

O'AHU'S TOP SIGHTS & ATTRACTIONS BY REGION

Explore O'ahu's top sights and attractions. From landmarks like historic Iolani Palace to Waimea Bay, one of O'ahu's most legendary beaches, learn about the special places that make O'ahu so unforgettable.

Home to the majority of Hawaii's population and a wealth of activities and attractions, O'ahu is separated into 5 distinct regions: Honolulu, the Windward Coast, Central O'ahu, the Leeward Coast and the North Shore. World famous Waikiki is located on the south shore of Honolulu.

HONOLULU



Home to the State Capitol, Honolulu is the vibrant epicenter of Hawaii. Here you'll find everything from historic landmarks and treasured monuments to world-class shopping and a flourishing arts and culture scene. Home to the majority of O'ahu's population, the sprawling city of Honolulu spreads throughout the southeastern shores of O'ahu, from Pearl Harbor to Makapuu Point, encompassing world famous Waikiki.

Honolulu has it all. This is the home of some of Hawaii's most historic places from Iolani Palace, the Kawaiahaeo Church, the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archive and the treasured artifacts of the Bishop Museum to iconic landmarks like the Aloha Tower, the King Kamehameha I Statue, the Duke Kahanamoku Statue and the historic Hawaii Theatre.



Honolulu is also Hawaii's hot spot for arts, culture and entertainment. From the nightlife, live music and fine dining of Waikiki to the art galleries and underground bars of the Chinatown arts district. Whether you're looking for Hawaii's finest museums, or Hawaii's finest Hawaii Regional Cuisine chefs, the best resorts, festivals, and events, or just some fun things to do, you'll find it all in Honolulu.

WAIKIKI

Located on the south shore of Honolulu, the world-famous neighborhood of Waikiki was once a playground for Hawaiian royalty. Known in Hawaiian as "spouting waters," Waikiki was introduced to the world when its first hotel, the Moana Surfrider, was built on its shores in



1901. Today, Waikiki is O'ahu's main hotel and resort area and a vibrant gathering place for visitors from around the world. Along the main strip of Kalakaua Avenue you'll find world-class shopping, dining, entertainment, activities and resorts.

Waikiki is most famous for its beaches and every room is just two or three blocks away from the sea. With Leahi (Diamond Head) as your backdrop, the calm waters of Waikiki are perfect for a surfing lesson. In fact, legendary Hawaiian waterman Duke Kahanamoku grew up surfing the waves of Waikiki. This Olympic gold medalist in swimming actually taught visitors how to surf at the turn of the century and was later known as "The father of modern surfing." Today, the Waikiki Beach Boys perpetuate Duke's legacy by teaching visitors how to surf and canoe and the Duke Kahanamoku Statue has become an iconic symbol of Waikiki.

But there's more to Waikiki than just the beach. Attractions of Waikiki like the Honolulu Zoo and the Waikiki Aquarium offer fun for the whole family. You can learn about the history of Waikiki by reading the surfboard markers along the Waikiki Historical Trail. Among the various things to do, fantastic shopping and dining can be found all along Kalakaua and Kuhio Avenues and at gathering places like the Royal Hawaiian Center and the Waikiki Beach Walk. And the fun keeps going long after the Waikiki sunset with amazing nightlife and live music.

Best of all, Waikiki is within a half hour of a variety of O'ahu attractions, including Pearl Harbor, Iolani Palace, the Nuuanu Pali Lookout and Hanauma Bay. Other notable points of interest nearby include Ala Moana Center, the local neighborhood of Kapahulu and the arts district of Chinatown.

From Hawaiian royalty to Hawaii Regional Cuisine, Waikiki continues to be an evolving expression of the ancient spirit of aloha. On these famous shores, the past and the future are uniting in fresh and surprising ways.

LEAHI (DIAMOND HEAD)

The iconic silhouette of Diamond Head State Monument sits along the Honolulu skyline just beyond Waikiki. This 760-foot tuff crater is one of Hawaii's most famous landmarks.

Known as Leahi (brow of the tuna) in Hawaiian, the crater was named Diamond Head by 19th century British sailors who thought they discovered diamonds on the crater's slopes. These "diamonds" were actually shiny calcite crystals that had no value.

Formed more than 100,000 years ago, the crater was used as a strategic military lookout beginning in the early 1900's and was named a National Natural Landmark in 1968. Today, Diamond Head is a popular hiking destination with panoramic views of Waikiki and O'ahu's south shore.

It only takes a short drive or bus ride to get to Diamond Head Crater from Waikiki. This moderately challenging trail includes two sets of stairs, totaling 175 steps, as well as dark,



underground tunnels and old military bunkers that require a flashlight. The stunning views that greet you at the top of Diamond Head are well worth the effort.

If you plan to hike on Saturday morning, don't forget to stop by the Kapiolani Community College Farmer's Market — O'ahu's premier farmers market showcasing locally grown food and produce — across the street from the monument entrance on Monsarrat Avenue. In fact, there are a few notable cafes and restaurants lining Monsarrat that will make for a great pre or post Diamond Head meal.

ALOHA TOWER

Located on the Honolulu Harbor in Downtown Honolulu, about 15 minutes west of Waikiki, Aloha Tower is an iconic symbol of Hawaii. Built in September of 1926, this was the tallest building in the islands for four decades and its clock was one of the largest in the United States. The tower stood as a welcoming beacon for visitors since travel to O'ahu was done entirely by sea. Duke Kahanamoku set his first swimming world record here at Pier 7 and the wharf was also known for Boat Days, a lively celebration to welcome the arrival of visiting ships.



Today, Aloha Tower is still a docking port for O'ahu's cruise ships, but this historic place has also transformed itself into the 170,000- square foot Aloha Tower Marketplace, featuring a variety of stores and fine restaurants. Enjoy an ocean-view lunch, listen to live music at night, explore its unique shops or walk just a couple of blocks to Chinatown's art district. You can also go up to the Observation Deck, located on the 10th floor of Aloha Tower to find the perfect spot for beautiful views of the harbor on one side and the cityscape of Honolulu on the other.

BISHOP MUSEUM

Bishop Museum is Hawaii's largest museum dedicated to studying and preserving the history of Hawaii and the Pacific. Originally designed to house the extensive collection of Hawaiian artifacts and royal family heirlooms of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a descendent of King Kamehameha I, the museum is now the premier natural and cultural history institution in the Pacific. One of O'ahu's most historic places, the museum holds millions of artifacts, documents and photos about Hawaii and other Polynesian cultures.



