

Contents at a Glance

| | |
|---|------------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Part I: Introducing Hawaii | 5 |
| Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Hawaii | 7 |
| Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Hawaii | 17 |
| Chapter 3: Deciding Where and When to Go | 23 |
| Chapter 4: Managing Your Money | 45 |
| Part II: Planning Your Trip to Hawaii | 57 |
| Chapter 5: Getting to Hawaii | 59 |
| Chapter 6: Getting Around Hawaii | 68 |
| Chapter 7: Booking Your Accommodations | 74 |
| Chapter 8: Catering to Special Travel Needs or Interests | 82 |
| Chapter 9: Taking Care of the Remaining Details | 91 |
| Part III: Honolulu and the Rest of Oahu | 99 |
| Chapter 10: Settling into Oahu | 101 |
| Chapter 11: Exploring Oahu | 161 |
| Part IV: Maui | 209 |
| Chapter 12: Settling into Maui | 211 |
| Chapter 13: Exploring Maui | 266 |
| Part V: Hawaii, the Big Island | 313 |
| Chapter 14: Settling into the Big Island | 315 |
| Chapter 15: Exploring the Big Island | 366 |
| Part VI: Kauai | 415 |
| Chapter 16: Settling into Kauai | 417 |
| Chapter 17: Exploring Kauai | 460 |
| Part VII: The Part of Tens | 493 |
| Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Lose the Tourist Trappings and Look Like a Local | 495 |
| Chapter 19: Ten Easy Steps to Island Dining | 502 |
| Chapter 20: Ten Ways to Enjoy Island Romance | 509 |
| Index | 517 |

Maps at a Glance

| | |
|--|-----|
| Oahu Orientation | 102 |
| Honolulu and Waikiki Orientation | 104 |
| TheBus | 106 |
| Waikiki Accommodations | 120 |
| Restaurants In and Around Waikiki | 138 |
| Downtown and Ala Moana Restaurants..... | 140 |
| Beaches and Attractions Around Oahu | 162 |
| Honolulu's Beaches and Attractions | 164 |
| Maui Orientation & Accommodations | 218 |
| Lahaina and Kaanapali Accommodations & Dining | 223 |
| Kapalua, Napili, & Kahana Accommodations & Dining | 225 |
| South Maui Accommodations & Dining..... | 227 |
| Paia & Upcountry Maui Orientation, Accommodations & Dining | 229 |
| Maui's Restaurants | 244 |
| Lahaina Town Restaurants | 247 |
| Maui's Best Beaches and Attractions..... | 268 |
| Haleakala National Park..... | 287 |
| The Heavenly Road to Hana | 294 |
| Hana | 299 |
| Big Island Orientation | 316 |
| The Big Island's Accommodations | 326 |
| Kona Coast Accommodations..... | 329 |
| The Kohala Coast | 331 |
| The Big Island's Restaurants..... | 344 |
| The Big Island's Best Beaches and Attractions | 368 |
| Hawaii Volcanoes National Park | 385 |
| Kailua-Kona Town..... | 393 |
| Waimea (Kamuela) | 399 |
| Hilo | 401 |
| Kauai Orientation | 418 |
| Kauai's Accommodations | 424 |
| Kauai's Restaurants | 442 |
| Kauai's Beaches and Attractions | 462 |

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Introduction</i> | 1 |
| About This Book..... | 1 |
| Conventions Used in This Book | 1 |
| Foolish Assumptions | 2 |
| How This Book Is Organized..... | 3 |
| Part I: Introducing Hawaii | 3 |
| Part II: Planning Your Trip to Hawaii..... | 3 |
| Parts III through VI: Being There — the Islands..... | 3 |
| Part VII: The Part of Tens..... | 3 |
| Icons Used in This Book..... | 4 |
| Where to Go from Here..... | 4 |
| | |
| <i>Part 1: Introducing Hawaii</i> | 5 |
| | |
| Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Hawaii | 7 |
| The Best Luxury Resorts | 7 |
| The Best Accommodations Values | 9 |
| The Best Restaurants | 10 |
| The Best Beaches..... | 12 |
| The Best Activities and Attractions..... | 13 |
| The Best Luau's..... | 16 |
| Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Hawaii | 17 |
| History 101: The Main Events..... | 17 |
| A.D. 700: The first Hawaiians arrive | 17 |
| 1778: The “modern” world arrives..... | 18 |
| 1893: Paving the way for tourism and statehood ... | 19 |
| 1959: Setting the stage for today’s Hawaii | 19 |
| Building Blocks: Local Architecture and Design | 20 |
| A Taste of Hawaii: Local Cuisine | 22 |
| Chapter 3: Deciding Where and When to Go | 23 |
| Introducing the Hawaiian Islands | 23 |
| The Gathering Place: Oahu..... | 24 |
| The Valley Isle: Maui..... | 26 |
| The Big Island: Hawaii..... | 28 |
| The Garden Isle: Kauai | 30 |
| The most Hawaiian isle: Molokai | 32 |
| The private island: Lanai | 32 |
| Visiting More Than One Island | 33 |



