



## HAWAII

Note: *Modern Luxury Hawaii* magazine is a quality publication available for free at island airports or select tourist kiosks. I also follow “Amanda & Felix Eats” on YouTube for dining and cheap eats in Honolulu. These notes are compiled merely for personal interest and are available for download at [www.brandonroyal.com](http://www.brandonroyal.com).

**Biggest to smallest.** The Hawaiian Island chain actually consists of more than 100 islands. It has, however, eight main islands. The Big Island is more than twice as large as the other seven main islands put together. In order of size: Big Island (4,028 sq miles), Maui (727 sq miles), Oahu (597 sq miles), Kauai (552 sq miles), Molokai (260 sq miles), Lanai (141 sq miles), Ni’ihau (70 sq miles), and Kaho’olawe (45 sq miles).

**Youngest to oldest.** The Big Island is the youngest main island while Kauai is the oldest main island. The actual age of the eight main islands from youngest to oldest are: Hawaii (Big Island), Maui, Kaho’olawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Ni’ihau, and Kauai. The Hawaiian Island chain is moving from southeast to northwest. So eventually another island will form exactly where the Big Island is and the Big Island will move northwest.

**Tourism.** Four islands are popular among tourists. Oahu gets about 5M visitors a year, Maui gets around 3M visitors a year, Hawaii (Big Island) gets nearly 2M visitors a year, and Kauai gets some 1M visitors a year. Tourists typically stay at hotels or condos located in the following areas: On the island of Oahu, it’s Honolulu (Waikiki); on the island of Maui, it’s Kihei, Wailea, or Kaanapali; on the island of Kauai, it’s Poipu or Princeville; and on the Big Island, it’s Kailua-Kona, Waikoloa, or Hilo. Lanai and Molokai now receive tourists. Guests visiting Lanai are restricted to luxury accommodation whereas visitors to Molokai have a range of lodging options. Ni’ihau and Kaho’olawe do not have tourism. In fact, Ni’ihau does not allow tourists and Kaho’olawe has no inhabitants or tourists.

**Historical snapshots:** 1,500 years ago, Polynesians arrived in Hawaii after navigating the ocean using only the stars to guide them. Each of the main Hawaiian Islands was ruled independently until King Kamehameha became the first person to unite the Hawaiian Islands in 1795. Queen Lili’uokalani, the last sovereign of the Hawaiian Kingdom, died in 1917.

Captain James Cook is credited with being the first European to land in the Hawaiian Islands in 1778. Some historians speculate that Juan Gaetano, a Spanish explorer, may have actually discovered Hawaii in 1555, postulating that Cook may have found Hawaii with the assistance of Gaetano’s 200-year-old map. America’s influence in Hawaii commenced with the arrival of merchants and missionaries in the early 1800s. Merchant ships began stopping at the port of Lahaina en route to the Far East. Hawaii was annexed by the United States in 1898 through the Newlands Resolution, and in August 1959, Hawaii became the 50th State of the United States of America.

Other factoids about the eight main islands:

### **1) Hawaii (Big Island)**

Known as Hawaii or the “Big Island,” the Big Island is 4,028 square miles (with a coastline of 266 miles) and has a population of 200K. The island’s county seat is Hilo and the island’s official flower is the Ohi’a lehua.

Kona is located on the west side of the island and is directly across from Hilo, which is located on the east side of the island. Kona is very sunny and Hilo is by far the rainiest city in the US and is not suitable for tourists seeking sun or sandy beaches. Nothing showcases the micro climates of the Hawaiian Islands more than the contrast in weather between Kona and Hilo.

Mauna Lani is a very popular resort area north of Kona. The name Mauna Lani means “heavenly mountain” or “mountain reaching heaven.”

Sightseeing highlights: Kealakekua Bay (snorkeling), Mauna Kea (use telescopes to experience the world’s clearest stargazing), Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and Akaka Falls State Park (view the 420ft waterfall).