Visit the newly renovated Hawaiian Hall, which immerses you in Native Hawaiian culture and history by showcasing a variety of important artifacts. In the planetarium, kids can learn how voyagers navigated the Pacific using the stars. In the Science Adventure Center, children can see Hawaii's unique natural environment like never before through a variety of interactive exhibits.

Note that the museum is closed every Tuesday and on Christmas Day (December 25th), but is open year round with regular hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DOWNTOWN HONOLULU & CHINATOWN

Downtown Honolulu is home to some of O'ahu's most historic places. Next to the skyscrapers of the island's main business district you'll find important landmarks like the Iolani Palace, the King Kamehameha I statue, the Kawaiahao Church and the Aloha Tower. This area is also the seat of Hawaii's government, home to the Hawaii State Capitol, Washington Place (the governor's mansion) and Honolulu Hale (Honolulu's City Hall). Clustered within blocks of each other, it's easy to take a walking tour of these important cultural landmarks and architectural wonders.



Located on the western hem of Honolulu's financial district, Chinatown's historic buildings are home to a hodgepodge of shops, herbalists, lei makers, antique dealers, temples, bars and restaurants. By day, explore Chinatown's bustling markets like the Maunakea Marketplace or the O'ahu Market. Here you'll find exotic fruits, seafood and curiosities like the "thousand-year old egg." Incredible temples like the Izumo Taishakyo Mission Shrine and the Kuan Yin Temple transport you to historic Japan and China. And when you're hungry, Chinatown's eclectic restaurants serve everything from dim sum (Chinese dumplings) to Eurasian, Vietnamese, Malaysian and even Cuban and French fare.

This is also the epicenter of O'ahu's arts scene. Take the Chinatown art walk along and around Nuuanu and Bethel Street during the monthly First Friday festivities, the best time to experience all the area has to offer. In fact, Chinatown is a hot spot for O'ahu nightlife. Home to the historic Hawaii Theatre for live music and shows, you can find some of Hawaii's hottest underground bars, clubs and restaurants in the weathered lofts and buildings of urban Chinatown after dark.

DUKE KAHANAMOKU STATUE

On Kuhio Beach, a bronze statue of Duke Kahanamoku welcomes you to Waikiki with open arms. Duke was a true Hawaiian hero and one of the world's greatest watermen, a master of swimming, surfing and outrigger canoe paddling.

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku was born on August 24, 1890. He grew up swimming and surfing in Waikiki near the current Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort. Discovered as a swimming sensation, Duke's legend began when he broke the world record in the 100-yard freestyle during his very first competition. The prodigious Duke went on to win Olympic gold in the 100-meter freestyle and silver in the relay in 1912. He also won two gold medals in 1920 and won a silver medal at age 34 in the 1924 Olympics. Duke was also one of the pioneers of the Waikiki Beach Boys, watermen who earned their livings teaching visitors how to surf and canoe at Waikiki Beach. If you look, you can still find real Waikiki Beach Boys showing visitors a great time in the Waikiki surf today. The amiable Duke also acted in Hollywood and used his fame to spread the popularity of surfing to the U.S. mainland and Australia. Later, he was elected Sheriff and official greeter of the city and county of Honolulu and was the first person to be inducted into both the Surfing Hall of Fame and the Swimming Hall of Fame. Duke Kahanamoku, "The father of modern surfing," was Hawaii's first ambassador of goodwill. He was instrumental in helping to spread the sport of surfing and the spirit of aloha around the world. To see authentic photos and memorabilia of Duke and the Waikiki Beach Boys grab a bite at Duke's Canoe Club in the Outrigger Waikiki overlooking Waikiki Beach.



HANAUMA BAY NATURE PRESERVE

Staring out at the circular-shaped shore of Hanauma Bay on the southeast tip of East Honolulu, you can imagine how this beautiful cove was once a volcanic crater. Today, this crater, likely flooded by wave erosion, is home to an important nature preserve and the island's most popular snorkeling destination.



Preservation is emphasized at Hanauma Bay after it went through a major restoration to re-establish its delicate eco-system. Learn about protecting the bay at the recently opened Marine Education Center where you can watch a short theatre presentation and view exhibits. Then swim out into Hanauma Bay's clear blue waters and explore the lively reefs full of colorful fish. Rent or bring your own masks, snorkels and fins. And be sure to pack a lunch or stop by the snack bar after a morning of exploration.

Again, be aware that great care and responsibility should be shown in the waters and on the beaches. This is the first Marine Life Conservation District in Hawaii so it's important for visitors to preserve the fragile marine ecosystem of the bay by not littering and by not touching the sea animals or coral. The preserve is open daily except Tuesdays. Also note that the parking lot fills quickly so try to arrive early or you'll have to find parking off site.

IOLANI PALACE

A national historic landmark and the only official state residence of royalty in the United States, Downtown Honolulu's Iolani Palace was the official residence of the Hawaiian Kingdom's last two monarchs from 1882 to 1893: King Kalakaua and his sister and successor, Queen Liliuokalani.



The palace was a symbol of promise for the Hawaiian Kingdom built by King David Kalakaua, "The Merrie Monarch." Influenced by European architectural styles, this royal residence included Hawaii's first electric light system, flush toilets and intra-house telephones. The rich interior features a beautiful koa staircase, dramatic portraits of Hawaiian royalty, ornate furniture and royal gifts and ornaments from around the world.

In 1893, a provisional U.S. government was established after opposition forces overthrew the Hawaiian monarchy. The Hawaiian Islands were eventually annexed as a United States Territory in 1898. Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959 and during this time Iolani Palace was used as the capitol building until 1968. After falling into disrepair over the years, the Iolani Palace was opened to the public in 1978 after an extensive renovation.

Tour through this American Florentine-style palace's throne room, reception and dining room and envision the magnificent state dinners and balls held here. View the private living quarters of the royal family and listen to the tragic story of Liliuokalani's imprisonment in an upstairs bedroom following the overthrow. On the basement level view the ancient regalia of Hawaiian royalty from swords and precious jewelry to the two golden crowns of the King and Queen. On the spacious grounds of the palace, see the Iolani Coronation Pavilion, where in 1883 Kalakaua was crowned king.

