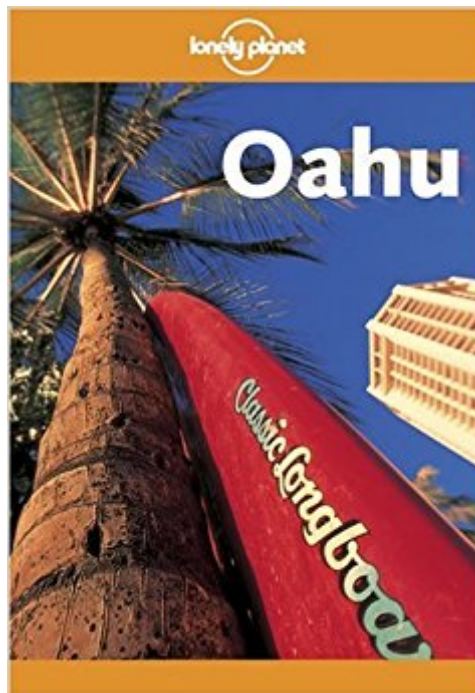


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Lonely Planet Oahu (Lonely Planet Discover Honolulu, Waikiki & Oahu)



Synopsis

This guide to Oahu contains information on the most scenic hiking trails around the island including Diamond Head, and extensive coverage of outdoor activities, including how to dive, snorkel, surf, sea kayak, and windsurf. It also offers details of Oahu's history.

Book Information

Series: Lonely Planet Discover Honolulu, Waikiki & Oahu

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Customer Reviews

'For tens of millions of globetrotting readers, the Lonely Planet guides are the gospel of adventure travel.'-- New York Times Magazine

The images most people conjure up when they think of Hawaii are sights on Oahu - the beaches and high-rise hotels of Waikiki, the WWII memorials at Pearl Harbor and the towering surf at Sunset Beach. The most developed of the Hawaiian Islands, Oahu is fittingly nicknamed 'The Gathering Place.' The island is home to 876,000 people - nearly 75% of the state's population. Although much of Oahu is an urban scene, it's nonetheless a scenic island with rugged volcanic peaks, tropical forests, fluted mountains, aquamarine bays and valleys carpeted with pineapple fields. Oahu also has some of Hawaii's best beaches - Hanauma Bay is the most visited snorkeling spot in the Hawaiian Islands; the North Shore has Hawaii's top surfing action; and windward Kailua is Hawaii's most popular windsurfing beach. The heart of Oahu is vibrant Honolulu. As the capital of Hawaii, Honolulu is the political, cultural and economic center of the state. The only US state capital that is located in the tropics, Honolulu boasts swaying palm trees and year-round balmy weather. Honolulu

is an attractive city with an intriguing blend of Eastern and Western influences. Cultural offerings range from Chinese lantern parades and traditional hula performances to ballet and good museums. Honolulu has fine city beaches and parks, some great hilltop views and the only royal palace in the USA. The city is also a diner's delight, with a wonderful assortment of good ethnic restaurants. Bustling Waikiki, covering 1.5 miles of sparkling beachfront at the eastern side of Honolulu, is one of the biggest resort destinations in the Pacific. Almost all of Oahu's tourist facilities are centered in Waikiki - in fact, Waikiki's hotels plays host to nearly half of all visitors to the Hawaiian Islands. A monument to mass tourism, Waikiki packs an amazing array of visitor amenities: seaside restaurants, waterfront hotels, lively entertainment and a variety of beach activities are all close at hand. Once the sole domain of Hawaiian royalty and the very rich, Waikiki is one of those places that has the power to lure people from far and wide. It's teeming with sun-seekers strutting about in bikinis, surfers hitting the waves, retirees playing checkers at picnic tables, tourists gathering along the beach to catch the sunset, and there's music wafting from beachside bars. Still there's much more to Oahu than its urban quarters. Lush forest reserves and lightly trodden hiking trails are just 15 minutes from downtown Honolulu, and all the rest of Oahu's sights are within an easy one- or two-hour drive from Honolulu. Places not to be missed include the Nuuanu Pali Lookout, with its lovely beach; and the North Shore, with its surf mania. Oahu has plenty of enjoyable off-the-beaten-path spots to explore as well, such as the community-run Hawaii's Plantation Village, the marketplaces in Chinatown and the county's botanical gardens.

