

HONOLULU

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO DISCOVER A DESTINATION.
BY STEVE MARSH



ALOHA. The word isn't quite a palindrome, but its meaning barely changes coming or going. There's something romantic about it, something that's difficult to define upon first hearing, but something you want to hear again. In that way, it's of a piece with Hawaii—most of which was left unscathed by the recent volcano eruption. Honolulu is as unique a city as can be found in the world. Smack dab in the middle of the Pacific, it's as connected to the cultural currents of Asia as it is to those of the mainland United States. It proudly looks to its indigenous roots while yearning to welcome its next visitor. Aloha!

HONOLULU

ALOHA CHILL

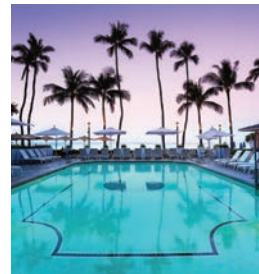


◀ WHERE TO STAY Alohilani Resort
Freshly remodeled (to the tune of \$125 million) and located on the active end of Waikiki's famous stretch of sand, the Alohilani offers the type of attentive but laid-back service that is special to this island. alohilaniresort.com

BREAKFAST Malasadas at Leonard's Bakery
Portuguese immigrants initially brought the *malasada*—a delicious, sometimes-cream-stuffed fried doughnut—to Hawaii, but starting in 1952, Leonard's Bakery made them a Honolulu staple. leonardshawaii.com



◀ MORNING Iolani Palace
Commissioned in 1879 by King Kalakaua, this ornate palace is an ode to the rule of Hawaii's royal family. It's also the site of self-rule's tragic end, culminating in the 1895 imprisonment of Queen Lili'uokalani. iolanipalace.org



◀ SUNSET Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa
The oldest hotel on Waikiki boasts one of the premier sunset-facing bars in the world. Stake out a front-row spot outside and fixate on the sun's descent long enough to look for that famous "green flash." moana-surfrider.com

DINNER ▶ Morimoto Asia Waikiki
Familiar to fans of *Iron Chef* and the rebooted *Hawaii Five-0*, Masaharu Morimoto has spent five years on Oahu, and his namesake restaurant showcases his command of pan-Asian cuisine. morimotoasiawaikiki.com



CLASSIC HONOLULU

WHERE TO STAY ▶ The Royal Hawaiian
Since 1927, this Luxury Collection Resort, "the Pink Palace of the Pacific," has been hosting dignitaries ranging from local legend Duke Kahanamoku to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. royal-hawaiian.com



MORNING ▶ Pearl Harbor Historic Sites
Go online well in advance to reserve a place on one of the U.S. Navy skiffs that tours the famous harbor. It's an austere environment where families can still be found paying their respects to the brave men who perished aboard the *USS Arizona*.



LUNCH ▶ Rainbow Drive-In
This should be your introduction to a hearty local phenomenon: the Hawaiian plate lunch. A protein, like BBQ beef or shoyu chicken, is flanked by two scoops of rice and a scoop of macaroni salad. rainbowdrivein.com



AFTERNOON Waiola Shaved Ice
Imported by Japanese immigrants, Hawaiian shaved ice might be the only way to satisfy a sweet tooth after a massive plate lunch. This spot is a classic. Try the pickled mango! waiolashaveice.com

◀ DINNER Original Roy's Hawaii Kai
Roy Yamaguchi is one of the founders of Asian fusion cuisine and his namesake chain, founded in 1988, is now an empire. The original location in the Hawaii Kai neighborhood retains its first-timer charm. royshawaii.com

HANG LOOSE



◀ WHERE TO STAY Prince Waikiki
This Waikiki hotel, owned by a venerable Japanese luxury brand, oozes warmth and class. The rooms are state of the art, the buffet is opulent and the golf course is gorgeous. princewaikiki.com



◀ BRUNCH Ahi Assassins Fish Co.
Poke is perhaps the hottest food trend going, now found in malls and airports all over the world, but this hole in the wall run by local fishermen serves the freshest, most delicious version known to humankind. ahiasassins.com



◀ AFTERNOON Halona Beach Cove
Half an hour from Waikiki Beach, on the Kalaniana'ole Highway, pull off to check out the Halona Blowhole Lookout. The intrepid can sneak down to the beach and recreate the moment Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr took their famous roll in the sand in *From Here to Eternity*.

