

More than just sun and surf, the Hawaiian Islands are as sensual as the fragrance of plumeria that hangs on the air and as romantic as the legends of its people. Each island holds dear its own unique character and natural wonders. All hum with the soft sounds of Polynesian music, and welcome with garlands of flowers and freshly minted mai tai cocktails — signs of the genuinely gracious spirit of aloha.

From cattle ranch to sugarcane field, from simmering volcanoes to gushing waterfalls, from verdant volcanic cliffs to the secluded sapphire bays, the Hawaiian Islands are a natural paradise. Here, couples find the perfect place to honeymoon.

Many couples choose to island hop; others plan to go no farther than the coast of their own special island. Before planning a honeymoon to Hawaii, do take time to browse brochures and consider each island's special glories.

OAHU

Oahu, as gateway to the Pacific, is home to Honolulu's businesses, Waikiki's pleasures and Pearl Harbour's famous naval station. This



David Bartruff/PG International Corp.
Waikiki Beach & Diamond Head, Honolulu, Hawaii

island is where you will find the widest variety of Hawaii's fun attractions, activities and amusements.

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by Sally A. Noble

month-long vacations at fabled hotels on Waikiki Beach. Now this two-and-a-half-mile stretch of glorious beach boasts every imaginable watersport by day, cocktail cruises by sunset and a very starry nightlife by evening. Food-lovers will be challenged by the 2,000 restaurants on the dining menu. Couples will come to expect the ever-litling sounds of Hawaiian music hanging on the breeze and those pretty purple orchids and fresh pineapple chunks served with their breakfast eggs.

Shopping is yet another popular sport played here. Great souvenirs and terrific

local lunchfare make a wander through Ala Moana Shopping Center, billed as the world's largest open-air mall, terrific fun. Discriminating shoppers will find international haute-couture labels in the new two-level Palm Boulevard section.

An island of tremendous natural beauty and endless surprises, Oahu's charms go beyond Waikiki. In a short drive from Waikiki, couples can explore America's only royal palace, dreamlike forest waterfalls and fabulous ocean wildlife preserves. Drive through the Pali Mountains, and discover the Windward Side, where miles of sandy white beaches

Heavenly Hawaii

HAWAII

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keep only coconuts for company. Then travel to the North Shore to see the legendary surfing spots like Sunset, Waimea and Banzai Pipeline.

Known as "The Gathering Place," Oahu is memorable not only for its natural beauty, but for its fascinating diversity of peoples, cultures, cuisines and lifestyles.

MAUI

This beautifully scenic island is named after the Polynesian demigod Maui, who, according to Hawaiian legend, created all the Hawaiian islands by magically dragging them up from the bottom of the sea with a mystical fishhook. And today, honeymooners in Maui may make their own kind of magic. Just follow the mysterious signs of ancient Polynesian petroglyphs or take the winding road through scented eucalyptus groves, climbing 10,000 feet to witness the glorious sunrise over the vast crater of Haleakala.

Maui's splendid natural wonders keep this island's romance alive. Here, honeymooners can discover their own secluded spot amidst the island's 42 miles of pristine beaches and lush rain forests. Or cast your eyes to the Maui waters, when thousands of sleek humpback whales leap from December through May. Down long, bumpy roads to Hana, couples are rewarded with a day in dewy Eden.

It's tough to resist the sweet bite of Maui's luscious onions. Or to not indulge in a bit of cavorting in the famous whaling town of Lahaina, which is both a National Historic Landmark and the center of Maui's reputation for sizzling nightlife. And few romantics fail to be mesmerized by the hula dancer's graceful hands.

Maui's legendary resort areas — Kapalua, Ka'anapali, Wailea and Makena — all promise luxurious

accommodations, access to world-class golf courses, tennis, sailing, pampering by spa and, of course, long lazy days bathed by the sun.

THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII

What could be more dramatic on a fantasy honeymoon than an erupting volcano? The Big Island — truly the biggest and highest of all the Hawaiian Islands — is the only place on earth where the spectacular scene of volcanic creation may be witnessed in progress. Since 1983, an almost continuous eruption has been sending fiery lava down a smoldering black slope into a churning, boiling sea. In Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the immense Kilauea calders steam constantly, and sometimes the lucky visitor may witness sudden geysers of gushing molten lava.

Meanwhile, the island's other volcano, the stunning Mauna Kea, is still and is often snow-capped in the winter. Couples can ski by day, and return to their hotel for a sunset swim in a lapping, warm sea.

To describe the Big Island is really to speak of contrasts. A day's drive can travel from jungle waterfall to fields of countryside that closely resemble Montana. Lush green golf courses wind around ancient Polynesian burial grounds and authentic petroglyph rock carvings. Royal Hawaiian fishponds share resort space with sprawling swimming pools. The three main towns are Hilo, known for its rare orchids, Waimea, home to the rodeo of Hawaiian cowboys, and Kailua-Kona, known for international resort as well as deep-sea marlin fishing.

Finally, the history of this island, like its pleasures, is real and accessible. The Big Island is where the first Polynesians reached land in Hawaii, and here is where Captain Cook met his demise. The first

Christian church of Hawaii was built here, soon after King Kamehameha I united the Hawaiian Islands.

KAUAI

Kauai, the Garden Isle, is the one you've seen in the movies — many movies. The breathtaking view over Hanalei Bay was featured in the musical "South Pacific." In "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Indiana Jones was seen running to Kauai's Huleia River and Kipu Falls. In "Blue Hawaii," Elvis got married in the wedding chapel of the island's Coco Palms Hotel, where the torch lighting ceremony still enchants guests nightly. And when the filming of Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" was wrapping up, a real hurricane delivered on cue.

So perhaps you should bring your own video camera when you visit this lovely island, and then make your own private movie. Visit the spectacular cliffs of Kauai's Na Pali coast, readily accessible by tour guide and Zodiac boat (and the backdrop for the spectacular "King Kong"). Follow the footsteps of Mark Twain and embrace on the edge of Waimea Canyon, "the Grand Canyon of the Pacific." Ask for directions to Mount Makana — the Bali Hai in "South Pacific" that says "come to me, come to me."

Wherever you stay — south, on the hot, white beaches of Poipu, east, along the eastern shore where couples find the temples of ancient Hawaiian royalty and a legacy of regal resort living, west, in the wilderness behind the rough emerald cliffs, or north, in the golf and tennis community of Princeville, this island demands to be explored. For more information contact the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, 350 Fifth Avenue, Room 808, New York, NY 10118; 212/947-0717. ❖



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