| | |
|---|------------------|
| Revealing the Secret of the Seasons | 34 |
| Understanding Hawaii's climate | 35 |
| Charting sea changes | 36 |
| Avoiding the crowds..... | 37 |
| Perusing a Calendar of Events..... | 38 |
| Chapter 4: Managing Your Money | 45 |
| Planning Your Budget | 45 |
| Transportation..... | 45 |
| Lodging..... | 47 |
| Dining | 47 |
| Sightseeing and activities | 48 |
| Shopping and nightlife | 48 |
| Cutting Costs — but Not the Fun | 49 |
| Getting the best airfares | 50 |
| Getting a break on your room rate | 50 |
| Cutting other costs..... | 51 |
| Handling Money | 54 |
| Using ATMs and carrying cash..... | 54 |
| Charging ahead with credit cards..... | 54 |
| Toting traveler's checks..... | 55 |
| Dealing with a lost or stolen wallet | 56 |
| <i>Part II: Planning Your Trip to Hawaii</i> | <i>57</i> |
| Chapter 5: Getting to Hawaii | 59 |
| Flying to Hawaii | 59 |
| Getting the best airfare | 60 |
| Booking your flight online | 61 |
| Joining an Escorted Tour | 63 |
| Cruising to Hawaii | 64 |
| Choosing a Pay-One-Price Package..... | 64 |
| Finding a package deal..... | 64 |
| Uncovering an airline package..... | 65 |
| Weighing your options | 66 |
| Chapter 6: Getting Around Hawaii | 68 |
| Flying between the Hawaiian Islands | 68 |
| Arranging for Rental Cars | 69 |
| Getting the best deal | 70 |
| Hawaii how-to: Renting convertibles | 72 |
| Following the rules of the road | 73 |
| Chapter 7: Booking Your Accommodations | 74 |
| Getting to Know Your Options | 74 |
| Relaxing at a resort..... | 75 |
| Hanging at a hotel..... | 76 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Enjoying the comforts of a B&B..... | 76 |
| Rooming in a vacation rental..... | 77 |
| Finding the Best Room Rate | 78 |
| Surfing the Web for Hotel Deals | 80 |
| Reserving the Best Room..... | 81 |

**Chapter 8: Catering to Special Travel Needs
or Interests82**

| | |
|--|----|
| Traveling with the Brood: Advice for Families | 82 |
| Making Age Work for You: Tips for Seniors | 84 |
| Accessing Hawaii: Advice for Travelers with Disabilities | 85 |
| Following the Rainbow: Resources for Gay and Lesbian Travelers..... | 87 |
| Planning a Hawaiian Wedding..... | 87 |
| Using a wedding planner or coordinator | 88 |
| Do-it-yourself planning..... | 89 |

Chapter 9: Taking Care of the Remaining Details.....91

| | |
|---|----|
| Playing It Safe with Travel and Medical Insurance | 91 |
| Staying Healthy When You Travel..... | 93 |
| Staying Connected by Cellphone or E-mail..... | 94 |
| Keeping Up with Airline Security Measures | 95 |
| Making Reservations before You Leave Home | 96 |