Best or most unique beaches: Hapuna Beach, Kauna’oa Beach (also known as Mauna Kea Beach), Punalu’u Black Sand Beach, and Green Sand Beach.

### **2) Maui**

Known as the “Valley Isle,” Maui is 729 square miles (with a coastline of 120 miles) and has a population of 144K. The island’s county seat is Wailuku and the island’s official flower is the Lokelani.

Kihei is located on the west side of the island and is directly across from Hana, which is located on the east side of the island.

The popular tourist towns on the west side of the island (from south to north) include: Makena, Wailea, Kihei, and then Lahaina, Kaanapali, and Kapalua. At the top of the island is Kahului which is the main airport in Maui. Pa’ia on the north coast of the island is the windsurfing capital of the US.

The big hotels in Wailea include the following from north to south along the coast: Marriott, Grand Wailea, the Four Seasons, and the Fairmont Kea Lani. The coastal promenade that connects these hotels is sandwiched between ocean views and manicured green grass, lending credence to the saying “Maui No Ka Oi” which means “Maui is best.”

Sightseeing highlights: Maui Pineapple Tour, The Road to Hana Tour, Lahaina (whale-watching), Ho’okipa Beach (windsurfing), Maui Zipline Tour, and Molokini Crater (snorkeling).

Best beaches: Wailea Beach, Kaanapali Beach, and Kapalua Bay Beach.

### **3) Oahu**

Known as the "Gathering Place," Oahu is 597 square miles (with a coastline of 112 miles) and has a population of 950K. The island's county seat is Honolulu and the island's official flower is the Ilima.

Sightseeing highlights: Oahu's biggest tourist attractions are Pearl Harbor, the Polynesian Cultural Center, Diamond Head Crater (hiking), Hanauma Bay (snorkeling), North Shore (giant waves and big-wave surfing at Waimea Bay Beach, Ehukai Beach aka "Banzai Pipeline," and Sunset Beach), and Haleiwa (quaint and colorful North Shore surf town).

Best beaches: Waikiki Beach, Ko Olina Beach, Waimea Bay Beach, Waimanalo Beach, Lanikai Beach, and Kailua Beach.

### **4) Kauai**

Known as the "Garden Isle," Kauai is 552 square miles (with a coastline of 90 miles) and has a population of 73K. The island's county seat is Lihu'e and the island's official flower is the Mokihana.

Poipu, on the south coast of the island, is located directly opposite Princeville which is on the north coast of the island.

Mt. Waialeale located in the middle of Kauai is the second wettest place on earth.

The British explorer James Cook is credited with having discovered the Hawaiian Islands on January 20, 1778. He landed at Waimea on the southwest side of Kauai.

Sightseeing highlights: Na Pali Coast (hike Kalalau Trail), Waimea Canyon (camping and hiking), Wailua Falls (twin waterfalls), and the Kahalau Lookout.

Best beaches: Poipu Beach, Hanalei Bay Beach, Polihale State Park Beach, and Kalapaki Beach.

### **5) Molokai**

Now known as the "Friendly Isle," Molokai is 260 square miles (with a coastline of 88 miles) and has a population of 7.3K. The island has no county seat and the island's official flower is the Kukui/Pua Kukui.

Best beaches: Papohaku Beach and Murphy's Beach.

## 6) Lanai

Once known as the “Pineapple Isle,” Lanai is 141 square miles (coastline 47 miles) and has a population of 3K. The island has no county seat and its official flower is the Kauna’oa.

Best beaches: Hulapoe Beach and Polihua Beach.

## 7) Ni’ihau

No one is allowed to visit Hawaii’s “Forbidden Isle”—the 70-square-mile island, which on a clear day can be seen from Kauai's west coast—unless they are invited by the Robinson family (Niuhau’s owners) or by one of its 70 full-time Native Hawaiian residents. The Robinson family allows helicopter tours, but no contact between visitors and the Hawaiian natives is permitted.

