

Destination Hawaii

Forever considered the original luxury break, Hawaii still delivers in spades – from famous urban destinations and bustling nightlife, to quieter islands and exclusive retreats

Hawaii, a tropical paradise, is renowned for its stunning landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm Aloha spirit. The popular destination is made up of eight major islands, and offers a diverse range of experiences, from bustling urban centres to serene, untouched natural beauty. Each island possesses a unique charm, from the lush valleys of Kauai to the volcanic wonders of the Big Island. Visitors can choose to indulge in world-class resorts, pristine

beaches, vibrant nightspots, and historical landmarks. Hawaii's blend of breathtaking scenery and vibrant culture makes it a top destination for travellers seeking out both adventure and relaxation. Let's explore Hawaii's eight islands. [hawaii.com](https://www.hawaii.com)

OAHU

Oahu, known as "The Gathering Place," is the heart of Hawaii's urban life and home to the state's capital, Honolulu. This vibrant island blends urban sophistication

with scenic beauty, offering something for everyone.

Waikiki Beach is possibly the most famous destination on Oahu. The golden sand, gentle surf, and bustling beachfront scene make it a hub for tourists. Here, visitors can take surfing lessons, relax under the sun, or enjoy beachfront dining, while taking in the stunning views and delicious cuisine. Honolulu itself is a bustling urban centre with a mix of high-end shopping, dining, and cultural experiences. For nightlife,

Waikiki offers numerous bars, restaurants, and entertainment options, including live music and traditional Hawaiian Lūaus.

HAWAII (BIG ISLAND)

The Big Island, aptly named, is the largest in the archipelago and offers diverse landscapes from

Above: The winter afternoon view of a sailboat and crew leaving the Ala Wai Harbor for a transit to the beautiful island of Molokai

volcanic deserts to lush rainforests. Its dramatic terrain is home to some of Hawaii's most breathtaking natural attractions. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is a highlight, featuring active volcanoes like Kilauea and Mauna Loa. The park offers numerous hiking trails, including the popular Kilauea Iki Trail and the Thurston Lava Tube.

The island's varied climate zones also allow for unique activities such as snowboarding on Mauna Kea in the winter and

snorkelling in the crystal-clear waters of Kona. The Kona Coast is renowned for its coffee farms, which let visitors learn about the island's agricultural heritage along with delicious samples.

MAUI

Maui, known as "The Valley Isle", is famous for its stunning beaches, luxury resorts, and scenic drives. The Hana Highway is one for the list, with its winding lush rainforests and cascading waterfalls, the drive offers

spectacular coastal views. Maui's whale-watching opportunities are among the best in the world, particularly in the winter months when humpback whales migrate to the warm waters. The Haleakalā National Park provides sunrise views from the summit of a dormant volcano.

For those looking to relax, Maui's Kaanapali Beach and Wailea Beach are home to world-class resorts like the Four Seasons and the Grand Wailea. These resorts offer luxurious

amenities, from spas to fine dining, ensuring a pampered and unforgettable stay. [grandwailea.com](https://www.grandwailea.com)

KAUAI

Kauai, nicknamed "The Garden Isle," is renowned for its lush landscapes and dramatic scenery. The Napali Coast offers some of the most breathtaking views in Hawaii, accessible by hiking, boat tours, or helicopter rides.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy kayaking on the Waialua River, ►



Left: Oahu is Hawaii's third largest island –known as The Gathering Place, with the volcanic cone behind Diamond Head Top left: Relaxing in a hotel infinity pool by Waikiki Beach

zip-lining through tropical forests, and exploring the island's many botanical gardens. Kauai's slower pace of life and natural beauty make it a perfect destination for relaxation and adventure.

For accommodation, the luxurious St. Regis Princeville Resort offers breathtaking views and world-class service. Visitors can also enjoy the tranquil beaches of Poipu, which are ideal for snorkelling, swimming, and sunbathing. princeville.com

NIIHAU

Niihau, known as the "Forbidden Island," is privately owned and largely off-limits to outsiders. This seclusion works to preserve the traditional Hawaiian lifestyle

and pristine environment. On occasions, limited tours are offered, providing a unique glimpse into a way of life that has changed little over the centuries.

Niihau's commitment to tradition and privacy makes it a unique part of Hawaii's cultural landscape. Visitors who manage to join a tour can experience the island's natural beauty and learn about its history and culture from the residents themselves.

MOLOKAI

Molokai is known for its strong preservation of native Hawaiian culture. It is mainly undeveloped but offers a tranquil retreat with stunning sea cliffs and the historic Kalaupapa National Historical Park. Visitors to Molokai can explore

the island's beautiful landscapes, from the cliffs of the Kalaupapa Peninsula to the lush Halawa Valley. The island's secluded beaches, like Papohaku Beach, offer a quiet and private beauty.

Molokai's small towns, such as Kaunakakai, provide a look into traditional Hawaiian life, with local markets, craft shops, and community events. The island's commitment to preserving its heritage and natural environment offers a unique, memorable experience.

LANAI

Lanai was once known for its pineapple plantations and is now a secluded paradise with high-end resorts, such as the Four Seasons. Unique attractions include the magnificent rock formations of Garden of the Gods and the pristine Hulopoe Bay, which are perfect for snorkelling and dolphin watching.

Lanai offers a tranquil escape with opportunities for golf,

horseback riding, and exploring the island's rugged landscapes. The Four Seasons Resort Lanai provides an exclusive and luxurious retreat with top-notch amenities and services.

To get a more local experience, visitors can explore Lanai City, a small town with charming shops, restaurants, and galleries. This island's quiet beauty and luxurious accommodations make it a perfect destination for romance and relaxation.

fourseasons.com/lanai

KAHOOLAWE

Kahoolawe is the smallest of the major islands. It is uninhabited and serves mainly as a nature reserve and cultural site. Local efforts are ongoing and working to restore its ecosystem and preserve its historical significance. The island is primarily used for conservation and educational purposes, access is only open to volunteers and researchers. ■