



The Royal Hawaiian Hotel (center) and The Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center (foreground)

Open your eyes in

Oahu

Known as the Heart of Hawaii, the island of Oahu has long been a destination of choice for discerning travelers desiring an abundant helping of island charm with the frills and amenities of the big city.

Oahu is literally overflowing with sights, sounds and smells for the offshore traveler, a prime vacation spot for both Americans and the Japanese alike. With a strong emphasis on fine dining, shopping and fun beachside activities, Oahu is a huge draw for the gay crowd, whether solo, with friends or with family.

STAY

Located steps from Waikiki Beach and the area's world-class shopping and dining, **Hotel Renew** is the island's first true designer boutique hotel. Guests find a personal experience inside that leaves them feeling renewed and rejuvenated. The 72 rooms inside are both sexy and casual, featuring light-colored fabrics, dark wood furnishings and dimmable lighting, along with all expected amenities. Only blocks away from both the gay beach—Queen's Surf—and Oahu's liveliest, most popular gay bar—Hula's—Hotel Renew is a calming contrast to the vibrant energy of Waikiki. hotelrenew.com

Dubbed the "Pink Palace of the Pacific," **The Royal Hawaiian Hotel** defines luxury and glamor on the island, setting the standard for more than 80 years. The hotel's 529 rooms, set on 14 beachfront acres, offer unrivaled views of Diamond Head, Waikiki Beach and the sparkling Pacific Ocean. Guests also take advantage of the hotel grounds' restaurants and spa. royal-hawaiian.com

Traditional Hawaiian hospitality mixes with contemporary island style at the **Outrigger Waikiki**, a popular destination for tourists of all persuasions. Angelenos will take notice of the hotel's beachfront Duke's Canoe Club, one of Waikiki's most popular beach bars, another of which can be found in our very own Malibu. The hotel also features fun on-site shops, including a Swatch boutique that always receives shipments of new, quirky designs and styles. outrigger.com

SHOP

When staying in Waikiki, as most visitors to Oahu do, one need only walk down the main drag of Kalakaua Avenue to find a bevy of places to shop til you drop. The number of flagship stores and smaller boutiques in walking distance will have you dropping dollars left and right.

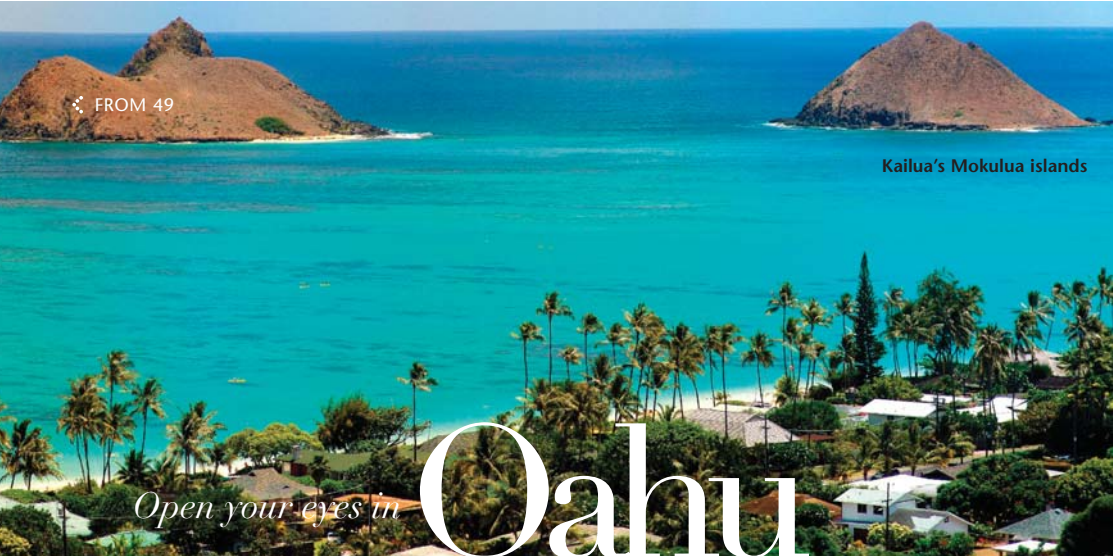
For nearly all of your shopping needs, **The Royal Hawaiian Center** accommodates you in every way. Spanning more than three city blocks, four levels and 310,000 square feet, you'll find high-end fashion—Fendi, Hermès, Bulgari and Ferragamo—as well as a flagship Apple store, L'Occitane and a Ferrari store. Much more than a shopping destination, the Center also treats you to dining and entertainment, as well as complimentary cultural classes in lei-making, hula, 'ukulele, weaving and quilting. royalhawaiiancenter.com