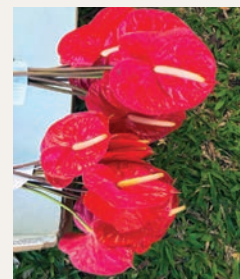
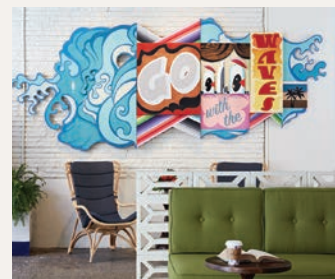
LUNCH ▶ Ono Steaks and Shrimp Shack
This has the best plate lunch on Oahu, maybe on any island. The coconut shrimp is better than any of the varieties found at the more famous North Shore food trucks. [41-037 Wailea St.](http://41-037-Wailea-St)



HAPPY HOUR Cafe Duck Butt
Boasting what may be the cutest name of any bar in Hawaii, this Korean karaoke bar has a mighty happy hour with an array of delicious small plates that pair perfectly with either soju or K-pop—or both. [901 Kawaiahao St.](http://901-Kawaiahao-St)

WAIKIKI HIPSTER

WHERE TO STAY ▶ The Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club
Cozy and hip with a veneer of vintage Don Ho-era Waikiki, the Surfjack caters to those of us still willing to walk two whole blocks to the beach. surfjack.com

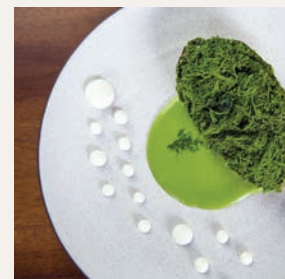


◀ MORNING Kapiolani Community College Farmers Market
For those who expect Hawaii to produce a cornucopia of local bounty, you won't be disappointed. The food stands also are magnificent—especially the banh canh at The Pig & the Lady. kapiolani.hawaii.edu/project/farmers-market

AFTERNOON ▶ Avanti Shirts
Perhaps Hawaii's No. 1 export, the Aloha shirt has become a Hawaiian classic. And Avanti makes a flower-print silk number just like the one that Elvis wore—along with the ones Bruno Mars still wears! avantishirts.com



DINNER ▶ Senia
If you make one reservation on Oahu, make it at locavore sensation Senia. The Caraflex cabbage dish alone will make you reconsider your flight home. restaurantenia.com



COCKTAILS Smith's Union Bar
The oldest bar on the Hawaiian Islands is tucked away within the *Magnum, P.I.*-noir of Honolulu's Chinatown. During WWII, this was the bar picked by the crew members of the *USS Arizona* to be "their" watering hole. [19 N. Hotel St.](http://19-N-Hotel-St)

NORTH SHORE BANZAI



◀ WHERE TO STAY Turtle Bay Resort
The only resort of any kind found on Oahu's North Shore, Turtle Bay is a fully functioning landmark. The staff can hook you up with the perfect wave, the perfect hike or the perfect piña coloda. Just ask. turtlebayresort.com

MORNING ▶ Watch Pro Surfers at Banzai Pipeline
During winter big wave season, even if there isn't a scheduled event, monitor surf conditions the night before and claim a spot at dawn. With the right conditions, you might glimpse a pro, such as 2017 world champ John John Florence.



BREAKFAST Ted's Bakery in Sunset Beach
After a rigorous morning of surfing—or watching real surfers do their thing—treat yourself to the best loco moco plate lunch in Hawaii. tedsbakery.com

LUNCH ▶ Kahuku Farms
Book a smoothie tour and learn about the history of the banana harvest before slurping down a delicious Papaya Power smoothie of your very own. www.kahukufarms.com



AFTERNOON ▶ Laniakea Turtle Beach
Rule No. 1: Never touch the turtle! If you are lucky enough to spot one of these magical creatures, meditate on the native belief that the *aumakua* is a protective, ancestral guardian spirit.

