

# Know Before You Go

## DRIVE WITH ALOHA

Wave or shaka when let into lanes to show appreciation. Only park in designated areas.

## STAY WITH ALOHA

Illegal short-term rentals are a community concern for residential neighborhoods. [honolulu.gov/dppstr](http://honolulu.gov/dppstr)

## SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Find ocean-friendly eateries at [oahu.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-restaurants](http://oahu.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-restaurants) and eco-friendly tour operators at [sustainabletourismhawaii.org](http://sustainabletourismhawaii.org). Utilize public transportation or bikeshare.

## RESPECT WILDLIFE

Hawai'i is known as the "endangered species capital of the world." Please appreciate wildlife from a legal viewing distance. [bit.ly/noaa-wildlife-viewing](http://bit.ly/noaa-wildlife-viewing)

# Mālama

To *mālama* is to take care of, protect and preserve. We all carry the *kuleana* (responsibility) to *mālama* the island of O'ahu.

- Be safe — heed signage, rules and weather advisories.
- Remain a respectful distance from wildlife.
- Support local — buy locally-made products, attend a festival, event or farmers market.
- Protect our natural resources by using only reef-safe sunscreen, leaving your area clean and supporting environmentally-friendly businesses.
- Make advance reservations for Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, Lē'ahi (Diamond Head) State Monument and Pearl Harbor Historic Sites to mitigate negative impact.

Give back and get back by volunteering. Learn more at [gohawaii.com/voluntourism](http://gohawaii.com/voluntourism).

# Support Local

Discover O'ahu's local artisans, cultural practitioners, entertainers and culinary delights. It's a journey into the island's enriching experiences that reflects its history, blend of cultures and spirit of *aloha*.

## BUY LOCAL

O'ahu is rich in Native Hawaiian and local designers, artists, jewelers and crafters who translate their cultural values and love for their island home into contemporary Hawaiian clothes, art and home décor. Hawaiian culture is best enjoyed with a cultural practitioner in a *lei*-making, weaving or *'ukulele* class. Buying local products, dining at local restaurants and experiencing Hawaiian entertainment not only supports local businesses, but helps Native Hawaiians and other cultures elevate their crafts while ensuring an authentic and memorable visit.

## NEIGHBORHOODS WITH LOCAL FLAVOR

O'ahu's "town & country" appeal allows for unique neighborhood experiences. Chinatown offers fragrant *lei* stands, bustling produce markets, boutiques, fine art galleries and two theaters showcasing O'ahu's cultural diversity. It's a haven for traditional Chinese fare, but also for award-winning, innovative restaurants. Check out Kaimukī for mom-and-pops and some of the hottest eateries. Find all kinds of iconic local fare in one tasty mile on Kapahulu Avenue, from sweet malasadas and shave ice to the quintessential savory plate lunch. And journey to Kailua town for amazing dining options, smoothie joints and cafes while enjoying boutiques and local stores.



# Staying Safe

## LAND SAFETY TIPS

- Stay on the trail to avoid trail damage — keep yourself and others safe.
- Do not trespass or park illegally to get to trailheads.
- Brush shoes off before & after hiking to avoid spreading invasive species.

For more info, visit [hawaii Trails.hawaii.gov/trails](http://hawaii Trails.hawaii.gov/trails).

## OCEAN SAFETY TIPS

- Don't step on or damage coral reefs.
- Use reef-safe mineral sunscreen.
- Never turn your back on the ocean.
- Swim only at beaches with lifeguards.
- Heed all posted warning signs.

For more info, visit [hioceansafety.com](http://hioceansafety.com) and [safebeachday.com/county/o'ahu/](http://safebeachday.com/county/o'ahu/).

# Essentials

## CLIMATE

Hawai'i is sub-tropical and enjoys year-round sunshine with very little change from season to season. The average yearly temperature is 75 degrees Fahrenheit, with the coolest months generally from December to February. During the warmest months of August and September, the temperature can reach 90 degrees.

## TIME ZONES

Hawai'i Standard Time (GMT-10 hours), five hours behind the U.S. East Coast and six hours behind during Daylight Saving Time.


## TRANSPORTATION

Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), Hawai'i's largest airport, is at the crossroads between North America and Asia. Just eleven miles west of Waikīkī, this airport is serviced by most major airlines. O'ahu also has the widest range of ground transportation options, including rideshare, taxi cabs, TheBus (Honolulu public bus system), Skyline (public rail system in select areas), bicycle rentals and mopeds, bikeshare and HandiVan (accessible transportation).