## 8) Kaho’olawe

The smallest of the eight main Hawaiian Islands at 45 square miles, Kaho’olawe and its surrounding waters are by law off-limits to the public. The only way to get onto this island is through volunteer work opportunities offered throughout the year. Kaho’olawe was once known as the “Target Island” because the US military used the island for bombing exercises during World War II.

### *Miscellany:*

**Flowers.** Hibiscus, the Hawaii state flower, and plumeria, whose star-shaped bloom is used to make leis, are arguably the most famous flowers in Hawaii. Red and yellow hibiscus are often featured in Hawaii-related advertising, and images of the blooms are found on everything from postcards to Hawaiian shirts. Besides making great leis, plumeria is highly fragrant and is often used in bath products. These flowers are not limited to Hawaii, and may be grown in areas with similar climates, such as South Florida and the Keys.

**Fragrance.** The classic smell of Hawaii—the thing that makes the air so fragrant—is a distinctive blend of jasmine, plumeria, tuberose, and gardenia.

### *Tricky pronunciations:*

Hale’iwa (ha-lee-ee-va) is a quaint surf town on the North Shore of Oahu.  
Halekulani (ha-le-ku-lani) is a well-known Waikiki hotel whose name means “house of heaven.”  
Ilima (ill-lee-ma) is the island flower of Oahu.  
Kahanamoku (Duke) (kuh-haa-nuh-mow-koo) is the father of surfing in Hawaii.  
Kaho’olawi (ka-hoe-oh-laa-vee) is the smallest of the main islands.  
Kahului (ka-he-luu-ee) is the town of the main airport on Maui.

Kalakaua (kuh-laa-kau-uh) refers to King Kalakaua, who was elected king of the Hawaiian Nation in 1874, and reigned until his passing in 1891.

Kamehameha (kuh-may-huh-may-uh) refers to any one of the five consecutive kings of the Hawaiian Islands who collectively ruled from 1795 to 1872.

Kukui/Pua Kukui (ke-kwee/paw ke-kwee) is the island flower of Molokai.

Lihu'e (lee-hoo-ay) is the county seat for the island of Kauai.

Lili'uokalani (lee-lee-ooh-oh-kah-lani) was the last queen of the Hawaiian Islands.

Lokelani (low-ke-lan-ee) is the island flower of Maui.

Makai and Mauka are words of direction. Makai (mah-kai) means "toward the ocean" or seaward; Mauka (mow-kah) means "toward the mountains" or inland.

Mokihana (mo-kee-hana) is the island flower of Kauai.

Ni'ihau (nee-ee-how) is the westernmost main island.

Ohi'a lehua (oh-hee-uh lay-hoo-a) is the island flower of the Big Island.

Pa'ia (pie-ee-ah) is the windy town on the north coast of Maui.

Plumeria (ploo-meh-ree-uh) is the name of one of the most famous island flowers.

Wailea (wai-lay-uh) is the Maui town that remains one of the most desired tourist locations in all the islands.

#### *Salutations:*

"Aloha" (ah-loh-hah) means "Hello, Good day, and Goodbye." But the real meaning of Aloha in Hawaiian is closer to that of "Aloha spirit," which means "an expression of love, peace, compassion, and humility."

"Aloha kakahiaka" (ah-loh-hah kah-kah-hee-yah-kah) (used between 6am–10am)

"Aloha awakea" (ah-loh-hah av-ah-kay-ah) (used between 10am–2pm)

"Aloha auinala" (ah-loh-hah ah-wee-na-lah) (used between 2pm–6pm)

"Aloha ahiahi" (ah-loh-hah a-hee-yah-hee) (used between 6pm–10pm)

"Mahalo. A hui hou." (mah-hah-loh ah hoo-wee ho-oo-uu)

Translates as "Thank you. See you again."

"Aloha nui loa." (ah-loh-hah new-ee low-a)

Translates as "With much love or warm greetings."