Also note that Iolani Palace sits in the center of a vital area that is worth a walking tour. Across South King Street you'll find Aliiolani Hale and the King Kamehameha I statue. Right behind Iolani Palace is the State Capitol building and Washington Place, home to the governor. To the east are the historic Kawaiaha'o Church, Honolulu Hale (home to the City Council and offices of the Mayor) and the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives. To the west you'll discover the Hawaii State Art Museum as well as O'ahu's main financial and arts district in Downtown Honolulu and Chinatown.

You can take a guided tour or a self-guided audio tour of the Palace Tuesday through Saturday. If you're facing the Palace, the ticket office is to the left on the State Capitol side of the building. One of O'ahu's most important historical places, Iolani Palace plays an integral part in understanding the history and culture of Hawaii. Learn more about the Iolani Palace.

KAWAIAHAO CHURCH

Known as the "Westminster Abbey of the Pacific," Kawaiahao Church was the first Christian Church built on O'ahu. Dedicated on July 21, 1842, "The Great Stone Church" is made of 14,000 coral slabs from ocean reefs that were hauled from the sea by native laborers and missionaries. The church and the grounds were named a National Historic Landmark in 1962.



As you stroll the streets of Downtown Honolulu, you may hear the sound of bells from the tower clock. "Kauikeaouli clock," donated by King Kamehameha III in 1850, still tolls the hours to this day. To the right of the entrance you'll find the peaceful tomb of King Lunalilo. This popular King ruled for just a little over one year and he wished to be buried "among his people" at Kawaiahao Church rather than in the Royal Mausoleum. To the left of the church you'll also find the Kawaiahao Fountain. The High Chiefess Hao bathed in this sacred spring, giving the church its name: Ka Wai a Hao, or the water of Hao.

Kawaiahao Church still serves as a center of worship for Hawaii's people, with services conducted every Sunday in Hawaiian and English. Portraits of the royal family adorn the walls of the second floor. In this historic section of Honolulu you'll also find the Iolani Palace, the King Kamehameha I Statue, the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives and the State Capitol nearby.

KING KAMEHAMEHA STATUE

A great warrior, diplomat, and leader, King Kamehameha I united the Hawaiian Islands into one royal kingdom in 1810 after years of conflict. You can still visit the Nuuanu Pali Lookout today, the site of the Battle of Nuuanu, a crucial conflict that helped Kamehameha conquer O'ahu.

Kamehameha's unification of Hawaii was significant not only because it was an incredible feat, but also because under separate rule, the islands may have been torn apart by competing western interests. Today, four commissioned statues stand to honor King Kamehameha I, Hawaii's first king.

The most recognized Kamehameha statue stands in front of Aliioli Hale (home to the Hawaii State Supreme Court) across from Iolani Palace and a short walk from historic Kawaiahao Church and the State Capitol. Dedicated in 1883, this was actually the second statue created after the



ship delivering the original statue from Europe was lost at sea near Cape Horn. This original statue was later found and was erected in North Kohala on Hawaii's Big Island near King Kamehameha's birthplace.

Sculpted by Thomas Gould in Florence, this 18-foot bronze statue of Kamehameha is one of O'ahu's most photographed landmarks. Every June 11th, on Kamehameha Day, this statue is ceremoniously draped with wreaths of flower lei to celebrate Hawaii's greatest king.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC

Located just north of Downtown Honolulu in a long-extinct volcano called Punchbowl Crater, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific is the resting-place for almost 53,000 veterans (and eligible family members). The memorial, placed on the National Register of Historic Places, stands in honor of the sacrifices and achievements of the American Armed Forces and commemorates the soldiers of 20th century wars, including those who were lost during the attack at Pearl Harbor.



Medal of Honor recipients and other notable Hawaii heroes are buried here including Ellison Onizuka, Hawaii's first astronaut, and Stanley Dunham, World War II veteran and President Obama's grandfather. The engraved names of almost 29,000 heroes from World War II, Vietnam, and Korean wars who were designated Missing In Action, Lost, or Buried at Sea are honored in the ten 'Courts of the Missing'. Serene and poignant, Punchbowl also offers a panoramic view of Honolulu from the top of Punchbowl's crater rim. Informative, free walking tours are sponsored by Veterans of the American Legion.

QUEEN EMMA SUMMER PALACE

Take the drive from Honolulu into the lush Nuuanu Valley to discover the Queen Emma Summer Palace. Known in Hawaiian as Hanaiakamalama, this was the secluded summer retreat of Queen Emma, King Kamehameha IV and their son, Prince Albert. This special museum is on the National Historic Registry and houses a collection of Queen



Emma's belongings as well as royal antiques, furnishings and memorabilia. If you continue further up the Pali Highway you can also experience the amazing view from the Nuuanu Pali Lookout. Click to learn more about the Queen Emma Summer Palace.

WINDWARD COAST



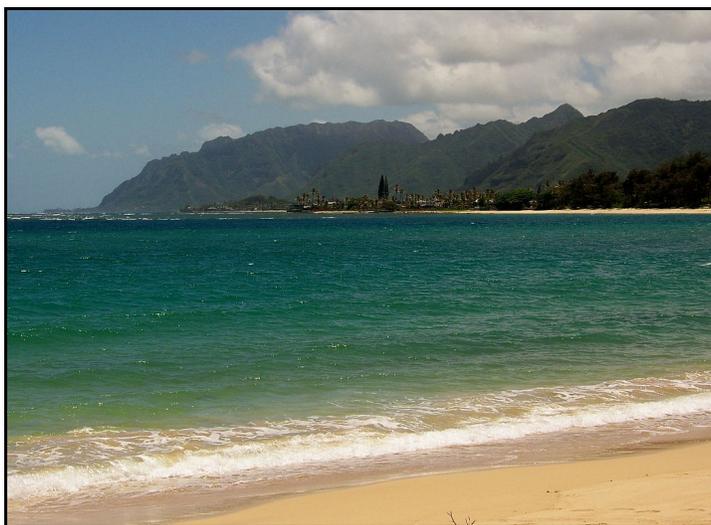
Take a short drive from Waikiki and Honolulu over the mountainous Pali Highway to the lush country landscape and white sand beaches of O'ahu's Windward Coast. On the way, be sure to stop at the historic Nuuanu Pali Lookout for a breathtaking preview of the beauty yet to come.

