

# Honolulu Snap Guide

## TO / FROM THE AIRPORT

### Airport Waikiki Express

808/539-9400, [robertshawaii.com/hat.htm](http://robertshawaii.com/hat.htm)

The 24-hour shuttle departs just outside baggage claim and makes trips to and from all Waikiki hotels every 30 minutes. Reserve in advance for return trip. \$8 one way, \$14 round trip. Fare covers two pieces of luggage per person. Additional bag, golf bag, stroller, or boogie board, \$3; surfboard, \$12; bicycle, \$18.

### Star Taxi

800/671-2999 or 808/942-7827, [hawaiiistaxi.net](http://hawaiiistaxi.net)

Aptly named, this company charges the lowest rates of any on the island: \$25 for up to five passengers and their luggage traveling between the airport and any hotel in Waikiki (versus \$30-plus for any other taxi, plus additional luggage charges). Pickup is outside baggage claim. Book in advance and pay cash.

“Hawaii is not a state of mind, but a state of grace.”

—Paul Theroux

## GETTING AROUND

### TheBus

808/848-5555, [thebus.org](http://thebus.org)

A visitor pass, sold at ABC Stores, will grant four days of unlimited rides on public buses all around the island. No more than one carry-on per person permitted; bikes must go on the racks. \$2 per ride, \$20 for a four-day pass.

### Taxis

Hailing cabs on the street isn't allowed (though it's sometimes done). Call for a pickup; wait times can be up to 30 minutes. Up to five passengers; \$2.45 for the first  $\frac{1}{8}$  mile and 35¢ for every  $\frac{1}{8}$  thereafter, plus 45¢ for each small piece of luggage. Star Taxi (info above) is the best of the lot. Request a taxi that accepts credit cards or one with wheelchair accessibility from TheCab (808/422-2222).

### Bicycles

#### Big Kahuna Motorcycle Tours and Rentals

407 Seaside Ave., 888/451-5544 or 808/924-2736, [bigkahunarentals.com](http://bigkahunarentals.com)

While Waikiki is flat, not all its roads have bike lanes, and anyone who wants to cycle farther afield should be experienced with traffic and hills. Big Kahuna's mountain-bike rentals include helmets and road maps. \$10 for four hours; \$20 for 24 hours. Moped rentals start at \$25 for four hours; scooters and motorcycles at \$65. A motorcycle license is required for scooter and motorcycle rentals.

## WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TOWN

**Free on the streets** *Honolulu Weekly*, [honoluluweekly.com](http://honoluluweekly.com)

**At the newsstands** *Honolulu Advertiser*, [honoluluadvertiser.com](http://honoluluadvertiser.com);

*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, [honolulustarbulletin.com](http://honolulustarbulletin.com);

*Honolulu Magazine*, [honolulumagazine.com](http://honolulumagazine.com)

**Tune in** KINE 105.1 FM (traditional and modern Hawaiian music)

## TOURS

### Hawaii Food Tours

800/715-2468 or 808/926-3663, [hawaiifoodtours.com](http://hawaiifoodtours.com)

Tour guide Matthew Gray, a former restaurant/food critic for the *Honolulu Advertiser*, leads “Hole-in-the-Wall,” a tour unmasking places (and dishes) tourists rarely try. Two other themed itineraries available. Call for reservations. Daily from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. \$59, includes hotel pickup/drop-off.

### Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Chinatown tours

42 N. King St., 808/533-3181, [ccchi.org](http://ccchi.org)

Get the inside story on an exotic area that boomed after Chinese laborers came to work on Hawaii's sugar and pineapple plantations in the 1850s. Though the neighborhood has been devastated by fire twice, it still boasts the best architecture on the island. Two-and-a-half-hour guided tours depart Tuesdays at 9:30 A.M. \$10.

### Oahu Nature Tours

808/924-2473, [oahunaturetours.com](http://oahunaturetours.com)

Bird-watchers and other outdoorsy types can make the uphill climb to Diamond Head Crater (\$20), trek to Manoa Falls (\$37), or choose from seven other fully guided hikes. Prices include hotel pickup/drop-off.