"Aloha nui kakou." This enigmatic salutation appears on a framed picture in the window of a boutique at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. It was signed by Jack Lord, formerly Steve McGarrett of the original Hawaii Five-O TV series. It means something between "Greetings between you and me" and "With the love we have for each other." Just ask five Hawaiians for a translation and you will get five different answers.

## Oahu

**Ala Moana Makai Food Court** in the Ala Moana Shopping Center (the world's largest outdoor mall) has a ginormous food court with more than 30 eateries.

**Beach bars** are a great place to be during the late afternoon before sunset. Each of the five iconic hotels on Waikiki Beach have their own beach bars. These hotels include the following from southeast to northwest along the main beach: Moana Surfrider, Outrigger Waikiki, The Royal Hawaiian, Sheraton Waikiki, and the Halekulani. An "epic five" happy-hour barhop calls for one drink at each of these hotels. This means stopping by "The Beach Bar" at the Moana Surfrider, "Dukes" at the Outrigger Waikiki, the "Maitai Bar" at The Royal Hawaiian, the "Edge of Waikiki" at the Sheraton Waikiki, and the "House with No Key" at the Halekulani.

**Chart House** is located at 1765 Ala Moana Blvd right beside the Illikai Hotel facing the marina of the Waikiki Yacht Club. A superb all-round restaurant. Happy hour translates to "Sunset" from 3:30-6pm and "Last Wave" from 9pm-12am. For a flavorful appetizer option try the coconut shrimp fried rice.

**Chinatown** has several Vietnamese restaurants that serve pho soups. One is To Chan (1007 River St) which is an unpretentious stop that my guidebook said had the best pho in Honolulu. I can confirm it was indeed a giant, tasty bowl of pho. Two others I plan to visit next trip are Pho Que Huong and Cuu Long 2. I visited two military dive bars: Hanks and Smith's Union Bar. Smith's opened in 1930 and is reputed to be the oldest bar in Hawaii with an entrance sign that captions "Official watering hole of the USS Arizona." My humble claim to fame was that I walked from Waikiki to Chinatown and back! I walked Kalakaua Ave to Ala Moana Blvd to River Street and returned from Chinatown by following King Street to Kapiolani Blvd to Kalakaua Ave. Apart from Uber or Lift, an easy way to get to Chinatown from Waikiki is to take Bus #2 or #13 heading west; catch either of these buses on Kuhio Ave at Royal Hawaiian Ave. To get back to Waikiki from Chinatown, take Bus #2 or #13 on King Street heading east.

**Diamond Head Crater** hike is definitely worth the one-hour walk up. Great picture taking opps. You have to make a reservation to get into the park but it's not a problem when off the peak of the high season.

**Diamond Head Tennis Center** has ten hard courts that are free of charge.

**Duke's** restaurant and bar at the Outrigger Waikiki is busy all day long. It opens at 7am for breakfast and is packed during happy hour. Duke's bar is arguably the most famous bar in the Hawaiian Islands. It's worth stopping by just to see all the pics on the bar walls of Duke Kahanamoku and the early days of surfing. Note that the Hula Grill upstairs at the Outrigger Waikiki also has a bar.

**Duke's Marketplace** presents a more laid-back, souvenir-focused shopping experience. Duke's is a throw-back to the original International Market Place, once known for its signature narrow walkthroughs and the open-air, vendor kiosk atmosphere. In 2013, the new International Market Place opened as a multi-level mall dotted with high-end shops.

**Earls Waikiki** is renowned for its upscale casual menu and beautifully decorated interior. Its highly recommended dishes include the savory wagyu beef oshi press, sticky Korea ribs, and the flavorful spicy Calabrian pasta. Happy Hour at the bar is 3–5pm. The restaurant sits adjacent to the Beachcomber Hotel on Kalakaua Ave; watch for the escalator leading up.