As you exit the tunnels on the other side of the Koolau Mountain Range, it feels as if you're leaving one world and entering another. A turquoise ocean shimmers in the distance calling you to Kailua, a thriving beach town where you'll find a host of eats, trendy local shops and a crescent beach that looks like it belongs in a magazine.

From Kailua town, you can head in two directions. Go clockwise around the island to Sea Life Park, Makapuu Lighthouse, Hanauma Nature Preserve and eventually Diamond Head and Waikiki.

Or spend a day exploring the Windward Coast in a counter clockwise direction as it winds lazily around the island toward the North Shore, offering interesting stops along the way.

The serene Valley of the Temples is home to an amazing Japanese Buddhist temple, while the café at nearby Heeia Kea Pier is known for a farm to table menu that's literally "fresh off the boat."



Driving along the two-lane highway you can't miss Mokoli'i, fondly known as "Chinaman's Hat." Stop at the park and stretch your legs or have a picnic. Just across the highway you'll find one of Hawaii's most seen but least recognized locations: Kualoa Ranch. A generations-old family-owned ranch, its scenic valley has provided the backdrop for countless movies and TV shows, including *LOST* and *Hawaii Five-0*. Fortunately, it's not just for the stars. Visitors and locals alike enjoy horseback riding, ATV tours and host of other activities.

From here, Kamehameha Highway meanders past Kaaawa ("Ka-ah-ah-vah" and yes, there are three As in a row), gentle Kahana Bay, Laie with the Polynesian Cultural Center, the old plantation town of Kahuku and around the northernmost tip of the island to O'ahu's North Shore, home of the best surf spots in Hawaii — and some say — the world.

KAILUA BEACH PARK

With a half mile of soft white sand, turquoise water and gentle breezes, Kailua Beach Park located on the Windward Coast is a local favorite. A hub for water sports, Kailua Beach welcomes visitors and locals to windsurf, body board, kayak and parasail. Conveniently, kayak rentals, dive shops and beachwear boutiques are located nearby the beach.



Kailua Beach's proximity to several small islands makes it an ideal place for adventuring and kayaking. Closest to the shore is barren Flat Island, and far off to the east are the Mokulua Islands, commonly known as "Moks" or "Twin Islands." To the west of Kailua Beach is Kalama Beach, a family-friendly beach with mild waves great for teaching kids how to surf and body board. To the east is Kailua's sister beach, Lanikai Beach, which is another beautiful stretch of sand, although less accessible since it's nestled between residential housing and parking is limited.

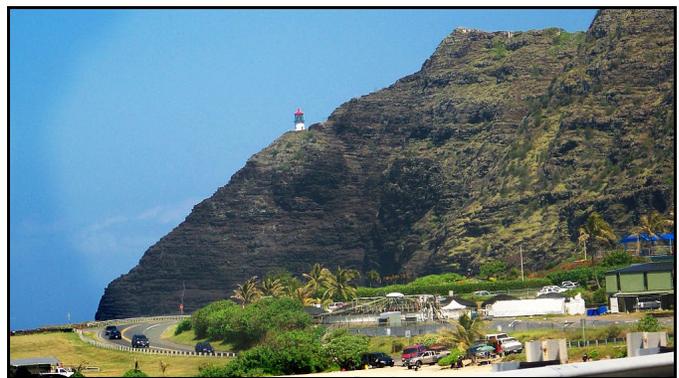
On the way to the beach you'll pass charming Kailua Town. You'll find scattered along Kailua Road a variety of restaurants and shops to satisfy all tastes. Eat like a local and try a shave ice to cool down after the beach. President Obama famously treated his family to some shave ice at the Island Snow in Kailua Town. Or grab a plate lunch and head to Kailua Beach's large grassy areas and picnic benches, perfect for eating lunch near the ocean.

As couples lounge on the sand with their dogs, teenagers play in the water and families throw parties on the picnic tables, you'll learn that Kailua has a laid-back environment different from Waikiki. Consistently rated one of the best beaches in America, Kailua Beach is a great getaway less than 30-minutes away from Honolulu.

MAKAPUU POINT LIGHTHOUSE

On the eastern most point of O'ahu sits the Makapuu Point Lighthouse, a shining beacon built in 1909 on a 600-foot sea cliff overlooking Makapuu Beach — a stretch of sand known as one of O'ahu's best bodysurfing beaches — and family friendly Sea Life Park.

Fifteen minutes past Hanauma Bay and beyond Sandy Beach (another popular local beach) you'll find the large parking lot that leads to the two-mile, paved trail overlooking the lighthouse. This moderately easy hike pays off with breathtaking views of the indigo ocean and O'ahu's eastern, or Windward Coast. You can even see the island of Molokai in the distance. Two other smaller islands, Manana (the larger of the two, also



known as Rabbit Island) and Kaohikaipu are also visible just offshore.

The Molokai Channel runs right past the Makapuu Lighthouse so this is also a great place to spot whales using on-site telescopes during whale watching season between December and May.

NUUANU PALI LOOKOUT



Just a 5-mile drive northeast of Downtown Honolulu, the Nuuanu Pali Lookout offers panoramic views of the sheer Koolau cliffs and lush Windward Coast. Driving up the Pali Highway through tall trees and dense forests to get to the lookout, you'll see the city disappear and the tranquil beauty of Hawaii's natural landscape emerge.

Perched over a thousand feet above the O'ahu coastline amid mountain peaks shrouded by clouds, the stone terrace overlooks the areas of Kaneohe and Kailua, Mokoli'i (a pointy island locals call Chinaman's Hat) and the University of Hawaii's marine biology research center, Coconut Island. Other notable landmarks that can be seen are Hawaii Pacific University's Windward campus, Kaneohe Marine Corps Base and the Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden, which is part of the Honolulu Botanical Gardens.

After you've soaked in the view, continue through the Pali Tunnels to Windward O'ahu. As you near the bottom you'll face a "tough" decision: go straight to the buzzing beach town of Kailua or turn left through Kaneohe and follow the lush coastline to Haleiwa and Waimea Bay on O'ahu's famed North Shore.

The Pali Lookout is a site of deep historical significance. Named "Pali" meaning 'cliff' in Hawaiian, the Pali Lookout is the site of the Battle of Nuuanu, where in 1795 King Kamehameha I won the struggle that finally united O'ahu under his rule. This fierce battle claimed hundreds of soldiers' lives, many of which were forced off of the Pali's sheer cliffs.

