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Honolulu’s to-do list is bigger than the size of some smaller Hawaiian Islands. Last updated: July 7, 2025 Honolulu travel guide: Incredible things to do in in Honolulu Why Honolulu? I avoided Honolulu. The largest city on Oahu and the capital of Hawaii, it appeared too crowded, too urban, and too industrial for me. Travelers from all continents rave about Honolulu’s Ala Moana Center, the world’s largest open-air shopping center. Sandy beaches of Waikiki, a famous oceanfront neighborhood of the Hawaiian capital, have gathered surfers and every ocean worshiper for decades. Thousands of books are devoted to people, history, and iconic sites of Honolulu. And yet I felt that unfathomed resistance to the city. Everyday matters, such as limited parking spaces and high prices on parking everywhere inside the urban area, further fostered my hesitancy. A non-city traveler would recognize this feeling. So I gave in to it. My Oahu itinerary deliberately kept sightseeings in Honolulu to a minimum. Until we arrived in Oahu… As fate would have it, we stayed in Honolulu longer, explored more sites, and ultimately saw more of the city than we had initially expected. From the bustling Waikiki area to deserted downtown Honolulu after the lunch rush and jungle hikes right on the outskirts of the city, Honolulu had everything one could possibly hope to find and much more. Is Honolulu a Good Place to Visit for Everyone? Yes and no. With all its vibrancy and conveniences, beautiful beaches for all tastes and preferences, Honolulu is still a big city. Roughly 400,000 people reside in Honolulu. Millions of travelers visit the city yearly. This certainly has its own appeal for city lovers. On the other end of the spectrum, however, and despite the almost non-existing border between all man-made and natural, Honolulu may feel too crowded for nature seekers. But even those travelers that long for quieter experiences – yours truly included – can’t not fall in love with Honolulu at night when the descending sun colors the sky in all shades of red and hundreds of city lights illuminate the now less hectic, but never empty streets. Duke Kahanamoku Statue in Waikiki | Things not to miss in Honolulu THE BEST THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO VISIT IN HONOLULU A place where the ocean and sun come together to create a beach paradise, Waikiki is a dream destination for a memorable oceanfront vacation. The bustling neighborhood harbors some of Honolulu’s most prestigious hotels. Trendy restaurants, boutiques, and gift shops galore congregate right across the road from the sandy shoreline to please the crowds that are hardly ever an absent sight in Waikiki. The popularity of the neighborhood is explicative. The consistent summer surf of the south shore of Honolulu paired with turquoise water and warm ocean have allured beachgoers and surfers for decades. Some of Hawaii’s most prominent ocean men and women have used these ideal conditions to master their skills. Even the father of modern surfing, Duke David Kahanamoku, spent many days soaking up the warmth and beauty of this part of Honolulu. Waikiki | Best things to do in Honolulu Honolulu hasn’t forgotten its surfing hero and immortalized the legacy of its first aquaman in a bronze, nine-foot statue on Kuhio Beach. One of the favorite beaches in Waikiki, this beautiful stretch of land is all you can picture when imagining a summer vacation in Hawaii. A white sandy beach. Warm waves with enough swells to appease beginner and professional surfers. Shops and restaurants just across the road from the beach. Two times a week, Kuhio Beach transforms into a free, open-door arena for hula performances. Listening to the ocean music that merges with the chirpy tones of ukulele and watching hula dancers telling Hawaiian stories through their smooth movements is the ideal way to end day excursions in Honolulu. Kuhio Beach | Places and things not to miss in Honolulu Free hula as well as great shopping and excellent dining options are the specialties of the Ala Moana Center. The largest shopping center in Honolulu, the place is conveniently located just minutes away from the bustling Waikiki. The Ala Moana Center amasses more than 350 shops and restaurants and is considered one of the social hubs of the city. Similar experiences and plenty of shopping options await visitors at the International Market Place. One of the top shopping and entertaining centers in Honolulu, the open-air mall is located in Waikiki. Three times a week, it expands its agenda and delights Oahu’s locals and guests with hula shows that take place in Queen’s Court. Downtown Honolulu can be a busy business center in the morning and in the afternoon when office workers flood the streets to grab a cup of coffee or lunch. It slows down significantly between these hours and until the early evening when a new wave of shoppers and diners look for the best places to eat and go on a shopping spree. We visited downtown Honolulu during those slow hours. Compared to the bustling Waikiki area, the historic center looked deserted. Even parking wasn’t that much of an issue. TIP: You still have to look for paid parking as finding a free parking area in Honolulu is a mission almost impossible. Downtown Honolulu With no crowds in sight, it was a perfect time to walk around and explore some of the landmarks of downtown Honolulu. It would be appropriate to say that this is how we stumbled upon Native Books. In reality, however, the bookstore was the main reason we immersed ourselves in the concrete jungle of Oahu. One of the largest sellers of Hawaiian and Pacific literature, the store offers a great collection of adult and children’s paperbacks and hardcovers about Hawaii, its history, culture, and fictions written by Hawaiian authors or those that know the islands like their own backyard. We spent nearly an hour in a small room filled with works of different genres and left with a full bag of books, mostly children’s reads. One of those treasures Dylan perused right away while walking to the next place in downtown Honolulu we highly recommend. Books shopping in downtown Honolulu After a few days of eating out and trying new cuisines, we returned to our regular travel essentials, Mexican or Indian food. Born and raised in Nepal, Roshan finds dishes from these cuisines the most satisfying to his taste buds. Dylan also claims that one of his favorite foods is samosa, a popular dish in both Indian and Nepali cuisine. So the choice was apparent. Kamana Kitchen was our impromptu discovery in downtown Honolulu. With still some customers dining in and others grabbing food to go, even during this slow hour the place lived up to our expectations. Dylan had his favorite samosas and devoured rice with veggie curry like he’d never eaten anything like this before. Leftovers served as our dinner and early breakfast the next day before we boarded a plane to the Big Island of Hawaii. Honolulu from above looks even more spectacular. Don’t start calculating your budget to see if you can afford that famous Honolulu – Oahu helicopter ride. These certainly offer excellent opportunities to see the island, including some of the places inaccessible by road. Yet they come with a fixed schedule and a hefty price tag. As an alternative and a rather informal way of admiring Honolulu from a bird’s eye view, drive to Puu Ualakaa State Park (early in the morning is the best time as there is nobody around) or the Nu’uanu Pali Lookout. Both places showcase the city and its surroundings in their full glory. Nu’uanu Pali Lookout | Honolulu travel guide The most significant wartime landmark of Honolulu, Pearl Harbor changed the course of the modern history of the U.S. The place took the first blow when Japanese fighter aircraft attacked Hawaii in December 1941, killing more than 1,000 people. Today, Pearl Harbor National Memorial commemorates soldiers and civilians that died on that fateful day that marks the official entry of the U.S. into World War II. Pearl Harbor | Places not to miss in Honolulu Short even for the island’s standards, H-3 Freeway transports you from the urban jungle of Honolulu to a dense rainforest. The route runs through the Ko’olau Mountains, presenting the sights you won’t see anywhere else on Oahu. On a day when grey clouds don’t hang heavily above the Honolulu area, you can even spot the infamous Stairs to Heaven trail. TIP: Since you’ve exited Honolulu, continue on until you reach the Byodo-In Temple. Dedicated in 1968 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants in Hawaii, the place is one of the most elusive cultural and religious landmarks on the South Shore of Oahu. Byodo-In Temple | Things to do in Honolulu We didn’t know what to make of Diamond Head State Monument. Iconic in both its origin and the views it bestowed on hikers that dare to conquer a short, but steep incline to the summit, this extinct volcano is one of the most crowded places in the Honolulu area. Intrigued by its role in shaping the island, we decided to hike the Diamond Head Crater Summit Trail after all. Oahu, however, had different plans for us. Not only Diamond Head State Monument was packed – and so was the overflow parking – a prior reservation was required before entering the area. We didn’t have it. I felt relieved to some extent at that point. After endless crowds in Waikiki and other popular neighborhoods of Honolulu, my soul craved a more serene experience. The view of Honolulu from Diamond Head That opportunity presented itself along the Koko Crater Stairs. Less popular than Diamond Head State Monument, the Koko Head Trail is challenging and rewarding at the same time. A former railroad track, it runs up the face of the extinct volcano until it reaches its summit. The trail is approximately 0.8 mile long, one way. At the top of the crater, you can see the entire Honolulu area, Aina Haina, and most of the South Shore of Oahu, including the iconic Diamond Head and picturesque Hanauma Bay. Koko Crater Stairs | Places not to miss in Honolulu You can’t find a better snorkeling place in the entire Honolulu area than Hanauma Bay. The picturesque cove is nestled along Kalanianaole Highway, about 10 miles east of Waikiki. It’s famous for its unique underwater world that includes numerous species of fish, color reefs, and Hawaiian green sea turtles. TIP: Similar to Diamond Head, Hanauma Bay requires a reservation. At least in this case, you can get a walk-in ticket upon arrival at the staffed entrance. (A reservation, however, is recommended.) Make sure to be one of the early birds to use this opportunity. Otherwise, grab a book and prepare to wait for a spot to open up before you’ll be allowed to enter the Hanauma Bay area. Hanauma Bay | Honolulu travel guide Another Honolulu’s gem sits less than 2 miles northeast of Hanauma Bay. Halona Blowhole is a quick stop inspired by colossal “geyser’s” eruptions aka jets of water that, once escaped from an underwater cave, can