



Southeast O'ahu

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Best Beaches

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Why Go?

Imagine starring in your own TV show or Hollywood blockbuster on O'ahu's most storied stretch of coastline. It looks a lot like Beverly Hills by the beach, with cherry-red convertibles cruising past private mansions with drop-dead ocean views. But you'll also find more-natural thrills that are open to the public on these scenic shores: the snorkeling hot spot of Hanauma Bay, hiking trails to the top of Diamond Head and the wind-blown lighthouse at Makapu'u Point, and O'ahu's most famous bodysurfing and bodyboarding beaches are all just a short ride east of Waikiki.

As you near Makapu'u Point, the road undulates up, down and around spectacular scenery and beaches. Although southeast O'ahu looks small on the map, its beaches and activities can easily fill an entire day or more. Many people start here, expecting to drive right on to the Windward Coast and never quite get there.

When to Go

May & Sep–Oct The two low seasons mean that you have a better chance to enjoy top sights like Hanauma Bay and Shangri La.

Jun–Aug With the surf calm, you can swim at many beaches.

Dec–April At this time of year there's big, dramatic surf; you might even see whales offshore.



Southeast O'ahu Highlights

- 1 Hanauma Bay (p208)**
Snorkeling in beautiful waters in the perfect cove with one of Hawaii's best beaches – the fish are extraordinary.
- 2 Diamond Head (p204)**
Climbing the inside of O'ahu's icon and thrilling to amazing views from the top of this ancient volcanic crater.
- 3 Shagri La (p204)**
Immersing yourself in Doris Duke's stunning array of Islamic art at her beautiful home.
- 4 Sandy Beach Park (p210)**
Witnessing the extraordinary feats of body-surfers from the beautiful sand at the main beach of Koko Head Regional Park.
- 5 Makapu'u Point (p211)**
Hiking a great trail to a historic lighthouse where you might be able to see other islands, and, in winter, whales.