

DESTINATION REPORT

YOUR TRAVEL SPECIALIST

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YOUR TRAVEL SNAPSHOT: Destinations included in this guide

Hawaii, United States

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INTRODUCTION

There's enough beauty and activity in Hawaii to fill more vacations than we could take in a lifetime. With so much to choose from, first-time visitors need to be selective. Our recommendation is to settle first on the Hawaii you want to see. It might be beaches, a luau and nightlife; it might be rare orchids and hikes in the rain forest; it might be quiet countryside, small towns and scenic drives. Whatever the combination, there is almost certainly an island or islands best suited to your Hawaii vacation dreams.

Hawaii, quite literally, is growing. Active lava flows from Kilauea Volcano are forming new land daily. There's even a new island forming a few thousand feet/meters below the surface of the ocean, off the southeastern coast of the Big Island, that will someday become the newest Hawaiian island. In fact, it already has a name: Loihi.

Everyone will find something enjoyable in Hawaii, and different islands will appeal to different people. Each island is unique, with distinctive attractions, special places and geophysical features.

Here's a look at the eight primary islands and their major attractions:

Hawaii Island

Hawaii Island is commonly known as the Big Island for good reason. It's larger than all the other islands combined. But aside from Hilo (the county seat), Kailua-Kona (a popular visitor destination) and the luxurious resorts along the Kohala coast, it retains a rural flavor.

Major Destinations on the Big Island: the Kona coast; Kailua-Kona; Hilo; Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, with two active volcanoes (Mauna Loa and Kilauea); Mauna Kea (the world's tallest mountain).

Big Island Attractions: If you're into the outdoors, this is the place for you. Attractions include sandy beaches in shades of green, red and black; beautiful coral reefs; snorkeling; deep-sea fishing; gorgeous flowers, including most of the orchids for lei made in the state; cattle and horse ranches; horseback riding; mesmerizing landscapes; cascading waterfalls; golf; watersports; and hiking. Nightlife and shopping are limited.

Kahoolawe

Access to this former U.S. Navy bombing target is strictly limited. Much of the island remains unusable because of unexploded ordnance.

Kauai

Kauai is the oldest and northernmost of the inhabited Hawaiian islands. Nature is its biggest draw.

Major Destinations on Kauai Island: Waimea Canyon, Kokee State Park, Poipu, Lihue, Napali Coast, Princeville, Hanalei.

Kauai Island Attractions: Mountains; valleys; waterfalls; spectacular beaches; hiking; fishing; golf; whale-watching; kayaking and sailing; bird-watching; ziplining; and snorkeling, surfing and other watersports. Shopping and nightlife are limited.

Lanai

The smallest of the main islands is quiet and uncrowded. It is 98% privately owned by Larry Ellison, CEO of Oracle Corp. Tourism is now the mainstay of the economy.

Lanai Island Attractions: Sailing, fishing, golfing, ocean rafting, hunting and back-road exploring.

Maui

Maui is the second most-visited Hawaiian island, after Oahu.

Major Destinations on Maui Island: Haleakala National Park, Iao Valley, Hana, Ka'anapali, Kihei, Lahaina, Wailea and Wailuku.

Maui Island Attractions: Wonderful beaches; calm ocean bays; stunning mountain and volcano vistas; sugarcane fields; highland ranches; twisting mountain roads; whale-watching; upcountry agriculture tours; golf; hiking; ziplining; sailing and other boat excursions; deep-sea fishing; and watersports such as snorkeling, scuba diving, surfing, windsurfing and parasailing.

Molokai

This rural island is best suited for travelers who want to see the old Hawaii and unwind quietly.

Major Destinations on Molokai Island: Kaunakakai, Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Halawa Valley.

Molokai Island Attractions: Isolated beaches, mountains, waterfalls, deep-sea fishing, history, hiking and relaxing.

Niihau

This tiny, privately owned island is also known as the Forbidden Island. Home to about 200 native Hawaiians who live a traditional lifestyle, it is off-limits to visitors. Only those who book a tour with Niihau Helicopters can land there.

Oahu

Oahu is the political, social, economic and population hub of Hawaii. It attracts the most visitors of all the Hawaiian islands.

Major Destinations on Oahu Island: Downtown Honolulu, Waikiki, Diamond Head, Pearl Harbor, Hanauma Bay, the North Shore.

