



Waikiki

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Best Local Grinds

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- ➔ Waiola Shave Ice (p163)
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Best Restaurants with Views

- ➔ Hau Tree Lanai (p163)
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Why Go?

Once a Hawaiian royal retreat, Waikiki revels in its role as a retreat for the masses. This famous strand of sand moves to a rhythm of Hawaiian music at beachfront high-rises and resorts. In this pulsing jungle of modern hotels and malls, you can, surprisingly, still hear whispers of Hawaii's past, from the chanting of hula troupes at Kuhio Beach to the legacy of Olympic gold medalist Duke Kahanamoku.

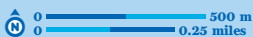
Take a surfing lesson from a bronzed instructor, then spend a lazy afternoon lying on Waikiki's golden sands. Before the sun sinks below the horizon, hop aboard a catamaran and sail off toward Diamond Head. Sip a sunset mai tai and be hypnotized by the lilting harmonies of slack key guitar, then mingle with the locals, who come here to party after dark too. And look close to see the colorful locals who've made this their lifetime playground.

When to Go

Feb–May At this time of year it's not so crowded, yet the weather still offers a big change for snowbirds.

Sep–Nov This is an ideal time to visit, as the weather is delightfully balmy yet prices and crowds are low.

Dec–Jan & Jun–Aug In the two high seasons there's an energetic buzz everywhere, plus big crowds and big prices.



Waikiki Highlights

- 1 Queen's Surf Beach** (p145) Less crowded than some, yet with waves that are both fun and family-friendly.
- 2 House Without a Key** (p169) Lilting Hawaiian tunes, sunset over the Pacific and the graceful swaying of hula.
- 3 Queens** (p155) Surfing where it all began, right off

Waikiki Beach, a great all-around wave.

- 4 Kuhio Beach Torchlighting & Hula Show** (p169) Don't miss this free show of Hawaiian culture performed by local talent.
- 5 Bailey's Antiques & Aloha Shirts** (p170) The best

place to buy a classic aloha shirt in O'ahu.

- 6 Moana Surfrider** (p171) A legendary resort with an ocean-facing courtyard and huge banyan tree.
- 7 Roy's Waikiki** (p160) Time hasn't lessened the bold island flavors at this famous restaurant.