shoot up to 30 feet in the air. Manoa Falls is hands down one of the most popular natural attractions in the Honolulu area. The 150-foot waterfall sits at the end of the Manoa Falls Trails that itself looks like a site taken straight from a jungle book. Steven Spielberg recognized this remarkable similarity as well. In the 1990s, the Hollywood director used the Manoa Falls area as a shooting location for his blockbuster sequel Jurassic Park. Halona Blowhole | Things not to miss in Honolulu Things to DoBest Time To VisitBeachMost Loved PlacesFoodie HotspotsMemorable ExperiencesSand Island, a unique recreational park, offers a blend of industrial and natural beauty, with stunning views of Honolulu Harbour.Manana Island, also known as Rabbit Island, is a state seabird sanctuary. With a warm climate averaging 26℃, it's a haven for nature lovers.Magic Island is a man-made peninsula offering stunning views of the ocean and Diamond Head, perfect for a relaxing day out.Ko Olina, a luxury resort area, is known for its beautiful lagoons, golf courses, and high-end dining options.Kailua Beach, with its mesmerising turquoise waters and fine white sand, is a paradise for water sports enthusiasts and sun-seekers alike.Named after the legendary surfer Duke Kahanamoku, this beach is a tranquil spot away from the bustling city.Goat Island, a small offshore island in Laie Bay, offers secluded beaches and tide pools. The temperature averages 26℃, ideal for beach activities.Fort DeRussy Beach Park combines history and beach fun. The temperature hovers around 27℃, making it a year-round destination.Bird Island, a small islet off Oahu's windward coast, is a bird sanctuary. The temperature averages around 26℃, perfect for outdoor exploration.AV Restaurant is a high-end dining spot in Honolulu, offering a unique blend of local and international flavours.What To Expect:Warm weather, vibrant atmosphere, and a surge of tourists.Things You'll Love:Perfect for beach activities and exploring the city's attractions.Honolulu FestivalMarchKing Kamehameha CelebrationJuneAloha FestivalsSeptemberBEACHHONEYMOONROMANTICWEEKENDINTERNATIONALMOUNTAINHonolulu, the capital of Hawaii, beckons with its sun-kissed beaches, lush landscapes, and rich cultural heritage. From the iconic Waikiki Beach to the solemn Pearl Harbor National Memorial, Honolulu offers a myriad of experiences that promise to captivate visitors from near and far.CountryHawaiiTourist Places in HonoluluManoa Falls, Honolulu Zoo, Koko Crater Railway Trailhead, Hanauma Bay, WaikikiBest Time to Visit HonoluluDecember to AprilRestaurants in HonoluluThuong An Lac Vietnamese Vegan Restaurant, Earth Aloha Eats, Olena Cafe, Umeke Market, FeteHonolulu is famous forBeach, Foodie HotspotsBest Time to Visit HonoluluHonolulu enjoys warm weather year-round, making it an inviting destination at any time. However, the best time to visit is during the dry season, from April to October, when the weather is sunny and rainfall is minimal. This period offers ideal conditions for outdoor activities and beach adventures. For those seeking to avoid crowds, consider visiting in the shoulder months of April and May or September and October.How to Reach HonoluluHonolulu is served by Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, which connects the city to major destinations worldwide. Once in Honolulu, getting around is easy with an extensive public transportation network, including buses and trolleys, as well as rideshare services and rental cars.What are the Things to See and Do in HonoluluHonolulu boasts a wealth of attractions and activities to suit every traveller's interests.Places to Visit in HonoluluWaikiki Beach:Relax on the golden sands of Waikiki Beach, one of the most famous beaches in the world, known for its stunning sunsets and vibrant atmosphere.Diamond Head:Hike to the summit of Diamond Head Crater for panoramic views of Honolulu and the Pacific Ocean.Pearl Harbor National Memorial:Pay tribute to the lives lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor at this historic site, which includes the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri Battleship.Iolani Palace:Explore the only royal palace in the United States and learn about Hawaii's monarchy and cultural heritage.Honolulu Zoo:Encounter exotic wildlife from around the world at the Honolulu Zoo, located in the heart of Waikiki.Manoa Falls:Embark on a scenic hike through lush rainforest to reach the picturesque Manoa Falls, a stunning 150-foot waterfall.Sea Life Park:Dive into the underwater world at Sea Life Park, where you can swim with dolphins, interact with sea lions, and marvel at marine life exhibits.Restaurants in HonoluluIndulge in Honolulu's culinary delights at these top restaurants:Olena Café:Indulge in wholesome and flavorful Hawaiian cuisine at Olena Café, known for its farm-to-table dishes and laid-back ambiance.Umeke Market:Savor fresh and healthy fare at Umeke Market, a popular spot for smoothie bowls, poke bowls, and vegan delights.Fete:Treat your taste buds to innovative Hawaiian-inspired cuisine at Fete, where locally sourced ingredients take center stage.Senia:Experience culinary excellence at Senia, a contemporary restaurant offering a sophisticated menu of globally inspired dishes.Blondie’s Vegan:Enjoy plant-based delights at Blondie’s Vegan, where you'll find an array of vegan burgers, tacos, and desserts.Bar 35:Unwind with craft cocktails and gourmet pizzas at Bar 35, a bustling bar and eatery in downtown Honolulu.RumFire:Sip tropical cocktails and sample fresh seafood at RumFire, a beachfront restaurant with panoramic ocean views.Lewers Lounge:Relax with live music and handcrafted cocktails at Lewers Lounge, an elegant bar nestled within the iconic Halekulani hotel.Food to Try in HonoluluDon't miss the opportunity to indulge in local Hawaiian delicacies, such as poke bowls, loco moco, and shave ice. Be sure to also sample international cuisines influenced by Honolulu's diverse culinary scene, including Japanese, Korean, and Pacific Rim flavors.Things to Do in HonoluluSoak up the Sun:Spend a day basking in the tropical sunshine at Waikiki Beach or explore the island's pristine shores on a scenic coastal drive.Discover Hawaiian Culture:Immerse yourself in the rich traditions of Hawaii with a visit to cultural sites like the Polynesian Cultural Center or a luau celebration.Explore Natural Wonders:Embark on a snorkelling adventure at Hanauma Bay, hike to hidden waterfalls in the lush Manoa Valley, or take a scenic drive along the Windward Coast.Shop for Souvenirs:Browse local markets and boutique shops for unique Hawaiian gifts, including handmade crafts, aloha shirts, and traditional leis.Experience Traditional Hawaiian Arts:Attend a hula performance, lei-making workshop, or ukulele lesson to learn more about Hawaii's vibrant arts and crafts.Enjoy Water Activities:Dive into an array of water sports, from surfing and paddleboarding to snorkelling and parasailing, in the crystal-clear waters of the Pacific Ocean.In conclusion, Honolulu invites you to embark on a tropical getaway filled with sun, surf, and aloha spirit. Whether you're lounging on the beach, exploring historic sites, or indulging in culinary delights, Honolulu promises an unforgettable experience that will leave you longing to return. Plan your Honolulu adventure today and discover the magic of Hawaii's capital city! In the peak season months December, January, February, March and April you will experience warm weather, vibrant atmosphere, and a surge of tourists wherein around moderate season i.e. July, August, September, October and November you will enjoy slightly cooler temperatures, fewer crowds, and more affordable prices. Whatever that suits your calendar, Honolulu awaits you for a good time. If you are a true traveller, you should definitely not miss out on Experience the Buzz of Waikiki, Breathtaking Waterfall Hike in Honolulu, and Challenging Hike with Stunning Views when you are in Honolulu to make a funfilled vacay. Ideally the best time to visit any place is considered when the weather conditions are delightful. For Honolulu, you can choose to go in December, January, February, March and April which is the peak season and July, August, September, October and November which is the moderate season. Both will serve you well to unwind from your tedious routine.Honolulu, the capital city of Hawaii, is famous for its stunning natural beauty, vibrant culture, and rich history. It's home to the iconic Waikiki Beach, where visitors can enjoy surfing, sunbathing, and water sports. The city also boasts historical landmarks such as the Pearl Harbor National Memorial and the Iolani Palace, the only royal palace in the United States.♀A week is generally a good amount of time to experience the main attractions, enjoy the beaches, and soak up the local culture.In terms of size, Honolulu is the largest city in Hawaii, covering an area of over 68 square miles. It's a bustling metropolis with a population of around 350,000 people. Despite its size, it maintains a laid-back island vibe that visitors find charming.Honolulu's nickname is The Crossroads of the Pacific, reflecting its strategic location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and its historical role as an important hub for trans-Pacific trade and travel.Best Places to Visit in HonoluluBest Restaurants in HonoluluTourist Places in HonoluluBeaches in HonoluluPattayaMandarmaniVarkalaPondicherryKovalamBaliGoaPort BlairDighaPhuketHavelock IslandLakshadweepAlibaugMaldivesKrabiUdupiLangkawiBentotaNeil IslandDwarkaBest Places to Visit in StockholmPlaces to Visit in WarsawPlaces to Visit in KochiPlaces to Visit in MuscatPlaces to Visit in MalvanPlaces to Visit in AmarkantakPlaces to Visit in PalakkadPlaces to Visit in NandedBest Places to Visit in KrakowPlaces to Visit in RatnagiriPlaces to Visit in ShimlaPlaces to Visit in Neil IslandPlaces to Visit in AucklandPlaces to Visit in HanoiPlaces to Visit in CherrapunjiPlaces to Visit in TashkentPlaces to Visit in AmmanPlaces to Visit in DindigulPlaces to Visit in GurgaonBest Places to Visit in PrayagrajBest time to visit Port BlairBest time to visit AlibaugBest time to visit PhuketBest time to visit GoaBest time to visit BentotaBest time to visit UdupiBest time to visit MandarmaniBest time to visit MaldivesBest time to visit PattayaBest time to visit BaliBest time to visit VarkalaBest time to visit LakshadweepBest time to visit DiuBest time to visit DwarkaBest time to visit PondicherryBest time to visit KrabiBest time to visit DighaBest time to visit Havelock IslandBest time to visit KovalamChar Dham YatraVisa Free Countries for IndiansBest Places for a Weekend TripAdventure Places for an Action Packed VacationBest Places to Visit Outside IndiaBest Honeymoon Places In IndiaTop 11 Romantic Places in India for CouplesPlaces to Visit in Summer In IndiaPlaces to Visit in IndiaHill Stations to Visit for a rejuvenating trip in Nature's LapHotels and Restaurants - Famous Places for the Foodie