



Pearl Harbor & Leeward O'ahu

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Pearl Harbor Sights

- ➔ USS Arizona Memorial (p181)
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Why Go?

Pearl Harbor has a resonance for all Americans. The site of the December 7, 1941 attack that brought the US into WWII is accessible, evocative and moving. It's the top site for visitors to Hawaii. Nearby 'Aiea is a slice of modern island life and is a gateway to O'ahu's green interior.

To the west, suburban Kapolei boasts some family-friendly attractions and Ko Olina seems set to continue growing as an enclave of huge high-end resorts. The intrepid traveler venturing further north in Leeward O'ahu along the Wai'anae Coast will find undeveloped beaches and unvarnished communities. Cultural pride is alive here, as more Native Hawaiians live on the Wai'anae Coast than anywhere else island-wide. Near the island's tip at Ka'ena Point, habitation gives way to green-velvet-tufted mountains and rocky coastal ledges.

When to Go

Jan–Apr Surfers ride the huge waves that appear on the Wai'anae Coast at this time of year; it's also possible to spot whales.

Jun–Aug In summer the leeward beaches enjoy calm conditions, making them perfect for swimming.

Dec There are always observances and events around the anniversary of the December 7 attacks.



Pearl Harbor & Leeward O'ahu Highlights

1 USS Arizona Memorial (p181) Pausing to honor more than 1000 sailors who lost their lives on this sunken battleship during the Pearl Harbor attack.

2 Makaha Beach Park (p194) Surfing the towering waves in winter; snorkeling and swimming in summer.

3 Ka'ena Point Trail (p177) Hiking a mere 5 miles to see the Pacific Ocean at its wildest and visiting the furthest western point on O'ahu.

4 WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument (p180) Immersing yourself in the dramas of WWII at the superb museum of the main visitors

center for the Pearl Harbor historic sites.

5 Hawaii's Plantation Village (p186) Seeing the villages the multicultural workers lived in when O'ahu was home to myriad sugar plantations.