### **\$ SPLURGE** Wild Side Specialty Tours

Waianae Boat Harbor, Slip A-11, 808/306-7273, [sailhawaii.com](http://sailhawaii.com)

Among hordes of whale-watching tours and day cruises, Wild Side's small mom-and-pop operation gets points for being one of the most eco-friendly. The four-hour morning tours involve snorkeling near Hawaii's spinner dolphins—and, from December through April, include whale-watching. There's a 16-person limit, so book ahead. \$95.

### **\$ SPLURGE** Island Seaplane Service

85 Lagoon Dr., 808/836-6273, [islandseaplane.com](http://islandseaplane.com)

Get a bird's-eye view of the dramatic volcanic terrain and a look at the two mountain ranges the Japanese negotiated to attack Pearl Harbor. Takeoffs and landings at Keehi Lagoon. \$179 per person for a one-hour tour; \$99 per person for a half-hour tour. Includes hotel pickup/drop-off.

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

**Room Service in Paradise** 808/941-3463, [rsiponline.com](http://rsiponline.com)

For food deliveries by more than a dozen area restaurants

**Surf News Network Surfline** 808/596-7873

# Honolulu Snap Guide

All hotels are in Waikiki. Rooms have air-conditioning, private baths, and TVs.

## Aqua Kuhio Village

2463 Kuhio Ave., 866/406-2782 or 808/791-7171, [aquaresorts.com](http://aquaresorts.com)  
A very recently renovated “condotel” three and a half blocks from the beach. Some rooms have partial ocean views. Sister property Aqua Bamboo (2425 Kuhio Ave., 866/406-2782 or 808/922-7777) is just down the street. Doubles (at either property) from \$99.

## ResortQuest Coconut Plaza Hotel

450 Lewers St., 800/922-7866 or 808/923-8828, [resortquesthawaii.com](http://resortquesthawaii.com)

Most rooms at this boutique hotel have balconies, and all but the standard doubles have kitchenettes. Light sleepers should ask for a mountain view facing away from Ala Wai Boulevard. There’s a small pool with a sundeck; the beach is four blocks away. Doubles from \$79 (book on the hotel’s website).

“The loveliest fleet  
of islands that  
lies anchored in  
any ocean.”

—Mark Twain

## The Breakers

250 Beach Walk, 800/426-0494 or 808/923-3181, [breakers-hawaii.com](http://breakers-hawaii.com)

A perfectly preserved 1950s relic half a block from the beach. Some rooms have Japanese-style—sliding shoji screens that hide tiny kitchens and spacious closets. The back lanais of a few face the Urasenke Tea House, providing a view of traditional tea ceremonies. There’s a small pool. Doubles from \$99.

## Hawaiiana Hotel

260 Beach Walk, 800/367-5122 or 808/923-3811, [hawaiianahotelatwaikiki.com](http://hawaiianahotelatwaikiki.com)

Another vintage hotel, slightly larger than its neighbor The Breakers. A social clientele hangs around the two small pools, which are surrounded by lava-rock walls and tropical plants. Rooms are nothing special, but all have kitchenettes. Doubles from \$105.

## Queen Kapiolani Hotel

150 Kapahulu Ave., 800/367-2317 or 808/922-4671, [queenkapiolani.com](http://queenkapiolani.com)

The 315 rooms have standard hotel decor; there’s a big pool, plus a restaurant and lounge. The cheapest rates (\$72) go three months in advance. Spring for a deluxe ocean-view room (from \$105)—they’re bigger, and the best ones have views of both Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head. A special room-and-rental-car package can be as low as \$79 a day.

## Royal Grove Hotel

151 Uluniu Ave., 808/923-7691, [royalgrovehotel.com](http://royalgrovehotel.com)

This hot-pink hotel is Honolulu’s best budget bet. Rooms are vast and sunny, with kitchenettes and full-size fridges. The setting feels like something out of *Beach Blanket Bingo*, with a small courtyard pool and surfboards hanging in the lobby. Doubles from \$45 without A/C; from \$62 with A/C.