**Eggs and Things** has two Waikiki locations: one at 343 Saratoga Rd and the other at 2464 Kalakaua Ave, just down from Duke's Statue. They open at 6am and there is always a lineup but it moves.

**Food courts** are becoming more popular with offerings of inexpensive eats. The Ala Moana Food Court is the biggest food court in the area. The Royal Hawaiian Center has two food courts—one is the Waikiki Food Hall (building C, level 3) and the other is the Pa'ina Lanai Food Court (building B, level 2). Stix Asian Food Hall is located on the corner of Kalakaua Ave and Seaside Ave. Walk to the back of this food hall and you'll find Noodle Street, which specializes in “all things noodle.” The Kuhio Avenue Food Hall (2330 Kalakaua Ave) is located at the entrance of the International Market Place. The Waikiki Market (2380 Kuhio Ave) is a classy grocery store that sells sushi and other ready-to-eat options, while providing seating and validated parking to boot.

**Harley-Davidson** merchandise can be purchased from any of several Oahu locations including the Royal Hawaiian Center and International Marketplace. Expect to find a full-range of paraphernalia in celebration of “Harley meets Hawaii”—tee-shirts, riding apparel, accessories, and collectibles.

**Maguro Bros** serves up poke bowls, sashimi bowls, and platters. This well-trodden local spot is for take-aways and in-mall table eating. The food is Japanese restaurant caliber at half the price. Enter at Kalakaua and Royal Hawaiian Ave on the opposite side of Waikiki Plaza from Stix noodle market.

**Hard Rock Café** is located on Beach Walk Road. It is worth stopping by even if just to take a pic of the innumerable guitars streaming from the ceiling.

**Hawaii Polo Club** is situated on the west coast of Oahu in Waialua. The club is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2024. The polo season in Hawaii runs from Easter through Labor Day. Adjacent the polo club is the Hawaii Polo Oceanfront Trail Rides where you can rent a horse and/or guide and follow trails that include riding on Mokuleia beach. Call 808-220-5153.

**Hideout** located at 2299 Kuhio at the Laylow Hotel has some of the best happy hour food on the island complete with live music, tiki torches, and fire pits. Two of their favorite apps are crispy pork belly and brussel sprouts. Otherwise, share Kauai shrimp dumplings and tacos or even the seared ahi sandwich and sweet chili crab dumplings.

**House with No Key** is the hotel beach bar located within the Halekulani Hotel. Halekulani means “house of heaven” or more poetically “house befitted for heaven.” This renowned beach bar, an oasis within Waikiki, is blessed with an intoxicating vibe. It hosts two well-known, fine-dining venues: Orchids (Sunday brunch) and La Mer (French cuisine).

**Ilikai Hotel** represents the end of the “strip.” Most people view the Waikiki strip as starting at Kapahulu Ave (before the start of Kapi’olani Park) and ending at Ala Moana Blvd (before you make the bend in the road and head to the Ala Moana Shopping Center). In terms of hotels, the Moana Surfrider is the start of the strip and the Ilikai Hotel is the end the strip. Others believe that the strip ends just before the Ilikai, at the Royal Hawaiian Village, because that’s where the beach ends. After all, the Ilikai has no beachfront and instead faces the Ala Wai (Boat) Harbor. In any event, there is something that makes these two hotels famous in their own right. The Ilikai Hotel is featured in the opening credits of both the new and old Hawaii Five-O TV series. The Hilton Hawaiian Village, with 3,386 rooms, is by far the biggest hotel in the Hawaiian Islands.

**Ka’ena State Park** offers enthusiasts a 6-mile hike that will take you to the westernmost point of Oahu. This state park provides a sanctuary for monk seals and albatrosses (large birds that look like seagulls). Expect to also see lots of whale sightings off the coast.

