



Honolulu, Waikiki & O'ahu



Craig McLachlan, Ryan Ver Berkmoes

PLAN YOUR TRIP

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LOCAL FRUITS, P75

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SURFBOARDS AT WAIKIKI BEACH, P144

Itineraries



1 DAY

Circle Island Tour

Either rent a car or join a tour for this one-day adventure circling O'ahu. All up, you're in for less than 100 miles of driving, but you'll want to get an early start to make the most of it. Don't forget towels, sunscreen and bathing suits. Traveling in either direction is fine.

From **Waikiki**, cross to the Windward Coast on Route 61, the Pali Highway, making sure to stop at the **Nu'uuanu Pali State Wayside** at the pass. Halfway down, turn left onto Route 83 and from **Kahalu'u**, you'll be heading up the coast. Take a break at **Kualoa Regional Park** to check out Mokoli'i Island (Chinaman's Hat) and the magnificent Kualoa mountains. **Kualoa Ranch** beckons with all sorts of activities.

The drive and scenery is mesmerizing. Break for lunch at the shrimp trucks at **Kahuku**, a classy restaurant at **Turtle Bay Resort** or Ted's Bakery at **Sunset Beach**. You're hitting the 'Seven-Mile Miracle' that surfers dream of, the North Shore stretch of waves and sand from Sunset Beach to Hale'iwa township. See if the turtles are visiting at **Laniakea Beach**.

After checking out **Hale'iwa**, down a pick-me-up at **Green World Coffee Farm** in Central O'ahu before taking the H2 and H1 Freeways back to **Waikiki**.

3
DAYS

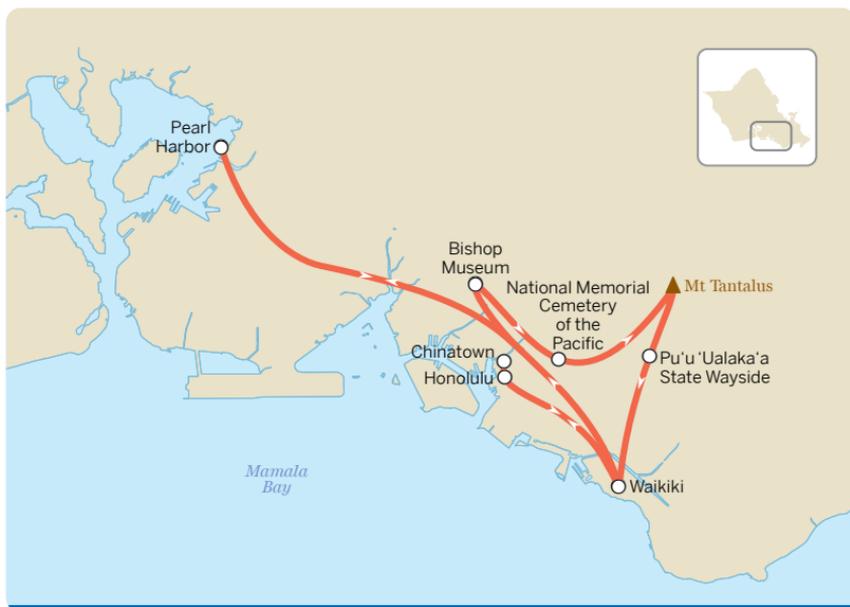
Waikiki, Hanauma Bay & Diamond Head

Into the outdoors? Make sure to hit these spots if you've got limited time on O'ahu. There's plenty to see and do within a few miles of Waikiki, including swimming, snorkeling, sailing and hiking. Get out there and do it! And a bit of retail therapy won't hurt either.

On Day one, shake out the cobwebs with an early morning swim at Kuhio Beach Park, followed by a stroll down to Kaimana Beach and around gorgeous Kapi'olani Park. This will set you up for a good look around **Waikiki**. Head into the legendary diner Eggs 'n' Things for brunch, then when you're ready, head up inland past the University of Hawai'i and into the Manoa Valley for a fun short hike up to **Manoa Falls**. Remember, it could be raining up here, even if the sun is shining in Waikiki. Back in Waikiki late afternoon, enjoy a refreshing swim then cocktails, followed by the Kuhio Beach Torch Lighting & Hula Show or slack key guitars in the evening.

Day two has an early start as you'll want to get to spectacular **Hanauma Bay** for snorkeling before the crowds arrive – as an added bonus, entry is free before 7am! Get there at 9am and the carpark is likely to be full. Don't leave without spotting Hawai'i's state fish, the *humuhumunukunukuapua'a*. Stop off at Kokonuts or Bubbies at the **Koko Marina Center** for refreshments after. Back in Waikiki, enjoy some solid beach time and an afternoon catamaran cruise from right on the beach before heading out to House Without a Key at the Halekulani.