Part III: Honolulu and the Rest of Oahu 99

Chapter 10: Settling into Oahu101

| | |
|---|-----|
| Arriving at Honolulu International Airport..... | 101 |
| Getting from the Airport to Your Hotel | 103 |
| Driving yourself..... | 103 |
| Taking a taxi..... | 103 |
| Catching a shuttle ride..... | 103 |
| Choosing Your Location | 108 |
| Waikiki | 109 |
| East Oahu: Kahala..... | 110 |
| The Windward Coast | 110 |
| The North Shore | 111 |
| Leeward Oahu: The Ko Olina Resort | 111 |
| Getting Around Oahu..... | 111 |
| Navigating your way around Honolulu | 111 |
| Exploring the rest of Oahu..... | 113 |
| Letting somebody else do the driving | 115 |
| Staying in Style | 118 |
| Oahu's best accommodations..... | 118 |
| Arranging for a vacation rental | 136 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Dining Out | 137 |
| Luau! | 158 |
| Fast Facts: Oahu | 158 |
| Chapter 11: Exploring Oahu | 161 |
| Enjoying the Sand and Surf | 161 |
| Combing the Beaches | 161 |
| The Waikiki Coast and East Oahu | 166 |
| Along the Windward Coast | 169 |
| On the North Shore | 171 |
| On the remote leeward coast | 174 |
| Playing in the Surf | 174 |
| Snorkeling offshore | 174 |
| All hands on deck: Ocean-cruising adventures | 175 |
| “Chumming” around with sharks | 178 |
| Delving into the deep: Submarine rides | 178 |
| Catching a wave | 179 |
| Ocean kayaking for everyone | 181 |
| Windsurfing and kiteboarding | 181 |
| Scuba diving | 182 |
| Sportfishing | 183 |
| Exploring on Dry Land | 183 |
| Taking a guided tour | 183 |
| Visiting Honolulu’s top attractions | 185 |
| In Pearl Harbor | 191 |
| In nearby East Oahu | 194 |
| Exploring the rest of the island | 195 |
| Hitting the links | 198 |
| Shopping the Local Stores | 200 |
| Shopping malls | 200 |
| Other shopping of note | 203 |
| Living It Up after Dark | 205 |
| The really big shows | 206 |
| Cocktails, music, and dancing | 206 |
| Sailing into the sunset | 208 |
| Part IV: Maui | 209 |
| Chapter 12: Settling into Maui | 211 |
| Arriving at Kahului Airport | 211 |
| Getting from the Airport to Your Hotel | 212 |
| Driving yourself | 212 |
| Taking a taxi | 212 |
| Catching a shuttle ride | 213 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Choosing Your Location | 213 |
| West Maui..... | 213 |
| South Maui..... | 214 |
| East Maui and Hana..... | 215 |
| Getting Around Maui | 215 |
| Navigating your rental car around the Valley Isle..... | 215 |
| Getting around without wheels..... | 220 |
| Staying in Style | 221 |
| Maui's best accommodations..... | 221 |
| Home sweet vacation condo | 240 |
| Dining Out | 242 |
| Luau! | 262 |
| Fast Facts: Maui..... | 263 |
| Chapter 13: Exploring Maui | 266 |
| Enjoying the Sand and Surf..... | 266 |
| Combing the beaches..... | 267 |
| Playing in the surf..... | 274 |
| Scuba diving..... | 281 |
| Sportfishing..... | 282 |
| Exploring on Dry Land | 283 |
| Taking a guided van or bus tour | 283 |
| Enjoying guided nature hikes..... | 284 |
| Getting a bird's-eye view..... | 285 |
| Visiting Haleakala National Park..... | 286 |
| Driving the Heavenly Road to Hana | 292 |
| More attractions worth seeking out..... | 300 |
| Hitting the links..... | 303 |
| Relaxing at a Spa | 305 |
| Shopping the Local Stores | 306 |
| Central Maui: Wailuku and Kahului | 306 |
| West Maui: Lahaina, Kaanapali, and Kapalua..... | 307 |
| South Maui: Wailea | 308 |
| Off the beaten path: Paia and Makawao | 308 |
| Living It Up after Dark | 309 |
| West Maui..... | 310 |
| South Maui..... | 311 |
| Upcountry Maui..... | 312 |

Part V: Hawaii, the Big Island.....313

Chapter 14: Settling into the Big Island.....315

| | |
|---|-----|
| Arriving on the West Side at Kona Airport | 315 |
| Arriving on the East Side at Hilo Airport | 319 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Choosing Your Location..... | 319 |
| On the west (Kona) side | 319 |
| The east (volcano) side | 321 |
| Upcountry: Waimea | 322 |
| Driving Around the Big Island | 322 |
| Staying in Style | 325 |
| The Big Island's best accommodations | 325 |
| Home, sweet vacation home | 342 |
| Dining Out | 343 |
| Luau! | 362 |
| Fast Facts: Big Island | 363 |