**Kailua** is a popular town on the east coast of Oahu. A few stops worth indulging include OverEasy, which is a great breakfast place also known for its pastries (closes at 2pm); Buzz’s Steakhouse is an independent pub and restaurant celebrating its 62<sup>nd</sup> year and famous for its steaks and burgers; and the Kalapawai Market has a full arsenal of deli and hot sandwiches.

**Ko Olina** is the resort oasis on the southwest corner of Oahu. It was birthed when developers created four sandy lagoons and an oceanfront promenade to front the likes of the Four Seasons, Aulani Disney Resort, and the Marriott Beach Club. Backdropping these hotels is the famous Ko Olina Golf Course, which in turn envelops two gated communities. The open-air Coffee Bar at the Four Seasons—overlooking its main swimming pool and closest lagoon, with ocean break in the distance and swaying palm trees—is picture-taking nirvana. It’s hard to imagine a more spectacular view from any coffee shop in the Hawaiian Islands.

**MaiTai Bar** at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel is a must stop. Many places claim to have the best Maitais but few name their main bar after the MaiTai. I thought their

MaiTais were the best but as the saying goes “The best MaiTai is your next MaiTai!”

**Maitai Catamaran** offers 90-minute sails four times a day with the Sunset Sail being the most popular. Outings cost \$75 but include all drinks; it departs right beside the Sheraton Waikiki. See [MaiTaiCatamaran.net](http://MaiTaiCatamaran.net).

**Marukame Udon** is located at 2310 Kuhio Ave and always has a queue, but it moves quickly. I tried the Curry Nikutama soup and the Chicken Tempura but I'd like to try the clearer soups next time. It is cafeteria style with photos of dishes so you can just point to what you want.

**Maui Brewing Company** located at the corner of Duke's Lane and Kalakaua Ave has the biggest physical bar I've ever sat at. It's a worthwhile stop for the inspired beer drinker. Happy Hour comes early from 3:30–4:30pm M–F.

**Melin hats** can be found within the Royal Hawaiian Center next to the popular skateboard brand Stussy. This shop sells only branded baseball caps with the offer of an exceptional hat-wearing experience. It's worth noting that the Royal Hawaiian Hotel sells its hats branded with the Melin logo. The company, headquartered in California, has quickly gained an international following. Its name is pronounced “muh-lin” and not “mee-lin.”

**Moana Surfrider** was the first hotel on Waikiki Beach and charged \$1.50 a day when it opened in 1901. It was originally called the Moana Hotel. The first beach hotel to open in the Waikiki area was actually the Sans Souci Hotel in 1884. That hotel is gone but sits on the same land that the New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel now occupies. Sans Souci Beach (French for “without a care”) was renamed Kaimana Beach. Robert Louis Stevenson stayed at the hotel for five weeks, and the ancient hau trees (pronounced “how”) that he sat under and wrote about are still alive and well, now providing shade for hotel patrons seated at the outdoor Hau Tree Lanai restaurant.

**Newt at the Royal** is a famous boutique nested in the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and known for its high-end, authentic Panama hats as well as classic retro Hawaiian print shirts. Hat prices range from \$200 to \$15,000 depending on style and weave. The walls of the shop are splattered with polaroid pictures of star patrons including Pierce Brosnan and Patti LaBelle. Another shop selling fine, handwoven Panama hats is Carludovica on Lewers Street just across from the Yard House restaurant.

**Pa'ia Fish Market** boasts easy-to-order meals at reasonable prices. After placing your order at the front counter, choose a seat and they'll drop the food off at your table. Per their menu, the tasty fish offerings include Mahi Mahi (flaky, white, mild), Ono (firm, white, mild), Snapper (delicate, mild, moist), Ahi aka “Tuna” (steaky, red), Salmon (tender, strong in flavor, moist), and Opah (tender, pink,

moist). The kitchen honors four cooking methods: charbroiled, sauteed, Cajun style, and blackened. Located at 2299 Kuhio Ave, right under that Laylow Hotel.