in You!Beaches in India to Experience Leisurely Beach LifeHill Stations In IndiaJyotirlingas in IndiaTop Peaceful & Relaxing Places in the WorldBest Places to Visit for Experiencing WildlifeNational Parks in IndiaHistorical places in IndiaReligious Places in IndiaTop 50 Museums in The WorldKoladBhimavaramMontrealChikhaldaraWellingtonThiruvananthapuramKausaniBusanBhimtalBagalkoteNaplesNahanKangraKoh SamuiKotagiriMedinaCologneOsloLachungKarnalHotels in HonoluluBudget hotels in Honolulu5 Star hotels in HonoluluResorts in HonoluluApart-hotels in HonoluluApartments in Honolulu4 Star hotels in Honolulu3 Star hotels in Honolulu2 Star hotels in HonoluluLuxury hotels in HonoluluBest Hotels in HonoluluMeghalayaUttar PradeshTamil NaduMaharashtraUttarakhandRajasthanManipurTripuraKashmirHaryanaKeralaHimachal PradeshGujaratNagalandArunachal PradeshAndamansWest BengalAssamKarnatakaSikkimUSA - United States of AmericaSouth AfricaSri LankaFranceKazakhstanMalaysiaIrelandIndonesiaSeychellesSouth KoreaGreeceCanadaChinaQatarUzbekistanNetherlandsSpainAustraliaIndiaRussiaPlaces to Visit in March In IndiaPlaces to Visit in September In IndiaPlaces to Visit in May In IndiaPlaces to Visit in January In IndiaPlaces to Visit in June In IndiaPlaces to Visit in April In IndiaPlaces to Visit in November In IndiaPlaces to Visit in August In IndiaPlaces to Visit in July In IndiaPlaces to Visit in October In IndiaPlaces to Visit in December In IndiaPlaces to Visit in February In IndiaPlaces to Visit in SpainPlaces to Visit in ItalyPlaces to Visit in EgyptPlaces to Visit in IrelandPlaces to Visit in GermanyPlaces to Visit in ChinaPlaces to Visit in MalaysiaPlaces to Visit in JapanPlaces to Visit in TurkeyPlaces to Visit in Saudi ArabiaPlaces to Visit in IndonesiaPlaces to Visit in SwitzerlandPlaces to Visit in NepalPlaces to Visit in AustriaPlaces to Visit in ThailandPlaces to Visit in IndiaPlaces to Visit in AustraliaPlaces to Visit in United StatesPlaces to Visit in BhutanPlaces to Visit in RussiaPlaces to Visit in KarnatakaPlaces to Visit in TelanganaPlaces to Visit in ManipurPlaces to Visit in TripuraPlaces to Visit in Andaman and NicobarPlaces to Visit in UttarakhandPlaces to Visit in Arunachal PradeshPlaces to Visit in RajasthanPlaces to Visit in GujaratPlaces to Visit in MeghalayaPlaces to Visit in OdishaPlaces to Visit in JharkhandPlaces to Visit in BiharPlaces to Visit in Himachal PradeshPlaces to Visit in Uttar PradeshPlaces to Visit in MizoramPlaces to Visit in NagalandPlaces to Visit in SikkimPlaces to Visit in Jammu and KashmirPlaces to Visit in MaharashtraHong KongSingaporeTokyoJeddahSapaCappadociaDubaiKuwaitAmsterdamGalwaySanta ClaraDurbanIstanbulBoholLausanneWellingtonZanzibarHanoiAbu DhabiTorontoInterlakenCorkAlexandriaAntwerpParoMilanPhiladelphiaLisbonBeijingSeoulValentines Day Gift VoucherBuy New Year GiftBirthday Gift VoucherGift VouchersBuy New Year Gift CardCorporate Gift CardBirthday GiftFarewell GiftBest Christmas GiftBuy Anniversary GiftDwarka Weather in JulyAlibaug Weather in JulyUdupi Weather in JulyBali Weather in JulyPondicherry Weather in JulyGoa Weather in JulyDiu Weather in JulyLakshadweep Weather in JulyMaldives Weather in JulyPhuket Weather in July7 Hill Getaways in Uttarakhand6 Best Places to Visit in Nagaland for Cultural Travel6 Buddhist Destinations Outside India8 Popular Fort Towns That Offer Great Weekend BreaksShort Getaways from Delhi After the Rain10 Hidden Beaches in Thailand for Your Next TripCoastal Towns in Indonesia for a Calm Getaway7 Quiet Destinations in MeghalayaTop 6 Underrated Lakeside Destinations in India6 Must-Visit National Parks in Central India7 Scenic Road Trips from ChennaiSmall Cities in Europe With Rich Architecture7 Places of Worship in the HillsHistoric Places in Madhya Pradesh for a Short TripCalm Travel Spots in Thailand with Fewer Tourists5 Scenic Trails in Cambodia7 Quiet Places in the North East for Nature LoversScenic Escapes in Northeast India’s HillsEasy Treks in Himachal with Great ViewsScenic Water Destinations Abroad Beyond the Usual5 Reasons Why You Must Visit Chikmagalur6 Offbeat Places in Sikkim to Explore in 20258 Travel Destinations in Northeast India That Deserve More EyesTop 8 Places to Visit for Health and Wellness Breaks in the HillsTop 6 Scenic Towns in Assam for a Nature-Filled Trip Hawaiian legend suggests that the earliest settlement of Honolulu was around 1100. By 1820, Honolulu flourished as a base for sandalwood traders and whalers. After going through periods of Russian, British, and French rule, it was returned to King Kamehameha III, who officially declared Honolulu a city and the capital of Oahu in1850. Famously, in December of 1941, the city and the Pearl Harbor naval-military complex were attacked aerially by the Japanese. Following the events of Pearl Harbor, Honolulu became one of the prime staging areas of World War II. Today as the state capital of Hawaii, Honolulu, is one of the safest cities in the U.S., with features and characteristics that make it incredibly unique. It’s home to America’s only royal palace and is known for its lush green landscape, diverse population, and aloha community spirit. You won’t find Honolulu lacking things to do with many notable historical sites, luxurious resorts, art museums, and fantastic dining experiences. The best time to visit Honolulu is from mid-April to early June or between September and mid-December. During these shoulder seasons, visitors will find that attractions are less crowded, there are plenty of fun festivals, and airfare and room rates are at their lowest. The best time to visit Honolulu is from mid-April to early June or between September and mid-December. During these shoulder seasons, visitors will find that attractions are less crowded, there are plenty of fun festivals, and airfare and room rates are at their lowest. December – April December through April is peak season for surfers in Honolulu. Thanks to its incredible wave swells and highly regarded surf competitions. This time of year includes can’t-miss winter events like the Volcom Pipe Pro and Da Hui Pipeline Warriors. These months are also a great time to spot humpback whales and daytime temperatures rarely stray from the low 80s. Keep in mind that rain showers are common during this time. Mid-April – June Between the end of surf season and the start of summer, you’ll find the sweet spot when fewer travelers come to the island, resulting in many hotels and airlines offering reduced rates. Popular tourist attractions in Honolulu are less crowded, and you may even catch a glimpse of humpback whales in April and May. Average temperatures hover in the high 60s to high 80s. Mid-June – August Mid-June you will find more travelers in Honolulu taking advantage of its superb tropical weather. Temperatures generally hover in the mid-70s to high 80s, and rain showers are highly unlikely. The phenomenal weather comes at a cost though, many hotels and airlines charge more in the summer. You’ll need to book accommodations and flights well in advance. September – November This shoulder season brings fewer travelers to Honolulu, meaning you’ll have more elbow room at all the most popular attractions such as Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head State Monument. Oahu hosts events centered around food, film, and Hawaiian heritage. Keep in mind that the chance of rain increases as the fall season progresses. In November the North Shore swells bring surfers for the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing competitions. December – April December through April is peak season for surfers in Honolulu. Thanks to its incredible wave swells and highly regarded surf competitions. This time of year includes can’t-miss winter events like the Volcom Pipe Pro and Da Hui Pipeline Warriors. These months are also a great time to spot humpback whales and daytime temperatures rarely stray from the low 80s. Keep in mind that rain showers are common during this time. Mid-April – June Between the end of surf season and the start of summer, you’ll find the sweet spot when fewer travelers come to the island, resulting in many hotels and airlines offering reduced rates. 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In November the North Shore swells bring surfers for the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing competitions. Honolulu’s ‘Iolani Palace was the official residence of Hawaii’s last two monarchs, King Kalākaua and his successor, Queen Lili’uokalani. The palace is a beautiful place to explore, thanks to the influence of European architectural styles. This royal residence includes Hawaii’s first electric light system, flush toilets, and telephones. The rich interior features beautifully ornate furniture, a koa staircase, dramatic portraits of Hawaiian royalty, and ornaments from around the world. You can take a guided or self-guided tour of the ‘Iolani Palace from Tuesday through Saturday. On the tour you’ll get to see the palace’s reception, dining room, and throne room. View the private living quarters of the royal family and listen to the tragic story of Lili’uokalani’s imprisonment in an upstairs bedroom following the overthrow. This is one of Honolulu’s most important historical places, and ‘Iolani Palace plays an integral part in understanding the history and culture of Hawaii. Located on the south shore of Honolulu is the world-famous Waikiki Beach. If you have always wanted to learn how to surf, the calm waters of Waikiki Beach are perfect for a surfing lesson. While here, visit the Duke Kahanamoku Statue, located right on the beach, as it has become an iconic symbol of Waikiki and the surf culture of the island. There are a variety of options when it comes to surfing lessons at Waikiki Beach. This group surf lesson in Waikiki is perfect for those looking to learn in groups of 4 or less. The Bishop Museum showcases a variety of cultural and natural history exhibits. It is one of the finest Polynesian anthropological museums in the world. Founded in 1889 to honor Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the museum was originally only housed Hawaiian and royal artifacts. However, these days The Bishops Museum honors all of Polynesia and is a can’t miss part of the cultural fabric of Honolulu. This is also home to one of Oahu’s best planetariums, which includes a fascinating look at traditional Polynesian methods of wayfaring (navigation). The iconic silhouette of Diamond Head State Monument sits along the Honolulu skyline and is one of Oahu’s most famous landmarks. The moderately challenging hiking trail includes two sets of stairs, totaling 175 steps, as well as military bunkers to explore. The gorgeous views that greet you once you reach the top are well worth the effort to get there. The monument is open daily from 6 am to 6 pm, excluding Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, with the last hike beginning at 4 pm. Admission for Diamond Head State Monument is $10 (USD) per vehicle and $5 (USD) per pedestrian entry. As of May 