Oahu Island Attractions: City life, including theater, opera, museums, shopping, nightclubs and fine dining; lush greenery; beautiful beaches; great historic sites; sailing; surfing, windsurfing, kayaking and other watersports; golf; and hiking.

GEOGRAPHY

The state of Hawaii comprises eight main islands—Kauai, Niihau, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and Hawaii—and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a string of mostly uninhabited atolls, small islands and reefs that stretch across nearly 140,000 sq mi/362,598 sq km of the Pacific Ocean.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands harbor more than 7,000 species of undersea creatures, one-fourth of which are found nowhere else in the world. Former U.S. President George W. Bush designated this region Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in 2006. It is the single largest conservation area in the U.S.

Of the main islands, Kauai, with tiny Niihau off its leeward coast, is the oldest and northernmost. As you travel south down the island chain, you'll find Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, Kahoolawe and Hawaii, or the Big Island. There, Ka Lae, also known as South Point, has earned distinction as the southernmost point in the U.S. The Hawaiian Islands are volcanic in origin, with active eruptions continuing on the Big Island.

Honolulu, the state capital, is located on Oahu. The other islands are sometimes referred to as the "Neighbor Islands."

HISTORY

Polynesians arrived in the Hawaiian Islands more than 1,500 years ago, one of many moves these people had undertaken over the centuries. Evidence suggests that these first settlers of Hawaii set out from the Marquesas Islands in present-day French Polynesia—and never expected to return there. Their oceangoing canoes were filled with domesticated animals (chickens, dogs and pigs), plants and seeds—everything they needed to start their new home. In time, the islands came to be ruled by a powerful hierarchy of chiefs and nobles, who oversaw elaborate agricultural projects and the construction of many ceremonial shrines and temples.

In January 1778, British explorer James Cook and his two ships reached Kauai. (This may have been the first Western contact with Hawaii, though another theory holds that a Spanish ship may have visited the area in the 1500s.) Cook's party traded with the locals and reported that the Polynesians were fascinated by anything made of iron. Common nails became valuable items for trade, and sailors used them to woo Hawaiian women, from whom they received a very cordial welcome. Unfortunately, this contact passed venereal disease to the Hawaiians, the first of many Western ailments that would devastate the population.

When Cook returned to the islands the next year, things didn't go as smoothly. A dispute arose when Hawaiians on the Big Island at Kealahou Bay, Kona, took one of the ship's small boats. Violence broke out, and Cook was killed. For many years, the islands were known in the West by the name Cook gave them, the Sandwich Islands (after the Earl of Sandwich, Cook's benefactor who financed his voyages of exploration).

At roughly the same time that Europeans first came in contact with Hawaii, internal politics and warfare were also redefining the islands. Each island was ruled independently until King Kamehameha I (1758-1819) united them by force. The continuing presence of Westerners played a role in the wars: The armaments of the newcomers were a decisive factor in Kamehameha's victory. Greater encroachment by outsiders took place in the 1800s, with two rather divergent groups—Calvinist missionaries and whale-hunting seamen—leading the charge.

In the mid-1800s, another group, sugar planters, became a force in Hawaii. They gained control of large parcels of land, imported foreign workers and eventually, in 1893, orchestrated the overthrow of Queen Liliuokalani, the last reigning Hawaiian monarch.

The Hawaiian Islands were annexed to the U.S. in 1898, though the island election approving annexation excluded most native-born Hawaiians. Hawaii became a U.S. territory in 1900. In 1941, the Japanese attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base on Oahu brought the U.S. into World War II. Following the war, the movement favoring statehood gained strength, and on 21 August 1959, Hawaii became the 50th U.S. state.

Most of Hawaii's sugar plantations closed by the mid-1990s. Since then, crops have diversified. Farmers statewide now grow coffee, flowers, macadamia nuts and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Tourism now is the state's major industry.

SNAPSHOT

Hawaii's foremost attractions are beaches, volcanoes, surfing, luau, lush scenery, waterfalls, Polynesian culture, ravishingly beautiful (and rare) tropical flowers and plants, hiking, relaxation, historical sites, shopping, watersports, deep-sea fishing and friendly people who exude the "spirit of aloha."

POTPOURRI

Aloha Oe, perhaps the most famous Hawaiian song, was written by Queen Liliuokalani, the last reigning monarch of the islands.