**Fyre by Night** nightclub is located in the International Marketplace. Live DJs play every Wednesday through Saturday (10pm–2am). Technically speaking, Fyre by Night is the name of the nightclub that operates within the ShoreFyre Fresh Grill & Bar Restaurant.

**SingMatei Curry Laksa** is a food stall in the Ala Moana Food Court that specializes in Malaysian curry. One of its notable offerings is Laksa Soup.

**Sky Bar Waikiki** is perched on the 19th floor of the Waikiki Business Plaza (2270 Kalakaua Ave) and has a wrap-around rooftop deck features stunning panoramic views of Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head. The nightclub is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 9pm to 2am.

**Straits** is located in Ward Entertainment Plaza (1044 Auahi St). This family-run restaurant can be described as “where Earls meets Singapore.” They specialize in a fusion of Malaysian, Indonesian, Chinese, Indian, and Nonya cuisines. Mee Goreng (“mee”=noodles vs “nasi”=rice) is touted as their signature dish.

**The Cheesecake Factory** with its distinctive golden décor, marks the main entrance to the iconic Royal Hawaiian Centre. The Waikiki location is one of the company's busiest in the world. Although known for their signature cheesecakes, the “factory” packs a massive menu. For main entrees, the Chicken Madeira is frequently cited as a top choice, consisting of sautéed chicken breasts topped with asparagus, mozzarella cheese, and a rich, creamy mushroom Madeira wine sauce.

**Tikis Meeting Spot** is a great stop to sample an impressive variety of reasonably priced drinks. They have a stash of international beers, sake and shochu, and the usual suspects of umbrella cocktails and mocktails. Look for their tiki-decorated entrance on the corner of Kuhio and Nohonani across from Dukes Market.

**Tim Ho Wan** is a wonderful place to have Chinese dim sum and a pot of tea. Their easy-to-order menu has pictures of everything including blanched Chinese broccoli (gailan), steamed rice rolls with seafood, braised chicken feet, and sweet coconut pudding. Avoid Sundays unless you can arrive when they open at 11am. Located at the Royal Hawaiian Center (building B, level 3). Special discounts M-F from 2-6pm.

**Tommy Bahamas** is found next to the Hard Rock Café on Beach Walk Road. It has a signature rooftop bar. Happy hour is 2-5pm and popular appys include blackened fish tacos and various sliders.

**Tourist Center** is a great place to pick up maps and other printed information. It is formally known as The Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau

([www.gohawaii.com](http://www.gohawaii.com)) and is located in the Waikiki Business Plaza (2270 Kalakaua Ave, Suite 801).

**Turtle Bay Resort** is perched at the northern tip of Oahu. An hour spent on the hotel beach is a good way to break up a road trip to the North Shore. Stroll through the hotel lobby to spy some interesting photographs as well as indigenous Hawaiian exhibits.

**Uluniu Avenue**, pronounced “oo-loo-nee-oo,” is home to several “cheap” eateries offering casual sit down and takeout food options. Uluniu Avenue connects Kalakaua (very near Duke's Statue) to Kuhio Ave. Maguro Spot (on the corner of Kuhio and Uluniu) specializes in poke bowls. K Street Food serves popular Korean food including Kalbi plates, spicy pork, bibimbap, tteokbokki, gimbap, and fried dumplings. Me's BBQ and Me's Bar-B-Que both offer Korean-Hawaiian plate lunches, ideal for takeout. Shorefyre Beach Bar at the corner of Koa Ave and Uluniu Ave is a small, full-service restaurant with a tiki ambiance.

