



# Plan Your Best Vacation to Oahu Ever!

Where to stay and  
what to do on Oahu

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## Where to Stay and What to Do on Oahu

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**Hi, I'm Lisa.** Find me here: <http://www.hawaii-lisa.com> - and find my other books here: <http://www.hawaii-lisa.com/answers/hawaii-guide-book/> There are 8 total of them. One for each island plus specialty books like getting married in Hawaii and first time visitors to Hawaii. All free.

This ebooklet is an answer to many requests from people who really wanted some personal advice about their Oahu vacation.

**The book is free, you may give it away to anyone you like, but you may not change it in any way.**

**I Disclaim any Liability:** I have made every effort to ensure that this information was correct when I wrote or updated it, but I do not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by any errors or omissions, regardless of how they occurred. Nothing in this book is guaranteed.

Here's a site I like about Ocean safety in the islands:  
<http://oceansafety.soest.hawaii.edu/>

## Aloha!

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**So you're planning a vacation to Oahu** – congratulations! You are going to have SUCH FUN! First, you'll be flying in to Honolulu Airport (HNL). You may not need a rental car because the public and activity transportation is so good (and because parking fees are sometimes pretty high).

You may want to consider checking the flight prices at [Hawaiian Airlines](#) for your flights to Hawaii. Sometimes they have great sales (mostly from near the west coast).

Most everything in this book is **my opinion**, based on my preferences and resources. I hope my opinions help point you in the direction you most want to take based on your preferences and resources. ☺

## My Favorites on Oahu

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**Honestly, I like Waikiki the best.** Probably because I live in Hilo (which is slow and quiet with not too much to do) so I like to visit the high energy with tons to do area of Waikiki.

We always stay in Waikiki, we love Waikiki Beach, and we like to walk around downtown and ride the trolley around at night.

**My favorite hotel:** We generally stay in a different hotel every time we go but if I had to pick an absolute favorite, maybe it would be the Hilton Hawaiian Village (typical best price: \$171 on [expedia](#)).

**Rental Car or not:** My husband likes to get a car because that's how he is, but if just my son and I go, we don't. We take a shuttle from the airport to the hotel (\$11 per person) and avoid the parking fees and headache.

**Activities Outside of Waikiki:** If we want to do something outside of Waikiki, we consider the bus, a shuttle, or renting a car for the day in Waikiki. Don't worry, this will all be incredibly easy to figure out once you get here. People will be falling over themselves to get you to take their shuttle or rent their car.

**Availability of transportation:** In the busy season (when we're not in a recession ☺ ) availability might be an issue, but not usually. I wouldn't worry about it.

**Staying outside of Waikiki:** If I wasn't going to stay in Waikiki, I would stay on the North Shore (turtle bay resort – typical best price: \$218 at [Priceline](#)) or maybe in a vacation rental on or near Lanikai Beach (Kailua area).

**West Side?** I'm not a big fan of the West side, probably because there are minimal tradewinds and I just get too hot, but there are some wonderfully inexpensive beachfront, long-term rentals out that way (Makaha Beach Cabanas, Hawaiian Princess).

## Best Weather on Oahu

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**Oahu is an island full of great weather** – you really can't go wrong, winter or summer. Waikiki is great weather; the best you really need. The West Side has the least rain and the most sun, but it is far from everything. The East side has a bit cooler weather and not TOO much rain, especially close to the ocean.

## Best Hotels in Oahu

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These are the best hotels in all of Oahu, in my opinion. Generally, in Oahu you will find small pools with minimal extras at the hotels, because the great swimming beaches and extras are so easily available scattered around the island. Expect *\*not\** to spend your whole vacation at the hotel.

