



Discover Honolulu, Waikiki & O'ahu

Experience the best of O'ahu

- HIGHLIGHTS
- ITINERARIES
- SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL
- EASY-TO-USE MAPS

Discover Honolulu, Waikiki & O'ahu

Contents



Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



The Best...

Lists for everything from beaches to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out

Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the maps:



Beaches



Eating



Sights



Drinking



Sleeping



Information

This edition written and researched by

Sara Benson

Lisa Dunford

Contents

Plan Your Trip

This Is O'ahu	4
O'ahu Map	6
O'ahu's Top 15 Experiences	8
O'ahu's Top Itineraries	20
Get Inspired	25
O'ahu Month by Month	26
Need to Know	30

On the Road



Honolulu	32
Itineraries	34
Highlights	35
<i>Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Wayside</i>	<i>57</i>



Waikiki	90
Itineraries	92
Highlights	93
<i>Hawaiian Feather Lei</i>	<i>135</i>



Pearl Harbor Area	140
Itineraries	142
Highlights	143
Pearl Harbor.....	144
'Aiea.....	148



Southeast O'ahu	150
Itineraries	152
Highlights	153
Diamond Head.....	154
Kahala.....	155
Hawai'i Kai.....	159
Hanauma Bay.....	162
Koko Head.....	
Regional Park.....	164
Makapu'u Point.....	167



Windward Coast	168
Itineraries	170
Highlights	171
Pali Hwy.....	172
Waimanalo.....	173
Kailua.....	178
<i>Likeke Falls</i>	<i>183</i>
Kane'ohe Bay Area.....	193
Kahalu'ua & Waiahole.....	197
Kualoa.....	197
Ka'a'awa.....	199
Kahana Valley.....	199
Punalu'u.....	201
Hau'ula.....	201
La'ie.....	202
<i>La'ie Point</i>	<i>202</i>
Malaekahana State Recreation Area.....	204
Kahuku.....	204



North Shore	206
Itineraries	208
Highlights	209
Turtle Bay.....	210
<i>James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge</i>	<i>213</i>
Sunset Beach.....	213
Pupukea.....	215
Waimea.....	218
Laniakea Beach.....	220

In Focus

Survival Guide

Hale'iwa	220
Waialua	228
Mokule'ia to Ka'ena Point	229



Central & Leeward O'ahu 232

Itineraries	234
--------------------------	------------

Highlights	235
-------------------------	------------

Central O'ahu	236
----------------------------	------------

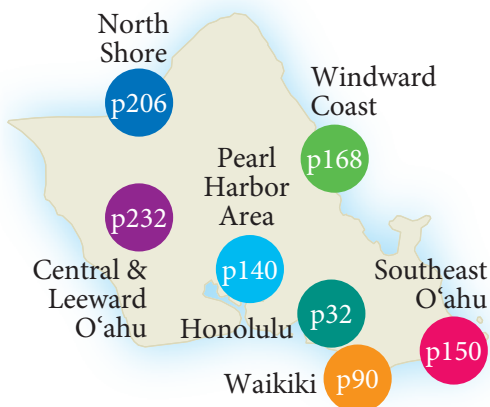
Kunia Road (Hwy 750)	236
Kolekole Pass	236
Wahiawa	237

Leeward O'ahu	241
----------------------------	------------

Kapolei Area	241
Ko Olina	246
Kahe	251
Nanakuli	252
Ma'ili	252
Wai'anae	252
Makaha	255
Kane'aki Heiau	256
Makaha to Ka'ena Point	257
Ka'ena Point State Park	258

O'ahu Today	264
History	266
People of O'ahu	274
Hawaii's Cuisine	278
Hawaii's Arts & Crafts	286
Family Travel	291
Green O'ahu	294
Outdoor Activities & Adventures	302

A-Z Directory	318
Transport	326
Behind the Scenes	332
Index	336
Legend	351





This Is O'ahu

Landing at Honolulu's airport plunges you into the urban jungle, but relax, it's still Polynesia. Even among downtown high-rises, you'll find capital-city power brokers in breezy aloha shirts. By day, inspect royal feathered capes and ancient temple carvings, then swizzle mai tais while slack key guitars play at Waikiki Beach after dark.

There's another side of the island: the 'country,' where farms and dirt roads lead deep into a Hawaiian heartland.

On some wild, rugged and nearly deserted beaches, sea turtles still outnumber surfers. Set your watch to island time as you cruise past the Windward Coast's emerald valleys, rustic ranches and roadside shrimp trucks, or lose yourself on the rural Wai'anae Coast.

Don't dismiss O'ahu as a transit point en route to the Neighbor Islands.

Take a closer look and you'll uncover a lifetime of adventures. Surf the Banzai Pipeline's giant waves, hike atop knife-edged *pali* (cliffs), dive in Hanauma Bay's giant fishbowl, windsurf or kayak to uninhabited islands off Kailua Bay, and be back in Waikiki for sunset hula. No worries, *brah*.

O'ahu, like Honolulu-born President Barack Obama, is proud of its multicultural heritage. The nerve center of the archipelago brings you face to face with Hawaii as it really is, not just a postcard fantasy. All over this island, nicknamed 'The Gathering Place,' pulses the Hawaiian lifeblood, from ancient heiau (stone temples) to sacred hula dances and chants. Boisterous festivals keep diverse traditions alive.

Spam, surfing, hula, pidgin, rubbah slippah – these are just some of the touchstones of everyday life floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

People are easygoing, low-key and casual, bursting with genuine aloha and fun. You'll feel welcome whether you're a surf bum, a honeymooner or part of a big 'ohana (extended family) with grandparents and kids tagging along.

“
On some
wild,
rugged
and nearly
deserted
beaches, sea
turtles still
outnumber
surfers.”

Boats docked on Lanikai Beach (p181), near Kailua

ANN CECIL / LONELY PLANET IMAGES ©

