

2026 Oahu Guide

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NOTE:

WINTER BRINGS LARGE SWELL TO THE NORTH SHORE. DO NOT GET INTO THE WATER IF THERE IS A LARGE SWELL. DO NOT GET INTO ANY WATER IF YOU ARE UNSURE.

SOUTH (TOWN)

BEACH:

- Diamond Head Beach - Good beach near Waikiki, parking lot overlooks ocean, lots of surfers to watch.
- Kaimana Beach - Beach outside of Waikiki, great place to swim and watch sunset. Park nearby.
- Makalei Beach - Small beach with lots of trees for hammock and grass nearby (popular college beach).
- China Walls - Rock wall that is a famous spot to cliff jump (DO NOT GET IN WATER IF THERE ARE ANY WAVES).
- Magic Island - Park and beach, lots of parking, great park.
- Canoes - Waikiki surf spot, easy to rent boards and walk here to try and surf. Very crowded but very chill waves.

HIKE/NATURE:

- Manoa Falls Trail (1.8 Miles) - Very popular hike in the back of Manoa to a waterfall.
- 7 Bridges Trail (2.2 Miles) - Easy going, crowd free hike to a small waterfall.
- Maikiki Valley Loop Trail (3.1 Miles) - Beautiful valley loop near town that has a waterfall just off trail.
- Koko Head Trail (1.6 Miles) - One of the most popular hikes on Oahu, the hike is an old tramway to the top of Koko Head.
- Ka'au Crater Trail (5 Miles +) - Difficult hike with 3 waterfalls and into a crater on the top of the Ko'olau. Not a lot of parking.
- Mt. Olympus Trail (5.5 Miles) - Difficult but fun hike up to the top of Ko'olau Mountain Range.
- Pu'u Kōnāhuanui Ridge Trail (8.1 Miles) - Very difficult hike to the peaks of the Ko'olau Mountain Range.
- Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Park (Tantalus Lookout) - Park at the top of Tantalus (same parking lot as wedding venue) with a great viewpoint of town.
- Kapilani Park - Huge park just outside of Waikiki.
- Kaka'ako Waterfront Park - Big park perfect for sunset and a swim near downtown (grass has pokies).
- Wa'ahila Ridge State Recreation Area - State park located above the University of Hawaii, the park has lots of pine trees, some disc golf baskets and more!
- Koko Crater Botanical Garden - Dryland botanical garden on the back side of Koko Crater home to rare and endangered plants.
- Fosters Botanical Garden - Botanical garden in the middle of town with some trees planted in the 1850s.
- Lyon Arboretum - botanical garden in the back of Manoa valley.

FOOD:

- The Curb - Coffee.
- Morning Brew - Coffee.
- Local Joes - Coffee.
- Pono Potions - Coffee.
- Talk Kaimuki - Coffee (Bar at night).
- Better Daze - Coffee.
- Morning Glass Coffee & Cafe - Coffee.
- Shaka Shaka - Boba fruit smoothies.
- Waioli Kitchen and Bake Shop - Coffee and Bakery.
- Solera Waikiki - Fancy breakfast in Waikiki at the Ritz Carlton.
- Cafe Kaila - Classic breakfast mixed with local kind food.
- Sweet E's Cafe - Pancakes and waffles.
- Diamond Head Market Place - Breakfast and Bakery.
- Earl's - Sandwiches.
- Sprouts - Sandwiches.
- Boarded Up - Burgers.
- Boston's Pizza - Pizza.
- Kona Brewing - Brewery and restaurant on the water.
- Red Elephant - Thai food (restaurant has a tree in the middle of it).
- Pig and the Lady - Vietnamese Food.
- Bắc Nam - Vietnamese Food (Highly recommend crab curry).
- Fete - Fancy restaurant downtown.
- O' Kim's - Korean food (catering wedding).
- Spice Up - Indian Food.
- Yakiniku Seoul - Korean BBQ (not all you can eat).
- Ululani's Shave Ice - Best shave ice!
- Via Gelato - Ice cream.
- The Tchin Tchin Bar - Nice bar downtown.
- EP Bar - Vinyl bar.
- Wild Orange - Speak easy bar inside Hawaiian Brian's.
- Foodland - Grocery store and cheap poke.
- Tamarus - Liquor store with the best poke on island.
- Kaimuki Crack Seed Store - Hawaiian crackseed store.
- Don Quijote - Japanese grocery store.
- H Mart - Korean grocery store.