*If you consistently find higher prices than what I have found, maybe prices are up due to season high season or some other reason. If you find lower, don't question it, just book it! 😊*

## Best Overall, Beach-Locations, and Luxury Hotels On Oahu

Hotel	Best Overall Aspects	Best daily price I have been able to find
Aqua Waikiki Beachside	Central location, is across the street from the beach, great prices for value. Not a fantastic hotel, but	\$74 <a href="#">priceline</a>

	the price plus location makes up for that for many. 2 people per room only.	
Aston Waikiki Circle	central location across street from the beach, great views at an incredible value	\$90 <a href="#">expedia</a>
Aston Waikiki Beach Tower	Kitchens, washers and dryers in rooms, huge rooms, nice views, across the street from the beach	\$407 at the website, \$428 <a href="#">expedia</a> . Occasionally, a deal will show up at the website for under \$300.
Halekulani	Luxury hotel, exquisite location and services	\$364 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Hilton Hawaiian Village	Luxury suites, my kind of hotel – busy, lots to do and see, perfect location	\$199 <a href="#">expedia</a>
Marriott Waikiki Beach Resort	Luxury suites, go out of their way to make busy Waikiki feel more 'hawaiian' with blowhole replica and hula shows in lobby	\$153 <a href="#">expedia</a>
New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel	Luxury Suites, slower pace, far from heart of Waikiki, more of a quiet beach	\$168 at website, \$213 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach	right on the beach, tons going on, fantastic restaurants	\$213 at website, \$240 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Royal Hawaiian Hotel	Luxury Suites, incredible location and grounds, with a quiet and insulated feel	\$300 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Moana Surfrider	Luxury suites and service, excellent location and views	\$220 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Ihilani Resort at Ko Olina (Marriott)	Luxury resort far from Waikiki, which could be a strike for or against it, depending on you. The man-made lagoons are perfect-looking & perfectly-calm. They have some cool on-site attractions like a hammerhead shark pond.	\$249 at website
The Kahala Hotel and Resort	15 minutes outside of Waikiki, Luxury suites,	\$395 at <a href="#">expedia</a>

	great beachfront location, some great value rooms. Dolphin quest is here, so you'll get to hang out with the dolphins. Wonderful touch that I just love.	
Turtle Bay Resort	on the north shore, stuck out on a little peninsula. Luxury suites, great beaches, quiet and romantic	\$218 at <a href="#">Priceline</a>

## Best Family Hotels in Oahu

Hotel	Best thing about it for families	Best daily price I've been able to find
Hilton Hawaiian Village	Seasonal childcare program, big, bustling, lots to do and lots of kids to play with, awesome beach location, fireworks and penguins	\$171 on <a href="#">expedia</a>
Imperial of Waikiki	big rooms with decent prices (1 br, 2 baths)	\$162 <a href="#">hotels.com</a>
Marriott Waikiki Beach Resort	Seasonal childcare program, central Waikiki location, nice atmosphere	\$153 <a href="#">expedia</a> and others
Ohana East	Some kitchenettes, Ohana line caters to families	\$98 <a href="#">hotels.com</a>
Sheraton Waikiki	Seasonal, awesome childcare program. So awesome, if adults want to join their kids on the trips, they have to pay. Central beachfront location	\$189 <a href="#">expedia</a>
Aston Waikiki Banyan	Playground next to the pool, 5 ppl per room (check to be sure this is still policy), kitchens available	\$114 <a href="#">expedia</a>
Waikiki Beach tower	Big rooms (900 sq feet!) and close to the beach	\$407 at the website, \$428 <a href="#">expedia</a> . Occasionally, a deal will show up at the website for under \$300.
Ilima Hotel	Full kitchens, large rooms	\$89 at website

## Best Budget-Priced Hotels on Oahu

Many of these hotels don't list with [expedia](#) and [priceline](#). If you call them directly for reservations, be sure to ask 'do you have any discounts that could bring my rate down?' You could get a yes and a better rate off the bat.

I also highly recommend bidding on priceline. Most of these smaller operations do not sell rooms to priceline, and so if you are bidding on Priceline you will normally get something like the Waikiki Prince Hotel, which is a nice hotel. I have seen bids accepted for \$75 there.

