

## **Double Delight in Two Hawaiian Hot Spots: Oahu and Kauai**

**By Roger Tran, Travel Consultant, Calgary Co-op Oakridge**

### **THE DESTINATION**

I recently enjoyed a wonderful two-island Hawaiian getaway that offered me the best of both worlds: the lush, tropical surroundings of Kauai, plus the excitement of Oahu.

Kauai -- The Garden Island – really lives up to its name. Buildings cannot be taller than the palm trees, allowing vegetation to flourish. Tropical forests abound, along with giant waterfalls and deep canyons. Sightseers and eco-lovers alike will be captivated by Kauai's beauty.

Oahu is the third largest and most populated Hawaiian island. It's home to bustling Honolulu, the state capital, which is the hub of Hawaii's economy. There are dozens of attractions – from Waikiki to Pearl Harbor, so there's always something exciting for visitors to see and do.

### **ATTRACTIONS: KAUAI**

#### ***Spouting Horn***

When the ocean rushes underneath the lava rock at Poipu Kai and bursts through a hole, the water sprays a spectacular 50 feet into the air and makes a loud groaning sound. In addition to Spouting Horn, there are a small number of shops where you can barter for souvenirs.

#### ***Coconut Marketplace***

This is a smaller version of the International Marketplace in Waikiki. The 60 shops, restaurants and bars will keep you busy for hours. Bartering is not practiced, but there's no need to dicker, because the prices are already great.

#### ***Poipu***

Located on Kauai's South Shore, Poipu offers visitors of all ages an infinite number of ways to experience its diverse attractions. Kayaking, scuba diving, surfing, hiking, ATV tours, helicopter tours, biking and golf are just a few of the activities on offer.

### **ATTRACTIONS: OAHU**

#### ***Pearl Harbor***

A trip to Pearl Harbor is a meaningful experience that gives you a window on the events that drew America into World War II. You can watch a 20-minute film depicting the attack on Pearl Harbor. Read about the lives of the fallen soldiers. See authentic pictures and artifacts. And take a Navy boat out to the Arizona Memorial.

### ***Dole Pineapple Pavilion***

This is where the world's pineapple is grown, harvested and shipped. Within the complex were a gift store, ice cream shop, gift kiosks and a giant maze. I definitely recommend the ice cream; it was a great way to cool down!

### ***Macadamia Nut Farm***

If you're a big fan of macadamia nuts, you must make a stop at one of the many nut farms that dot the island. The farm I visited offered a delicious assortment of flavors including coffee, garlic & cheese, popcorn, and cinnamon. There was also a coconut stand where they crack open a coconut and you drink straight from it.

### ***Lanaikea, Oahu (Turtle Beach)***

This is the best place to get up close and personal with Hawaiian green turtles. They crawl ashore almost daily to bask in the sun, giving the crowds terrific photo opportunities. The beaches in the surrounding area attract hordes of surfers; waves have been known to reach as high as 40 feet.

### ***Ala Moana Shopping Center***

A \$10 cab ride away from Waikiki, the Ala Moana Shopping Center is the biggest mall in Honolulu, with more than 260 shops. The layout is just like any ordinary mall, except there is no roof, giving you a unique sky view as you shop.

### ***International Marketplace***

Just across the street from Waikiki Beach, The Marketplace is an open-air market with more than 130 vendors selling almost everything you can think of. For those with good negotiating skills, this is a great place to barter for good-quality products

### ***Kuhio Avenue***

Kuhio Avenue is Waikiki's "main street," with dozens of shops, restaurants, bars and hotels. Residents and visitors flock to this lively area every evening to take in Honolulu's vibrant nightlife.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Kauai's resorts and hotels are small and intimate. Whether you choose a budget hotel such as the Best Western Plantation Hale Suites or the Resortquest Poipu, or stay in a luxurious resort like the Kauai Marriott Resort or the Sheraton Kauai Resort, you'll enjoy the same standard of impeccable service.

Oahu boasts an endless selection of hotels and condos. From budget hotels such as the Aqua Waikiki Wave to luxurious rooms at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, there is a full range of options no matter where you are on the island.

## **GETTING AROUND**

On Kauai, renting a car or moped is recommended, because the major attractions are quite a distance from one another. You also have the option of taking a bus or taxi.

On Oahu, Waikiki is approximately 20 minutes from the airport, and a taxi ride will cost approximately \$30 each way. The bus and the trolley are the best ways to get around Honolulu. A bus ride is about \$2; \$25 buys a full day on the trolley with unlimited rides.

## **GETTING THERE**

Numerous airlines offer service to Kauai and Oahu: Air Canada, United Airlines, US Airways, Delta Airlines and Northwest Airlines are just a few. Inter-islands flights are available through Hawaiian Airlines and Aloha Airlines.

## **TRAVEL TIPS**

- A passport is required to go to the Hawaiian Islands.
- Official currency is the US dollar.
- Hawaii does not observe Daylight Savings Time.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For excitement – *and* tropical charm – double up, with two Hawaiian Islands that give you the best of both worlds. Call Roger Tran at 403-299-5316 or email [rtran@calgarycoop.com](mailto:rtran@calgarycoop.com) for details. Or visit any Calgary Co-op Travel Office; dial our Call Centre (299-4144) for service after hours, Sundays and holidays; or book online 24/7 via [www.calgarycoop.com](http://www.calgarycoop.com).