## \$ SPLURGE ResortQuest Waikiki Beach Hotel

2570 Kalakaua Ave., 800/877-7666, [resortquesthawaii.com](http://resortquesthawaii.com)

Rooms in the main tower have bright aloha prints and lanais overlooking Kuhio Beach, which is across the street. Breakfast is included—borrow a cooler and chairs and eat it picnic-style on the beach. On the second floor, Tiki’s Grill & Bar offers live Hawaiian music daily in the mornings. Doubles from \$141 (if you book on the hotel’s website).

## \$ SPLURGE Waikiki Parc Hotel

2233 Helumoa Rd., 800/422-0450 or 808/921-7272, [waikikiparc.com](http://waikikiparc.com)

The best reasons to stay here: location and service. It’s 100 yards from the beach—many rooms have spectacular views—and across the street from Honolulu’s premier hotel, the Halekulani. They’re owned by the same folks, so the operation is flawless. Rooms have the spare, retro vibe common in Waikiki; what makes them memorable are the floor-to-ceiling shuttered windows. Eighth-floor pool and small exercise room. Doubles from \$160, including breakfast.

## GEARING UP

The ubiquitous ABC Stores may have everything Waikiki visitors need, but venture downtown for the best deals. Foodland (Ala Moana Center, 1450 Ala Moana Blvd., 808/949-5044) is the most accessible alternative to the priced-for-tourists Food Pantry grocery store in Waikiki. Wal-Mart, across from Ala Moana Shopping Center, is the place to go for goggles, flippers, boogie boards, beach towels, and coolers (700 Keeaumoku St., 808/955-8441). Keep in mind: Nothing is cheap in Hawaii; prices will be considerably higher on than the mainland. True bargain hunters can stock up upon arrival at Costco, halfway between the airport and Waikiki, just off the N. Nimitz Highway (525 Alakawa St., 808/526-6103, membership required).

# Honolulu Snap Guide

## **EAT** Diamond Head Market and Grill

3158 Monsarrat Ave., 808/732-0077

A health-conscious lunch spot. Order a grilled ahi sandwich to go, or sit inside and nosh on specials like the *mochiko* chicken bento. The blueberry scones make for a memorable breakfast, too.

## **EAT** Kaka'ako Kitchen

Ward Centre, 1200 Ala Moana Blvd., 808/596-7488

The best local cuisine ever to be served on a Styrofoam plate, and the most affordable way to sample chef Russell Siu's latest creations. The ingredients used here—Nalo salad greens and fresh ahi, for example—also show up on the menu at 3660 on the Rise (3660 Waiālae Ave, 808/737-1177, 3660.com), Kaka'ako's older and more expensive cousin.

“Hawaii is the land of big dreams, for both islanders and guests.”

—Writer Sharon Linnea

## **EAT** Eggs 'n Things

1911-B Kalakaua Ave., 808/949-0820

It's breakfast only at this surfing-themed joint. The egg and pancake specials start flying at 11 P.M. and keep coming until 2 P.M. the next day. Expect all walks of life after hours, from musicians and chefs just off work to famished insomniacs.

## **EAT** Jimbo's

1936 S. King St., 808/947-2211

Jimbo Motojima's place is a well-kept secret—few tourists know about its awesome homemade rice, soba, and udon noodles, served with smoky broth and extras like shrimp tempura, vegetables, and seaweed. Warning: Lunch lines are long. Advice: Call ahead for take-out.

## **EAT** Leonard's Bakery

933 Kapahulu Ave., 808/737-5591

An institution since the 1950s, and known for fresh-out-of-the-fryer Portuguese *malassadas* and *malassada* puffs. Only the coconut-*haupia* or guava-custard filling in the *malassada* puffs lets you know you're not in Lisbon.

## **EAT** Ono Hawaiian Foods

726 Kapahulu Ave., 808/737-2275

Locals line up here for the authentic pork *lulau* (the meat is wrapped in taro leaves and steamed) and *poke* (a seviche-like dish). Ono adds its own twist to *poi* (a paste made from taro) by fermenting it slightly; add a little sugar and it tastes as good as yogurt.

