

# Honolulu



Bespelled by the Pacific Ocean, from the mighty breakers of the North Shore to archetypal sandy swimming beaches and exquisite tide pools, Honolulu is a city touched in every respect by its island setting. The very air is charged with the scent and savor of the sea in all its moods, and it is a natural fit that the islands are the spiritual home of surfing. The rich culture of Hawaii's first peoples has come together with Asian and Western influences to form a unique blend. Honolulu's distinct personality embodies the aloha spirit, which welcomes visitors as it relishes life's pleasures.

## Memorable Experiences

### Autumn Journey

Marvel at the annual humpback whale migration from the cliffs of Makapuu.

### Under the Sea

At Hanauma Bay, the beautiful fish are not shy of swimming with you.

### Majestic Panorama

Revel in a breathtaking sunset from the summit of Puu Ualakaa State Park.

### Perfumed Stroll

Indulge in the ginger flower fragrance that crowns the Makiki mountains.

## Distinctive Details

The unmistakable silhouette of Diamond Head's crater is formed of tuff stone and thought to be 200,000 years old. Rising over the azure waters of the coast, it symbolizes the fiery origins of Hawaii.

## Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends

### Surfing

Graceful figures seem to become one with their surfboards and with the waves themselves in this most iconic of indigenous Hawaiian activities. Opportunities abound to learn the ancient yet modern art along the sun drenched shores.

## Destination Information

**Country** United States  
**State** Hawaii  
**Elevation** 13 feet  
**Population** 371,657 (City) 909,863 (Area)  
**Language** English, Hawaiian, Japanese



**Area Code:** 808  
**Country Code:** 1



**Honolulu International Airport (HNL)**

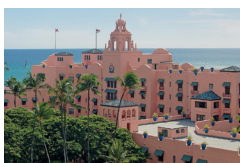


**Transportation:** Car, Taxi, Bike



**US Dollar (USD)**

## Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



### The Royal Hawaiian

2259 Kalakaua Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815  
Phone: (808) 923-7311



## Culture

Hawaiian treasures and cosmopolitan collections enhance a unique cultural mélange.

### Highly Recommended



#### Honolulu Academy of the Arts

Gracefully shaded squared colonnades embrace grassy courtyards punctuated with sculptural works at Honolulu's Academy of the Arts. The museum's simple eggshell-white exteriors and black clay tiled roofs represent a classic Hawaiian revival mission style and contrast with the state-of-the-art galleries inside. Showcased within is a collection with strong holdings in Asian, American and European painting and decorative arts. As well as traditional works from Africa, Oceania, and the Americas.

**Address: 900 South Beretania Street**

**Phone: (808) 532-8700**



#### The Bishop Museum

Alluring dark stone forms the exterior of the Bishop Museum's historic main building. As the preeminent natural and cultural history museum of the Pacific region, the Bishop is home to millions of artifacts telling the story of Hawaiian and Pacific Island peoples. Augmenting the carefully conserved cultural artifacts, the holdings include a staggering array of photographs, films, manuscripts, and audio recordings. As well, the natural history collections encompass specimens, some extinct, from the vast reaches of the Pacific, from Hawaii to Southeast Asia.

**Address: 1525 Bernice Street**

**Phone: (808) 847-3511**



#### The Contemporary Museum

A monumental horse, crafted in patinaed pieces of found steel, stretches its graceful neck. Artist Deborah Butterfield is among dozens of such renowned modern and contemporary practitioners as Josef Albers, Kara Walker, Andres Serrano, Jim Dine, Louise Nevelson, Richard Diebenkorn featured in the Contemporary's collection. Devoted exclusively to art after 1940 and sited on the gentle slope of Makiki Heights, the Contemporary Museum also boasts five acres of lush sculpture gardens and grounds.

