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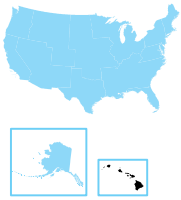


Hawaii

Includes ➡

O'ahu.....1100
Honolulu & Waikiki....1100
Hale'iwa & North Shore 1104
Hawai'i, the Big Island.....1105
Kailua-Kona 1105
South Kona Coast.....1107
Hilo.....1108
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park 1109
Maui 1110
Lahaina & West Maui..1110
Kihei & South Maui.... 1111
Kaua'i.....1114

Best Beaches

- Pupukea Beach (p1105)
- Kapalua Beach (p1110)
- Hapuna Beach (p1107)
- Hanalei Bay (p1115)
- Kailua Beach (p1104)

Best Local Food

- Ted's Bakery (p1105)
- Koloa Fish Market (p1116)
- Umeke (p1106)
- Da Kitchen (p1113)
- Super J's (p1107)

Why Go?

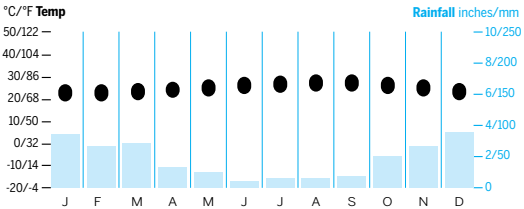
Truth: this string of emerald islands in the cobalt blue Pacific, more than 2000 miles from any continent, takes work to get to. And besides, aren't the beaches totally crushed by sunbaked tourists and cooing honeymooners? Cue the galloping *Hawaii Five-0* theme music and lei-draped beauties dancing hula beneath wind-rustled palms.

Hawaii, as tourist bureaus and Hollywood constantly remind us, is 'paradise.' Push past the hype and you may find they're not far wrong. Hawaii is diving into coral-reef cities in the morning and listening to slack key guitar at sunset. It's biting into juicy *liliko'i* (passion fruit) with hibiscus flowers in your hair. These Polynesian islands show off nature's diversity at its most divine, from fiery volcanoes to lacy rainforest waterfalls to crystal-clear aquamarine bays.

Locals know Hawaii isn't always paradise, but on any given day it can sure feel like it.

When to Go

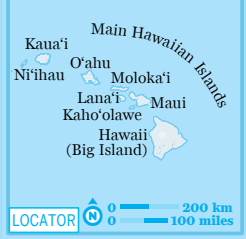
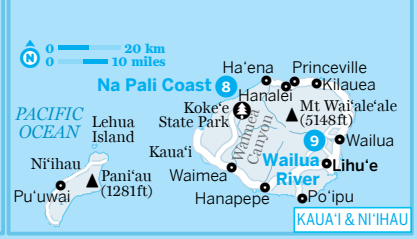
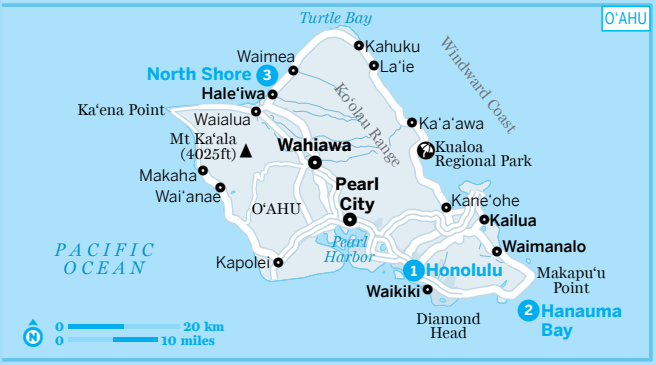
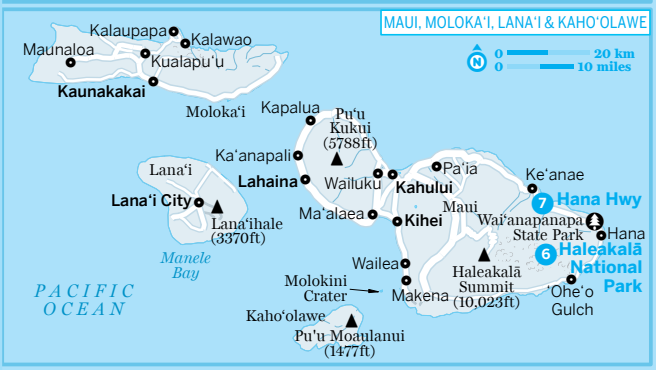
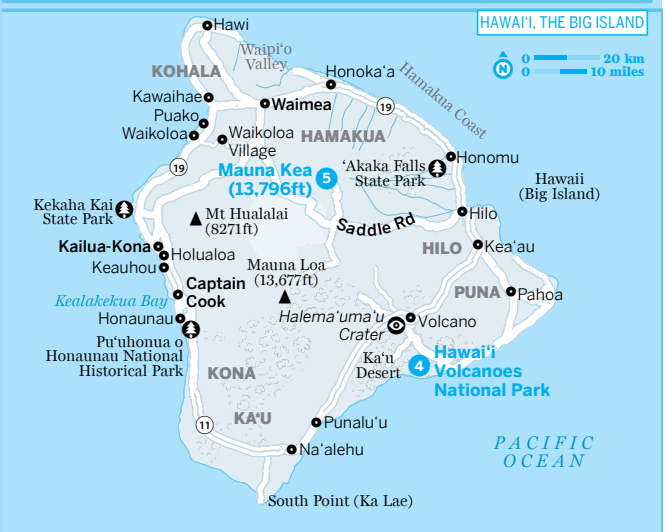
Honolulu



Dec–Apr Slightly cooler, wetter weather; peak season for tourism, surfing and whale-watching.

May–Sep Mostly sunny, cloudless days; summer vacation keeps beaches and resorts busy.

Oct–Nov Hotter, humid weather; fewer visitors mean cheaper accommodations.

Hawaii Highlights

1. Exploring multicultural **Honolulu** (p1100), with its eye-popping museums and ethnic eats.
2. Snorkeling with tropical fish and sea turtles in sparkling **Hanauma Bay** (p1104).
3. Watching pros surf monster winter waves on O'ahu's **North Shore** (p1104).
4. Witnessing a living volcano erupt inside **Hawai'i Volcanes National Park** (p1109).
5. Stargazing atop Hawaii's highest mountain, **Mauna Kea** (p1108), on the Big Island.
6. Catching dawn over the 'house of the rising sun' at **Haleakalā National Park** (p1114).
7. Driving Maui's twisting seaside **Hana Highway** (p1113) past black-sand beaches and jungle waterfalls.
8. Trekking the sculpted sea cliffs of Kaua'i's dramatic **Na Pali Coast** (p1115).
9. Kayaking the sacred **Wailua River** (p1114) to waterfall swimming holes.