2022, reservations are required for out-of-state visitors to hike this trail. You can find out more at the Division of State Parks website. Diamond Head can be a bit intimidating, but no need to worry there are numerous Diamond Head hiking tours to choose from, including this self-guided Diamond Head Crater Tour. Located on the Honolulu Harbor and built in September of 1926, the Aloha Tower is one of the tallest buildings on the islands, and its clock is one of the largest in the United States. Today the tower has been transformed into a revitalized marketplace. It features Hawaii Pacific University student residences, event areas, gathering places, and a variety of phenomenal restaurants. Enjoy lunch with a beautiful ocean view, listen to live music at night, or explore unique shops. You can also visit the Observation Deck, which is located on the 10th floor of Aloha Tower. Or dance the night away at Nashville Waikiki, all with beautiful views of the harbor and the cityscape of Honolulu. Known around the world as a “date which will live in infamy,” the events of that day in December 1941 changed the course of history. Here in Honolulu, a surprise air attack by the Japanese plunged the United States into World War II and claimed the lives of thousands. Today, five historic sites honor the events that occurred at this National Historic Landmark. Visiting the Pearl Harbor National Monument is an important stop during your time on Oahu. Here, you will find the USS Arizona Memorial, USS Oklahoma Memorial, and USS Utah Memorial. You can also pay your respects at the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum. There are numerous guided tour options to choose from. This very popular half day tour of Pearl Harbor includes hotel pickup and drop off and a guide. This full day small group tour also includes visits to both the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri battleship. As Hawaii’s largest general fine arts museum, the Honolulu Fine Arts Museum features a permanent collection of more than 60,000 pieces. Here you can explore one of the finest collections of Asian art in the world, as well as impressive collections of European, Western, and Polynesian art. For a bit of a different museum experience, head to the Honolulu Museum of Art on a Friday or Saturday night for “HoMA Nights.” The museum is open until 9 pm and offers live music, drinks, and bites at the café. You can also partake in hands-on art experiences, see the latest exhibitions, or stargaze in the courtyards. Visitors love that the Makapu’u Point Lighthouse Trail is paved and features plenty of benches for resting and enjoying the view. The trail is perfect for travelers of all ages to explore. Known for its incredible views, you’ll want to bring your camera on this hike to the beautiful lighthouse. It takes at least two hours to complete the Makapu’u Point Lighthouse Trail. It’s important to note that this path is mainly exposed to the sun and wind. Make sure to wear sunscreen, dress appropriately, and pack plenty of water. The trail overlooks the Pacific Ocean and is a prime spot for spotting seabirds and whales between November and May. The path also leads to the picturesque Makapu’u Lighthouse, which was built in 1909. This Makapu’u Point Lighthouse Tour includes park fees and a shuttle to the trailhead. Hawaii is an incredible destination year round, as the warm temperatures and sunny beaches make the islands a fantastic place to discover. Keep reading for the best times to book your visit to this tropical paradise.Due to tropical rainfall, mountainous landscapes and lush vegetation, it’s easy for visitors to see dozens of Oahu waterfalls throughout the island. Check out our guide below for the best waterfalls in Oahu, Hawaii.With over 63 miles of accessible shoreline, the beaches of Kauai are known for their beautiful and dramatic landscapes. Whether searching for shells, snorkeling, or simply relaxing, Kauai has the perfect beach for you. Here is our guide to the best Kauai beaches.Hawaii’s Road to Hana is considered one of the best scenic drives in the United States. This 64-mile route on the island of Maui passes some of the most beautiful landscapes in Hawaii. Here is everything you need to know for your Road To Hana visit.One of the things that sets Kauai apart from the other Hawaiian Islands is its commitment to cultural heritage. Experiencing a Kauai luau is on of the best ways to make the most of your time here. Here is our guide to the best Kauai luaus!Oahu hikes offer something for everyone and every skill level. Whether you are looking for a laid back stroll or a difficult trek, you’ll find it on Oahu. If you have a sense of adventure and want to get out into nature, keep reading for our list of the best Oahu hikes.From the freshest seafood caught in local waters to rich and savory Hawaiian traditional dishes, Hawaii’s cuisine is a delightful fusion of flavors. Read on for the 10 best Hawaiian foods to try on your next visit.Kauai is the definition of paradise with its pristine beaches, lush green mountains, wild canyons, and tropical valleys of palms. This Hawaiian island truly has accommodations for every travel style. Here are the best Kauai hotels!Oahu’s Luau scene is quite diverse; whether you are looking for an amazingly lavish experience in Waikiki, or an authentic and intimate gathering, you will find it in Oahu. Keep reading for our guide to the best luaus on Oahu.You are sure to love the local Hawaiian cuisine that Honolulu has to offer, as well as some of the incredibly delicious influences from the East and West. Here is our guide to the best restaurants in Honolulu!Fresh ingredients, vivid colors, and global-inspired flavors define Kauai’s cuisine. Even though Kauai is one of the smaller Hawaiian Islands, there are many fantastic restaurants to try. Here is our guide to the best Kauai restaurants.With over 63 miles of accessible shoreline, the beaches of Kauai are known for their beautiful and dramatic landscapes. Whether searching for shells, snorkeling, or simply relaxing, Kauai has the perfect beach for you. Here is our guide to the best Kauai beaches. As the capital of Hawaii, Honolulu delivers on big-city vibes just steps from some of the best nature on the islands (in the world, really). Spend your city days in downtown Waikiki, with its blocks of shops and sky-high hotels, or head to the food haven of Kapahulu to snack on poke bowls and shaved ice. The beaches are always right there—ready for surfing, sunbathing, snorkeling, and swimming with sea turtles and dolphins. There’s also nearby waterfalls and volcanos to check out—from Diamond Head Crater to Waimea Falls. Don’t forget to carve out a day or two to get to know the island’s roots: Roam through the remnants of Hawaii’s monarchy at Iolani Palace and Washington Place, or learn about Hawaiian natural history and Polynesian culture at the Bishop Museum. You can find tickets, tips, and even more recs below.Pick a category to filter your recs$$ - $$$ • American, Seafood, Hawaiian$ • Bakeries, American, Fast Food$$ - $$$ • American, Seafood, Contemporary$ • Bakeries, American, Diner$ • Polynesian, Hawaiian, Gluten free optionsSunrise hikes, white-sand beaches, and incredible eatsRead onDowntown Honolulu’s modern Hawaiian cultureAlthough I’m a kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) from the kuaaina (country) on Hawaii Island, Downtown Honolulu is my zone. I love that it has so many local, small businesses in an urban setting (plus, it doesn’t hurt that this is where my wife and I met). Here are my go-to kanaka maoli-owned restaurants, bars, and shops where you can get a taste of modern Hawaiian culture.Daniel Ikaika Ito, Honolulu, HIAward-winning kanaka maoli mixologist Justin Park is the co-founder and co-owner of this upscale craft cocktail bar, which was recently awarded “most outstanding bar” by the James Beard Foundation. Make reservations to sit at the bar—watching these experts mix your drink is truly something to behold. Order the E Ho’o Pau Mai Tai (named world’s best mai tai a few years back) or the signature BLA Old Fashioned. The written word was first introduced here by the missionaries in 1820, and Native Hawaiians embraced reading and writing to the extent that the Hawaiian Kingdom boasted a 91% literacy rate by 1832. Native Books celebrates this tradition with its focus on carrying every book in print about any aspect of Hawaii.Named best chef for the Northwest and Pacific region, co-owner Robynne Maii is the first Native Hawaiian woman to win a James Beard Award. My go-to bougie business meal order: the smoked ono club with crispy potatoes and a Fête 75, a spin on a French 75 with elderflower liqueur and cucumber.Led by Native Hawaiian restaurateur Danny Kaaialiii, the

way to learn more about the city’s past. Visiting Pearl Harbor gives you a chance to explore a battleship and pay tribute to those who lost their lives during World War II. Walk aboard the USS Missouri. Reflect on the past while visiting the USS Arizona Memorial. While you’re in town, check out other historic sites, too, like the Punchbowl Cemetery.Take to the air for breathtaking views of Honolulu’s mountains! Enjoy a helicopter tour that takes you over the peaks of Mount Olomana, Diamond Head, and Nu’uanu Pali. Taking this route also means you’ll get to see other points of interest in the area from way up above — including Makeup’u Point’s lighthouse!iStockphoto.com / Jui-Chi ChanDo you prefer being as close to the water as possible for each beach access? Or would you rather stay in the downtown area and enjoy nightlife, dining, shopping and live entertainment? No matter what your preferences are in the Hawaiian islands, you can find accommodations that fit your needs! To give you an idea of what’s available, these are some of the best places to stay in Honolulu!Looking for a home away from home in Honolulu? ESPACIO offers luxury condos to stay in during your vacation! These oceanfront condos put you right by the beach and water, but you can also enjoy lounging in your condo, complete with its private lanai, full kitchen, hot tub and sauna! The building also has a rooftop pool, full bar — and much more!Trying to save money without having to give up comfort or amenities? The Courtyard offers a great location in the Waikiki area! You’ll be minutes from the beach and close to tons of restaurants and attractions! Enjoy some mini golf, get a massage and take advantage of the hotel’s many other amenities for a relaxing stay!Stay right across from Waikiki Beach in a hotel that’s part of the Green Key Eco-Rating Program! The Hyatt Regency makes it easy to dine and shop with two entire floors filled with restaurants and stores. Take in ocean views from a private balcony and unwind in an on-site hot tub after a long day of sightseeing!Admire hand-painted murals in this beautifully decorated hotel that’s close to the beach and many other area attractions. You’ll be conveniently near the International