## **EAT** Rainbow Drive-In

3308 Kanaina Ave., 808/737-0177

A Honolulu favorite since 1961 and one of the best places to try a Hawaiian-style plate lunch: your choice of a main dish (such as teriyaki beef or boneless chicken) plus two sides, usually one scoop of macaroni salad and two scoops of white rice.

## **EAT** You Hungry

1695-D Kapiolani Blvd., 808/949-8707

Visitors are unlikely to hear much pidgin spoken in the islands—it's more of a private language for locals—but the Hawaiian restaurant You Hungry provides a taste. Instead of regular and large, the menu distinguishes between “sorta hungry” and “hungry” portions; a toothpick jar is labeled *LIKE PICK TEE?*

## **\$ SPLURGE** Hau Tree Lanai

Inside the New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel, 2863 Kalakaua Ave., 808/921-7066

Outdoor seating on the Gold Coast of Waikiki (at the Diamond Head end of Kapiolani Park). The Pacific Rim specialties like garlic seared ahi or mango-marinated pork chops are particularly good. Reservations are a must; request one of the romantic oceanfront tables.

## **THE VERY BEST MAI TAI**

The quintessential Hawaiian cocktail, the mai tai (Tahitian for “the very best”) was actually created in California at the tiki-themed chain restaurant Trader Vic's in 1944. The recipe didn't make its way to the islands until the '50s. Though the fruity rum concoction has gradually devolved into a cough-syrupy mess, a handful of hotel bartenders still know how to mix up the real deal. House Without a Key is the hands-down favorite. Its version has a slight hint of almond, and is served over crushed ice with fresh mint, purple orchid, lime, and a sugar cane stirrer (Halekulani hotel, 2199 Kalia Rd, 808/923-2311). Four runners-up: Hau Tree Lanai (Kaimana Beach Hotel, 2863 Kalakaua Ave., 808/921-7066), Mai Tai Bar (Royal Hawaiian Hotel, 2259 Kalakaua Ave., 808/923-7311), The Banyan Veranda (Sheridan Moana Surfride, 2365 Kalakaua Ave., 808/922-3111), and Barefoot Bar (Hale Koa Hotel, 2055 Kalia Rd., 808/955-0555).

# Honolulu Snap Guide

## SEE Sans Souci Beach

Between New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel (2863 Kalakaua Ave.) and Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium, Waikiki Beach Nicknamed Dig Me Beach for all the hardbodies on display, its literal French translation is “without a care.” Preening Adonises parade along the beach, while out in the water, long-distance swimmers, outrigger paddlers, and triathletes train. Great swimming year-round.

## PLAY Gray’s Beach

In front of the Halekulani hotel, 2199 Kalia Rd., Waikiki Beach Find it by following the walkway alongside the Halekulani. There are two surf breaks offshore: Paradise and Threes. The narrow beach can disappear at high tide. Fun for swimming and people watching; gear rentals available.

“In what other major U.S. city can a man go sockless, tieless, and coatless on his downtown business missions any month of the year?”

—*Fletcher Knebel*

## PLAY Queen’s Surf

Enter across from Kapiolani Park, Waikiki Beach, 808/923-1094 Open-air screenings of free movies (both new releases and classics) each weekend. Arrive just before sunset with a towel or beach chair; dinner is sold on site. Call for a schedule.

## PLAY Kuhio Beach Park

From the Waikiki Beach Center (corner of Kalakaua and Uluniu Aves.) to Kapahulu Ave.

The protected cove is kid-friendly, and the nearby Waikiki Beach Center offers restrooms, showers, lockers, and equipment rentals. Further west, in front of the Sheraton Moana Surfrider, you can ride the surf in an outrigger canoe (Aloha Beach Desk, 808/922-3111; \$10 for 25 minutes). Canoe’s, a nearby shore break, is the one of the best beginner surf spots.

## PLAY Ala Moana Beach Park

Across from the Ala Moana Center (1450 Ala Moana Blvd.) After Waikiki, this huge beach park is Honolulu’s most popular; weekend family picnics near the barbecue pits give it a local feel. The protective reef creates a lagoon perfect for doing laps.