There is no "s" in the Hawaiian language, so the proper plural for lei is lei, luau for luau, and so forth.

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. is the only sugar plantation still operating in Hawaii. Its 37,000-acre/14,973-hectare plantation in central Maui produces more than 60% of the sugar consumed in the

state.

Venture up 3,379-ft/1,048-m Lanaihale (Lanai's highest point) on a clear day, and you'll see Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe and the Big Island in one magnificent panorama.

Virtually all of the tropical fruits and flowers associated with Hawaii, including orchids, plumeria, pineapple, papaya and mango, were introduced from other countries.

Molokai claims the highest sea cliffs in the world. They rise nearly 4,000 ft/1,240 m along the island's northeast coast.

Hawaii has some 300 endangered plants and animals—which represents about one-quarter of all endangered species in the U.S. Both its state mammal (the humpback whale) and state bird (the nene or Hawaiian goose) are endangered.

Passed in 1972, Kauai County's "Coconut Tree Ordinance" prohibits the construction of buildings taller than 55 ft/17 m (four stories or roughly the height of a mature coconut palm). There are, however, two exceptions: the Kauai Marriott (which was built as the Kauai Surf in 1961, before the law was passed) and the St. Regis Princeville Resort (which is 11 stories, but eight stories go down the side of a cliff).

The world's most powerful telescope will be situated atop Maunakea on the Big Island. When completed, the Thirty Meter Telescope (or TMT) will have nine times the light-gathering power of today's best telescopes. The US\$1.2 billion telescope is expected to be operational in 2018.

About 70% percent of Hawaii's population live on Oahu, which represents just 9% of the state's total land area.

Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. where coffee, vanilla and cacao (which is used to make chocolate) are grown commercially.

Hawaii is the only U.S. state that has royal palaces: Hulihee Palace in Kailua Village on the Big Island and Iolani Palace and Queen Emma Summer Palace in Honolulu on Oahu. King Kalakaua installed electric lights in Iolani Palace in 1887—four years before any were installed in the White House.

SIGHTSEEING

Hawaii's attractions are as diverse as its people. Everything you might expect to find in a sophisticated, cosmopolitan destination is there, including museums, art galleries, temples, gardens, zoos, marine parks, and cultural and historical sites. The Aloha State also claims award-winning wineries and breweries, some of which offer public tours. Nature lovers will enjoy exploring Hawaii's eight national parks (<http://www.nps.gov/state/HI/index.htm>) and 53 state parks (<http://www.hawaiistateparks.org>), some of which have cabins, fire pits, showers, restrooms and other facilities for camping.

Among the "musts" for first-time visitors: Bishop Museum, Iolani Palace, Honolulu Academy of Arts, Polynesian Cultural Center, Hanauma Bay and Pearl Harbor (Oahu); Haleakala National Park, road to Hana (with a stop at the Garden of Eden Arboretum and Botanical Garden), Maui Ocean Center, Upcountry Maui and Iao Valley State Park (Maui); Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park, Hulihee Palace, Lyman Museum and Mission House, Imiloa Astronomy Center and Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden (Big Island); Waimea Canyon, Kokee State Park, Napali Coast State Wilderness Park, Kauai Museum and Na Aina Kai Botanical Garden (Kauai).

RECREATION

You certainly won't have trouble finding things to do in Hawaii; in fact, you may have trouble paring the list down to something manageable. There truly is something for everyone. The main attraction, of course, is the beaches. Waikiki is Hawaii's most famous beach, but be sure to check out some of the other gems, too—there are amazing stretches of white, green, red and even black sand scattered throughout the islands. Try swimming, snorkeling, surfing, scuba diving, kayaking, windsurfing, stand-up paddling and boogie-boarding. If you want to get offshore, charter a fishing boat or take a dinner cruise.

For those who prefer to stay dry, there are world-class golf courses, bus tours, biking, hiking and horseback riding. The Big Island is great for camping and stargazing, and thrill seekers will want to zipline on Maui and Kauai. Ask your hotel concierge about festivals (there are at least a few happening every month in Hawaii) and "agtourism" opportunities—visits to working farms and ranches.

At the end of your busy days, pamper yourself with a *lomilomi* massage, seaweed wrap or some other exotic treatment; Hawaii's spas rank among the best in the country.