I generally like the Lonely Planet books, and the Oahu book is no exception. The book is relatively current and topical, and to its credit covers not only Honolulu and Waikiki, but also the rest of the island (some other books shortchange everything outside the city, I find.) I like that the book provides off-the-beaten-path type information, but I do believe that the book is so compact that a lot of useful information has been left out, particularly in the categories of restaurants and lodging. The maps are, of course, fairly small (and black and white) so I recommend getting the excellent Lonely Planet map for island navigation, especially if you are driving. I think that overall this is a good guidebook, but the organization is sometimes difficult to use. That combined with the relative brevity of restaurant and hotel information caused me to deduct a star from my rating. Overall it is a good guide, and I certainly recommend it, although I have to give the more up to date "Oahu Revealed" guide by Andrew Doughty and Harriett Friedman the edge for user friendliness and completeness of commonly useful information.

This little book was the best thing to have on our recent trip to Hawaii. I referred to it many times a day. The maps were very clear and helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed the pages devoted to the history of the Islands. There was even a brief guide to understanding and speaking Hawaiian. I would recommend it to anyone visiting Oahu.

If you want to do Oahu without touching Waikiki, on the cheap (around-the-island bus, anyone?), this is the book for you. We found fantastic lodging on the North Shore with it, and really were able to put the short time we had to good use. We buy Lonely Planets whenever we go anywhere... LP addicts!

We used this book recently in oahu. My biggest complaint is that it was not helpful in choosing our Waikiki hotel as the descriptions are too vague. But there are helpful hints and they do tell you where to get the best mai tai. I am glad I brought it along but it is not good as an only guidebook.

Before my vacation to Oahu, I researched the various guides to the island. Lonely Planet won over the rest! Now, after my wonderful trip, I can say that L.P. really knows its stuff! You really get the nitty-gritty on traveling the island, not the typical tourist spots. The guide gave me info on lots of great out of the way locations that made this trip a gem. More importantly, it was very honest about certain locales that should be skipped (they were tour bus mecca though). With the pronunciation key, I didn't sound like too much of a mainlander. The restaurants recommended were superb and easy to find as well as the shops. The maps inside the book were essential to driving around the island although to this day I cannot figure out how to get to the Punchbowl Crater (Diamond Head was fab though). I even invested in a large fold-out version of the L.P. map. The first few chapters give lots of interesting history and pertinent info on Hawaiian life. Throughout the book you will find great little nuggets on various spots and background. This really brings everything to life. The L.P. guide is not your grandma's idea of a trip to Hawaii! I loved it and so will you (but you can't have mine because I am going back).

I won this trip to Oahu and took two girlfriends along for 14 days. In total we had three guidebooks along. The Frommers guide was outmoded. We had the 2003 edition thinking things couldn't change so drastically. The Oahu Revealed book was something from the Fifties with washed out yellowed photos of beaches with nobody on them (ha ha ha!). There were no bumps with the Lonely Planet guide. Driving around the coast was hectic and we relied heavily on their directions for sightseeing.

If you only go to see Honolulu I would advise you buy this book and the big oversize map they sell separately.

One of their best books. It made getting around Honolulu and the outer shores of the island so simple. The authors dug deep and their expert advice was worth the price of the book many times over. This book opens up the wilder side that most tourists don't bother to visit. I ended up saving so much money on my hotel room and meals that I reticketed my return and stayed an extra week. Good local food at all the restaurants they listed. Couldn't have done it without my buddy Lonely Planet. If it's your first time, explore Honolulu the first few days, then get in your rental car and head on out. There are all the maps you will need inside.

Our seven day vacation went by in such a hurry. This is the book we swore by. Answers its got. We were on our honeymoon and didn't want to hang out in Honolulu every day. All our arrangements were made months ahead but when we got there we could be more spontaneous having this book in the car. For umpteen billion zillion ideas, especially if you've never been to Oahu, we definitely recommend the purchase of this guide. Priceless for knowing where the choice beaches were. Learning to surf on the longboards was a blast. Good job researching Glenda and Ned!

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