## PLAY Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve

7455 Kalanianaʻole Hwy., southeast of Honolulu

The reefs of this underwater volcano crater teem with tropical fish, making it a hotspot for snorkeling. One of the country’s most beautiful beaches, Hanauma is always packed. To beat the crowds, go early in the morning or in the late afternoon. Rent snorkeling gear at the educational center. No smoking. Closed Tues. Entry fee \$5, parking \$1.

## ESCAPES

### Kailua Beach

Enter along Kawailoa Rd., between Lihikai Rd. and Aalapapa Dr., Kailua

Windsurfing is Kailua’s big draw, but this two-mile long beach also has great swimming and sunbathing. Just south-east is Lanikai Beach (access from Mokulua Dr.), where you can paddle out to the tiny Mokulua Islands, home to bird sanctuaries. Rent from Kailua Sailboards & Kayaks (130 Kailua Rd., 808/262-2555, kailuasailboards.com; \$39 for half-day single kayak rental, \$49 for half-day double; guided tours from \$89).

### The North Shore

During its October-to-April epic swells, when waves easily reach 20 feet or more, surfers from all corners congregate at Waimea Bay, Sunset Beach, and the notorious Banzai Pipeline. Contests allow enthusiasts to grab a free, safe seat in the sand and watch the pros rip, get barreled, and wipe out. (Swimmers need not despair—there are plenty of summer days when waves are flat and waders rule.) Prime snorkeling in the non-winter months can be found at Shark’s Cove in Pupukea, a good alternative to popular Hanauma Bay. One of the Shore’s largest towns is Haleiwa, a hippie holdover marked by some surf shops, a few battered shacks, and an occasional handwritten sign (MANGO PICKLES FOR SALE). In the back of Celestial Natural Foods lies Paradise Found, a vegetarian café with a local following (66-443 Kamehameha Hwy., 808/637-4540). The landmark Matsumoto’s Shave Ice specializes in a version of what mainlanders call snow cones (66-087 Kamehameha Hwy., 808/637-4827). There’s a staggering selection of mix-and-match bikinis at North Shore Swimwear (66-250 Kamehameha Hwy., 808/637-7000) and gear of all sorts at Surf N Sea (62-595 Kamehameha Hwy., 808/637-9887, surfnsea.com).

# Honolulu Snap Guide

**SEE** **Iolani Palace**

364 S. King St., 808/522-0832, [iolanipalace.org](http://iolanipalace.org)

Take a grand tour of the restored Hawaiian royal palace, which dates from 1882. Crown jewels, ancient feathered cloaks, and royal china give a glimpse at what was America's only monarchy. The Royal Hawaiian Band plays an hour-long concert on the grounds at noon most Fridays. Reservations necessary for the tour. \$20. Closed Sun.–Mon.

**SEE** **Kawaiahao Church**

957 Punchbowl St., 808/522-1333

Christian missionaries and Hawaiians completed Kawaiahao in 1842, after five years' work. No wonder it took so long—they used some 14,000 coral blocks from offshore reefs weighing 1,000 pounds. Sunday morning services, with lively sermons and hymns, are conducted in Hawaiian and English. 9 A.M.

“In what other land  
save this one is the  
commonest form  
of greeting not  
'Good day,' nor 'How  
d'ye do', but 'Love'?”

—*Jack London*

**SEE** **National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific**

2177 Puowaina Dr., 808/532-3720

It was called Puowaina (“hill of sacrifice”) by ancient Hawaiians because lawbreakers were put to death here. These days, the long-extinct volcanic sister of Diamond Head serves as the final resting place for many World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War soldiers.

**SEE** **Shangri La**

4055 Papu Circle, 866/385-3849, [shangrilahawaii.org](http://shangrilahawaii.org)

Famously reclusive, the late tobacco heiress Doris Duke built this estate in the 1930s after visiting Hawaii on her honeymoon. She was known to surf with the Kahanamoku brothers—Duke Kahanamoku was the father of modern surfing—and filled Shangri La with rare Islamic art. Call months in advance to reserve a tour. \$25 (includes entry to Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 S. Beretania St., where the tour starts).