Japanese influence on Hawaiian life extends to its fashion, and Waikiki is home to more than a few Japanese T-shirt boutiques, the most popular being **88 Tees**. Inside you'll find the boutique's own brand of tees, tanks and sweatshirts, as well as a huge array of vintage wear. It's a store you can spend hours perusing for the perfect find, so prepare accordingly. 88tees.com

And what better place to purchase all of your beachwear than in the surfer's paradise that is Oahu? Waikiki is home to all of the brands you know back home—**Billabong**, **Quiksilver**, **Roxy**—but there's simply no more fitting a place to purchase boardshorts than feet away from the deep blue Pacific. billabong.com, quiksilver.com, roxy.com



Hotel Renew



Kailua's Mokulua islands

Open your eyes in Oahu

EAT

While Waikiki is brimming with bars and restaurants of every genre and price range, there are a few island gems that any first-time island tourist should experience for himself.

The perfect locale for a breather between frolicking in the Pacific and shopping along Kalakaua Avenue, **The Surf Lanai** is a chic oceanside enclave that offers breakfast and lunch with an upscale attention to detail. The eatery's Hawaiian cuisine is complemented by crisp white linens, gorgeous island flowers and clean presentation by the chef. Breakfast here alongside the breaking waves guarantees your day will be a relaxing, productive one. royal-hawaiian.com

There's sushi, and then there's **Doraku Sushi**. With restaurants in South Beach and Waikiki, Doraku specializes in offering the freshest sushi available, in addition to an amazing variety of inventive seafood dishes you'll find on no other menu. Kevin Aoki, son of Benihana founder Rocky Aoki, has a true gem on his hands, having opened a restaurant that is chic, sophisticated and steeped in Waikiki's hip nightlife culture. With Hawaii's first and only sake sommelier, you're guaranteed a sushi experience like no other. sushidoraku.com

Just outside of Waikiki, over the Ala Wai canal, sits **Leonard's Bakery**, a Honolulu staple among locals and visitors alike. Founded in 1952, Leonard's is most famous for its malasadas—fluffy Portuguese donuts that are crispy on the outside and light as air inside. Though you may wait in a line to place your order, your taste buds will thank you. leonardshawaii.com



Ahi Poke at Doraku Sushi



PLAY

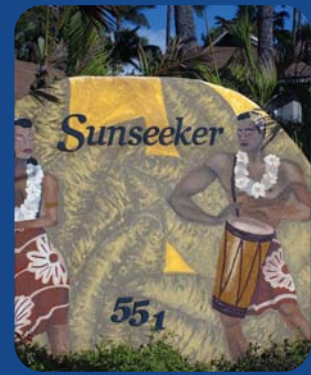
Oahu claims some of the best surfing spots in the world—and the sport itself actually originated on the island—but don't let a lack of skill deter you from enjoying the waves. Attend the **Hawaiian Fire Surf School** and have off-duty Honolulu City firefighters escort you out to a pristine, secluded beach where waves are perfect for any age or experience level. hawaiianfire.com

Located on Oahu's Windward coast, Kailua is not only the perfect locale for kayaking, snorkeling, windsurfing and kite surfing, but the city is also one of the most gorgeous places on Earth. Lanikai Beach is consistently ranked one of the world's most gorgeous beaches, and the twin Mokulua Islands in the distance are perfect for an ocean kayaking trek. **Kailua Sailboards & Kayaks** offers kayak rentals and lessons—it's an experience that's not to be missed, and one you'll remember always. kailuasailboards.com

If you're looking for ocean activities right outside your hotel in Waikiki, **Waikiki Beach Services** offers a variety of quality water experiences. The company's certified Waikiki Beachboys will take you out on the water in an outrigger canoe, will give you surfing instruction and will even teach you the island's newest fad, stand-up paddleboarding. waikikibeachservices.com



Malasadas from Leonard's Bakery



Make it happen in Maui

Dubbed "The Valley Isle," Maui is the second largest of the Hawaiian islands and another prime destination for tourists seeking fun in the sun.

Maui Sunseeker, a resort that caters primarily to the gay and lesbian traveler, has 17 guest rooms and suites in Kihei, Maui's beautiful south shore. Not only is the resort convenient to the gorgeous attractions that Maui has to offer, but Sunseeker has also launched an in-house concierge service to help you plan and book your island activities. The resort has located gay and gay-friendly tour guides and operators to ensure that its guests are most comfortable in any activities they choose. The list of activities available to guests include everything from helicopter and waterfall tours to zipline, biking and sunset dinner sails. mauisunseeker.com



Maui's Sunseeker