Marketplace, Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center and tons of other things to do! OUTRIGGER also has on-site restaurants, so you don’t have to go far for great dining experiences!Get plenty of fresh air and fun without the crowds at Waikiki Beach! The Kahala Hotel and Resort provides a bit more seclusion at Kahala Beach — along with easy access to golf and other activities at the neighboring country club. Enjoy staying near a dolphin lagoon with snorkeling and other water adventures during your stay!iStockphoto.com / MaridavYou’ll find plenty of dining establishments in Honolulu — from restaurants near the shores of Waikiki Beach to the heart of the downtown area. And you have even more options if you venture outside of town. Which AAA Diamond restaurants should you put on your to-do list while you’re here? We recommend the following as some of the best places to eat in Honolulu!It wouldn’t be a trip to Hawaii without Hawaiian cuisine! That’s what you’ll get at the Hideout, located close to Waikiki Beach. Try Kalua egg rolls for a smaller bite to eat. Or enjoy something more filling, like a seared ahi sandwich, while dining out on the patio! The Hideout offers Sunday brunch and happy hour, along with regular meals!Looking for fine dining overlooking the ocean? La Mer has an open-air dining room that’s perfect for Pacific views while enjoying your meal! Savor French fare prepared with ingredients that are fresh from the island! Dine on caviar while sipping a cocktail. Or order roast duck filet or poached lobster as a main meal!For a more casual dining establishment, head to Hula Grill for pupu platters, coconut seafood chowder, and other Hawaiian fare. Or go with an American dish featuring beef or chicken, like filet steak Kiana. Leave room for dessert, so you can try a hula pie — or enjoy some pineapple upside-down cake!For another restaurant with wonderful ocean views, check out Bali Oceanfront! Order s hearty steak dinner, like beef tenderloin or Washugyu ribeye (aka Japanese-American beef). Or choose from seafood or chicken dishes, like Jidori chicken breast. Bali also has delicious breakfast items, such as Brux berries-and-cream waffles, smoked salmon plates — and much more!Enjoy fine dining at Kahala Beach! Hoku’s provides ocean views from a dining room with multiple levels. Dine on ahi poke carpaccio or choose from other dishes from a menu filled with Asian and European cuisine. Stop by for brunch on a Sunday for smoked salmon eggs, pancakes with coconut syrup — or other tasty dishes!iStockphoto.com / Art WagerHonolulu really has no shortage of sites that make for the most stunning photos. But you may not have time to visit all of them! We recommend including the following photo spots in your trip for the most beautiful vacation photos you can treasure for years to come!Want scenic photo spots with wide open skies, towering palm trees, and vivid green grass in the background? The gardens provide that kind of setting for Honolulu photos! Head to the Hitachi Tree, a huge monkeypod tree, to take even more memorable pics from your trip. You might also want to snap some photos with the historic Kamehameha V Cottage!Staying near the shores of Honolulu’s most famous beach? Head towards the water for gorgeous scenery — and backdrops! Waikiki Beach’s beauty makes it a perfect spot to take photos with the blue Pacific waters in the background! Or snap pics along the beach on a moonlit night for a romantic photo op!Looking for somewhere that gives you a panoramic shot of the area for picturesque photos? Visit this park to take pics with the ocean, Pearl Harbor, Diamond Head, and other incredible views as your backdrop! Just note that the park is only open from 7 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. each day, so plan ahead!Ever thought you would have the chance to take a photo with a volcano looming in the background? During your stay in Honolulu, visit Diamond Head Lookout to take amazing pics with this volcanic cone as a dramatic backdrop! You can also take selfies with the volcano behind you from Waikiki Beach!Stunning photos of the great outdoors aren’t the only photo spots in Honolulu. For a more artsy, cultural spot, head over to Kakaako — about a mile south of downtown. The Kakaako wall murals are a great way to capture the artistic talent found in this capital city! After snapping pics in front of street art, grab a drink and bite to eat at one of the area’s microbreweries.iStockphoto.com / GeorgeBurbaYou might not tire of soaking up the sun on Waikiki Beach’s shores or wandering through the downtown area for shopping, dining, and other activities. But you could be missing out on O’ahu’s other places to see and things to do! Our guide to Honolulu includes the following day trips to consider making room for in your itinerary.You can see Diamond Head’s volcanic cone from Honolulu — but what if you could explore a park with an active volcano? Take a quick flightseeing trip over the Big Island of Hawai’i to visit Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park for this experience! You can also check out the town of Kona during this exciting day trip!Your trip to Honolulu doesn’t have to only include the city. In fact, O’ahu has a lot more to explore and enjoy, including the North Shore area! This is where you’ll find the stunning Waimea Waterfalls. You can also take a stroll through Waimea Botanical Gardens, featuring over 50 themed gardens!Pineapples are the main draw at this day-trip destination! Dole Plantation — once a simple fruit stand — offers train tours, a garden maze, garden tours and a chance to stock up on fresh pineapples! Afterward, you can spend time exploring the charming town of Haleiwa, filled with boutique shops, art galleries, cafes, and other amenities!Hawaii Tourism Authority / Heather GoodmanTraveling to Honolulu isn’t the cheapest vacation destination! While the city — and O’ahu in general — is well worth the cost, finding ways to save money is a smart move. We’ve put a list of cost-saving tips together to help you visit this beautiful island destination on a budget!Is your vacation flexible in terms of when you go? Consider booking flights during the city’s off-season for better deals on airfare, especially during January and February. Book flights during the middle of the week if possible, rather than on Mondays, Fridays, or the weekend — when fares tend to be higher!Check for discounts and other savings on hotels, tickets, and vehicles. As a AAA member, you can enjoy a trip to Honolulu without breaking the bank!Spending most of your vacation budget on luxury accommodations? Or are you trying to make the most of your vacation while staying within your budget? Honolulu has plenty of free activities and places to explore! Hike to Manoa Falls, stroll along Kailua Beach or visit the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.Instead of purchasing separate tickets for each attraction or a bunch of one-way tickets for the bus, look for bundling options. Purchase full-day or multi-day passes for public transportation. Check out tours that include multiple attractions and activities in one package deal. This is a great way to cut down on your vacation expenses in Honolulu!Booking a hotel or resort room in Honolulu may give you access to both practical and exciting amenities at no cost. Explore accommodations that include free valet parking, valet laundry, pools, spas, transportation around the area and other amenities that you would normally have to pay for on your own.Once you’ve gathered inspiration for your dream Honolulu trip on Trip Canvas, contact one of AAA’s Travel Agents today to start making your dream a reality, using your AAA membership to access exclusive deals. No matter your budget, they can help you simplify the planning process with prepackaged trips or à la carte options. As the capital of Hawaii, Honolulu delivers on big-city vibes just steps from some of the best nature on the islands (in the world, really). Spend your city days in downtown Waikiki, with its blocks of shops and sky-high hotels, or head to the food haven of Kapahulu to snack on poke bowls and shaved ice. The beaches are always right there—ready for surfing, sunbathing, snorkelling, and swimming with sea turtles and dolphins. There’s also nearby waterfalls and volcanos to check out—from Diamond Head Crater to Waimea Falls. Don’t forget to carve out a day or two to get to know the island’s roots: Roam through the remnants of Hawaii’s monarchy at Iolani Palace and Washington Place, or learn about Hawaiian natural history and Polynesian culture at the Bishop Museum. You can find tickets, tips, and even more recs below.Pick a category to filter your recs₹₹ - ₹₹₹ • American, Seafood, Hawaiian₹ • Bakeries, American, Fast food₹₹ - ₹₹₹ • American, Seafood, Contemporary₹ • Bakeries, American, Diner₹ • Polynesian, Hawaiian, Gluten free optionsSunrise hikes, white-sand beaches, and incredible eatsRead onDowntown Honolulu’s modern Hawaiian cultureAlthough I’m a kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) from the kuaaina (country) on Hawaii Island, Downtown Honolulu is my zone. I love that it has so many local, small businesses in an urban setting (plus, it doesn’t hurt that this is where my wife and I met). Here are my go-to kanaka maoli-owned restaurants, bars, and shops where you can get a taste of modern Hawaiian culture.Daniel Ikaika Ito, Honolulu, HIAward-winning kanaka maoli mixologist Justin Park is the co-founder and co-owner of this upscale craft cocktail bar, which was recently awarded “most outstanding bar” by the James Beard Foundation. Make bookings to sit at the bar—watching these experts mix your drink is truly something to behold. Order the E Ho‘o Pau Mai Tai (named world’s best mai tai a few years back) or the signature BLA Old Fashioned. The written word was first introduced here by the missionaries in 1820, and Native Hawaiians embraced reading and writing to the extent that the Hawaiian Kingdom boasted a 91% literacy rate by 1832. Native Books celebrates this tradition with its focus on carrying every book in print about any aspect of Hawaii.Named best chef for the Northwest and Pacific region, co-owner Robynne Maii is the first Native Hawaiian woman to win a James Beard Award. My go-to bougie business meal order: the smoked ono club with crispy potatoes and a Fête 75, a spin on a French 75 with elderflower liqueur and cucumber.Led by Native Hawaiian restaurateur Danny Kaaialiii, the Daley makes my favourite smash burger in the state. It’s got Hawaii-grown, grass-fed beef on a bun that is soft and firm at the same time—just like your favourite pillow. Wash it down with one of the locally-brewed, craft beers on tap. Danny Kaaialii saw a need for a restaurant in Downtown with a robust list of mezcal, so he and his partner, Jonny Vasquez, opened Encore Saloon. Their menu features legit barbacoa, and their nachos are the best because of the house-made chips. This art gallery is curated by the team at Sig On Smith