

# Aloha Hawaii

**Escape to your paradise vacation**

Aloha! The Hawaiian Island includes seven inhabited islands: Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island (known as the Big Island) are the major ones. The islands of Molokai and Lanai are small, very rural and mostly accessible via Maui's ferries. We'll be focusing on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island.

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Front page photo by <http://www.worldfortravel.com/2012/06/27/hawaii-the-paradise-island/tropical-beach-hawaii/>



**RIGHT:** Map of the Hawaiian Islands

<https://statesymbolsusa.org/symbol-official-item/hawaii/state-name-origin/origiin-hawaii>

## Oahu - The Gathering place

Oahu, the most visited of the Hawaiian Islands, is home to the state capital and the well-developed city of Honolulu with its Waikiki Beach. Pearl Harbor and Diamond Head are here too. So is the famous North Shore with the world championship surfing contests. Oahu has more easily accessible beaches than any of the other islands, and the multitude of attractions, cultural shows, nightclubs, events, activities and people makes Oahu a good bet if you want to do a lot and enjoy the high energy of crowds. If you want a quiet moment or scenic beauty, Oahu also has some nice beaches and waterfall hikes away from it all.

“ Our time went by so fast, and it was a blast. We will be back again!

-First time Hawaii visitor, Rylee Horan

## Maui – The Valley Isle

The second most popular island with visitors is well known for its beautiful beaches, "Heavenly Hana Highway" and Lahaina Town. Maui's beaches are one of the reasons this island is often voted as the best in the world. Maui has more swimmer-friendly beaches than any of the other islands. Lahaina Harbor is most famous for its whale watching cruises. While the Humpbacks hang out around all of the Hawaiian Islands from December through April, they favor Maui and are easy to see here even from the highway with binoculars. Maui is also famous for its dormant and quite huge and scenic Haleakala Crater and the amazing sunrises up there, and it is second only to Oahu in arts and entertainment.

## Kauai – The Garden Isle

The oldest of the inhabited islands, Kauai offers the most scenic wonders including the deeply sculpted, towering cliffs of the Na Pali Coast and the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," Waimea Canyon. Kauai's scenery is featured in many movies and television shows – South Pacific, Blue Hawaii (Coco Palms scenes), Gilligan's Island, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Lilo and Stich, and about 95 more. Kauai also has more white sand beaches than the other islands. The Garden Isle is the smallest of the four main Hawaiian Islands (only 550 square miles) and there is one main road, so to stay out of gridlock, you need to avoid before and after work traffic. Other than this, it is easy to get away from the crowds on beautiful Kauai. If you're looking for mostly outdoors fun and a laid back atmosphere, Kauai just might be the perfect island for you.



**ABOVE:** Huge trees line the Kuilau Ridge Trail

<https://www.journeyera.com/kuilau-ridge-trail-kauai-hawaii/>

## Hawaii Island (Big Island) – Volcano Isle

Hawaii Island is larger than all of the other inhabited Hawaiian Islands put together, so to avoid confusion with its namesake, the state of Hawaii, it is called the Big Island. While each of the main Hawaiian Islands is quite diverse, the Big Island has *11 of the 13 world's climate zones* (it's only missing the arctic and sahara).

The Big Island is best known for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park with its active Kilauea Volcano. When conditions are right you can see the lava from a land viewing site, and the rest of the time there's almost always viewing by helicopter or boat. It is the youngest of the islands and the volcano continues to create new land. This is why the Big Island has so many black sand beaches. Other famous attractions include Mauna Kea, the world's tallest mountain (counting from beneath the sea to its snow-capped peak) with the largest telescopes in the world, a green sand beach, Kona's world-class deep-sea fishing and the famous Kohala resorts.



**ABOVE:** A couple going kayaking in the oceans of Hawaii  
<https://www.visittheusa.com/state/hawaii>

Regardless of the island you visit, these activities are popular on all four of the main islands: surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving, kayaking, golf, deep sea fishing, horseback riding, sunset cruises, dolphin and whale watching, cultural/historical tours, relaxing on a beach, going to luau and last but not least sight seeing. You'll also find Hawaiian music everywhere (lots of free concerts), nightclubs, fantastic restaurants, craft festivals, great shops and lots more to do. No matter which island you visit, you can find many interesting and fun things to do.

**RIGHT:** Classic Hawaiian Scene of beach chairs and a tiki umbrella  
<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/10-reasons-to-visit-hawaii.html>



## The History of the Hawaiian Lei

The lei custom was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands by early Polynesian voyagers, who took an incredible journey from Tahiti, navigating by the stars in sailing canoes. With these early settlers, the lei tradition in Hawaii was born.

Leis were constructed of flowers, leaves, shells, seeds, nuts, feathers, and even bone and teeth of various animals. In Hawaiian tradition, these garlands were worn by ancient Hawaiians to beautify themselves and distinguish themselves from others. The Maile lei was perhaps the most significant. Among other sacred uses, it was used to signify a peace agreement between opposing chiefs. In a Heiau (temple), the chiefs would symbolically intertwine the green Maile vine, and its completion officially established peace between the two groups.

<https://www.hawaiiflowerlei.com/leitradition.aspx>