**SEE** **USS Arizona Memorial**

1 Arizona Memorial Pl., 808/422-0561 (recorded info) or 808/422-2771, [nps.gov/usar](http://nps.gov/usar)

The visitors center commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor, has a small museum, two theaters, and an offshore memorial over the remains of the USS *Arizona*. Visits include a documentary on the infamous day. Admission is free but entrance tickets are required; arrive very early (7–8 A.M.) to get one. Leave any large beach bags or purses back at the hotel.

**SEE** **Hawaii's Plantation Village**

94-695 Waipahu St., Waipahu, 808/677-0110, [hawaiiplantationvillage.org](http://hawaiiplantationvillage.org)

A fascinating open-air museum in Waipahu that earnestly re-creates the lives of varied ethnic groups—native Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Puerto Rican, Okinawan, Korean, Filipino—who worked the sugar fields. \$13, kids \$5.

**PLAY** **Bishop Museum**

1525 Bernice St., 808/847-3511, [bishopmuseum.org](http://bishopmuseum.org)

Premier natural and cultural artifacts of Hawaii and the Pacific, encompassing pre-Western contact through the present. Hula dancing demonstrations are twice a day. Its summer Moonlight Mele on the Concert Lawn Series is especially popular. Call or check online for schedule. 6 P.M.; Museum admission \$15 adults, \$5 kids.

**SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE**

The Hawaiian alphabet has just twelve letters, and only seven of them are consonants (*h, k, l, m, n, p, and w*). If you stress each vowel, you'll come close to pronouncing words correctly.

**Aloha** Hello, goodbye, love

**Kama'aina** Literally “child of the land”; refers to both long-time and island-born residents

**Kane** Man (on a door, it means men's room)

**Kapu** No trespassing

**Mahalo** Thank you

**Malihini** Newcomer, visitor

**Ono** Delicious (literally, a kind of fish)

**Pupu** Snacks or appetizers

**Wahine** Girl or woman (on a door, the ladies' room)

If you hear some pidgin in Honolulu, it's likely to be one of these phrases:

**Brah** All guys in the islands are brahs, or brothers

**Grindz** Food

**Howzit?** What's happening? An informal hello

**Mo Bettah** Good, a good idea

**Shaka** It's cool, hello, goodbye (for the hand signal, make a fist, then stick out your thumb and pinky and shake)

**Slippahs** Flip-flops

# Honolulu Snap Guide

## SEE Foster Botanical Garden

50 N. Vineyard Blvd., 808/522-7060, [co.honolulu.hi.us/parks/hbg/fbg.htm](http://co.honolulu.hi.us/parks/hbg/fbg.htm)

A 14-acre living testament to the flowers, herbs, orchids, and palms that have flourished in Hawaii since the 1850s. With the help of a free tour book, track down the double coconut palm that can produce a 50-pound nut, as well as Honolulu's official tree, the rainbow shower tree (which can grow as high as 40 feet). Free tours weekdays at 1 P.M. \$5 adults, \$1 kids.

## SEE Nu'uuanu Pali Lookout

Near the summit of Pali Hwy.

For one of the best views on the island, brave the 35 mph-plus gusts that—over centuries—have carved out dramatic finger-like cliffs that face east towards Kailua. To the right of the lookout, the Old Pali Highway makes a pleasant little detour on foot. Note: TheBus does not stop here.

“Nature is where it  
all begins for  
the Hawaiians.”

—M.J. Harden

## SEE Waimea Valley Audubon Center

59–864 Kamehameha Hwy., 808/638-9199, [audubon.org](http://audubon.org)

One of the most tranquil places on the island, spanning 1,875 shady acres. A paved path meanders from the visitors center to a swimming hole at the base of a 40-foot waterfall. A dip here makes a refreshing reward before heading back down to the car. \$8, kids \$5.

## PLAY Diamond Head Crater

Enter from Diamond Head Rd. near 18th Ave.

The sweeping panoramic view of eastern Koko Head, Waikiki's pearly sand, downtown's skyscrapers, and Barber's Point (the southwestern corner of Oahu) is worth every step of the 1.75-mile climb to the top of this 760-foot volcanic crater. \$1.