and features avant-garde artists from around the state. “Kaiao,” has a very specific meaning, translating to “the time before the sun peeks above the horizon, when the skies are lit with morning colours, the air is crisp, and the day is new”—and the art here has that same fresh energy.Whether it’s an afternoon pick me up with a dirty chai latte while checking out this space’s exhibits of local artists or a late-night tall boy brewski while dancing the night away, the Manifest is the Swiss Army Knife in the tool kit of good times in Downtown Honolulu.Forget what you think you know about Hawaiian shirts and level-up your style with the authentic aloha designs from Sig On Smith. This brand was founded by Sig Zane, a surfer, fisherman, hula dancer, and artist who aims to perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture through clothing. Sig on Smith is his only location on Oahu (and a heads up, it’s only open on Fridays).Explore more from our sponsorsThese questions and answers were created by AI, using the most common questions travellers ask in the forums.What are the best hotels in Honolulu?According to forum posts, popular hotel choices in Honolulu include the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Halekulani, and the Royal Hawaiian. These hotels are favored for their locations and amenities. The Hilton Hawaiian Village is highlighted for its large resort feel and proximity to the beach.Some travelers have expressed a preference for the Halekulani and the Royal Hawaiian for their luxurious amenities and historical significance. The Halekulani is particularly noted for its excellent service and ocean views.For those seeking modern amenities, the Alohilani Waikiki comes recommended in forum discussions. It has been recently remodeled and offers a modern style, located across from the beach, making it a convenient option for visitors.For more budget-conscious travelers, posts suggest considering the Royal Grove Waikiki, which is appreciated for its location near the beach and affordable rates. It's described as clean and simple, suitable for travelers who plan to spend minimal time in their hotel room.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are the transportation options in Honolulu?According to forum posts, Honolulu offers a reliable bus service known as The Bus, which is praised for its convenience and low cost. It operates extensively across the city, including routes to major attractions like Pearl Harbor. Travelers have called out specific bus numbers, such as Bus #20, which goes directly to Pearl Harbor from Waikiki.Some travelers said that Uber and Lyft are readily available in Honolulu, providing a convenient but typically more expensive alternative to buses. Taxis are also an option, with services like Charley’s Taxi mentioned for their professionalism and availability.For airport transfers, forum users recommended shuttle services like Hawaii23 and Charleys Taxi, which offer flat rates per trip. These services are particularly useful for groups or those with significant luggage, avoiding the need to manage public transit logistics immediately upon arrival.For visiting specific attractions like the Polynesian Cultural Center, travelers have noted that some locations offer their dedicated transportation services for a fee, which can be a practical choice for avoiding long bus rides.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are popular beach destinations in Honolulu?According to forum posts, popular beach destinations in Honolulu include Waikiki Beach, known for its accessibility and numerous amenities. Travelers have also mentioned Kailua and Lanikai beaches as gorgeous destinations worth visiting, with Lanikai often highlighted for its stunning scenery.For those interested in snorkeling and encountering marine wildlife, forum users recommend Hanauma Bay, despite its competitive ticket access, and Laniakea Beach for potential turtle sightings. Sharks Cove on the North Shore is also suggested for snorkeling experiences.Travelers with families have called out Waikiki Beach for its ease of access and generally safe waters, making it a suitable option for children and less experienced swimmers. However, it's noted that Waikiki can become quite crowded, especially during summer swells.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are family-friendly accommodation options in Honolulu?Some travelers have recommended the Hilton Hawaiian Village (HHV) as a top choice for families, noting its multiple pools, waterslides, and on-site dining options. It's described as a large resort that can cater well to families wanting a variety of activities and amenities without leaving the property.For families preferring more space and kitchen facilities, the Ilikai condos and Waikiki Shore by Outrigger are suggested. These offer the convenience of home-like amenities, which can be cost-effective for families. Travelers have highlighted that condos allow for meal preparation and come with laundry facilities, which are advantageous for longer stays.The Royal Hawaiian is another recommended option, known for its central location in Waikiki, making it easy for families to access dining and shopping areas. It also features a pool with a waterslide, appealing to children.For larger family groups or those needing more space, options like the Hilton Grand Vacation Club towers at HHV are mentioned. These provide suite accommodations that might be suitable for families needing multiple bedrooms.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are some celebratory dining options in Honolulu?According to forum posts, many travelers recommend House Without a Key for celebratory dinners, known for its pleasant atmosphere and live music. Another frequent recommendation is Orchids at Halekulani, ideal for special occasions with its upscale dining experience.For a more unique or casual celebration, forum users suggest Barefoot Beach Cafe for its live music and ocean views, providing a laid-back yet festive dining environment. La Mariana Sailing Club is also mentioned for its fun and novel atmosphere, although it's important to check its operational status as it has been closed previously.For those seeking luxury dining experiences, some travelers have called out La Mer as a high-end restaurant option, offering exquisite culinary delights suitable for memorable celebrations.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are some recommended itineraries for an Oahu trip?For many users, a stay in Oahu is rich with activities without needing to island hop. Some travelers recommended focusing on exploring Oahu's variety, such as the North Shore for its scenic views and surfing spots, Diamond Head for hiking, and Pearl Harbor for historical significance. Additionally, places like Iolani Palace, Bishop Museum, and the Polynesian Cultural Center are frequently mentioned as must-visits.According to forum posts, other recommended day trips within Oahu include visiting Kailua for its beaches and the Byodo-In Temple. For those interested in local culture, attending a luau or exploring the nightlife and free cultural shows in Waikiki could enrich the experience. Users have suggested that driving around the island or using public transport is a feasible way to explore these attractions.Travelers have called out that Oahu offers more than just beach activities; there are opportunities for hiking, learning to surf, snorkeling, and even enjoying the local cuisine at various food trucks and markets across the island.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are the accommodation options in Waikiki?According to forum posts, accommodation options in Waikiki range from hotels to condos and vacation rentals, with various budget levels. Some travelers have mentioned specific budget-friendly hotels like Royal Grove Waikiki and Aqua Aloha Surf Waikiki, where one-week stays can cost around $1,200, which is under $171 per night, including all taxes and fees.Travelers have called out that most accommodations are near beaches, with some, like the Park Shore Waikiki, being adjacent to the beach and the zoo. Options like the Hilton Grand Vacations and Royal Hawaiian offer more upscale amenities, including pools, and are also located close to the beach.For many users, finding accommodations that suit family needs is crucial. Properties like Hilton Grand Vacations are recommended for families seeking rooms that accommodate up to six people, offering amenities like pools and slides, which are ideal for children of various ages.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. What are the options for sunset cruises in Honolulu?According to forum posts, several sunset cruise options in Honolulu are popular among travelers. Many users recommend the Na Hoku II catamaran, which departs from Waikiki Beach and offers a casual sailing experience with options for drinks. Another suggested option is the Mai Tai Catamaran, known for its relaxing sails and availability through their website for reservations.Travelers have called out the Manu Kai catamaran as a good value with online booking available, offering sunset sails at competitive prices. Some travelers prefer the Makani catamaran, which sails from the marina, providing a different departure point away from the usual beachfront locations.For those seeking a more unique or lively experience, the Mai Tai Catamaran and Manu Kai are frequently mentioned for their scenic routes and enjoyable atmosphere. However, it's recommended to book these popular cruises in advance due to limited capacities and high demand, especially during peak travel seasons.This summary was generated by AI from Tripadvisor forum posts. As the primary gateway to the islands for many, Honolulu is often the first taste of Hawaii for eager visitors. And what a way to begin your Pacific Island adventure, with this exciting and alluring mix of gleaming high-rise buildings, glamorous shopping and a thriving nightlife married with incredible beaches, exhilarating hikes and breathtaking natural landscapes. Though it can be tempting to never move from the soft sands of the iconic Waikiki Beach, the capital of O'ahu has much to offer visitors. Take at least a week to explore beyond Honolulu's major attractions and get ready to fall in love with this beguiling city forever.1. Savor the best views of the city from Diamond HeadIf there's one thing that's synonymous with Hawaii, it's volcanoes. And there's an absolute beauty in Honolulu that offers incredible views of the entire region – bring a decent camera. Diamond Head State Monument was once used as a military observation point, and the trail created in 1908 to get to the crater rim is now one of the most popular attractions in Honolulu. Set your alarm clock for an early start to avoid the crowds and the heat. This is a moderately challenging trail that's just under 2 miles in total and should take a little over an hour to complete, out and back. But most visitors take longer because the views from