Note that the Pali Lookout is also known for its strong and howling winds. You'll understand why the Nuuanu Pali Lookout is one of O'ahu's best scenic points when you feel the wind push up against you, hear the winds whistle through the mountains and see the breathtaking views of O'ahu's lush Windward Coast.

VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

Deep in a lush valley along the 2,000-foot Koolau Range lies the Valley of the Temples. The resting place for many of Hawaii's departed, Valley of the Temples' hilly landscape is scattered with hundreds of freshly placed tropical flowers, like torch ginger and bird of paradise, to remember loved ones.

The main attraction in the Valley of the Temples is a Japanese temple called Byodo-In, which translates to the “Temple of Equality.” A scale replica of a temple in Uji Japan and made entirely without nails, Byodo-In was dedicated in 1968 as a centennial commemoration of the first Japanese immigrants in Hawaii. Famed Kyoto Landscaper Kiichi Toemon Sano planned the Japanese garden complex that houses Byodo-In with extreme attention to detail, from the gravel’s ripple-like design to the small bridges over the fishpond.

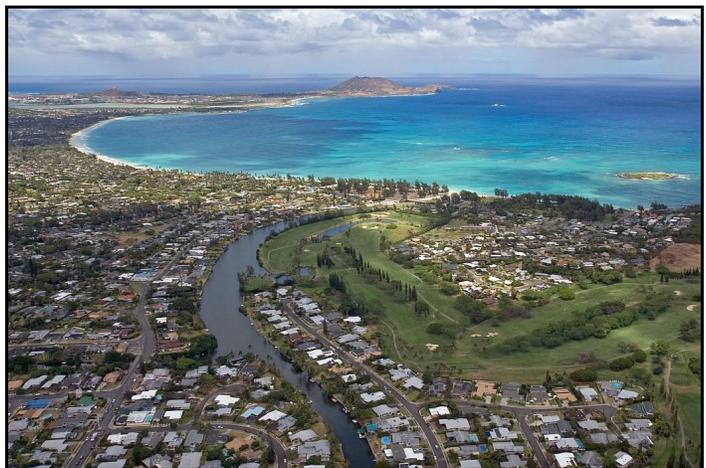


The deep drone of the sacred bell (bon-sho) fills the tranquil temple grounds, as it is customary for visitors to ring the bell before entering the temple for happiness and longevity. To sound the five-foot, three-ton brass bell, you must pull and release a wooden log called a shu-moku. Inside the Byodo-In sits an 18-foot gold leaf-covered Buddha where visitors are welcomed to light incense and offer a prayer. Outside, peacocks and black swans roam the garden grounds and turtles lounge beside the pond. The temple’s pond is also filled with koi, a Japanese decorative fish that is a symbol of love and friendship.

The Valley of the Temples is truly a hidden gem in Hawaii found off the beaten path on the Windward Coast. There is no other place where you can see an authentic Japanese temple situated against the gorgeous backdrop of O’ahu’s soaring Koolau Mountains.

KAILUA

Turquoise water and fine white sand have made Kailua Beach a favorite of locals and visitors alike. Add a dash of city chic, and you have Kailua Town. Located on O’ahu’s Windward Coast, the main part of Kailua Town consists of a few blocks of trendy boutiques, popular restaurants and kamaaina (resident) hang-outs, like the Thursday evening farmers’ markets.



Start the morning with pancakes smothered with irresistible macadamia nut sauce at Boots and Kimo’s Homestyle Kitchen or “to die for” crepes at Crepes No Ka Oi. If you’re already at the beach, stroll to Kalapawai Market for coffee and lunch. After a day of body boarding, rehydrate with a refreshing smoothie at Lanikai Juice or cool off like the President with shaved ice from Island Snow. And if you’re in the mood for dressing up—in Kailua terms that means something more than a beach cover-up—Formaggio Grill boasts over 50 wines by the glass.

Although Kailua isn't large, its selection of unique boutiques draws shoppers from around the island. Olive Boutique and Global Village capture Kailua's sunny lifestyle, while Island Treasures features a large selection of Hawaii artists.

Of course the biggest draw to this buzzing community is Kailua Beach. Activities abound including kayak rentals and kite board lessons. You'll also see lots of people getting their workout by walking up and down this sun-kissed stretch. For a view of Kailua that'll make all your friends jealous, grab a water bottle and your camera and take the 1-hour Lanikai Pillbox hike. It doesn't get better than this.

THE LEEWARD COAST



At the foot of the 4000 foot Waianae mountain range and less than 30 miles from Waikiki lies the Leeward Coast. Drier than the lush Windward Coast, this local area is home to rural towns, off-the-beaten-path beaches and one luxurious resort area.

Most visitors to the Leeward Coast will be coming to visit the beautiful Ko Olina resort area. Home to the J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa and Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, this 43-acre marina offers stretches of beautiful shoreline, ample opportunities

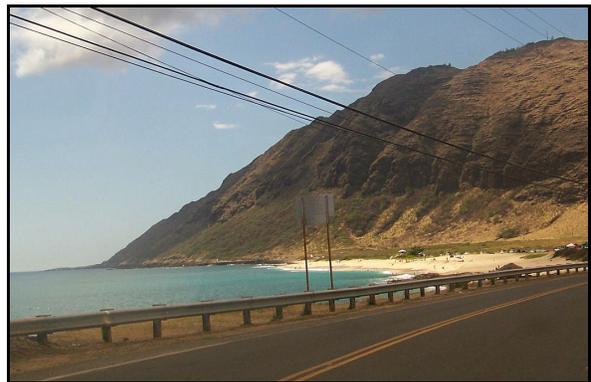
for water sports and championship golf. Other attractions in the area include the Paradise Cove Luau and the Wet n' Wild Hawaii water park. Local beaches include Makaha Beach, one of the first spots where surfers began big wave surfing, and Yokohama Bay. At the end of the road you can take a hike to O'ahu's western most point at sacred Kaena Point.



KAENA POINT

On the western tip of O'ahu is Kaena Point. This dramatic lava shoreline is said to be the place where souls of ancient Hawaiians would jump off into the spirit world and meet the souls of their ancestors. With scenic views of the Waianae coast to the south, Mokuleia to the north, and the vast Pacific, it's easy to see why this point was deemed so sacred.