You'll have the most luck with getting low bids accepted on priceline when the hotels are hurting for visitors, but try anytime. You could really get some good deals.

When the hotels are hurting for visitors, I would even bid \$95 or so on 4 star hotels. The 4 star Hawaii Prince Marina has accepted bids at \$75 in September of 2009 (last minute bids).

Hotel	Best Aspect	Best Price I have found
Aloha Punawai	Clean, simple, motel-style with full kitchens. Is a Deal at \$60 or less. Ask for a discount.	Check site, this hotel not available on <a href="#">expedia</a> , etc <a href="http://www.alohapunawai.com/">www.alohapunawai.com/</a>
Aqua Waikiki Beachside	Central location, across the street from beach, only 2 ppl per room	\$74 <a href="#">priceline</a>
Ilikai hotel and suites	Not on Waikiki beach, but is on the shoreline. Lots of weddings here in the beautiful chapel and grounds.	\$95 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Pagoda hotel	Clean, quiet	\$88 website
Continental Surf	Clean	\$65 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Hawaiian King	Well-maintained, clean	\$80 at website
Holiday surf	Full kitchens	\$57 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Ilima Hotel	Kitchens, large	\$89 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Kai Aloha Hotel	Kitchenettes, family-owned	\$95 at the website.
Ocean Resort Hotel	Some kitchenettes, large	\$67 regular room at

	hotel	<a href="#">expedia</a> , \$93 with kitchenette
Royal Grove Hotel	Very low prices, but very low services too. Don't expect too much and you'll probably love it	\$55 at the website
Aston Waikiki Circle	In a great location – just across the street from the central beach. Amazing price for the location.	\$90 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Waikiki Prince Hotel	Awesome prices for clean and one block from beach	\$107 at <a href="#">priceline</a>
Waikiki Resort Hotel	Nicer hotel with budget prices available	\$107 at <a href="#">priceline</a>
Makaha Beach Cabanas	Way out in Makaha, but on a fantastic beach. Long term rates	Rent by the month, search for owners in a search engine

## Best Romantic Hotels and Hotels for Weddings On Oahu

New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel	Located off to one far side of Waikiki, away from the beach crowds. Right on the beach. Nice overall, quieter hotel	\$168 at the website
Ilikai hotel and suites	Not on Waikiki beach, but is on the shoreline. Lots of weddings here in the beautiful chapel and grounds.	\$95 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Royal Hawaiian Hotel	Just a beautiful hotel with romantic grounds on the best beachfront location.	\$300 <a href="#">expedia</a>
Kahala Mandarin Oriental Hawaii	Away from Waikiki on a great beach. They specialize in weddings. Dolphin quest on site which is always cool	\$395 at <a href="#">expedia</a>
Turtle Bay Resort	Awesome beach cottages, ocean views in almost every room, off on its own on the North Shore. Quiet and remote.	\$218 at <a href="#">priceline</a>

## Bidding on Hawaii Travel at Priceline and Hotwire

Bidding on [Priceline](#) and [hotwire](#) is a great way to save money on hotels and sometimes even flights to Hawaii. I have personally bid and gotten \$55 at the Royal Kona Resort, and \$120 at the Waikoloa Marriott. My friend got \$110 at the Waikoloa Hilton, and \$85 at the Hapuna Prince.

I know someone who bid and received a roundtrip flight from San Francisco to Honolulu for \$250. These are good deals!

Oh, and don't forget car rentals. You can get great deals on car rentals by bidding.

The only issue with bidding for hotels is that you won't know what hotel you get until you are locked in to paying for it. You just specify a certain star level or class of hotel.

The only issue with bidding for flights is that you won't be able to specify an exact time, but they do tell you it will be sometime between x morning hour and x evening hour, so not too bad.