the top are hard to tear yourself away from. There are informative displays throughout and picnic areas and restrooms within the crater rim. Planning tip: Though you'll pass through a tunnel on your way to the top, there's no shade on the summit. Bring a hat, sunscreen and plenty of water – you can refill your water bottle at the drinking fountains up top. Organic fruit for sale at a market in Honolulu. Lorraine Boogich/Getty Images 2. Eat, drink and be merryIf you're planning to visit Hawaii in the fall, it's worth timing your vacation in line with the Hawaii Food & Wine Festival (October 30th to November 2nd in 2025). Get to know the work of talented local chefs, Michelin-starred legends and well-known bartenders from O'ahu and beyond at several different events, all while devouring fresh, homegrown foods.The focus is all about locally sourced produce and products – a true celebration of Hawaiian culture and entrepreneurship. Leaders in the hospitality industry flock here from all over the world to discover exciting new food trends and ingredients; arrive hungry and join them for four days of gastronomic delights.Planning tip: If you're curious about a culinary career, there are lots of expert-led workshops and classes that provide insight into the realities of training as a chef and running a successful kitchen. Kualoa Ranch is one of the most beautiful spots on O'ahu. Kirkikis/Getty Images 3. Help keep this sacred land beautifulTake some time out of your vacation to volunteer with Mālama Hawai‘i, a program that encourages travelers to learn about island culture and give back while doing something outside of the touristy norm. Many hotels are part of the statewide effort, including the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa in Honolulu. Guests can learn about growing taro, one of the most important cultural foods, or help repair woven thatch homes in exchange for a discount on their accommodations.Beyond the city, other Mālama Hawai'i activities include a helicopter tour with Paradise Helicopters, complete with a private landing and the chance to plant a native tree while learning how to heal the land. You can also join a 2-hour eco-adventure at Kualoa Ranch Private Nature Reserve, 4000 acres of land you might recognize from Jurassic Park, Jumanji and Godzilla. As part of a small group, you’ll hear about the importance of upland ahupua‘a streams, the dangers of micro-plastics and how to help protect the natural beauty of the islands.4. Enjoy a local sweet treat that's worth waiting forStopping by Holey Grail Donuts for a treat is an absolute must. If you have time to wait in line, that is. The popular eatery, created by brother-and-sister duo Nile and Hana Dreiling, often has a line because they make each piping-hot donut to order. What makes this $4.50 treat so special? Its base is made from taro, a native Hawaiian superfood that is pounded and fermented, giving the donuts a fluffy interior with a crisp exterior (since it’s fried in coconut oil).The fun flavors change often, but be prepared for creative options like freshly picked lilikoi, dragonfruit lemonade and honey cream pineapple with Thai basil. Props to this clever farm-to-dough operation for making Instagram-worthy delicacies. If you’re on Kaua’i, you can also grab donuts at the original food truck.Planning tip: Stop by after the morning rush to avoid spending too much time in line. An exhibition hall at Hawaii State Art Museum. Alamy/Stock Photo 5. Get caught up in creativityWander through exciting exhibits and rooms boasting staggering works of art at The Honolulu Museum of Art, home to pop-up installations and a summer nights program complete with a DJ and hands-on workshops. Grab a bite at the excellent on-site cafe or spread a blanket on the lawn to enjoy some live music. There are even late-night events every Friday that allow visitors to view the art after dark and stargaze in the courtyards.The Capitol Modern, in the stately No. 1 Capitol District Building, is an awesome way to spend a morning or even most of the day. Admission is free, and there are hands-on activities throughout the year. If you're in town on the first Friday of the month, pop by to enjoy live music in the sculpture garden and lots of family-friendly action until 9pm.Detour: When you're finished with the museums, take to the streets and find as many outdoor murals as possible; there are several blocks sporting colorful street art.6. Learn the local art of flower crownsFloral headdresses have a long history in Hawaii. Paiko, a botanical boutique in the Kaka’ako neighborhood, celebrates these works of art known as the haku lei. Sign up for a 2-hour private session where you can make a tropical crown full of fresh flowers (think anthuriums and orchids) and gorgeous foliage (ferns and eucalyptus). Plant materials are locally sourced, and the maximum class size is ten.There are also classes about succulents, bonsai shaping and ulana lau niu, the Hawaiian ancient art of weaving coconut fronds. Pick up some gifts, like coconut planters, locally made soap and jewelry, while you’re there. The Happy Haku offers private and group crown-making sessions, too. A surfer takes on a large wave at Waimea Bay. mattpaul/Getty Images 7. Carve the waves and surf with a proIf you are staying near Kaimana Beach and fancy taking to the waves, you're in luck. One of the best and most decorated surfers in the world, Kai Sallas, has his own surf school located next to the Kaimana Beach Hotel. Born and raised in Waikiki, Kai learned everything he knows in these waters and his school welcomes both experienced surfers and newbies to the sport.In fact, he deliberately picked this location as the waves are much more welcoming to beginners and don't have the intimidating crowds found in Waikiki. There are also SUP lessons for all if you're not ready to surf just yet. Top bragging rights and a wonderful experience for the whole family.8. Take to the sea on a vintage yachtFollow in the footsteps of the cast of The White Lotus by setting sail on a vintage yacht from Waikiki – the Vida Mia. Unlike the characters in the celebrated TV series who encountered dubious fortunes, you can choose between several delightful cruise options, including a sunrise sailing with a delicious breakfast and freshly roasted coffee and a sunset adventure with a chef-prepared meal, cocktails and live entertainment. No matter the time of day, Vida Mia’s gleaming expanses of teak wood, stained glass accents and the porcelain bathtub below deck are a delight to experience without breaking your budget. Take in breathtaking ocean and island views (the sailing routes glide past Diamond Head State Monument) and maybe even spot a sea turtle or a whale. Planning tip: Celebrating a special occasion? You can hire the entire boat privately for a snorkel and swim package, which includes a full bar and catered lunch. A lush garden overlooking the ocean at Shangri La. Phillip B. Espinasse/Shutterstock 9. View Islamic art from around the globe at Shangri LaDoris Duke, the late heiress and philanthropist, was renowned for her wealth and influence, but also had a deep appreciation of Islamic art. While traveling the world on her honeymoon, she became enthralled by Islamic and Moorish design and spent a lot of time (and money) acquiring artwork, stained glass, mosaics, sculptures and much more.The last stop on the honeymoon was Honolulu and Doris decided to stay, such was her love for the area. Work then began on a 14,000-sq-ft estate that overlooked the ocean with a key missive to her designers – her collection of Islamic art was to influence everything and the home would be a showcase for it. And so, Shangri La came to be and remains a stunning exhibition of Islamic art and culture, as well as one of the most popular attractions in Honolulu. Planning tip: Visits to Shangri La are operated by the Honolulu Museum of Art and must be booked in advance. There are four tours daily on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; this is a popular attraction and tickets get snapped up quickly.10. Shop the farmer’s marketThere’s no shortage of amazing produce and island delicacies on O'ahu, as well as local culinary talent. Take your tastebuds on an adventure at Kaka’ako Farmers Market, which is packed with incredible vendors every Saturday from 8am to noon.Arrive hungry – the market has everything from fresh fruit, seafood and meat to cooked dishes, baked goods and delicious drinks. It's the perfect spot to hit up if you're visiting on a budget and need to cater some of your own meals. Stock up on quality produce and enjoy picnics throughout the week. There are even lots of artisan stalls selling artwork, carvings, textiles and jewelery; perfect for original keepsakes to inspire memories of your trip to Hawaii. The USS Arizona Memorial off the coast of Pearl Harbor. SvetlanaSF/Shutterstock 11. Learn about a pivotal moment in US history at Pearl HarborThe bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was one of the most devastating attacks on US soil and marked the nation's entry into WWII. Learn more about this pivotal day and the wide-reaching impact it had on the community at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial. There are two superb museums that outline the incidents that led to the bombing and what came after, including first-person testimony and detailed photographs.Visitors can also take a boat ride to the USS Arizona Memorial, a structure that straddles the hull of the battleship and pays tribute to the lives lost that day. Various ticket options are available for all three sites and it's worth setting aside several hours to explore the memorial as a whole. Palm trees and surfers along the beach in Waikiki. Theodore Trimmer/Shutterstock 12. Relax and enjoy the waves in WaikikiAfter a few days of exploring all the wonderful attractions that Honolulu has to offer, it's time for some rest and relaxation. Grab your swimsuit and head to Waikiki, which was the Hawaiian royal family’s favorite stretch of sand in the 1800s. It wasn't long before stories about the beauty of this bay spread far and wide, and it's now one of the most popular tourist spots in Hawaii.Backed by international luxury hotels and restaurants, there is still a strong connection to Hawaiian culture here – stop by the beloved Duke Kahanamoku Statue to pay tribute to a local hero who brought home Hawaii's first gold Olympic medal. As the godfather of modern surfing, Duke would approve of the masses that arrive here to make the most of the incredible waves. Unsurprisingly, this is an incredibly popular spot and not ideal for beginners. There’s a lot that the mainland gets wrong in its collective mental image of Hawaii. In that mental image, it’s all endless natural splendor, 10-foot swells, and coconut bikini tops. In actuality, Hawaii contains multitudes, and Honolulu is a prime example of many of them all together in a compact space. Hawaii’s capital and largest city isn't quite cosmopolitan, but