SHOPPING

Shop for a Niihau-shell, seed or flower lei; native wood products; aloha shirts and muumuus; black pearl, cultured pearl or shell jewelry; local artwork and crafts; ceramics; ukuleles; Hawaiian books, and bath and beauty products; and slack-key guitar and other CDs by local singers and musicians.

Food items make great gifts and souvenirs. Think cookies; chocolate-covered macadamia nuts; preserves and confections made from tropical fruit; local tea and honey; locally made rums, vodkas and other spirits; and local coffee, which is grown and processed on all islands except Lanai.

Be aware that most fresh fruit and some lei (there is no "s" in the Hawaiian language) can't be taken out of Hawaii. For specifics, phone 808-834-3220 or visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faq_notice/notice_hawaii.html.

Popular shopping spots include Ala Moana Center, Waikiki, Aloha Stadium Swap Meet and Waikale Premium Outlets (Oahu); The Shops at Wailea, Whalers Village, Queen Kaahumanu Center, Paia and Lahaina (Maui); Kings' Shops, Queens' Marketplace, Kailua Village and Prince Kuhio Plaza (Big Island); Hanalei, Hanapepe and Kukui Grove Center (Kauai).

Farmers' markets, craft fairs and museum gift shops are other places that carry wonderful island wares.

Shopping Hours: Generally, mall shops are open Monday-Saturday 9 or 10 am-9 pm and Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Smaller shops may close entirely on Sunday or have shorter hours, and shops in tourist areas may have longer hours.

DINING OVERVIEW

Virtually none of the food sold in Hawaii is true "Hawaiian food." It is a mix of cuisines and products introduced from other countries.

Island chefs have developed a style of Hawaiian regional cuisine that incorporates fresh locally grown meats, seafood, fruits and vegetables in a multicultural infusion of flavorings, ingredients, spices, sauces and cooking methods. This is the creative cuisine that many of Hawaii's finer restaurants serve.

The islands also have everything from fast-food chains to Mexican, French, Italian, Indian, Filipino, Greek, Chinese, Japanese and Korean restaurants.

Available at diners, cafes and mobile lunch wagons throughout the islands, the popular plate lunch supposedly was born during the plantation era. Field workers would eat (and sometimes share) lunches packed in tin boxes, which usually consisted of rice with whatever was left from dinner the night before. Today, favorite plate lunch entrees reflect this diversity: *kalua* pig (Hawaiian), teriyaki beef (Japanese), *shoyu* chicken (Chinese), *kalbi* (Korean) and pork *adobo* (Filipino). The main dish is accompanied by "two scoops rice" and a scoop of macaroni salad. True, plate lunches are high in fat, cholesterol and calories—but they're *ono* (delicious).

Possibly the only true traditional food enjoyed by the original Polynesian settlers is *poke* (*po-kay*). It consists of fish or other seafood that has been cleaned and deboned. It is then cubed and served with traditional condiments such as sea salt, seaweed and *limu* (algae). When the onion was introduced by Spanish settlers during the 19th century, it began to be included as well.

A luau, or feast, is a celebration of Hawaiian culture, music, dance and, of course, food. It is usually associated with an event such as a graduation, birthday, anniversary or wedding.

The luau starts with the uncovering of the *imu* (earth oven in which the *kalua* pig is cooked) and the removal of the pig and other foods. Tables are then laden with a variety of traditional dishes, including *kalua* pig; *laulau* (steamed pork, chicken or fish wrapped in ti leaves); *lomilomi* salmon (mixed with chopped tomatoes, and onions—similar to a salsa); fresh island fish; baked taro, sweet potatoes and *ulu* (breadfruit); poi (cooked taro, pounded into a thick paste); salmon (mixed with chopped tomatoes and onions); and perhaps *opihi* (limpet, an island delicacy).

Other local foods you may encounter at a luau include *pipikaula* (beef jerky), sashimi (raw fish, a dish of Japanese origin), chicken long rice, barbecue chicken and *pupus* (hors d'oeuvres).

Hotels and resorts offer luau that feature a show of Polynesian music, songs and dances, and the wonderfully diverse food of the islands. It's a fun, entertaining performance that usually includes numbers from Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand and Samoa. The thrilling Samoan fire knife dance is always a highlight.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Violent crime doesn't pose a great danger in Hawaii for the most part, but it's wise to be careful. Theft from automobiles is the most common hazard faced by visitors, so don't leave anything of value in your car when you're away from it. And don't leave your purse, wallet, cell phone or camera unattended on the beach while you're swimming or snorkeling. Use caution and common sense when walking along the beaches, day or night. Muggings and robberies have been known to occur in some areas, especially on less-populated shores. Steer clear of deserted areas after dark.