**Address: 2411 Makiki Heights Drive**

**Phone: (808) 526-0232**

### Local Charms



#### 'Iolani Palace

The ornately detailed, high coral-white walls of 'Iolani Palace glisten under the bright Hawaiian sun, embodying the unique history of the islands. Once the official residence of Hawaii's last monarchs, it stands as the sole example of American Florentine architecture and represents a melding of native Hawaiian longhouse building traditions with Victorian innovations. Breathtaking interiors, like the Grand Hall and its accompanying staircase, are richly fitted with native Hawaiian woods like koa, glowing in deep mahogany, plum, and burnt orange tones.

**Address: Corner of King and Richard Streets, Downtown**

**Phone: (808) 522-0822**



## Shopping

Magnificent outdoor environments make for spectacular shopping experiences.

### Neighborhoods



#### Hale'iwa Town

The magnificent breakers of the north shore form an awesome backdrop, while inland, the iconic double-rainbow Anahulu Stream bridge spans the Anahulu River. A historically significant area once devoted to the sugar plantation industry, the Territorial-style architecture is carefully preserved today. A panoply of characteristic Hawaiian goods dominate in the area, including surfboards, pearl jewelry, unique apparel, and botanical products. Plentiful here, too, are classic Hawaiian-style plate lunches, and the legendary banana-coconut-pineapple shave ice.

**Address: Off of Kamehameha Hwy, about 30 miles from the hotel**

### Shops & Boutiques



#### Ala Moana Shopping Center

Fresh breezes gently play along the open-air corridors of this renowned shopping locale, lined with palm trees and lush tropical plantings. Lively water features populated by bright orange koi lend a delightful note. Every shopping whim can be conveniently satisfied here, from home decor to traditional crafts such as storied Hawaiian quilts. On-trend apparel for men and women, distinctive jewelry, accessories, footwear, children's wear and toys, are all on offer. A variety of dining options and sweet shops abound.

**Address: 1450 Ala Moana Boulevard**

**Phone: (808) 955-9517**



#### INTO Honolulu

Cleverly interlocking mahogany and maple panels spiral together organically in Mark Chai's graceful, rounded pendant lamps. Unquestionably the city's most directional home decor source, INTO Honolulu stocks an always-fresh, innovative array of textiles, furniture, accessories, and books. Beautifully curated, one-of-a-kind pieces rub shoulders in color-drenched, happy abundance. Geometrically patterned rugs in dusty red, blue and yellow are underfoot, while textures range from silvered to mother-of-pearl, luminous blown glass to hand-tooled leather.

**Address: 40 North Hotel Street**

**Phone: (808) 536-2211**



#### Aloha Rag

Through floor-to-ceiling plate glass, bright Hawaiian light bathes the spacious, crisp white interior of Aloha Rag. Even a cursory perusal of the apparel emphatically demonstrates that the buyers are passionate about fashion. Rare lines are well represented along with better-known labels. Hysteria Glamour, Saskia Diez, Ann Demeulemeester, Ksubi, Lucien Pellat-Finet, Maison Martin Margiela, Repetto, Chloe, and Band of Outsiders are all amongst the assortment. A staff blog even keeps customers apprised of upcoming and newly arrived inventory.

**Address: 1221 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 115**

**Phone: (808) 589-2050**



## Cuisine

The Pacific's freshest ingredients take center stage in Hawaiian cuisine.

## Acclaimed



### Azure

Sparkling sea light and gentle maritime breezes caress the effortlessly elegant dining room at Azure, lending delicate savor to the exquisite seafood cuisine. Chef de Cuisine Jon Matsubara and his staff select the finest locally caught fish and fruits de mer every morning and prepare them in a manner that allows the pure flavors to shine. Kona amber jack, Hawaiian yellowtail ahi and sweet scallops are sparked with such grace notes as kaffir lime, thai chile, meyer lemon, avocado, green tea, extra virgin olive oil, shallot, ginger, and wine reductions.

**Address: The Royal Hawaiian**  
**Phone: (808) 923-7311**

## Indigenous Flavors



### Le Bistro

Buttery parchment walls, deep red trim and terracotta tile floors lend a charming provencal air to the petite space. Artisanally raised meats and produce are combined for a fresh take on traditional French fare. With only a dozen tables, the atmosphere is intimate and the service flawless. Favorites include sea bass with truffle essence and hamakua mushrooms, and note-perfect escargot in garlic butter. Off-menu, but much beloved, is the beef quartet, with kobe beef slider, filet, ribeye, and braised short rib. For dessert, the apple tarte tatin is renowned.