### So How Should I Bid on Hawaii Travel?

**Hotels:** I like to decide on a hotel I like, then find out what its star level is. Then on [Priceline](#), I go directly to naming my own price, and during the process priceline will tell you what the average price is for that star level. I then bid half of that.

The priceline website will have a ticker of recently accepted rates in the area you are searching for that is helpful.

An awesome resource is the [bidding for travel](#) forum. If you scroll down on the home page you'll see three Hawaii forums, based on which islands you are planning to visit. People bid, and then come here and post their accepted and rejected rates.

I have heard that the posted 'median retail prices' at priceline are sometimes inaccurate. I don't worry about this in Hawaii because I am so familiar with what the hotels cost here. You, however, may want to check

prices on the website of a few hotels that are the same star level as you want. You can then try to bid 50% of that.

**Rental Cars** – \$15 a day is a good place to start, and check the recent winning bids on Priceline.

**Flights** – I like to bid 50% of whatever the going rate is and then bid up in \$50 increments if that is refused.

## Most Fun, Must-Do, Activities and Things to Do on Oahu

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This is my list of the most exciting and fun things to do on Oahu in my opinion.

- Wild Side Specialty Tours – small group, eco-minded, really cool, wild-dolphin swims. One of the most awesome things you'll ever do.
- Atlantis Submarines tour. Good fun for kids and adults, very interesting, not scary. We had dolphins circle us when I went. That was really cool.
- Learn to surf on Waikiki Beach, just show up and look for signs
- Bodysurf at any beach with some wave action
- Dolphin Quest at the Kahala Resort is good fun
- The Arizona memorial is interesting to some, but my family enjoys the USS Bowfin Submarine museum and the Mighty Mo more.
- Sea Life Park is cool if you have kids or are interested
- The Polynesian Cultural Center is well-done with plenty of interesting shows and exhibits

- The Bishop Museum is interesting to people who have an interest in Hawaiian culture and history
- Charter Boat Fishing
- Glider rides, sky-diving, or hang-gliding if you're brave ☺
- Helicopter or airplane tours of the island
- Hiking Diamond Head, Manoa Falls, or Kapena Falls
- Kayak Kailua Bay
- Stand-up Paddleboarding, the newest craze around the world and in Hawaii. Easy, and good fun, but you may be sore the next day ☺ If balancing is hard or if you have a wiggly child on the front, just paddle on your knees. Easiest for beginners with flat water and no wind. Go in the morning.
- Sunset Sails in Waikiki. Just walk up to the boat on the beach and ask about it. Amazing sunsets every night and in your face
- Whale Watching December to May – Whale watching is actually better on the other islands for some reason, but if you do manage to find a boat you like and see some whales it's an awesome experience
- Hanauma Bay is cool for many – snorkeling with TONS of fish in a protected cove, and on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays you can do it *at night*. Cool.

## **Inexpensive or Free Activities on Oahu**

- If you have kids, the Waikiki aquarium is worth a look and fairly inexpensive.
- A Hanauma Bay snorkeling trip – this is the only beach in Hawaii you'll have to pay to visit, but it's not expensive at all
- Rent snorkel gear, a paddle board, surfboard, boogie board, or kayak
- Body surf at any beach with mild wave action, except Sandy's, or anything with big waves. You want to enjoy your vacation, not see what the inside of Hawaii's hospitals look like.
- Hike anywhere. The hiking is really good and sometimes quite easy on Oahu, with great rewards (think waterfalls)
- Honestly, Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park is a fun day at a decent price. My family likes it.
- In the winter, head out to the north shore to watch the big wave action. You've never seen anything like it.
- Dole Pineapple maze – a hedge maze in the Guinness Book of World Records. It's cool and only \$5.
- Chinatown – authentic! And interesting
- Hawaii's Plantation Village
- Sea life park admission is relatively inexpensive if you don't do anything extra
- Waimea Valley Audobon Center – used to be adventure park but now it's more of a garden. If there's a lifeguard you can swim in the pool under the waterfall at the end of the park.
- Beach-hopping ☺ Just drive, walk, or take the bus until you find a beach and hang out. It's really that easy on Oahu.

