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.

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.

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.

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.

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’.

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 yachtsies and long-suffering locals.

MAKAHA BEACH

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!

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).

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.