Civil defense warning sirens are affixed to poles in coastal, business and residential areas throughout the islands. They've been set up to warn people of a potential threat—for example, a tsunami, earthquake or enemy attack. The old sirens look like yellow speakers. They're being replaced by a solar-powered system, which looks like a stack of green discs, so you'll see both systems on all islands.

The sirens are tested at 11:45 am on the first working day of each month. If you hear the sirens blaring at any other time, that means an emergency situation exists, and you should turn on your radio to get directions on what to do.

For more information on how to stay safe when visiting Hawaii, visit the Travel Smart Hawaii website. <http://www.travelsmarthawaii.com/en>.

HEALTH

Hawaii maintains sanitation standards on par with other states in the U.S., and visitors should expect no unusual hazards related to food and water. Make sure to apply sunscreen liberally every day and to drink plenty of water when hiking to avoid dehydration.

If you're cut while swimming, keep a close watch on the wound and see a doctor at once if it doesn't heal properly. Coral cuts can easily become infected. Keep an eye out for box jellyfish warnings. The little stinging critters appear near shore about once a month (usually eight-12 days after the full moon), and their arrival typically is well-publicized on the news and at area beaches.

Portuguese men-o-war also pack a mean sting. They're drifters whose movement depends on wind conditions and, to a lesser degree, ocean currents. When the wind is blowing toward shore, they will be seen in that area.

Excellent hospitals, dental facilities and pharmacies are available on Oahu, Maui, the Big Island and Kauai. Medical services are limited on Molokai and Lanai.

DOS & DON'TS

Don't use the expression "back in the States." Hawaii is part of the U.S., so say "on the mainland." Local residents who are of native descent are referred to as Hawaiians. Residents who have lived in Hawaii a while are considered *kamaaina*. Foreigners (generally Caucasians) are known as *haole*.

Don't be surprised if you see people waving their hands with the thumb and pinky extended. It's the *shaka* sign that is generally used in place of a wave when meeting or parting. It is a goodwill gesture that says "hang loose."

Do pay attention to the civil defense warning sirens affixed to poles in coastal, business and residential areas throughout the islands. Be aware: The sirens are tested at 11:45 am on the first working day of each month.

Don't leave the islands without sampling Hawaiian shave ice (ice shavings packed into a paper cup and topped with flavored syrup). Stores that are serious about their shave ice offer more than two dozen flavors, including unusual ones such as green tea, root beer, cotton candy, bubble gum and salty *li hing mui*. Perk yours up with ice cream, *azuki* (sweet red) beans and/or condensed milk.

Don't underestimate the power of the surf and the ocean currents. Newcomers to Hawaiian beaches should be exceedingly careful to follow all posted guidelines and warnings. Never turn your back on the ocean. In general, don't swim alone and never swim where others aren't swimming. If you're caught in a riptide, don't fight the current—swim parallel to the beach until you escape the current, and then swim to shore.

Do limit your time in the sun and use plenty of sunscreen whenever you're outdoors. Excessive exposure to the sun's rays can cause nausea, dehydration and permanent damage to your skin.

Do take off your shoes when entering homes in Hawaii; this is a Japanese custom that *kamaaina* have adopted.

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: Citizens of Australia and the U.K. need a passport and proof of onward passage but in most cases will not need a visa (contact a U.S. Embassy or Consulate for details).

All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Citizens of Canada, Mexico and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda also must have a passport or other designated secure document to enter the U.S.

Passports are required for land crossings at the Canadian and Mexican borders with the U.S. and for cruise passengers returning to the U.S. from Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada or Bermuda.

Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

Population: 1,392,313.

Languages: Primarily English, though Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Ilocano, Samoan and other languages are also spoken.

Predominant Religions: Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Mormon), Buddhism and Judaism.

Time Zone: 10 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-10 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is not observed.

Voltage Requirements: 110 volts.