Get an early start on day three to climb **Diamond Head** as it gets hot in the middle of the day. Spectacular views from the top make the climb worthwhile. Stop off at Bogart's or Da Cove Health Bar & Cafe on Monsarrat Ave for an acai bowl on your way back to Waikiki. Take a dip at the beach, freshen up, then head to the **Ala Moana Center**, the world's largest open-air shopping center with over 340 stores and restaurants. Eat at Ala Moana tonight or head a bit inland to one of Honolulu's hidden gems, Sweet Home Café on King St.

4
DAYS

Honolulu & Pearl Harbor

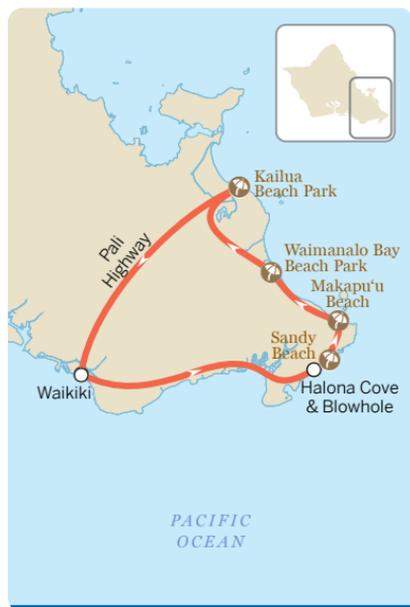
For those into history, art and culture, O'ahu is a treasure trove. While millions of visitors see Pearl Harbor, others will be surprised by the quality of the city's museums, the intrigue of its historical district and Chinatown, and the proximity of verdant mountain scenery.

From your base in **Waikiki**, spend at least a day at **Pearl Harbor**. The WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument is one of the USA's most significant WWII sites. It narrates the history of the Pearl Harbor attack and commemorates fallen service members. Visit the USS Arizona Memorial, the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park and the Pacific Aviation Museum.

For another day, visit the Bishop Museum, undoubtedly the world's top Polynesian anthropological museum and Hawaii's version of the Smithsonian Institute. There's lots going on here, but on your way back, make time to drive into the **National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific**, better known as Punchbowl. Some 50,000 are buried in this volcanic crater. Views of Honolulu from the rim are superb. Going back to Waikiki, drive the Punchbowl, Tantalus & Round Top Dr scenic route and take a stop at **Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Wayside** to view the city and Waikiki.

Spend your third day in **Honolulu**. The exceptional Honolulu Museum of Art may be the biggest surprise of your trip to O'ahu. Book ahead and join a tour out to Shangri La, Doris Duke's hideaway at Black Point: the only way to see it is on the museum's tour. Next, **Chinatown** beckons! Wander the streets and markets, check out the galleries, then stay for dinner at a local hot spot such as Lucky Belly or Pig & the Lady. Later on, Dragon Upstairs may be calling.

Downtown and Honolulu's Historical District is worth a day of your time too. Check out the USA's only royal palace, 'Iolani Palace, then the State Capitol with its unusual design. There's thought-provoking art from Hawaii's multiethnic communities at the Hawai'i State Art Museum and more history at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site at the original headquarters of the Sandwich Islands mission. Atmospheric Cafe Julia or Artizen by MW at the State Art Museum are great spots for lunch. Don't forget to go up Aloha Tower.



1 DAY Southeast O'ahu Loop

Spectacular scenery awaits on this trip around O'ahu's southeast coast for which you'll want your own wheels. We're talking great beaches, views, strolling and killer bodyboarding. Take your time and it will take all day, or buzz around in half.

Head east on Route 72, the Kalaniana'ole Hwy, from the eastern end of the H-1 at Kahala. If you want refreshments, drop into the Koko Marina Center at Hawai'i Kai. Assuming you'll hit Hanauma Bay for snorkeling on a different day (it's a must!), carry on with stops at the Lana'i Lookout, **Halona Cove** and **Blowhole** and **Sandy Beach**. You'll need confidence to pull out your bodyboard here as the waves crash right on the beach!

The Makapu'u Lookout reveals unreal views of **Makapu'u Beach**, Waimanalo Bay and magnificent *pali* (cliffs). **Waimanalo Bay Beach Park** is the place to pull out that bodyboard. Otherwise, carry on to the amazing golden sands of **Kailua Beach Park** or township. Strolling, swimming, kayaking, windsurfing and kitesurfing are all here. Get a shave ice at Island Snow Hawaii. Head back to **Waikiki** on the Pali Hwy (Route 61) to complete the loop.