The only way to get to Kaena Point is by hiking. There are two trailheads: From the south side, or Leeward Coast side, begin your hike from Kaena Beach State Park. From the north side, or Mokuleia side, drive to the very end of Farrington Highway and park at the trailhead. This is a long and notoriously hot hike, so bring plenty of sunscreen and water. Hazardous conditions make any water activities extremely dangerous and are highly discouraged.



THE NORTH SHORE



If there is such a thing as a perfect wave, you'll likely find it on O'ahu's North Shore. The big, glassy winter waves of this legendary surf mecca attract the best surfers in the world, while summer waves are far smaller and more gentle – all of which makes the North Shore the perfect surf spot for beginners and veterans alike.

Stretching for more than 7 miles, the beaches of the North Shore host the world's premier surfing competitions during the peak, winter months, including the Super Bowl of wave riding,

the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing (November - December). Stroll in the thick sands of Waimea Bay, Ehukai Beach (Banzai Pipeline) and Sunset Beach — just leave the surfing to the pros.

The months between November and February are the best times to watch big wave surfing. These massive waves can sometimes swell up to thirty feet or more and can even be dangerous for experienced surfers so please heed warning signs. From May to September, the waves subside, creating a more tranquil atmosphere for surfing, swimming and sunbathing.

Roughly a one hour drive from Waikiki, the North Shore is also home to various condo rentals, the luxurious Turtle Bay Resort and Haleiwa Town, where you can shop, eat like a local and cool off with rainbow flavored shave ice, the perfect way to end your day on the North Shore.



HALEIWA

Your first stop along the North Shore will be charming Haleiwa, about a one-hour drive from Waikiki. More than the laid back surf town it seems, Haleiwa is filled with local style and country ambiance as well as cool surf shops and boutiques, understated restaurants and charming art galleries.

Rich with island history, Haleiwa is now the social and artistic hub of the North Shore. Here you'll find surfers fueling up at the restaurants in its plantation era buildings before hitting the famous beaches of Waimea Bay, Ehukai (Banzai Pipeline) and Sunset Beach. You'll also find locals and visitors shopping, eating and winding down after a day in the sun. Haleiwa is a far cry from the excitement of Waikiki, and that's exactly how the people of the North Shore like it.



WAIMEA BAY

Located on the legendary North Shore, Waimea Bay was an influential surf spot during the dawn of big wave surfing in the 1950's. Adventurous surfers began to challenge the powerful winter waves of Waimea (as well as Makaha Beach on the west side) giving birth to the big wave-riding phenomenon.



Big wave season hits Hawaii from November through February attracting the best men and women surfers in the world. Waimea Bay, along with other famous spots including Ehukai Beach (Banzai Pipeline), Sunset Beach and Haleiwa Beach host world-renowned surf competitions. The Vans Triple Crown of Surfing, known as the Super Bowl of Surfing, happens every year between November and December on O'ahu.

Waimea Bay is also home to the Quiksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau surf competition. Honoring legendary Hawaiian waterman Eddie Aikau, this special contest only happens during massive swells when “The Bay calls the day.” The sport’s elite surfers are called between December and February to surf Waimea when the waves are at a minimum of 20-feet high (30-foot face heights). In the last 24 years, the call for this epic competition has only been made eight times.

Beyond the surf, Waimea Bay is a beautiful North Shore Beach with wide stretches of sand to sunbathe and picnic. During the summer, the waves of Waimea actually subside making the waters suitable for swimming. A rock outcropping in the bay is a popular spot for locals to climb and jump off of, but this can be dangerous and is not advised. Also please heed all postings and lifeguard warnings. Leave the dangerous big waves of Waimea to the pros.

Nearby you can also explore Waimea Valley, a botanical garden and cultural attraction that is home to beautiful Waimea Falls. And after the beach, a trip to Haleiwa for a cool shave ice will hit the spot. There is a parking lot at Waimea Bay, but parking is limited since this is one of the more popular beaches on the North Shore.



CENTRAL O'AHU



The fertile central valley between the Waianae Mountains and Koolau range offers a peek into O'ahu's history. On your way from Honolulu to the North Shore, you'll pass residential areas as well as the Leilehua Plateau in Wahiawa, where you can see sprawling fields that are reminders of O'ahu's sugar cane and pineapple plantation past.

Attractions in Central O'ahu include the Dole Plantation, famous for its Guinness Book of World Records worthy shrub maze, the Hawaii Plantation Village, where you can learn about O'ahu's plantation past, and Aloha Stadium, site of University of Hawaii football games and annual site of the NFL Pro Bowl.



But the most important landmark in Central O'ahu sits to the south in historic Pearl Harbor, the largest natural harbor in Hawaii. This active naval base is home to 5 Pearl Harbor Historic Sites: The Pacific Historic Parks, the USS Battleship Missouri Memorial, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park, the Pacific Aviation Museum and the USS Oklahoma Memorial. These special monuments commemorate the historic events that changed world history during World War II.

DOLE PLANTATION

Journey through the 2008 World's Largest Maze, as featured in the Guinness Book of World Records, where fearless adventurers can search for eight secret stations on their way to solving the mystery of the maze. Then, take a ride on the Pineapple Express train. This 20-minute train tour is fully narrated in English, Japanese, Korean and Mandarin, and will give visitors an overview on the history of the pineapple, agriculture in Hawaii, and the life of James Dole. Trains depart every half-hour between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm, weather permitting. Next, stroll through the Plantation Garden Tour. The tour consists of eight mini-gardens that will give visitors a close-up look at a wide variety of fruits, flowers and native plants. Tour-goers will hear stories and legends of old Hawaii.



HAWAII PLANTATION VILLAGE

Step back in time to when 'Sugar was King' and experience the real Hawaii. Hawaii's Plantation Village is the perfect location for keiki, family, and all ages to explore a living history museum and botanical garden. A visit to us opens a door to a time of true hospitality and cultural sharing that sprung from Hawaii's plantation life.

Hawaii's Plantation Village is an outdoor museum that tells the story of life on Hawaii's Sugar Plantations (circa 1850-1950). The Village includes restored buildings and replicas of plantation structures such as houses of various ethnic groups, community buildings such as the plantation store, infirmary, community bathhouse, and manager's office. We share the story of Hawaii's various cultures, including Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, Puerto Rican, Japanese, Korean, and Filipino.