Telephone Codes: 808, area code for the entire state;

Currency Exchange

Foreign currency can be exchanged at the Honolulu International Airport, as well as at major hotels and banks (most are open 9 am-4 or 5 pm Monday-Friday) throughout the islands. ATMs are widely available on the major islands.

Credit cards are accepted at nearly every hotel and most restaurants and stores; however, merchants often pay a higher fee on transactions involving foreign credit cards, so cash (U.S. currency only) or traveler's checks are preferred.

Taxes

A general-excise tax of 4.167% is added to all goods sold (it's 4.667% on Oahu). An additional 9.25% transient accommodations tax is charged, making the total tax on a hotel room about 13.97%.

Tipping

Tips in Hawaii should be similar to the U.S. mainland. If you receive good service at a restaurant or in a cab, tip 15%-20% of the bill, not including tax. If service is poor, it's up to you. It's good to leave US\$2 per day for hotel housekeeping and to slip the bellhop US\$2 per bag.

Weather

Hawaii has four distinct seasons, although their differences are subtle. Winter is significantly cooler, windier and wetter than the other seasons. Visitors will encounter more variations between elevations and coast exposures (windward or leeward) than seasons. The windward (eastern) sides of the islands are wetter than the leeward

because of exposure to the prevailing northeast trade winds, which bring rainfall. The leeward (western) sides tend to be much hotter and drier. Individual islands also have variations in temperature and rainfall. The best times to visit are mid-April to early June and mid-September to mid-November, when days are in the 70s-80s F/22-32 C, and nights in the 60s-70s F/17-27 C. (These are also the least crowded periods.) Winter is the wettest time, but rain generally won't spoil a vacation, as it is often interspersed with sunshine.

Regardless of when you go, take a sweater for the evenings. If you're heading to mountainous areas during the winter months, you will need a heavier coat, as it can be cold at higher elevations.

What to Wear

Shorts are fine for men and women in the daytime. A quick-drying jacket is good protection against vigorous trade winds and occasional showers, and a sweater or light jacket comes in handy at high elevations and in air-conditioned restaurants and shops. Few restaurants require men to wear ties or jackets (ask when you phone for reservations). Several establishments, however, don't allow shorts, T-shirts, tank tops, swimsuits and *zoris* (rubber slippers).

On the whole, dress in the islands is exceedingly casual. In the evenings, men will be comfortable in aloha shirts or nice polo shirts with trousers, and women can go just about anywhere in a light summer dress, skirt or slacks. Attire in Honolulu is dressier than on the other islands, although it's still considerably more casual than most large cities.

A good rule of thumb when you're packing for your trip is, "If in doubt, leave it out." You'll probably want to buy a few things while you're there, anyway. You might even throw an empty duffel bag in your suitcase, so you'll have some space for the loot you pick up along the way.

Telephone

Hawaii has only one area code: 808. Calls on each island are local; calls to other islands are long distance.

Cell phone coverage in Hawaii generally is good, especially if you're near one of the larger towns. Depending on what carrier you have, there may be limited service in rural areas. Whether or not there's a roaming fee depends on the specific plan that you have with your carrier. Check with your service provider before you leave home to inquire about coverage, SIM cards and roaming charges.

Pay phones are available on all the major islands, including Lanai and Molokai. Among other places, they're located at airports, hotels, shopping malls, parks, gas stations, hospitals and convenience stores. Acceptable forms of payment include coins, credit cards, phone cards and operator-assisted collect calls. There's also a 1-888 number posted on all pay phones for users who may not have coins or cards at hand but need to make a call. Some pay phones at airports and shopping malls have keyboards that enable users to send emails and text messages.

Internet Access

Cafes, shopping malls and other hot spots throughout the islands offer high-speed Internet access. Oahu, of course, has more widespread access than the less populated islands. Many hotels offer wireless and/or wired access—check ahead to find out exactly what's available.

If you buy a US\$10 visitor card (good for three months), you can use the computers at any state library to get Internet access.

Mail & Package Services

Mail service in Hawaii is reliable and generally faster than you'd think. It's only necessary to use a carrier service if a letter or package is urgent.

Newspapers & Magazines

Hawaii's largest newspaper—*The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*—is based in Honolulu. All of the islands have smaller daily and/or weekly newspapers, too.

Dozens of free, glossy publications with ideas on what to do and coupons for those activities are available at the airports or at other stands around the islands.