1 DAY Leeward Coast

You'll want your own wheels for this road less traveled. Past the Ko Olina resorts, the Leeward Coast feels like forgotten O'ahu. That said, there are magnificent white-sand beaches, Native Hawaiian pride is alive and well, and there are good spots to hike.

Take the H-1 west from **Honolulu**. For a look at what **Waipahu** used to be like, make a stop at Hawaii's Plantation Village. This outdoor museum tells the story of life on the sugar plantations and of Waipahu, one of O'ahu's last plantation towns.

From the freeway, spot the construction of HART, the mostly elevated Honolulu Rapid Transit project that will eventually link East Kapolei with the Ala Moana Center. At the end of the H-1, visit the upscale **Ko Olina** resorts and golf course, which feel a bit out of place here in western O'ahu.

Heading up the coast now, if you're ready to eat, stop in at Coquitos Latin Cuisine, roadside in **Wai'anae**. Further up, take a dip at magnificent **Makaha Beach** or **Yokohama Bay**, renowned for its sunsets. From the end of the road, hike out to **Ka'ena Point** and back. The return journey to Honolulu will take a tad over an hour.



Top: Makapu'u Point
(p201)
Bottom: Ka'ena Point
(p196)



O'ahu: Off the Beaten Track

MAKAHA BEACH

Surprisingly free of tourists, away from most visitor-action on the Leeward Coast, spectacular Makaha Beach is where big-wave surfing got its start in the 1950s. (p194)

KUNIA RD

If you're not in a hurry on your way to Wahiawa in Central O'ahu (and why would you be?), consider taking scenic Kunia Rd through rural plantations at the foot of the mountains. (p268)

HELENA'S HAWAIIAN FOOD

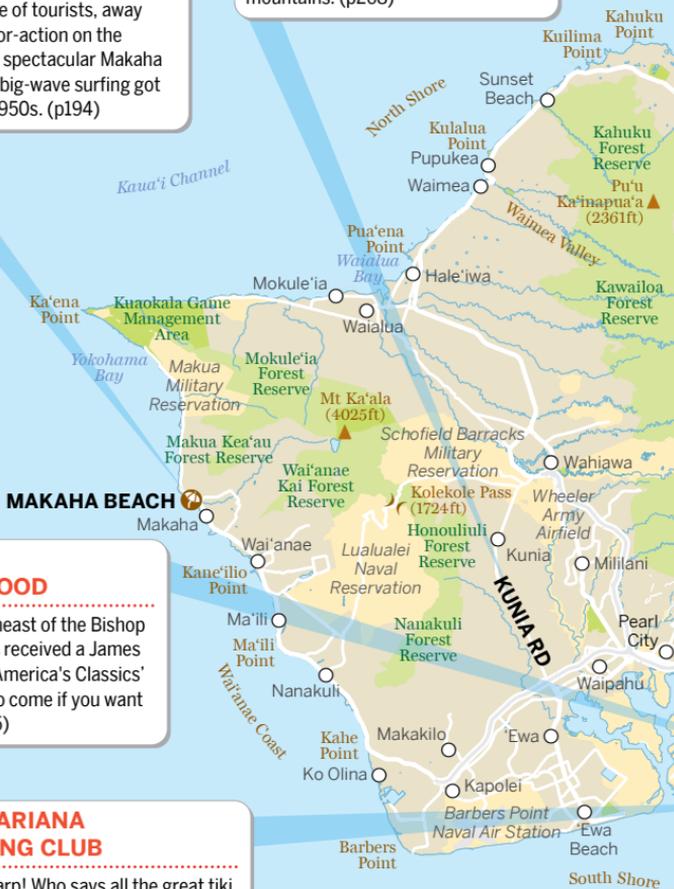
A few blocks southeast of the Bishop Museum, Helena's received a James Beard Award for 'America's Classics' and is a top spot to come if you want to eat 'local'. (p115)

LA MARIANA SAILING CLUB

Time warp! Who says all the great tiki bars have gone to the dogs? Irreverent and kitschy, this 1950s joint by the lagoon is filled with yachties and long-suffering locals. (p127)

ETHEL'S GRILL

One of the greatest hole-in-the-wall restaurants in Honolulu, Ethel's has the tastiest food and a homely atmosphere. Try pig's feet soup or deep-fried turkey tails! (p116)



GYOTAKU BY NAOKI

You'll probably spot Naoki's magnificent *gyotaku* (Japanese-style fish prints) all over O'ahu, but there's nothing like watching him print up a freshly caught fish in his own studio in Kane'ohe. (p228)