Located in historic Waipahu town, local guides take you on a journey back to the early 1900s, where you can experience more than 25 authentic plantation homes and structures featuring personal artifacts, clothing, furniture and art placed in their original settings. Unusual plants brought from China, Portugal, Japan, Puerto Rico, Korea, Okinawa, Polynesia, and the Philippines by the immigrants from their native lands provide delicious fruit samples during the tour.



The gift shop features home-made handicrafts, ethnic music, cookbooks, toys and much more! Japanese speaking guides available with advanced reservations. This “must-see” attraction is located in historic Waipahu town, just down the street from Waikele Shopping Outlets.

PEARL HARBOR

Pearl Harbor, named for the pearl oysters once harvested there, is the largest natural harbor in Hawaii, a World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument and the only naval base in the United States to be designated a National Historical Landmark. The devastating aerial attack on Pearl Harbor resulted in 2,390 dead and hundreds wounded, and drove the United States into World War II. Pearl Harbor honors this history-changing event with the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites:

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

At 8:06 a.m. on December 7th, 1941, the USS Arizona was hit by a 1,760-pound armor-piercing bomb, which ignited its forward ammunition magazine. The catastrophic explosion that resulted sank this massive battleship in nine minutes, killing 1,177 crewmen.



Today, the USS Arizona Memorial is a place to learn about this historic attack and pay your respects to the brave soldiers that fell that day. Begin at the Visitor Center where you can watch a film about the attack and view plaques honoring lives lost on that fateful day.

You'll then take a boat shuttle to the USS Arizona Memorial, a floating memo-

rial built over the sunken hull of the Battleship USS Arizona, the final resting place for many of the ship's crew. In the shrine room, a marble wall exhibits the names of the men who lost their lives on the Arizona. Poignant and powerful, this is a place where visitors come face to face with the devastating effects of war. Learn more about the Pacific Historic Parks.

BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL

General Macarthur accepted the unconditional Japanese surrender that ended WWII on September 2, 1945 on the Surrender Deck of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Now located at Pearl Harbor's historic Battleship Row, the massive "Mighty Mo" is a living museum, with exhibits spanning three wars and five decades of service.



Explore the decks of this 60,000-ton Battleship, three football fields long and twenty stories tall. Stand on the Surrender Deck and view the documents that ended the war. Take a tour and get special access to restricted areas. You won't want to miss the ship's most stunning feature: towering 16-inch guns that could fire a 2,700-pound shell 23 miles. Learn more about the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

USS BOWFIN SUBMARINE MUSEUM & PARK

The U.S.S. Bowfin (SS-287) is one of the 288 U.S. submarines that carried out the war in the Pacific during World War II. Explore the



10,000 square foot submarine museum to learn about the battle under the seas. A tour of the grounds will take you to a Waterfront Memorial honoring submariners lost in WWII as well as interactive gun and torpedo exhibits.

Step onboard the USS Bowfin, also known as the "Pearl Harbor Avenger," for a panoramic view of the harbor. Step below decks and walk through an authentic submarine, touring its torpedo room, engine room, and sleeping quarters. In the Bowfin's claustrophobic quarters you may ask yourself if you have what it takes to be a submariner. Learn more about the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park.

PACIFIC AVIATION MUSEUM

Located within former WWII airplane hangars on Pearl Harbor's Ford Island, the Pacific Aviation Museum is an immersive aviation museum complete with interactive simulators and exhibits showcasing the stories behind authentic WWII fighter planes and bombers.

Explore the battle in the skies in Hangar 37, a 42,000 square foot airplane hangar that survived the Pearl Harbor attack. See planes like an authentic Japanese Zero and a B-25B Bomber, similar to the one used in the famous “Doolittle Raid” on Japan in 1942. Gain a new perspective on the war at the Pacific Aviation Museum. Learn more about the Pacific Aviation Museum.

USS OKLAHOMA MEMORIAL

Dedicated on December 7th, 2007, the USS Oklahoma Memorial honors the 429 crewmen who lost their lives in the Pearl Harbor attack. Approximately nine torpedoes hit “The Okie,” capsizing this 35,000-ton battleship in only twelve minutes.



Some crewmen were actually trapped in compartments below deck after the ship capsized. They used hammers and wrenches to signal rescue crews on the surface. Two days after the attack, thirty-two men were rescued from the overturned hull of the Oklahoma.

FARMERS' MARKETS ON O'AHU

A worldwide institution, Farmers' Markets have been around almost as long as farms themselves, and on the island of O'ahu, they're more popular than ever. Several times a week, in a variety of locations, food producers and local culinary stars gather in parks and parking lots to sell fresh produce and other agricultural products. It's the perfect opportunity for residents and visitors alike to enjoy locally-grown, O'ahu products including aqua-cultured seafood, North Shore beef, Manoa honey, Kahuku corn, Waialua chocolate, and Waimanalo greens (that's just for starters).

As you mingle with locals and talk with farmers, you'll also have a chance to sample O'ahu-style snacks and recipes from food booths that serve everything from Sweet Bread French toast, lilikoi mochi, and gourmet plate lunches to the Hawaii Regional Cuisine made famous by O'ahu chefs. You can also buy fresh flowers and a variety of handmade products at most O'ahu Farmers' Markets and a few even provide entertainment. One bit of advice: shoppers are hungry and inventory is gobbled up fast, so go early and enjoy.

HONOLULU

HONOLULU FARMERS' MARKET

Wednesdays, 4 – 7 pm

777 Ward Ave

808-848-1921

hfbf.org

ALA MOANA FARMERS' MARKET

Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm

1450 Ala Moana Blvd

808-955-9517

www.alamoanacenter.com/events/ala-moana-farmers-market

HAWAII KAI FARMERS' MARKET (MAKEKE O MAUNALUA)

Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm

Kaiser High School

511 Lunalilo Home Road

808-388-9696

www.alamoanafarmersmarket.com/hawaii-kai.html

WAIKIKI

MAHIKU FARMERS MARKET AT

KING'S VILLAGE

Fridays and Mondays, 4 -9 pm

131 Kaiulani Ave

808-225-4002

www.mahikufarmersmarket.com

KAPIOLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FARMERS' MARKET

Saturdays, 7:30 – 11 am

4303 Diamond Head Road

808-848-1921

hfbf.org

HYATT'S FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays, 4 - 8 pm

Hyatt Regency Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa

2424 Kalakaua Avenue - Ground Floor

808-923-1234

waikiki.hyatt.com/en/hotel/activities.html

NORTH SHORE

NORTH SHORE COUNTRY MARKET

Saturdays, 8 am – 2 pm

59-360 Kamehameha Hwy

808-673-3296

www.northshorecountrymarket.com

WINDWARD O'AHU

KAILUA FARMERS' MARKET

Thursdays, 5 – 7:30 pm

609 Kailua Rd

808-848-1921

hfbf.org

WINDWARD MALL FARMERS MARKET

Wednesdays, 2:30 pm – 7:30 pm

46-056 Kamehameha Highway

808-235-1143

www.windwardmall.com/event/farmers-market-every-wednesday

SHOPPING ON O'AHU

If you're going to spend time shopping on Oahu, you're in for a fun adventure. You are guaranteed to find whatever it is you are looking for and then some!