## PLAY Ka'ena Point State Park

End of Farrington Hwy., Makaha

At the very western tip of the island, Pohaku o Kauai (“Rock of Kauai”) is where legend says souls depart this world for the next. To get there, you'll have to hike a couple of miles on a dirt path (it begins where the road ends) to one of the outcroppings over the water—the sunsets here are worth it, and you'll probably have the view to yourself.

## PLAY Kualoa Regional Park

Kamehameha Hwy., Kaneohe

A 150-acre, tree-lined peninsula perfect for a picnic lunch, especially with the scenic, craggy peaks of the Koolau Range in the background. On the windward coast, tales still circulate about hearing drums and seeing night marchers after the sun goes down.

## PLAY Pu'u Ualaka'a State Park

North of Honolulu; 2.5 miles up Round Top Dr. from Makiki St.

Jaw-dropping views of southern Oahu; at night, Honolulu's twinkling city lights inspire smitten lovers to “park” here.

## \$ SPLURGE Surfing Lessons

Surf N Sea, 62-595 Kamehameha Hwy., Haleiwa, 808/637-9887, [surfntsea.com](http://surfntsea.com)

Instructors help beginners catch waves, stand up on the board, hang 10 (all toes curled over the edge), and even make turns. \$75 for two hours, includes board rental.

## SOUVENIRS

Oahu doesn't take itself too seriously. While there's plenty of respect for history and culture, there's also an appreciation for the kitsch inextricably linked to Hawaiian tourism. Locals and visitors alike go for hula-girl bottle openers and aloha belt buckles. If you have serious shopping stamina, brave the stalls at the outdoor International Market Place (2330 Kalakaua Ave., 808/971-2080). Otherwise, retreat to two surprisingly good sources for cheap souvenirs: Kmart (500 Nimitz Hwy., 808/528-2280, plus three other locations around the island) and Longs Drugs (2220 S. King St., 808/949-4781), which carries a wide selection of inexpensive leis made from fresh flowers, dried kukui nuts, macadamia nuts, or candy.

## ISLAND DRIVING

Having a car in Waikiki is unnecessary and parking is expensive, up to \$15 a day. The area is a maze of dead ends and one-ways, many of which seem to be permanently under construction. It's better to rent a car on the days you know you want to venture out of Honolulu. Stay off the roads during rush hour: There are only three major highways on the island and they're jammed on weekdays from 6 to 9 A.M. and from 3 to 6 P.M. On Friday nights, rush hour extends until 8 P.M. If you do hit traffic, don't lay on the horn; it's considered rude. Honolulu locals will give directions by telling you to head *makai* (toward the ocean, or south), *mauka* (towards the mountains/north), toward Diamond Head (east), or toward Ewa (west).

# Honolulu Snap Guide

## DOWNTOWN

### SEE Hawaii State Art Museum

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 S. Hotel St., 2nd Fl., 808/586-9958, [state.hi.us/sfca](http://state.hi.us/sfca)

Opened in 2002, the museum exhibits the work of Hawaii's best contemporary artists. As elsewhere in Honolulu, the islands' rich mix of cultures is apparent, from Japanese-style embroidery to traditional folk art. Free. Closed Sun.–Mon.

## CHINATOWN

### SEE First Friday Honolulu

808/521-2903, [chinatownhi.com/firstfri.asp](http://chinatownhi.com/firstfri.asp)

On the first Friday of every month, art galleries, artists' studios, and boutique shops stay open until 9 P.M. Live music and free *pupus* (snacks) in the galleries and on the streets. The ARTS at Marks Garage (1159 Nuuanu Ave., 808/521-2903, [artsatmarks.com](http://artsatmarks.com)) ignited the arts revival in the neighborhood, and it's the best place to start.

### SEE Hotel Street

Between Bethel and Smith Sts.

A notorious strip lined with bars and brothels during World War II. Smith's Union Bar (19 N. Hotel St., 808/538-9145) is the last vestige of the area's seedy past. These days, hipsters head to thirtyninehotel (39 N. Hotel St., 808/599-2552, [thirtyninehotel.com](http://thirtyninehotel.com)) where Honolulu's best DJs spin. The brand-new Next Door (43 N. Hotel St., [whoisnextdoor.com](http://whoisnextdoor.com)) hosts Chinatown's independent film fest every summer, as well as edgy films and music acts year round.