# Contact

For visitors: [gohawaii.com/oahu](http://gohawaii.com/oahu)  
For travel agents: [agents.gohawaii.com](http://agents.gohawaii.com)

 [facebook.com/oahuhawaii](https://facebook.com/oahuhawaii)

 [@oahuvb](https://instagram.com/@oahuvb)

#VisitO'ahu

## DOWNLOAD FOR INFO ON THE GO

GoHawaii App for travel advice  
[hvcb.org/app](http://hvcb.org/app)

HNL Info App for traffic and emergency alerts — [hnl.info](http://hnl.info)

Hawaiian Language Toolkit — Help represent and honor Hawai'i and its language, *Ōlelo Hawai'i*, *'āina* (land) and community in a *pono* (correct) way. Learn how at [bit.ly/maemaetoolkit](http://bit.ly/maemaetoolkit).



O'AHU™  
One of the HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Waikīkī Beach





Waikiki Beach

## Welcome

Nicknamed the “Gathering Place,” O’ahu celebrates different experiences that energize the spirit and enrich the soul.

O’ahu is a fusion of urban excitement on the South Shore and natural beauty on all other sides. O’ahu is rooted in Hawaiian culture, yet connected to the Pacific and America. It’s contemporary while steeped in Hawaiian values and global history.

From small plantation town charm to urban sophistication, legendary surf to quiet hikes, world-class museums to Hawaiian *mele* (songs) and *hula* and trendsetting chefs to mom-and-pops, O’ahu can be the perfect relaxing getaway or exhilarating adventure.

### FACTS ABOUT O’AHU

As the heart of Hawai’i, O’ahu honors its iconic history and celebrates a vibrant mix of Hawaiian and multicultural traditions.

As the third largest Hawaiian Island, O’ahu is home to the state capital, Honolulu. Much of the state’s population lives in the City and County of Honolulu, which is 608 square miles, spanning 112 miles of beaches and coastline.

The island color is royal yellow and the island flower is the ‘ilima. The only official royal palace on U.S. soil and the battleground that changed the course of World War II are on O’ahu.

## Activities

### ICONIC EXPERIENCES

#### LĒ’AHI (ALSO KNOWN AS DIAMOND HEAD)

This 1.6-mile roundtrip hike features panoramic views atop a 760-foot extinct volcanic tuff cone. Note: this hike is short but gets hot, so reef-safe sunscreen and water are recommended. Advance reservations are required for all out-of-state visitors. [gostateparks.hawaii.gov](http://gostateparks.hawaii.gov)

#### PEARL HARBOR NATIONAL MEMORIAL & HISTORIC SITES

The Pearl Harbor Visitor Center is free and offers great exhibits and movies, but advanced reservations are required for the Pearl Harbor National Memorial (USS Arizona Memorial) at [recreation.gov/ticket/233338/ticket/16](http://recreation.gov/ticket/233338/ticket/16). There are three other major attractions not to be missed: the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum, Battleship Missouri Memorial and Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum. Reservations recommended.

### ARTS & CULTURE

#### MUSEUMS

Discover Hawai’i’s past at historical museums or enrich your interests at art museums.

#### THEATERS

Attend a show written and performed by local artists, with uniquely Hawai’i stories. Take in a concert at a historic art deco theater. Or enjoy an international performance that happens to be in town.

#### LŪ’AU

Not all *lū’au* are the same. Try the classic *lū’au* with Polynesian entertainment, one that showcases only Hawaiian *mele* and *hula* or one that honors Hawai’i’s last monarch.

#### FESTIVALS, CULTURAL EVENTS & CRAFT FAIRS

Check local listings for a community festival, a cultural event or a craft fair.

#### BOTANICAL GARDENS

Take in lush natural beauty, learning about endemic plants, canoe plants and introduced tropical flora from around the world.

#### AGRICULTURAL TOURS

Discover the heritage sugarcane that goes into making rum; learn how agro-forestry results in quality cacao; taste fruits and vegetables on local farms; or try unique honey from O’ahu beekeepers.

#### FARMERS MARKETS

Find fresh produce and local gifts at the many farmers markets.

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

#### THE BIRTHPLACE OF SURFING

Watch the pros on waves 20 feet or higher, or take lessons of your own.

#### ECO ADVENTURES

Hike legal trails in the rainforest, in the mountains or along a coastline. Bike or zipline through permitted valleys.

#### HORSEBACK RIDING

Discover the culture and history of our Hawaiian *paniolo* (cowboys).