**Address: 5730 Kalanialoe Highway in the Niu Valley Shopping Center**  
**Phone: (808) 373-7990**



### Alan Wong's

Reflecting the blend of diverse cultures found in the islands, dishes are eclectic and contemporary at Alan Wong's. In a room filled with rich woods in caramel tones, the freshest of locally grown produce and superb varieties of indigenous seafood are melded in the artful mix known as Hawaiian Regional Cuisine. A light starter features Ophi limpet presented in spicy tomato water with touches of basil and shiso. Meltingly tender lamb chops are offered in a macadamia nut-coconut crust with Asian ratatouille and red wine jus.

**Address: 1857 South King Street, 3rd Floor**  
**Phone: (808) 949-2526**

## Local Specialty



### Chef Mavro

Close partnerships with specialty farmers and fishmongers yield profoundly creative cuisine at Chef Mavro. The menu is presented seasonally and a specific vintage is paired with each course, so that a medley of food and wine intermingles in a complex symphony of flavors and textures. Olive oil marinated striped marlin is accompanied by poached quail eggs, sunchoke chips and tomato confit, while Kurobata roasted pork rack is adorned with caramelized pork jus, sweet and sour watermelon, and ginger dressing.

**Address: 1969 South King Street**  
**Phone: (808) 944-4714**



## Noteworthy

Natural magnificence, history and cultural endeavors spark fascinating explorations.

### Family



#### Waikiki Aquarium

Dazzling fish in vivid hues of iridescent yellow, glowing turquoise, and electric purple flash through the cerulean water, darting amongst a living coral reef. The fascinating exhibits of the Waikiki Aquarium reveal ocean ecosystems and their inhabitants: endangered Hawaiian monk seals, sleek reef sharks, orange-striped clownfish and ethereal sea jellies. The Aquarium's two-fold mission of education and conservation brings these species and five hundred others together in awe-inspiring presentations of the tropical west and south Pacific.

**Address: University of Hawaii-Manoa, 2777 Kalakaua Avenue**  
**Phone: (808) 923-974**

### Highly Recommended



#### First Fridays Art Walk in Chinatown

Glowing red, traditional lanterns sway on wires across the streets. The upturned roof corners of pagoda-style architecture visually mark the vibrant Chinatown district. From 5 to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, the area's multitude of galleries open their doors with up-to-the-minute exhibitions from local artists and artisans, live music, and light refreshments. A myriad of neighborhood bars and restaurants offer international and local fare, while street performers add to the lively mix.

**Address: 1750 Kalakaua Avenue**  
**Phone: (808) 739-9797**



#### Doris Duke's Shangri La

A deceptively modest white plaster exterior belies the breathtaking Islamic art housed within the former home of philanthropist Doris Duke. Inside, dozens of jewel-toned windows color the light, while an ornate Moroccan ceiling and thousands of intricately patterned tiles dazzle the eye. Opulent gold-embroidered Suzani and intricately carved and gilded wood panels grace the rooms. A turquoise mihrab, a 13th century prayer niche, pays homage to the Iranian tradition while calligraphic Islamic script graces the surfaces of the estate.

**Address: 4055 Papu Circle (reservations highly recommended)**  
**Phone: (808) 734-1941**

### Local Charms



#### Saturday Farmers Market

Sculptural heliconia flowers and the rich sweet fragrance of delicate plumeria allure the senses from under the canopied stalls. An astonishing variety of foods grown, gathered or crafted by the local agricultural community is on offer every Saturday at this premier farmer's market. Producers are on hand to impart their expertise about Hawaiian-grown coffee, organic eggs, aged honey, Kahuku sweet corn, North Shore grass-fed beef, pristine seafood, and freshly-baked bread

**Address: Kapiolani Community College, 4303 Diamond Head Road**  
**Phone: (808) 947-3804**