**Waikiki Trolleys** provide transportation services to most of the major sightseeing spots across Honolulu and the East Coast of Oahu. To download a pdf of the routes <https://waikikitrolley.com>. Buses depart from Royal Hawaiian Ave near the corner of Kalakaua Ave. Tickets can be bought at the roadside kiosk or the dedicated booth inside the Waikiki Shopping Plaza (2250 Kalakaua Ave, Tel (808) 465-5543). Tickets can be purchased for the pink, red, blue, green, and purple trolleys which go to the many attractions including the Punchbowl Crater, Diamond Head hike, Aquarium, Sealife Park, and the Honolulu Zoo. The Pink Bus is a double decker bus that connects Waikiki with the Ala Moana shopping center. Tickets cost \$5.50 for the one-hour, circular trip, but remain valid all day. The Red Bus provides a great tour of Honolulu including the Punchbowl cemetery. The Blue Bus follows the east side of the island and goes to Waimanalo beach and Lanikai beach.

**White Sands Hotel** has two unique hotel bars. One is the Heyday bamboo bar which has swing seating and the other is the Green Lady Cocktail Room (opens 8pm) that doubles as a speak easy for inventive mixology. The Waikiki White Sands Hotel (431 Nohonani St) is just north of the Honolulu Tavern (417 Nohonani St), a very popular local bar with cheap drink prices. The wood sign hanging behind the bar counter says “A Waikiki Talk Story Bar.” Beers are \$5 and tacos on Taco Tuesdays are \$1.25.

**Yard House** is anchored on Lewers Street and doubles as a sports bar. They serve 3ft tall beers (32 ounces) which make for instagrammable photo opps.

**Yummy Korean B-B-Q** is located at the Ala Moana Food Court and is my favorite Korean street food and great for an afternoon snack or early dinner. “Kal B” beef (“kalbi”=braised beef in fermented soy sauce) with rice and vegetables is their go-to dish.

Regarding touring in Oahu, Peter Stern wrote: “You should rent a jeep and drive around the island start westward go to Hanauma Bay snorkeling it's amazing you need a reservation, stop at sandy beach world's most dangerous shore break then head to Waimanalo beach park the nicest beach on the island it's 10 miles long and secluded great place to spend a day then as you're heading to the north shore stop at Giovanni's Shrimp Shack for lunch it's iconic go towards Haleiwa and the north shore it's the coolest surf town and culture, watch surfers at Waimea and pipeline the winter swell is happening and the waves are massive.”

Regarding dining in Waikiki and Honolulu, Eric Miller wrote: “The Hideout, great casual night, can walk back through Waikiki from it, great appies – fire tables for larger seating – local's hangout – music); Nico's at Pier 38 – fresh fish and great poke in a harbour setting – live music; Morimoto's \$\$\$\$ (Iron Chef – got to have the sticky ribs (2 orders)!; Panya (in Ward Village area) – massive menu – asian ‘tilt’ – very good); Moku Kitchen (Salt district – funky area – good patio and good bar – many restaurants); The Hau Tree (great breakfast/brunch on the beach; Merrimans – in the base of Anaha condo tower – very good happy hour menu – good menu/highly rated (they own the MonkeyPod chain) – reasonable prices for very good food; Ritz Carlton Restaurant – good menu and nice outdoor patio atmosphere – on 9th floor I think – great view – perfect for a liquid lunch 😊\$\$\$; Halekulani Hotel – Orchids Restaurant \$\$\$ – definitely a winner – great menu and outdoor atmosphere – after head to Lewers Lounge – the place to go for after dinner drinks!”

**Archive of future places to visit:** Barefoot Beach Café (2699 Kalakaua Ave), Bishop Museum (1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu), Camado Ramen Tavern (320 Lewers St), Ethel's Grill (232 Kalihi St), Fête (2 N Hotel St), Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden, Kahala Beach Hotel & Resort (5000 Kahala Ave), Lulu's (2586 Kalakaua Ave), Makapu'u Point (hike to lighthouse marking the easternmost point of Oahu), Manoa Falls Trail (2 hour hike), Rainbow Drive-in (3308 Kanaina Ave), Rangoon Burmese Kitchen (1131 Nu'uana Ave), Tonkatsu Ginza Bairin (255 Beach Walk), Wasabi Bistro (located inside The Breakers Hotel, 250 Beach Walk).