### SEE Kuan Yin Temple

170 N. Vineyard Blvd., 808/533-6361

A Buddhist temple dedicated to Kuan Yin bodhisattva, the goddess of mercy. Leave your shoes outside, bring a gift of fruit or flowers to place on the altar, or burn "paper money" for prosperity. On feast days there are vendors outside the temple; otherwise, buy the fruit and funny money in the shops nearby.

## SHOP Leis

Maunakea St., between N. Beretania and King Sts.

Locals buy leis as gifts to celebrate occasions—birthdays, graduations—and to welcome special visitors. You'll smell the flowers long before you actually see the tiny stores with open doors that line this street. Simple flower strands with purple orchids or sweet-smelling ginger are a good bet at \$5; more intricately woven creations can cost \$25 or more.

## SHOP Viet Hoa

162 N. King St., 808/523-5499

An Asian herb shop where the walls are lined with tiny drawers filled with dried flowers, ground-up roots, and who knows what else. Consult with the herbalist about what ails you and you'll get a prescription on the spot.

### SEE Hawaii Theatre

1130 Bethel St., 808/528-0506, [hawaiiitheatre.com](http://hawaiiitheatre.com)

Concerts, opera, dance, theater, and even the occasional hula contest (buy tickets online, from \$10). Tours of the historic art deco theater—which was completely restored in 1996—are given on most Tuesdays at 11 A.M. \$5.

## FUN FOR KIDS

### SEE Honolulu Theatre for Youth

2846 Ualena St., 808/839-9885, [htyweb.org](http://htyweb.org)

Hour-long plays suitable for all ages. *Musubi Man*, Hawaii's answer to the Gingerbread Man story, was a recent hit. Performances take place all over the island. Buy tickets online or over the phone; from \$16 adults, \$8 kids.

### PLAY Honolulu Zoo Twilight Tours

151 Kapahulu Ave., 808/971-7171, [honolulu zoo.org](http://honolulu zoo.org)

Guided tours of the zoo after sunset let visitors see the nocturnal animals come out and play. Every Saturday in summer, and one Saturday a month (near the full moon) during the rest of the year, 5:30–7:30 P.M.; \$12 adults, \$8 kids. "Snooze in the Zoo" throws in dinner, breakfast, s'mores around the campfire, and an overnight under the stars (bring your own tent and sleeping bag). \$39, ages 4 and up.

### PLAY Pineapple Garden Maze

Dole Plantation, 64-1550 Kamehameha Hwy., Wahiawa, 808/621-8408, [dole-plantation.com](http://dole-plantation.com)

Made up of more than 11,000 plants (including pineapple and hibiscus), the Dole maze made *Guinness's* list in 2001 as the world's largest (\$5 adults, \$3 kids). To see the rest of the grounds, hop aboard the Pineapple Express train for a 20-minute narrated ride (\$7.50/\$5.50) or take a self-guided tour of the gardens (\$3.75/\$3).

### \$ SPLURGE Polynesian Cultural Center

55-370 Kamehameha Hwy, Laie, 800/367-7060, [polynesia.com](http://polynesia.com)

Learn to crack open a coconut or throw a Tongan spear at this 42-acre cultural theme park offering crafts, music, food tastings, and interactive activities from seven Polynesian islands: Hawaii, New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti, Marquesas, Tonga, and Samoa. Arrive when the doors open at noon to avoid the crowds, and plan for at least a two-hour visit. Skip the dinner luau and pay only for general admission: \$36 adults, \$25 kids. A full-day pass including night show is \$50 adults, \$34 kids, or \$65/\$49 with transportation from Waikiki.

### \$ SPLURGE Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park

400 Farrington Hwy., Kapolei, 808/674-9283, [hawaiianwaters.com](http://hawaiianwaters.com)

Twenty-five acres of wave pools, slides, inner-tube flumes, and swimming pools. Da' FlowRider creates a constant set of waves so surfers and boogie boarders can hang 10 all day long. Adults \$35, kids \$25.