- Catch the free torch lighting hula show every other evening in Waikiki. Just ask your hotel staff. It's a great show.
- I like to walk through the lobbies of the grander hotels on Waikiki beach to see what's going on there. They don't mind. No one questions you, but if someone ever did, you could just say you are scoping out the hotel for your next trip.

The Marriott Waikiki Beach has a mini-version of the Halona blowhole that goes off in their lobby every once in a while. Some places have cultural demonstrations, live music, or hula shows.

## **Best Ways I like to Save Money on Oahu**

### **Bidding for travel**

I like bidding at [priceline](#) for hotels and rental cars and airfare. This can save a lot of money right away

### **Hawaii Entertainment Book**

[Entertainment.com](#) sells coupons books for dozens of locations across the country. The Hawaii book is pretty good if there are two of you, especially for fine dining deals. The Buy One Get One free Entrees are phenomenal.

There are also activity and casual dining coupons, national coupons (like free upgrade or free day car rentals, six flags coupons, and hotwire coupons) and supposed hotel savings. In my experience, the hotel savings are not any better than what you can find on the internet, and so I don't recommend them. If you have a different experience I'd love to hear about it.

The book is typically best for Oahu, second best for Maui, and marginal for the Big Island and Kauai. I can't recommend it for Kauai or the Big Island, really. Sigh. Wouldn't it be nice if that changed in the near future.

I review it every year: [here's my review](#)

### **Go Oahu Card**

The [Go Oahu Card](#) is a discount card that you pay a one-time fee for and then you can do whatever activities covered under the card at any time. I

really like it for a certain class of vacationer: The type that consistently gets out and GOES to activity after activity.

If you plan on lounging on the beach most of the day, this is not for you.

I also really like this for a gift to honeymooners or vacationers. What a great gift! (and I like the entertainment book as a gift too) 😊

I have reviewed the Go Oahu Card too, [here's my review](#)

## Best Oahu Beaches and Must-See Beaches on Oahu

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Don't hit all of these unless you are really into beaches. Just pick a few and take your time 😊

**Note:** In Hawaii, all beaches are public. Anywhere that there is water, there must be public access to the shoreline. If you are in a residential neighborhood and want to check out the beach, just look for the blue signs that say "shoreline access" and follow the path, even if it's directly between two houses.

Sometimes, though, residential beaches do not have restrooms or showers.

Don't worry about directions too much. Oahu is a small island and you can see the ocean from almost everywhere. If you can see the ocean, you can find your way.

Beach	About	Directions
<b>Waikiki Beach</b>	This is where all the action is. Instant surfing lessons, paddle an outrigger canoe, walk up to a catamaran and be riding it over the open ocean an hour later ... Waikiki Beach is an awesome whirlwind of activity and people with consistently awesome weather and mellow surf.  There's a protected area for babies to	Just head towards the ocean from anywhere in Honolulu or Waikiki and you'll hit it.