LIKEKE FALLS

Ready for a hidden waterfall, and maybe even being lucky enough to have it to yourself? The family-friendly Likeke Falls Trail winds through a forest of native and exotic trees into the lush Ko'olau Range. (p225)

BAILEY'S ANTIQUES & ALOHA SHIRTS

Bailey's has the finest aloha-shirt collection on O'ahu, possibly the world! Racks are crammed with thousands of collector-worthy vintage aloha shirts in every conceivable color and style. (p170)



PIONEER SALOON

It's simple stuff, but the locals can't get enough of Pioneer Saloon's Japanese fusion plate lunches, with everything from grilled ahi to fried baby octopus to *yakisoba* (fried noodles). (p162)

KONA BREWING COMPANY

This Big Island import, on the water in Hawai'i Kai, is known for its microbrewed beers, especially the Longboard Lager, the Pipeline Porter and the Big Wave Golden Ale. (p209)

Map Legend

Sights

-  Beach
-  Bird Sanctuary
-  Buddhist
-  Castle/Palace
-  Christian
-  Confucian
-  Hindu
-  Islamic
-  Jain
-  Jewish
-  Monument
-  Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
-  Ruin
-  Shinto
-  Sikh
-  Taoist
-  Winery/Vineyard
-  Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
-  Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

-  Bodysurfing
-  Diving
-  Canoeing/Kayaking
-  Course/Tour
-  Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
-  Skiing
-  Snorkeling
-  Surfing
-  Swimming/Pool
-  Walking
-  Windsurfing
-  Other Activity

Sleeping

-  Sleeping
-  Camping

Eating

-  Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

-  Drinking & Nightlife
-  Cafe

Entertainment

-  Entertainment

Shopping

-  Shopping

Information

-  Bank
-  Embassy/Consulate
-  Hospital/Medical
-  Internet
-  Police
-  Post Office
-  Telephone
-  Toilet
-  Tourist Information
-  Other Information

Geographic

-  Beach
-  Gate
-  Hut/Shelter
-  Lighthouse
-  Lookout
-  Mountain/Volcano
-  Oasis
-  Park
-  Pass
-  Picnic Area
-  Waterfall

Population

-  Capital (National)
-  Capital (State/Province)
-  City/Large Town
-  Town/Village

Transport

-  Airport
-  BART station
-  Border crossing
-  Boston T station
-  Bus
-  Cable car/Funicular
-  Cycling
-  Ferry
-  Metro/Muni station
-  Monorail
-  Parking
-  Petrol station
-  Subway/SkyTrain station
-  Taxi
-  Train station/Railway
-  Tram
-  Underground station
-  Other Transport

Routes

-  Tollway
-  Freeway
-  Primary
-  Secondary
-  Tertiary
-  Lane
-  Unsealed road
-  Road under construction
-  Plaza/Mall
-  Steps
-  Tunnel
-  Pedestrian overpass
-  Walking Tour
-  Walking Tour detour
-  Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

-  International
-  State/Province
-  Disputed
-  Regional/Suburb
-  Marine Park
-  Cliff
-  Wall

Hydrography

-  River, Creek
-  Intermittent River
-  Canal
-  Water
-  Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
-  Reef

Areas

-  Airport/Runway
-  Beach/Desert
-  Cemetery (Christian)
-  Cemetery (Other)
-  Glacier
-  Mudflat
-  Park/Forest
-  Sight (Building)
-  Sportsground
-  Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Craig McLachlan

Curator, Honolulu, North Shore & Central O'ahu Craig has covered destinations all over the globe for Lonely Planet for two decades. Based in Queenstown, New Zealand for half the year, he runs an outdoor activities company and a sake brewery, then moonlights overseas for the other half, leading tours and writing for Lonely Planet. Craig has completed a number of adventures in Japan and his books are available on Amazon. Describing himself as a 'freelance anything',

Craig has an MBA from the University of Hawai'i and is also a Japanese interpreter, pilot, photographer, hiking guide, tour leader, karate instructor and budding novelist. Craig also wrote the Plan section of this book. Check out www.craigmclachlan.com.

Read more about Craig at auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/craigmclachlan



Ryan Ver Berkmoes

Pearl Harbor & Leeward O'ahu, Southeast O'ahu, Waikiki, Windward Coast Ryan has written more than 110 guidebooks for Lonely Planet. He grew up in Santa Cruz, California, which he left at age 17 for college in the Midwest, where he first discovered snow. All joy of this novelty soon wore off. Since then he has been travelling the world, both for pleasure and for work – which are often indistinguishable. He has covered everything from wars to bars. He definitely prefers the latter. Ryan calls New York City home. Read more at ryanverberkmoes.com and at @ryanvb.

Read more about Ryan at auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/ryanvb

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