The best Oahu shopping can be found in both indoor and outdoor settings. You will find a diverse mix of shops specializing in Hawaiian specialty items, island art, high-end designer goods, local crafts, and as much Hawaiiana as you can muster. Whatever you are looking for, you will be able to find it at the following Oahu shopping venues: Ala Moana Mall, Aloha Tower Marketplace, Ward Warehouse & Ward Centre, and of course, the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet.

ALA MOANA SHOPPING CENTER

Being the largest outdoor mall in the world with close to 300 unique shops and restaurants, it's no wonder, that the Ala Moana Mall consistently ranks in the top 10 malls in the nation, and the best shopping on Oahu!

In one of its recent mega million dollar renovations, the Ala Moana Mall added a 4th top level with a handful of restaurants and a fun open air island bar called the Mai Tai Bar, which is a hotspot for hip locals and tourists alike!

This one of a kind shopping mall also has a beautiful center stage that hosts free daily performances, including lots of local Hawaiian music and hula dancing. Don't miss the Keiki (kids) Hula performance that takes place every Sunday at 10am!



ALOHA TOWER MARKETPLACE



The Aloha Tower Marketplace has received an amazing makeover, adding 60 retail shops and 15 restaurants. This entertainment oasis is once again a welcoming center for incoming visitors, and now goes far beyond just a welcome port for incoming cruise ships. It sports some of the best entertainment and shopping on Oahu.

The selection of unique, fun and local shops, hip restaurants, and nightly entertainment has made the Aloha Tower Marketplace a main Oahu shopping attraction, not only for visiting tourists but for locals as well.

ALOHA STADIUM SWAP MEET

Shopping on Oahu would not be complete if you did not experience the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet! This is not just not any old flea market, but the grand swap meet of all swap meets!

Arrive early and be prepared to literally be overwhelmed in a good way. Stall after stall -- there is so much to see and take in. You might not know how to start and where to end, but you must come see this one of kind Oahu Shopping extravaganza.



WARD CENTERS & WARD VILLAGE



Boutique shops, special Hawaiian artworks, mellow crowds, and good restaurants & bars are a small taste of what you will find at these vintage wooden buildings. This shopping venue should definitely be one of your excursions when shopping on Oahu.

The Ward Village features a good handful of restaurants, and some high-end boutique clothing shops. The Borders Book Store that anchors this center has a neat dedicated Hawaiian section featuring recent and popular books on Hawaii. Upstairs you will find a few restaurants and bars that host live music some nights. If you're lucky, you might catch a popular local Hawaiian band playing.

Across the street you will find a new extension of the Ward Centers. It's worth walking across, as they have added some new fun sporty restaurants and shops. Roxy Surf Shop, just for the wahines (ladies), has joined the mix, and now anchors this section.

HALEIWA TOWN - NORTH SHORE

Shopping on Oahu doesn't only mean shopping in Honolulu and Waikiki. The North Shore holds its own when it comes to shopping. Hawaiian shave ice and catching a view of the notorious big waves is usually what's on everyone's mind when trekking out to the Northshore of Oahu. But if you stop to linger in Haleiwa Town for a little bit, you are in for an Oahu shopping experience that is uniquely different from the rest of the island.

A handful of Hawaiian art galleries and vintage surf shops partly defines Haleiwa Town's character. And let's not forget one very famous shave ice shop -- Matsumoto's Shave Ice.

If you are in search of some beautiful Hawaiian artwork, make sure you head out this direction.



CHINATOWN HONOLULU



This is Oahu's newest hip area to peruse boutique shops, dine in great restaurants, and hangout to experience the active nightlife. Honolulu's Chinatown is also becoming home to many of Oahu's artists who are setting up their art galleries here.

One thing that has not changed in this vintage Chinatown, are the colorful lei shops. If you drop by Honolulu's Chinatown, let it be for no other reason than to check out the handful of lei shops and perhaps buy one that is freshly made and you will be given a lesson on the meaning of the colors and the type of flowers that you choose for your lei! You'll find a wide variety of handmade leis that goes far beyond what you will find in Waikiki or at the airport.

It's best described as a classic historic district with big brick buildings, and local flavor with a great vibe. It's a fun place to take a break from the mainstream shops, and stroll around to discover something new.

HILO HATTIE

NIMITZ FLAGSHIP STORE

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Honolulu, HI 96817

ALA MOANA SHOPPING CENTER

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Honolulu, HI 96814

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ABC Stores have been a familiar name in Hawaii, and part of a family-run retail business, since 1949. With our friendly store people, large selection and more than 60 stores throughout the islands, we make it easy and convenient for you to bring Hawaii home - even if you're not here in person! With a wonderful selection of Hawaii's very best, at the very best prices.

TROPICAL FARMS MACADAMIA NUT FARM

49-227A Kamehameha Hwy.

Kaneohe, Oahu, HI 96744

808-237-1960

Open 7 days a week, 10:45 am to 6:00 pm

Tropical Farms on Oahu's windward (east) coast is a destination that's off the beaten path (see more photos). Most visitors to the island only get to see it if they take part in a greater circle island bus tour, which they usually book at a local tour operator. So if you don't know about this place, you wouldn't rent a car to get here. But it's definitely worth a visit, not only for the many delicious goodies you can buy, but also because you can learn a great deal about Hawaiian culture.

They grow their macadamia nuts and other fruits right here and you can enjoy flavors that aren't available in stores in Waikiki, such as cinnamon macadamias. They are freshly made on this farm. And the good thing is, you can try them for free. They even offer free samples of Kona coffee in their store. Besides macadamia nuts, they also sell jewelry, art, creams, aromatic oils and other souvenirs.