	play, plus wide spots and perfectly sandy spots. It's like a giant, beautifully clean bathtub that you are sharing with the world. I love Waikiki Beach. A must-see beach.	
<b>Ala Moana Beach</b>	This is a locals beach, and it's very close to Waikiki Beach. It fringes Ala Moana Park, which is a great place to walk or picnic. It's well protected and wonderful for kids.	Just West of Waikiki. Look for Ala Moana Park, and head towards the ocean.
<b>Kahala Beach</b>	A pretty beach in a very rich, residential area. Shallow reef with good snorkeling in some areas.	From Waikiki, follow Kalakaua Ave to Diamond Head Rd. Diamond Head becomes Kahala Ave. You can park on Kahala.
<b>Hanauma Bay</b>	The value here isn't so much in the beach as it is in the snorkeling. The fish are everywhere, and they don't run from people too much. They are used to us.	Take Kalaniana'ole Highway east from Waikiki. Entrance on the right about 10 minutes out.
<b>Kailua Beach</b>	Awesome beach with tons to do. Rent kayaks right at the park and head out to the offshore islands.	Take h1 to the Pali highway (61). Stay on this road even after it turns into Kalaniana'ole. Bear to the left where Kailua meets Kalaniana'ole and you'll end up on Kailua. Bear to the right at Kuulei to stay on Kailua. You'll be there after one more intersection.
<b>Lanikai Beach</b>	One of my favorite beaches ever. Really what a Hawaiian beach that is not a cove should look like. Lazy, gorgeous, relaxation beach. 😊	If you are at Kailua Beach, just go past it and you'll find Lanikai. You'll need to park within the residential area on Mokulua Drive or one of the side streets.
<b>Laie or Hukilau Beach</b>	Really cool beach with one awesome off-shore island. Mostly calm swimmable.	Just head out to laie – you can't miss it.
<b>Sunset beach</b>	In the summer (may – September) this is an awesome, fun beach to play at.	From Waikiki, take the H1 freeway west until

	In the winter, the waves will scare you out of the water, but drop your jaw when they are rocking. It's fun either way.	you reach Likelike Hwy (63). Exit H1 onto Likelike until after the tunnel. Exit Likelike at Kahekili Highway (83) north. It's the long and wide beach on your right about 10 minutes past Kahuku.
<b>Sharks Cove</b>	An amazing snorkeling cove in the summer. In the winter the waves get too big.	Within Pupukea Beach park, which is past sunset beach
<b>Waimea Bay Beach Park</b>	Awesome, awesome beach. Beautiful and fun. Turtles like it, people like it, definitely check it out for swimming in the summer. In the winter, you want to check it out but for the WAVES. Waimea Bay is where some of the biggest and wildest surfing waves in the WORLD are.	Can't miss it past sunset beach and shark's cove area.

The south side and the west side have some very nice beaches that I have not mentioned (Ko Olina Lagoons, Makaha Beach Park, Papaoneone Beach ...) but I am not going to go into them. If you are staying out there, you'll find them. If you are not staying out there, in my opinion it's not worth a trip because the beaches in the areas where you will be already are just as good. The only difference on the west side will be less people for the most part.

## Oahu Areas, Weather, and Seasons

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### Waikiki/Honolulu Overview

Waikiki is where most people who visit Oahu stay. It is essentially the beachfront area of the large city Honolulu. It is incredibly safe for a large city. In fact, all of Hawaii is very safe. There are some thefts from cars, but person on person crime is very rare.

There are over 80 hotels in Waikiki alone. The beach is packed every day – but it's a good and fun kind of packed; lots to do and lots of happy people running around doing it.

The water is clear and refreshing (72 degrees year round) and the beach is clean. I like Waikiki. Some people will shun it because of the rampant commercialization and the skyscrapers and the buildings packed on top of each other, but as long as you know this is what it will be like, you can still enjoy Waikiki. The beach is phenomenal and makes up for all of that, plus the 'country' of Oahu is a short ride away by car or bus. Good deal.

**Waikiki Hotels will offer the best deals in all of Hawaii and Waikiki activities such as surfing lessons and sunset or dinner cruises will also offer the most competitive prices in the islands.**

## **Waikiki Weather and Waves**

### **Average Temperature in Summer (May – September):**

High: 87 to 89 degrees F

Low: 72 degrees F

### **Average Temperature in Winter (October –April)**

High: 80 to 84

Low: 68 to 70

### **Avg Rainfall per month in Summer**

1/2 inch

### **Avg Rainfall per month in winter**

2 inches

### **Waves in Winter**

Generally small waves in winter – still usually big enough for a beginner to learn to surf, but almost never so big your babies can't play on the shore.

