Water Processed Decaffeinated..... \$31.00 /lb.
A tough find indeed! We are now selling Swiss water processed 100% \$150.00 /5 lbs.
Kona decaffeinated coffee. A great alternative for those seeking the \$290.00 /10 lbs.
taste of true Kona without the caffeine.

ALL COFFEE IS FRESH ROASTED TO ORDER ONLY.

Please specify **medium**, or **dark** roast with each coffee ordered.

GROWN SINCE 1828 Kona Coffee is widely acclaimed as the world's finest. Along with a perfect growing environment the entire Kona coffee crop is still hand picked and sun dried. This extremely labor intensive process by independent farming families has greatly contributed to the gourmet reputation of Kona coffee. In 1866 Mark Twain stated, in his "Letters From Hawaii", "Kona coffee has a



richer flavor than any other, be it grown where it may and call it by what name you please." What sets Coffee Times Kona coffee apart is that we personally roast and ship your coffee to order only. And we have found that this personal service makes all the difference in the world. We invite you to give us a try and become a member of our coffee loving family of customers.

Today, coffee pickers from Mexico help local farmers to hand pick the ever increasing Kona coffee crop. Miguel A. Meza Mozqueda is pictured here.

BLAIR ESTATE COFFEES



Blair Estate Organic Kauai Coffee

Searching for the perfect cup of coffee has been an ongoing adventure in our lives, and this ultimately led us to the oldest island in the Hawaiian chain. Kauai's natural environment makes it ideal for growing premium coffee, so we decided to establish our Blair Estate farm at the foot of Makaleha Mountain. In an attempt to utilize what nature has provided, we opted to grow organically, and believe it has led to an exceptional cup of coffee that rivals the world's best. Our 100% Blair Estate Kauai Coffee is certified organic, hand picked, fermented, and fresh roasted to order on Kauai.



Blair Estate Reserve World Blend

We've been roasting and blending international coffee for coffee houses throughout Kauai for many years. While you can probably imagine the number of international combinations we've experimented with over that time, we have chosen our favorite, and it includes Blair Estate coffee. This blend recipe is held in secret by our roast master, and uses premium beans from as far away as the Arabian Peninsula to the high slopes of Central and South America.



For current pricing and availability please call **1-800-750-5662**, or visit **blairestatecoffee.com**.



ALL COFFEE IS FRESH ROASTED TO ORDER ONLY.

Please specify **medium**, or **dark** roast with each coffee ordered.



www.coffeetimes.com • 1-800-750-5662

100% HAWAIIAN FOODS AND GIFTS

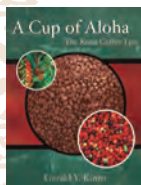


Washed 100% Hawaiian Cane Sugar \$5.00 /lb.
Our sugar is 100% pure Hawaiian and will compliment your coffee or baked goods like no other. It is the best and most natural sweetener in the world. \$22.50 / 5 lbs.
\$40.00 / 10 lbs.

100% Organic Hawaiian Wild Flower Honey \$7.00 /lb.
Our 100% Hawaiian honey is raw and unprocessed and some of the cleanest on earth and is collected from hive locations around the island of Kauai. \$18.00 / 3 lbs.
\$33.00 / 6 lbs.

Chocolate Covered 100% Kona Macadamia Nuts..... \$9.00 / 8 oz.
100% Kona Macadamia Nuts draped in rich gourmet dark chocolate. \$17.00 / lb.
\$80.00 / 5 lbs.

Chocolate Covered 100% Kona Peaberry Coffee Beans... \$9.00 / 8 oz.
Medium roasted 100% Kona Peaberry coffee beans draped in rich gourmet dark chocolate. \$17.00 / lb.
\$80.00 / 5 lbs.



A Cup of Aloha by Gerald Kinro \$20.00
A wonderfully written portrayal of the history behind Kona coffee. Born and raised on a coffee farm in Kona, Kinro paints a vivid picture of what life was and continues to be like on a coffee plantation in Hawaii. Kings, Queens, affairs and pirates the author captures it all within this book. The book is filled with many great photos and even a reference to Coffee Times! *Shipping weight is 1 pound per book.*

Kauai Cigar Company Logo Stitched Baseball Cap.... \$20.00
Black/Gold Thread, Green/Gold Thread,
Orange/Black Thread, Blue/Gold Thread,
Tan/Black Thread
Shipping weight is 1 pound per cap.



Kauai Cigar Company Tee Shirt
Green, Black
Small/Medium/Large/Extra Large/Extra, Extra Large..... \$20.00
Shipping weight is 1 pound per shirt.

Kauai Cigar Company Kokoleka (chocolate) Cigars
The Kokoleka (chocolate) cigar was inspired by Bob and Pam Cooper, who own Original Hawaiian Chocolate in Keauhou, Hawaii. Made with 100% Hawaiian grown, and made chocolate, they are a sweet pleasure to compliment your coffee, or cigar!



Kokoleka 44 x 4 \$99.00 (18ct. box)

100% HAWAIIAN FOODS AND GIFTS



Kauai Cigar Company Island Prince Cigars

These Kauai cigars are the result of growing, curing, fermenting, aging, and hand rolling some of the finest tobacco in the world. Our cigars contain premium, all natural, Sun Grown 100% Kauai Filler Tobacco, and contain no synthetic additives for flavor.

LIGHT: Our Kauai tobacco is wrapped in a Connecticut shade leaf grown in Ecuador. This silky, and cream like cigar has a medium to full bodied taste.