Chapter 15: Exploring the Big Island366

| | |
|---|-----|
| Enjoying the Sand and Surf..... | 366 |
| Combing the beaches..... | 366 |
| Getting Your Feet Wet | 372 |
| Snorkeling | 373 |
| On-deck adventures — ocean cruising | 374 |
| Scuba diving | 376 |
| Ocean kayaking | 378 |
| Hooking the big one..... | 379 |
| Exploring Dry Land | 380 |
| Sightseeing with a guide | 380 |
| Enjoying guided nature tours..... | 381 |
| Getting a bird's-eye view — flightseeing tours..... | 383 |
| Seeing Hawaii Volcanoes National Park..... | 384 |
| More attractions worth seeking out..... | 392 |
| Hitting the links..... | 404 |
| Relaxing at the spa..... | 407 |
| Shopping the local stores | 407 |
| Kailua-Kona and South Kona..... | 407 |
| Upcountry Kona: Holualoa | 408 |
| Kohala Coast..... | 409 |
| North Kohala | 409 |
| Waimea..... | 410 |
| Hilo..... | 410 |
| In the Volcano area | 411 |
| Living It Up after Dark | 411 |

Part VI: Kauai415**Chapter 16: Settling into Kauai417**

| | |
|--|-----|
| Arriving at Lihue Airport..... | 417 |
| Getting from the Airport to Your Hotel | 420 |
| Choosing Your Location..... | 420 |
| The Coconut Coast | 420 |
| The North Shore | 421 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| The South Shore: Poipu Beach..... | 421 |
| Southwest Kauai: Kalaheo, Hanapepe, and Waimea..... | 421 |
| Getting Around Kauai | 422 |
| Staying in Style | 423 |
| Kauai's best accommodations | 426 |
| More B&Bs worth writing home about | 438 |
| Home, sweet vacation home | 439 |
| Dining Out | 440 |
| Luau! | 456 |
| Fast Facts: Kauai..... | 458 |
| Chapter 17: Exploring Kauai | 460 |
| Enjoying the Sand and Surf | 460 |
| Combing the beaches..... | 460 |
| Playing in the surf | 468 |
| Snorkeling | 468 |
| Cruising the Na Pali Coast and other on-deck adventures | 469 |
| Ocean and river kayaking | 471 |
| Catching a wave | 473 |
| Hooking the big one..... | 474 |
| For scuba divers (and those who want to be) | 475 |
| Exploring on Dry Land | 475 |
| Sightseeing with a guide | 476 |
| Taking a flightseeing tour | 476 |
| Exploring Kauai's top attractions | 478 |
| Hitting the links..... | 485 |
| Horseback riding..... | 487 |
| Getting pampered at the spa..... | 487 |
| Shopping the Local Stores | 488 |
| In Lihue..... | 488 |
| On the Coconut Coast | 488 |
| On the North Shore | 489 |
| In the Poipu Beach area | 490 |
| Southwest Kauai: Hanapepe..... | 490 |
| Living It Up after Dark | 491 |
| Part VII: The Part of Tens | 493 |
| Chapter 18: Ten Ways to Lose the Tourist | |
| Trappings and Look Like a Local..... | 495 |
| Mastering the Three Most Important Phrases in the Hawaiian Language | 496 |
| Discovering More Hawaiian Words | 496 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Pronouncing Those Pesky Hawaiian Words and Place Names | 497 |
| Knowing How to Give and Take Directions..... | 498 |
| Remembering That You're in the United States | 499 |
| Wearing Sunscreen..... | 499 |
| Dressing the Part..... | 500 |
| Remembering Your Island-Style Manners | 501 |
| Leaving Your Work Behind..... | 501 |
| Smiling a Lot and Saying "Aloha" to Strangers..... | 501 |
| Chapter 19: Ten Easy Steps to Island Dining | 502 |
| Fresh-Caught and Island-Raised | 502 |
| Traditional Island Eats..... | 503 |
| The Gourmet Side of the Island Stove | 503 |
| A Translation List for Seafood Lovers | 503 |
| More Everyday Hawaiian Food Terms..... | 505 |
| Other Local Favorites | 506 |
| Ethnic Eats | 506 |
| The Joys and Sorrows of the Supermarket..... | 506 |
| Another Island Tradition: Tropical Cocktails | 507 |
| What to Expect at a Luau | 507 |
| Chapter 20: Ten Ways to Enjoy Island Romance | 509 |
| Luxuriating in the Lap of Luxury..... | 509 |
| Discovering That You Don't Need Tons of Luxury for Hawaii to Feel Like Paradise | 509 |
| Booking the Hot Spots Before You Leave Home | 510 |
| Setting Aside Time for Relaxation..... | 510 |
| Enjoying a Heavenly Drive | 510 |
| Making Mornings Your Ocean Time..... | 510 |
| Spending a Day at Hawaii's Most Romantic Beaches | 511 |
| Toasting the Sunset Every Evening..... | 511 |
| Dining in Style..... | 512 |
| Mellowing Out Like a Local..... | 512 |
| Index | 517 |