#### BOAT & OCEAN SAILS

Enjoy a catamaran sail, yacht cruise, fishing tour or canoe ride.

#### OCEAN ACTIVITIES

Snorkel, scuba, windsurf, kitesurf or take a stand-up paddleboard (SUP) lesson. Or take a tour to learn about Hawai’i’s marine life and how to protect them.

#### GOLF

Play a range of different courses along ocean vistas or mountain cliffs.

#### HELICOPTER & AERIAL TOURS

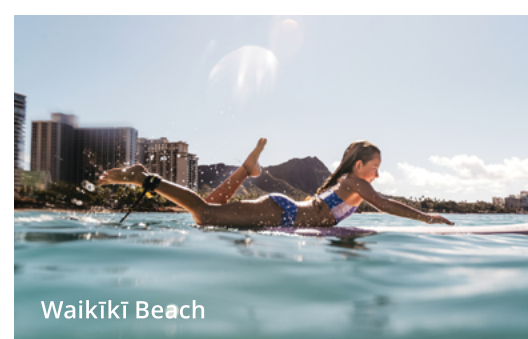
Discover natural beauty or twinkling city lights from the air.

#### WATERPARKS

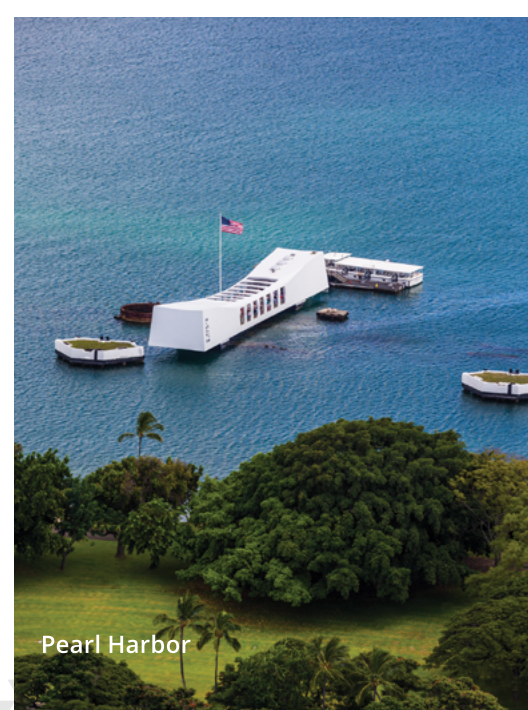
Surf manmade waves, enjoy water experiences or relax along waterways.



Kualoa



Waikiki Beach



Pearl Harbor

## Regions of O’ahu

### HONOLULU / SOUTH SHORE

Explore O’ahu’s “town” or urban side with thriving neighborhoods like Chinatown, Kaka’ako and Kaimuki. Rich in history, Honolulu’s museums include royal palaces, Princess Pauahi’s legacy, missionary museum, and military sites that impacted the modern world. Culturally diverse, Honolulu sets culinary trends, is the hub of Hawai’i’s art scene and celebrates multiculturalism through festivals and events.

### NORTH SHORE

Discover white sandy beaches, lush Waimea Valley, and legendary surfing beaches attracting pro surfers from around the globe. Home to historic Hale’iwa town, also known as the world’s surf capital, this area’s plantation heritage highlights its cultural diversity. It offers a laid-back way of life, farms, ranches, food trucks, marine-life conservation district, reforestation programs and more.