DARK: Our Kauai tobacco is wrapped in a maduro leaf originating from Habano 2000 seed grown in Nicaragua. It is a full bodied smoke, and is filled with deep, and complexing flavors.

Please specify light or dark. Momona 6ct. box is available in a mix of 3 light and 3 dark cigars.



Kohala	43 x 6 1/2	\$190.00 (18ct. box)
Bumboocho	52 x 6 1/8	\$200.00 (18ct. box)
Nui Loa	60 x 6	\$213.00 (18ct. box)
Momona	50 x 5 3/4	\$190.00 (18ct. box) \$70.00 (6ct. box) \$37.00 (3ct. box) \$14.00 (1ct. box)
Laka	42 x 5	\$180.00 (18ct. box)
Luana Iki	46 x 4 1/2	\$180.00 (18ct. box)
Iki	32 x 4 3/16	\$25.00 (6ct. tin, 3 light/3 dark)

Kauai Cigar Company Makaleha Cigars

This custom crafted cigar blend is named after the birth place of our tobacco farm that lies at the foot of Makaleha mountain in Hawaii. Containing tobacco from Kauai, this leaf is fermented for no less than 12 months, and aged to perfection. The Makaleha cigar contains a complex blend of cuban seed tobacco that will tantalize the senses.



Nui Loa	60 x 6	\$215.00 (20ct. box)
Momona	50 x 5 3/4	\$200.00 (20ct. box) \$70.00 (6ct. box) \$37.00 (3ct. box) \$14.00 (1ct. box)
Waikiki	54 x 5 1/2	\$205.00 (20ct. box)

Kauai Cigar Company Hawaiian Vintage Series Cigars

Through the passage of time, and careful selection of tobacco leaf from Kauai and beyond, a great cigar comes of age.

Like a clock without hands, time is defined only by taste.

The Hawaiian Vintage Series made by the Kauai Cigar Company, and blended by tobacco farmer, Les Drent, celebrates the days, months, and the years that go into making a premium cigar.



We invite you to join us for this remarkable journey.		
Wailua	54 x 6 1/4	\$250.00 (25ct. box)
No Ka Oi	59 x 6	\$275.00 (25ct. box)
Momona	50 x 5 3/4	\$225.00 (25ct. box)

Shipping weight: 1-18 is 1 lb. No mail order sales within the State of Hawaii. Call us for ordering information or to find a Hawaii retailer.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes.

Organic Coffee Farm Tour and Kauai Cigar Company Farm Tour

- Full explanation of the process behind creating the finest coffee and cigars.
- Organic farming methods, and mechanical process demonstrations.
- See first hand how coffee is harvested, pulped, fermented, dried, hulled, classified, roasted, and prepared for drink.
- Cigar rolling demonstration, and full explanation of the production of organic tobacco at Blair Estate.





ORGANIC COFFEE FARM TOUR INCLUDES

- Detailed coffee production explanation
- Bottomless cup of organic Blair Estate coffee
- Home Made Bread tasting
- In season organic fruit from our farm



KAUAI CIGAR COMPANY FARM TOUR INCLUDES

- Complimentary hand rolled Kauai Cigar
- Live cigar rolling demonstration
- Detailed tobacco and cigar process explanation
- Bottomless cup of farm coffee



INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

808-822-4495 • 1-800-750-5662
www.blaiestatecoffee.com

Tours will be held in small private groups by appointment only to maintain the most enjoyable personal experience we can provide. **No unannounced visits please!**

BLAIRESTATE
 KAUAI, HAWAII

www.abcstores.com

(888) 703-4222



*Visit ABC Stores to Purchase
Island Prince Cigars*

**WHERE TO BUY
ISLAND PRINCE CIGARS**

ABC STORES MAUI

Wailea	(808) 874-5073
Lahaina	(808) 667-9700
Lahaina	(808) 661-5370
Lahaina	(808) 669-0271
Lahaina	(808) 667-9558
Lahaina	(808) 667-9133
Lahaina	(808) 667-2623
Kihei	(808) 879-6305
Kihei	(808) 875-9985

ABC STORES BIG ISLAND

Kailua-Kona	(808) 329-3447
Kailua-Kona	(808) 326-4824
Kailua-Kona	(808) 329-5819
Waikoloa	(808) 216-9145

ABC STORES KAUAI

Lihue	(808) 245-7071
Kapaa	(808) 822-2115
Kapaa	(808) 823-0081

ABC STORES OAHU

Honolulu	(808) 923-8477
Honolulu	(808) 941-3375
Honolulu	(808) 923-7635
Honolulu	(808) 922-5763
Honolulu	(808) 923-0453
Honolulu	(808) 925-5741
Honolulu	(808) 923-2009
Honolulu	(808) 923-2069
Honolulu	(808) 923-3134
Honolulu	(808) 945-7774
Honolulu	(808) 926-4471
Honolulu	(808) 926-1811
Honolulu	(808) 926-5241
Honolulu	(808) 926-5090
Honolulu	(808) 926-0680
Honolulu	(808) 923-1120
Honolulu	(808) 949-8380
Honolulu	(808) 924-4314
Honolulu	(808) 923-8400
Honolulu	(808) 886-3577
Honolulu	(808) 952-5334
Honolulu	(808) 955-3320
Honolulu	(808) 926-5100
Kapolei	(808) 591-2550