TOURIST ATTRACTION:

- Single Double - Thrift store boutique in downtown.
- SALT - Retail and restaurant area in Kaka'ako that is really fun to hangout in,
- HiClimb - Climbing Gym
- Chinatown - Lots of Chinese markets and nightlife.
- Toma Karaoke - Favorite karaoke place.
- Honolulu Museum of Art - Art museum.

- Bishop Museum - Hawaii heritage and culture museum
- Aloha Stadium Swap Meet (Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday 8am - 3pm) - Swap meet, lots of classic tourist gifts.
- Kaka'ako Farmers Market (Saturday 8am - 12pm) - Big farmers market in town.

EAST

BEACH:

- Cockroach Cove - Small little cove near the Halona Blowhole.
- Maakpuu - Max's favorite beach.
- Sandy Beach - World famous body boarding beach.
- Allen Davis - Secluded cove.
- Lanikai - Calm and beautiful beach.
- Kalama Beach Park - Family friendly beach.
- Sherwoods - Beach in Waimanalo.

HIKE/NATURE:

- Lanikai Pillbox Trail (1.7 Miles) - popular pillbox hike that overlooks Lanikai
- Makapuu Lighthouse Trail (2.5 Miles) - Hike to the Makapuu lighthouse, very exposed hike (it gets hot).
- Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden - Best botanical garden on island. Home to tons unique plants and even has a lake full of fish.

FOOD:

- Easy 'Que - Casual barbecue spot with local food.
- Bottleheads Kailua - Wine bar.
- Lanikai Brewing Company - Brewery and restaurant.

ATTRACTIONS:

- Kailua Town - Fun town with lots of shopping.
- Kailua Farmers Market (Sunday 8am - 12pm) - Farmers Market.
- Pali Lookout - Lookout off of the Pali Highway.
- H1 Freeway - Popular drive through the mountains.
- Byodo-In Temple - Buddhist Temple.
- Polynesian Center - Cultural center.

NORTH

BEACH:

- Sharks Cove - Excellent for snorkeling
- Waimea - World famous surf spot (The Eddie is held here), spots to outdoor rock climb, and cliff jumping.
- Ehukai - World famous surf spots like Pipeline and Sunset, good place to watch sunset and the ocean.

HIKE/NATURE:

- 'Ehukai Pillbox Trail (2.4 Miles) - Short uphill hike that overlooks the ocean.

- Kaena Point (STATE PARK) - Northwest most part of the island. Home to native species of bees and common albatross nesting area.

FOOD:

- Fumi's - Garlic Shrimp Food Truck
- Surf & Salsa - Mexican Food
- Foodland - Poke

ATTRACTIONS:

- Haleiwa - Good town to walk around and shop, very classic hawaii tourist town.
- Dole Plantation - Dole whip, corn maze, and pineapple farm tour!

WEST

BEACH:

- Electric Beach - One of the best spots on Oahu for snorkeling.
- Yokohama Bay - The most beautiful beach on Oahu. Secluded and way out of the way.
- Mākua Beach - Beautiful beach.
- Nānākuli Beach Park - Beach park with lots of beach and parking.

HIKE/NATURE:

- Mount Ka'ala Trail (7.5 Miles) - Hike to the highest peak on Oahu.

FOOD:

- Tamura Super Market - Local grocery store and food.
- Don Don Donki - Huge Japanese grocery store.

TOURIST ATTRACTION:

- Mermaid's Cave - Little cave in the rocks near Nānākuli Beach.