it’s urbane. It isn’t all white-sand beaches, but it is some white-sand beaches (and even a few black ones). And while there are a lot of resorts and tourists, it’s home to 900,000 locals, too. Who’ll love HonoluluFamilies, history buffs, couples seeking an upscale, luxury escape, outdoors enthusiasts, lovers of adventure sports, or anyone looking to unplug from everyday life while also perfecting their tan.How to budget for a trip to HonoluluThere’s a reason why a trip to Hawaii is considered by many to be a rare, special getaway: the cost. Honolulu is no stranger to big spenders, with its exclusive resorts and primo shopping. Outdoor activities like surfing lessons and kayak rentals will set you back less if you venture beyond the resort to seek them out. When it comes to getting around, be sure to budget for a rental car; and when it comes to choosing a place to stay, bear in mind that strict zoning and permitting laws on Oahu limit the number of vacation rentals on offer and, as such, hotels are still the prevailing preference. Expect to pay around $250-$350/night for a mid-range hotel room and anywhere from $30 to sky’s-the-limit for entertainment, shopping, equipment rentals, and other fun diversions each day. Meals at resorts and beachfront restaurants will be the most expensive at around $50+ for dinner, but you can eat well for a lot less at food trucks and smaller mom-and-pop shops away from the tourist spots. Good news! Honolulu is among the safest cities in the country. Violent incidents are rare among tourists, but car break-ins are not, so always lock your doors and don’t just take valuables with you when you go, take everything (chargers, tote bags, various odds and ends). Since Honolulu is so heavily populated, it’s more or less safe at all hours of the day, though avoiding Chinatown at night is something to consider. Solo female travelers can relax knowing that harassment is relatively rare, too.Weather in HonoluluHonolulu has a tropical semi-arid climate, which means the summers are hot and dry and the winters are temperate and humid. There’s not a whole lot of variation throughout the year—average highs are in 80s F all year round, rising to 88° F in August and September and dropping to 81° in January and February. When to visit HonoluluFrom mid-November to late March can be rainy, but this is also the best time to see whales. If avoiding crowds is your goal, visit between mid-April and early June or from September to mid-December.Money saving tipsOnly rent a car when you need it. If you plan to spend a few days enjoying the beaches of Waikiki and exploring Honolulu, you won’t need a car, but you absolutely do need one to see the best of Oahu. Schedule the days you’ll need the car all in a row and return the car when you don’t need it. Venture away from the resort for dining. Resort dining is expensive so save some money—and have delicious food—by going when the locals go. Grab souvenirs from the grocery store. If you plan on bringing back some kona coffee, macadamia nuts, or Hawaiian sea salt, don’t buy it at a souvenir shop where the price is hiked up by 50%. What to see, do, and eat in HonoluluTop 10 things to do in HonoluluVisit Pearl Harbor for an impactful history lessonSee the statuesque Iolani Palace, a relic of Hawaii’s monarchy daysTake a farm tour at Kahumana Organic Farm and CafeShop til you drop at Ala Moana CenterWitness a traditional luau show at Toa Luau in Waimea ValleyGet an adrenaline rush on Kualoa Ranch, where you can take a zipline tour, horseback ride, get out on the water, and moreTake a 2-mile hike to Manoa Falls, featured in a number of blockbuster movies like Jurassic ParkRelax at Hanauma Bay, a gorgeous place to swim, snorkel, surf, or just loungeLearn and be entertained at the Polynesian Cultural CenterGo snorkeling at Sharks CoveThe local picks for top attractions and activities in HonoluluTake a 3-mile hike to Waimano Falls, a dramatically beautiful swimming holeExplore Kaena Point State Park, a remote place to fish, hike, and picnic on the northwestern coast; visiting in the morning brings the prospect of dolphin sightingsCheck out the street art at Kaka’ako, a neighborhood known for its breweries and boutiquesSpend a day at Waimanalo Bay Beach and Bellows Beach Park, often overlooked by tourists despite the stunning beauty (it’s also a great spot for beginner surfers or bodyboarders) and the drive here from Waikiki is gorgeousTake a trip to the beautiful Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & DesignTake a picnic to Nānākuli Beach Park, with its lovely cliffs that make for a unique, photogenic setting (it’s also good for diving and swimming at the south end)See the Ho’omaluhia Botanical Garden via the one-lane, 2.6-mile access roadEnjoy a gorgeous sunrise via an easy hike on the Lanikai Pillbox Trail, followed by a dip at Lanikai BeachTransport yourself to Asia with a few hours in Honolulu’s Chinatown Hike to the summit of Diamond Head, an enormous volcanic crater just 20 minutes from Honolulu; the hike is only 1.5 miles and takes an hour or less, but once you’re there, you’ll want to stay for hours exploring and snapping photosWhat to eat and drink in HonoluluThere’s certainly a niche when it comes to what most tourist-facing Hawaiian restaurants offer—seafood in myriad forms, shave ice, drinks with flower garnishes—but Honolulu breaks the mold. On other islands, many travelers stick to the resorts for meals. Honolulu, however, has much more industry beyond the hotels, so you can taste lots of fresh, unique flavors at world-class restaurants here. Flavors highlight the best of East Asia and the Pacific Islands; drinks are rarely overlooked, often served in bold yet refreshing boozy concoctions. Whatever you do, don’t leave without tasting real Hawaiian pineapple.Liliha Bakery offers great diner food and the light yet indulgent Hawaiian pastry known as Cocoa PuffsSweet E’s Cafe is a bright, airy space to enjoy both healthy and satisfying breakfast or brunchThe Pig and the Lady is known for authentic Vietnamese food in a beautiful exposed-brick restaurantMoku Kitchen is a dinner spot that’s worthy of date night, cooking up New American cuisine made with local ingredients and an impressive cocktail menuMud Hen Water is the go-to for casual yet beautiful takes on Hawaiian cuisineKen’s Fresh Fish is where you’ll find fresh catches in the form of sandwiches and poke at a no-frills roadside walk-upKona Coffee Purveyors is a beautiful place to grab a cup of Hawaii’s amazing local coffee, along with a tasty pastry or dessertBevy shakes up expertly crafted cocktails and tasty light bites; it’s a great option for happy hourThe Tchin Tchin Bar has an excellent wine program and an extensive cocktail program, plus the requisite small plates, on a rooftop bar in Honolulu’s ChinatownWhere to stay in HonoluluYou can find some basic stays in Honolulu for around $100 per night, but $150 will get you something a bit more stylish and comfortable. Vacation rentals are roughly the same. Plan on around $75-100 for a basic studio and $150+ for a beach-adjacent one-bedroom. Of course, if you want to splash out on something luxe, there are plenty of options at higher price points. Top Honolulu neighborhoods for visitorsWaikiki Beach is the old standard when it comes to getting a room in Honolulu, and if convenience is chief among your priorities, it’s a solid option. But it’s crowded—very crowded. Check out Waialae-Kahala for a more exclusive stay in Honolulu, or head to the North Shore or Ko’olina to the west for areas that are big on natural beauty but smaller on crowds and city conveniences.Recommended hotels in HonoluluGetting around in HonoluluPublic transportation options in HonoluluIt’s an island so you might wonder, how far can it really be from Point A to Point B? Far. While Honolulu is relatively compact, there’s no doubt you’ll want to be getting out and about all over Oahu, and the rugged terrain means doing so takes time. We highly recommend renting a car here to fuel your excursions, but the bus and three rail lines make getting around the city center somewhat simple.Honolulu airportsHonolulu’s airport is officially known as Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), though it’s often referred to simply as Honolulu International Airport. It’s located a little less than 13 miles (driving) from downtown Honolulu. It’s the busiest airport in Hawai‘i and serves as the primary hub for Hawaiian Airlines. How to get to Honolulu from Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL)Honolulu’s public bus system, TheBus, has two routes that stop right at the airport—Route 20 and Route 303. A ticket valid for 2.5 hours costs $2.75 (day passes are $5.50) and getting into downtown takes about 30 minutes. The Roberts Hawaii Airport Shuttle serves the nearby resort areas as well as the pier, with one-way trips starting at $21 for departures and $23 for arrivals. There are multiple taxi companies that wait at the airport’s taxi queue, though there is no universal flat rate from the airport. Lyft and Uber are the rideshare options, with fares into downtown starting at around $18.Where else to go from HonoluluDay trips from HonoluluSpend a day on the North Shore (~40 minutes away), known for its incredible swells that make for some of the best, most intense surfing in the world. There are so many great beaches up here that you could come back day after day and experience someplace new.Drive ~30 minutes to the Valley of the Temples Memorial Park, a lush and beautiful area surrounded by mountains and full of temples and shrines, where relics of Christianity and Buddhism sit side by side.Take a 40-minute flight from Honolulu to Kauai, known for being a remote, rugged, ultra-green getaway. Take your time checking out Waimea Canyon (“the Grand Canyon of Hawaii”), take a swim at Tunnels Beach, or book a helicopter tour of the Napali Coast.Where else to visit from HonoluluContinue on your tour of Hawaii by taking a 40-minute flight to Maui, or head to the Big Island and see Volcanoes National Park, filled with some of the most active volcanoes on the planet, which you can explore on foot or by car.Make your island exploration positively epic by continuing on to Bora Bora and Papeete, a nonstop 6-hour flight away.Books, movies, and tv shows set on OahuOahu’s beautiful scenery shows up in dozens of movies and tv shows, from classics like Hawaii Five-O, Magnum PI, and Jurassic Park to more recent hits, including Forgetting Sarah Marshall, Lost, and 50 First Dates. To learn more about the island and its people before you go, check out the collection of short stories, This is Paradise; the WWII-set novel The Island of Sweet Pies and Soldiers; or the historical novel Honolulu.Previous cheap flights we've found to Honolulu: Colorado Springs to Honolulu for $276 roundtripBoston nonstop to Honolulu for $399 roundtripJoin Going and get cheap flights delivered right to your inbox.

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