O'ahu The Heart of Hawai'i

View of Leahi (Diamond Head) from Kapiolani Park

Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA)/Tor Johnson

FAST FACTS

- **SIZE** – 71km long and 48km wide
- **WEATHER** – 21°C to 29°C with variable rainfall.
- **ACTIVITIES** – spa/massage therapies, kayaking (river & ocean), snorkelling, scuba diving, body boarding, windsurfing, waterskiing, sailing, hiking, tennis, golf, horse riding, museums, festivals, art, music and shopping.

DRIVING TIMES

Waikīkī to:

Diamond Head	10 min
Downtown Honolulu	15 min
'Iolani Palace	15 min
Chinatown	15 min
Pali Lookout	25 min
Honolulu Airport	30 min
Pearl Harbour	30 min
Hanauma Bay	30 min
Sea Life Park	40 min
Waimea (northern O'ahu)	1 hr
Polynesian Cultural Center	1 hr

Celebrate

As the gateway for international flights from Australia to Hawai'i, O'ahu is the perfect place to start your celebration. Discover extraordinary beaches, fabulous cafes and restaurants, world-class bars and nightclubs, hip galleries, sensational shopping and just a short drive from the hub of Waikīkī, a multitude of secluded coves and quiet, romantic escapes.

THE PERFECT BACKDROP

O'ahu is the ideal place to propose, get married, honeymoon or renew your vows.

And, from a bare-foot gathering on the sand to an elegant affair in one of O'ahu's chic hotels, we make it easy to create the celebratory event of your dreams. The island plays host to many fabulous gardens and parks, stunning waterfalls, impressive private estates, boutique and international hotels, stylish charter yachts and luxurious catamarans, with skilled planners on hand to assist you every step of the way.

Popular settings for ceremonies and receptions include:

- the stylish gazebo at Hilton Hawaiian Waikiki Beach
- a catamaran at sunset with the lights of Honolulu in the background
- in the gardens or chapel of the beautiful Kawaiaha'o Church in Honolulu
- on horseback on the beach at Turtle Bay
- a wedding in the sky, saying "I Do" from an elevation of 3,000 metres, before falling rapidly to the ground. Skydiving nuptials have become increasing popular on Oahu!
- one of the many panoramic and picturesque spots on the island, from lush rainforest to verdant mountainscapes and dramatic cliff-lined shores
- an intimate ceremony on stunning Kailua Beach at sunset, with beaming rays of orange tingeing the sky and cool Hawaiian tradewinds blowing ever so gently
- an Hawaiian lū'au or traditional celebration and feast, with many lū'au options including Paradise Cove Luau, Germaine's Luau, Alii Luau at the Polynesian Cultural Center and the lū'au's held in Waikīkī at The Royal Hawaiian and Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Unwind

SNORKEL in spectacular Hanauma Bay marine sanctuary's calm, clear one metre-deep waters among brilliantly-coloured schools of fish and gentle sea turtles.

LIE BACK and submit to an exotic spa treatment infused with island traditions and ingredients such as chocolate macadamia nut and coconut.

HEAD north, just an hour's drive, to North Shore's stunning beaches. In winter (Oct-Apr) view the world's best surfers in huge swells and in summer (May-Sep), when the waves subside, pick your perfect swimming spot. For a delicious snack, head along Kamehameha Highway (route 83) for locally farmed jumbo prawns sold via shrimp trucks. Fruity shave ices are the perfect complement.

CHECK out First Fridays when Chinatown's hip galleries, cafes, bistros and antique stores open late, hosting festivities and live music (first Friday of each month).

HIRE a motor scooter to explore the scenic coastline, stopping at a secluded beach to picnic and take a refreshing dip. Alternatively, sit back and sip champagne on a limousine circle tour of the island.

HIKE the 3.2km Diamond Head trail for an extraordinary panorama stretching from Waikīkī to Koko Head Krater.

images: Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA)/Tor Johnson

TREAT your taste buds! Sample delicious Hawaiian Regional Cuisine - combining fresh local ingredients with traditional infusions from Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Italian, Portuguese and other international cooking styles. Book a hot table at: Alan Wong's Restaurant; Chai's Island Bistro; Chef Mavro; Roy's Waikīkī; and Sam Choy's Diamond Head Restaurant.

GOLF on the edge at the 18-hole, par-70 Ala Wai Golf Course set on the lip of Waikīkī, with breathtaking views of Diamond Head and the Ko'olau Mountains. The green fees are very reasonable.

TAKE a tandem surfing lesson. It's been part of the culture for centuries, with more surfing schools here than anywhere else! Lessons are available in Waikīkī and on the North Shore.