

# 25/25 Honolulu Hawaii, USA

On a thin strip of seashore at the edge of the mountains, Honolulu (on the southern rim of Oahu Island) is a surreal mix of urban sprawl and tropical Disneyland. The beach is packed with Japanese honeymooners and tourists drinking umbrella cocktails. Despite this, Hawaiian culture is thriving and downtown Honolulu is getting hipper with an LA meets South Beach vibe.

## Essentials

- 01 Slow down. You're on Hawaiian time now.
- 02 Take a surfing lesson or go for a canoe ride. Waikiki's surf is legendary and the right size for beginners.
- 03 Don't leave anything of value in your rental car. Most Hawaiians are friendly and peace-loving people, but rental vehicles are often vandalised.
- 04 Give local favourites Spam musubi or loco moco a try. You may find them appalling or surprisingly good.
- 05 Head to the North Shore in winter to watch the big wave surfers.

## Guide/Info

### Hotels

#### Independent and easy

The Waikiki Edition Hotel  
1775 Ala Moana  
Boulevard  
+ I 808 943 6800

#### Dependable chain

Hilton Hawaiian Village  
2500 Kalia Road  
+ I 808 949 4321

#### Premium

The Kahala Hotel  
& Resort  
5000 Kahala Avenue  
+ I 808 739 8888

### Dining

#### Fast breakfast

Liliha Bakery  
515 N. Kuakini Street  
+ I 808 531 1651  
[lilhabakery.com](http://lilhabakery.com)

#### Leisurely breakfast

Side Street Inn  
1225 Hopaka Street  
+ I 808 591 0253

#### Mid-morning coffee

Coffee Talk  
3601 Waialae Avenue  
+ I 808 737 7444

#### Lunch with friends

Young's Fish Market  
1286 Kalani Street  
+ I 808 841 4885

#### Best picnic

Gourmet lunch wagons are the lunch trend in Honolulu now. You can find Korean tacos, Indian food, Hawaiian hot dogs, Soul food (fried chicken) and West Indian Curry.  
[streetgrindz.com](http://streetgrindz.com)

#### Power Lunch

Outrigger canoe club  
2909 Kalakaa Avenue  
+ I 808 923 1585

#### Early evening drink

Mai Tai's at La Mariana  
Sailing Club Tiki Bar  
50 Sand Island Access  
Road  
+ I 808 841 2173

#### Sunset cocktail

House Without a Key  
2199 Kalia Road  
+ I 808 923 2311  
[halekulani.com](http://halekulani.com)

#### Dinner for two

Mitch's Sushi Bar  
(they may only have room for two)  
524 Ohohia Street  
+ I 808 837 7774  
[mitsushushi.com](http://mitsushushi.com)

#### Big dinner with friends

Town Restaurant  
13435 Waialae Avenue 103  
+ I 808 735 5900

#### Drink after dinner

Bar 35  
35 North Hotel Street  
+ I 808 537 3535  
[bar35hawaii.com](http://bar35hawaii.com)

#### Late bite

MAC 24-7  
2500 Kuhio Avenue  
+ I 808 921 5564  
[mac247waikiki.com](http://mac247waikiki.com)

#### On the tiles

Rumfire  
2255 Kalakaua Avenue  
+ I 808 922 4422  
[rumfirewaikiki.com](http://rumfirewaikiki.com)

### Reading

#### Bookshop

Native Books/  
Na Mea Hawaii  
1050 Ala Moana  
Boulevard  
+ I 808 597 8967  
[nativebookshawaii.com](http://nativebookshawaii.com)

### Basics

ABC Stores  
Found throughout Waikiki

### Shopping

#### Something you can't get anywhere else

Vintage Hawaiiana at  
Bailey's Antiques and  
Aloha Shirts  
517 Kapahulu Avenue  
+ I 808 734 7628  
[alohashirts.com](http://alohashirts.com)

#### Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

Ala Moana Center  
1450 Ala Moana  
Boulevard  
+ I 808 955 9517  
[alamoanacenter.com](http://alamoanacenter.com)

#### Something for the kids

Toys N' Joys  
3632 Waialae Avenue  
+ I 808 735 4546  
[toysnjoys.com](http://toysnjoys.com)

#### Something for yourself

Lomi lomi massage  
Spa Halekulani  
2199 Kalia Road  
+ I 808 923 2311

### Two-hour tour

- 01 A walk on the wild side.  
A two-mile paved trail leads to Makapuu Lighthouse and the best views of Oahu's Windward Coast.
- 02 Kailua Town.  
This sleepy beach community is a 30-minute drive through the Koolau Mountain Range, which leaves you plenty of time to lie on the beach.
- 03 Liljestrand House Tour  
Don't miss a tour of this perfectly preserved example of Vladimir Ossipoff mid-century Hawaiian modern architecture. The family house of Dr. and Betty Liljestrand has just been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.  
[theliljestrandhouse.com](http://theliljestrandhouse.com)

### Limousine/car

Elite Limousine  
+ I 808 735 2431  
[elitelimohawaii.com](http://elitelimohawaii.com)

### Transport

#### Car rental

Rent a car at the airport. For bus information, visit [thebus.org](http://thebus.org).

#### Rent a Segway

Segway of Hawaii  
+ I 808 941 3151  
[segwayofhawaii.com](http://segwayofhawaii.com)

### Fitness

#### Surf and Bikini Bootcamp

Four-day pro surf camp with yoga and hiking.  
[editionhotels.com/en-us](http://editionhotels.com/en-us)

#### Alternative diversion

A surf lesson or outrigger canoe ride with the original /authentic Hawaiian Beach Boys Aloha Beach Services, in front of the Royal Hawaiian.  
+ I 808 922 3111



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