### LEEWARD COAST

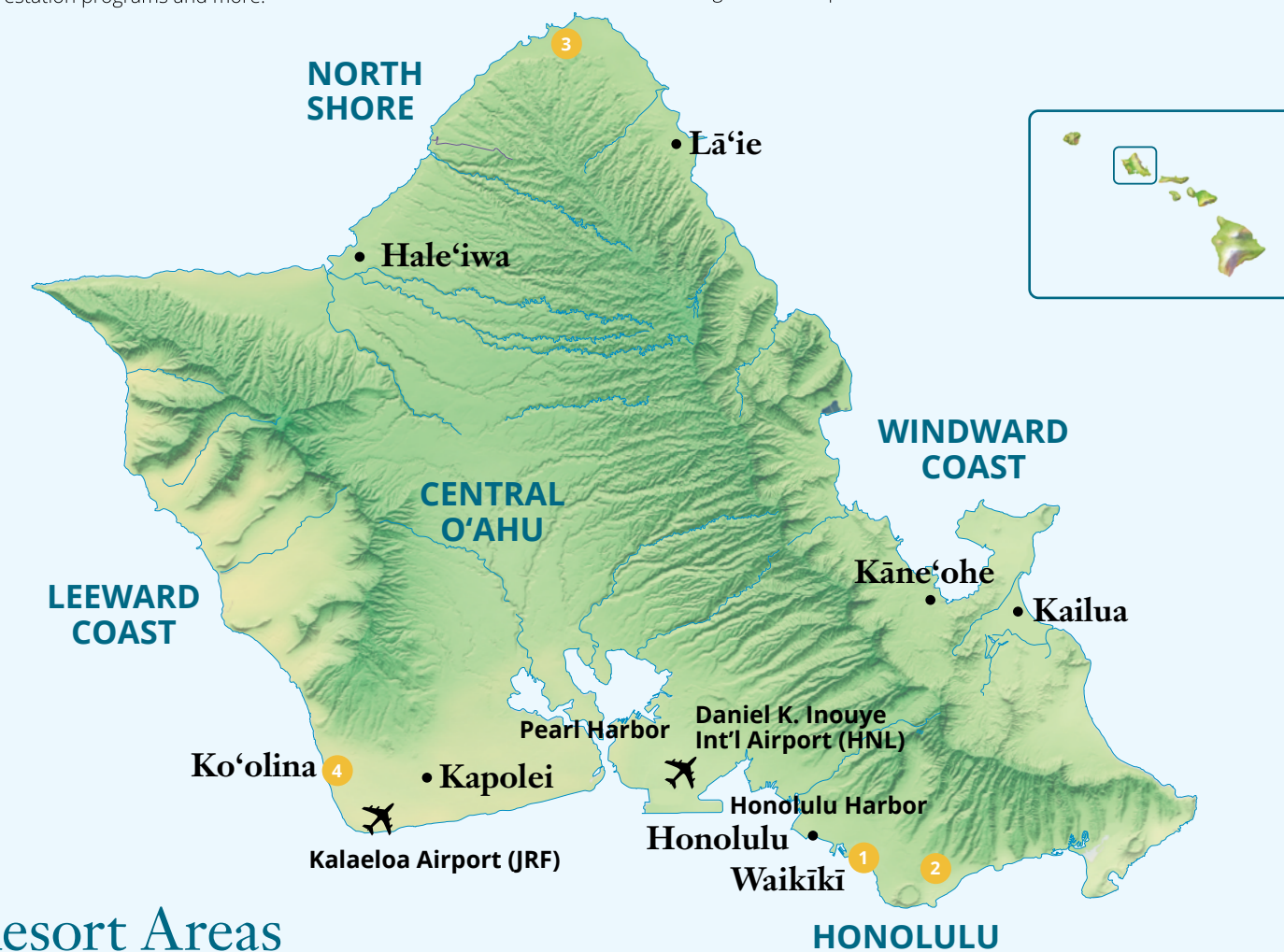
Nestled on the coastal side of the 4,000-foot Waia’anae Mountain range, the Leeward Coast of O’ahu’s western shore is a historic site, including the only active-historic railroad on O’ahu.

### WINDWARD COAST

This area offers gardens, farms, *lo’i kalo* (taro patches), ranches, bays, majestic valleys, lush forestry and incredible landscapes from *ma uka* (toward the mountains) to *ma kai* (toward the ocean).

### CENTRAL O’AHU

Here, the island’s plantation heritage comes to life through agricultural experiences and historic towns.



## Resort Areas

O’ahu’s four main resort areas feature a wide range of accommodations. From global brands to charming boutiques, from independent hotels to convenient condo hotels, from luxury resorts to value options and more, there are stays for every budget and interest.

#### 1 WAIKĪKĪ / SOUTH SHORE

An exciting resort area nestled in contemporary urban Honolulu, right on famous Waikiki beach and next to iconic Lē’ahi (Diamond Head). About 30 minutes from Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, Waikiki has the largest range of accommodations in one area, with close access to world-class dining, shopping, entertainment, museums, theaters and nightlife.

#### 2 KĀHALA / EAST O’AHU

A 15-minute drive from Waikiki, this area offers luxury accommodations and a golf course that hosts the Sony Open.

#### 3 KUILIMA / NORTH SHORE

Close to historic Hale’iwa town and legendary surf beaches, this is home to a premier resort and a smaller, more family-friendly hotel.

#### 4 KO’OLINA / WEST O’AHU

This area features premier accommodations, lagoons and beaches and championship golf courses designed by Ted Robinson.