Transportation

A rental car or tour bus is usually the best way to travel on most of the islands. Public transportation is limited, except in Honolulu, and the distance between far-flung attractions makes a taxi impractical.

Air

A number of domestic and international airlines serve Hawaii. Several of them fly nonstop between Honolulu and cities in North America, Asia, Fiji, Tahiti, Samoa, Guam, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia, and offer connecting service to other countries.

Honolulu International Airport (HNL) is the hub of island air travel. Kahului Airport (OGG) on Maui, Lihue Airport (LIH) on Kauai, and Kona International Airport (KOA) on the Big Island also have nonstop flights to cities on the U.S. mainland and to Canada. There also are flights between Japan and Kona International Airport.

There is interisland air service.

Minor renovations, repairs and upgrades are ongoing at all state airports. These include maintenance on infrastructure such as electrical and air-conditioning systems, escalators, elevators, moving sidewalks, lighting, painting, furniture, windows and roofing. The work is scheduled to minimize impact on travelers.

For current airport information, phone 808-836-6413 or visit <http://hawaii.gov/dot/airports>.

For the latest security updates and travel tips, visit the Transportation Security Administration's website. <http://www.tsa.gov>.

Car

Most visitors make use of a rental car during their visit. Be aware that demand for cars can exceed supply, so book early.

The state imposes a US\$3-per-day rental-vehicle surcharge. Additional fees may include a customer facility charge of US\$1 per day, concession-recovery fee of 11.11%, vehicle-registration fee and weight tax of up to US\$0.60 per day, and general excise tax of 4.166% (4.667% on Oahu). It's best to verify charges with the agent who makes your booking.

In the state of Hawaii, the minimum rental age is 21 for renters presenting a major credit card in their own name along with a valid driver's license. Drivers age 21-25 can expect to pay an additional daily surcharge of roughly US\$27 per day.

Ferry

Passenger ferries operate between Maui and Lanai and between Maui and Molokai.

Public Transportation

Honolulu has the most extensive public bus networks. The public bus service on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai is limited. A rental car is a must on those islands, as well as Lanai and Molokai.

Ship

Cruise ships depart from Honolulu and make port calls at Maui, Kauai, and Hilo and Kona on the Big Island. Other ships with international itineraries make stops at the islands as well.

Taxi

Taxis are available on all the islands, but they can be rather expensive, especially for long-distance trips.

Tourist Offices

Big Island Visitors Bureau

250 Keawe St., Hilo, Hawaii. Phone 808-961-5797. Toll-free 800-648-2441. <http://www.bigisland.org>.

Address

250 Keawe St., Hilo
Hawaii

Phone

808-961-5797

Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau

2270 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 801, Honolulu, Hawaii. Phone 808-923-1811. Toll-free 800-464-2924. <http://www.gohawaii.com>.

Address

2270 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 801
Hawaii

Phone

808-923-1811

Kauai Visitors Bureau

4334 Rice St., Suite 101, Lihue, Hawaii. Phone 808-245-3971. Toll-free 800-262-1400. <http://www.kauaidiscovery.com>.

Address

4334 Rice St., Suite 101, Lihue
Hawaii

Phone

808-245-3971

Lanai Visitors Bureau

431 Seventh St., Suite A, Lanai City, Hawaii. Phone 808-565-7600.
Toll-free 800-947-4774. <http://www.visitlanai.net>.

Address

431 Seventh St., Suite A, Lanai
City
Hawaii

Phone

808-565-7600

Maui Visitors Bureau

1727 Wili Pa Loop, Wailuku, Hawaii. Phone 808-244-3530. Toll-free
800-525-6284. <http://www.visitmaui.com>.

Address

1727 Wili Pa Loop, Wailuku
Hawaii

Phone

808-244-3530

Molokai Visitors Association

2 Kamoi St., Suite 200, Kaunakakai, Hawaii. Phone 808-553-3876.
Toll-free 800-800-6367. <http://www.molokai-hawaii.com>.

Address

2 Kamoi St., Suite 200,
Kaunakakai
Hawaii

Phone

808-553-3876

Oahu Visitors Bureau

733 Bishop St., Suite 1520, Honolulu, Hawaii. Phone 808-524-0722.
Toll-free 877-525-6248. <http://visit-oahu.com>.

Address

733 Bishop St., Suite 1520,
Honolulu
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Phone

808-524-0722