### **Waves in Summer**

Hawaii gets South Swells in the summer, which means that occasionally, the waves will be so big on Waikiki Beach that you won't feel comfortable being in the water unless you are an expert swimmer. There is an area in the center called Kuhio beach or Baby beach where there is a wall blocking the waves, so people can still get in the water. I wouldn't try first-ever surfing lessons during a south swell though. 😊

## The Rest of Oahu Overview

Outside of Waikiki and Honolulu, you can find one Hotel on the North Shore, the Turtle Bay Hilton, and a few hotels on the West Side of the island like Makaha Bay Towers and Ko Olina Resort. All of these hotels are at least a half hour drive from Honolulu and the airport.

There are also countless vacation rentals and bed and breakfasts scattered around the island.

### Ewa Beach area

**Location:** South side on the other side of Pearl Harbor from Waikiki

**Weather:** Hot and sunny all the time, even at night this area will be slow to cool down

**Rain:** very little – 20 inches or less a year

**Waves:** occasional big waves in the summer

**Beach:** Ewa beach is long and pretty, with houses lining it. This is a residential area, and some of the beach leads to clear water, some is full of coral, rocks, and seaweed. We still swim in it but this may not be what you are looking for.

**Activities:** Nothing really except hanging out on the beach. You'll have to go elsewhere for boats and attractions.

**Hotels:** None. There are plenty of vacation rentals.

## West Side of Oahu

This is Ko Olina, Nankuli, Waianae, and Makaha.

**Safety Issue?** You may have heard that Makaha and Waianae are not safe areas. Well, it's true that they are considered a poorer areas but that image of being not safe is outdated. Don't leave valuables in your car and you'll be fine out here.

**Weather:** Hot and sunny all the time, even at night this area will be slow to cool down

**Rain:** very little – 20 inches or less a year

**Beach:** There are many awesome beaches in this area.

**Activities:** The Ko Olina Hotel has some ocean activities, and Wild Side Specialty Tours: <http://www.sailhawaii.com/> operates a wild dolphin swim in the area too.

**Hotels:** Ko Olina Resort , Hawaiian Princess, Makaha Beach Cabanas, and Makaha Valley Towers. You'll also find vacation rentals. Some of the places in Makaha offer great long term rental opportunities.

## East Side of Oahu

This is Waimanalo, Kailua, Lanikai, Kaneohe, Kaaawa, Waimea, and Laie, although Laie is practically on the North Shore.

**Weather:** A bit cooler than the South and west sides thanks to constant onshore winds.

**Rain:** A bit more rain, than other areas too, but not too much if you are on or near the beach. Between 30 and 60 inches a year.

**Beach:** Tons and tons of blow-your-mind-awesome beaches.

**Activities:** Lots of stuff to do: hike, windsurf, kayak, shop, sightsee, snorkel, lounge on the beach, and tons more.

**Hotels:** None. Many phenomenal vacation rentals. I like Waimanalo area, Kailua, and Lanikai area – especially Lanikai for the beach.

## North Shore of Oahu

This is Waimea, Kahuku, and Haleiwa. Small, laid-back, surfing towns.

**Weather:** Hot and sunny

**Rain:** Between 20 and 40 inches a year.

**Waves:** Waves big enough to shake the ground in the winter months. People come from every country just to look at these waves. No waves in the summer months.

**Beach:** Great beaches and snorkeling coves. Swim in the summer, come just to look in the winter, unless you are an expert surfer.

**Activities:** Lots of stuff to do: hike, shark dive, gliding, kayak, shop, sightsee, snorkel, jet ski, lounge on the beach, and tons more.

**Hotels:** Only the Turtle Bay Hilton. Lots of right-on the-beach vacation rentals.

## Summary

So that's it, have a wonderful, wonderful vacation. Hawaii is a great place and you really can't go wrong here. Drop me a line if you want to share any stories or ask any questions:

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Aloha!