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Romantic
Hawaiian
Getaways



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***For Peggy, Sandy, Dan, Steve, Marilyn, Bob, Julie,
Marsha, and Jerry, who know who they are.***

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The crescent beach at Mauna Kea Beach Resort is the finest beach on Hawaii. *(Photo courtesy of Patti Cook & Associates)*

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Introduction



Born by fire, shaped by sea, wind, and rain, and enriched with some of the most unusual and beautiful plants imaginable, the beautiful islands of Hawaii are the closest we have to an Eden today.

On this Pacific paradise you can tour lush, green valleys filled with rainbows and veiled by mists created by towering waterfalls. You can see giant canyons—astonishingly deep ravines carved over the millennia by fast-rushing rivers coursing down from mysterious green mountains. You can stroll on beaches of white and black sand, stare in awe at rugged coastal mountains and ravines accessible only by air or sea, and gaze in wonder at some of the tallest mountains in the nation and the fiery volcanic forces that created them.

Hawaii was born 25 million years ago when volcanoes on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean began spewing forth immense quantities of lava. Over the millennia, these eruptions formed ever larger mountains that emerged from the sea.

As the centuries passed, these islands grew again through new eruptions, and began changing in another way. It began first on the wet, windward side of these barren lands. There, unusual plants and flowers, some now found only on these islands, found a fertile home in the lava fields. In time, these plants were joined by birds and small mammals, completing the island paradise. The only thing missing were people, but even that was to change.

Around the fifth century AD, a thousand years before Columbus's voyage, Polynesians sailed their double-hulled canoes from their South Pacific homes to these islands. Though their original home island is unknown, most experts believe it was what we now call Tahiti or the Marquesas.

It was an epic voyage, one made without the benefit of maps, navigational instruments, or any clear idea that there was even

a place to go to. It is said they followed the flight of the Golden Plover, a bird known to the Polynesians as one that must bury its eggs on land.

The details of their 2,000-mile voyage are lost in time, but we know what they named the island paradise they discovered: Havaiki.

For more than a thousand years, no one else knew of their voyage, their discovery, or their new home. That all changed in the 1770s, an era when European sea captains explored the globe.

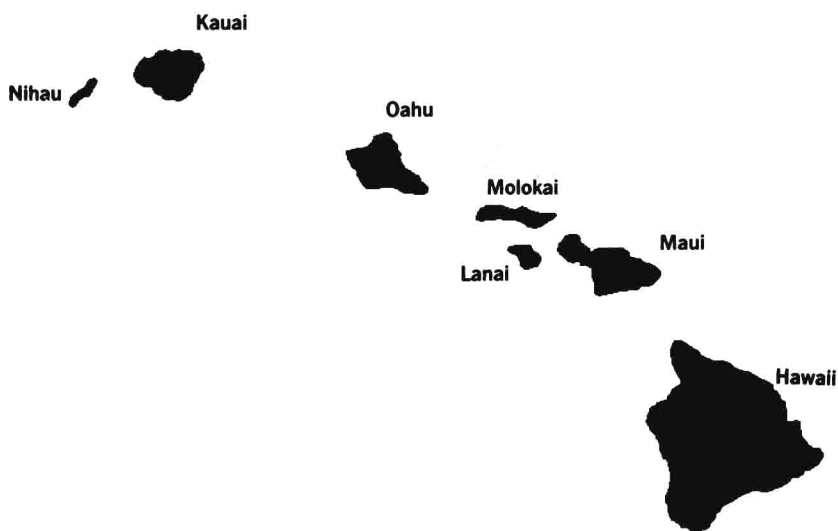
Captain James Cook and his ships *Resolution* and *Discovery* were crossing the Pacific on their way to North America when they came across the islands on January 18, 1778. "At this time we were in some doubt whether or not the land before us was inhabited," Cook wrote. "This doubt was soon cleared up . . ."

The islands were never the same. When Cook first saw them, the islands were separate kingdoms ruled by often-warring regents. Within 17 years after Cook's ships dropped anchor, the islands were united by King Kamehameha, who used European weapons and ships to conquer the islands of his opposing rulers.

After Cook (who was killed on a later voyage) came other Europeans: whalers, explorers, merchants, farmers, and missionaries.

Kamehameha and his descendants ruled for 98 years, until 1893 when Hawaii's last ruling monarch, Queen Liliuokalani, was removed from the throne by American businessmen who opposed her strong rule and independent ways. In January 1893, American business leaders, assisted by U.S. troops stationed at the U.S. base in Pearl Harbor, declared a new provisional government replacing that of the queen. President Grover Cleveland called the takeover "a great wrong," and sought congressional action to restore the queen to power. Congress, caught up in the fever of *Manifest Destiny*, ignored Cleveland.

On July 4, 1894 Sanford Dole, a descendant of missionaries, became president of the new Republic of Hawaii. Followers of the queen tried one last time to overthrow Dole's government,



The Islands of Hawaii

and when that failed the queen was imprisoned for more than a year.

The new republic was short lived. In July 1898, the Congress annexed the islands, and in 1900 the islands became an official U.S. territory. From then to December 7, 1941, Hawaii was an agricultural center, known for its sugar cane and a new crop called pineapples planted on Lanai by James D. Dole, a cousin of Sanford Dole.

It was the huge naval base at Pearl Harbor that changed American perceptions of the distant islands. The Japanese attack on the base seared the name of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Honolulu forever in the American psyche. The attack also eventually disproved one argument used against granting statehood to the islands, that the population—predominantly Japanese, Filipinos, and other Asians—could never be loyal American citizens. The 442d Regimental Combat Team, composed of more than 3,000 volunteers of Japanese heritage, fought bravely and fiercely in Italy and France, winning seven presidential unit citations and thousands of individual medals.

By the 1950s, the question of statehood for the territory of Hawaii was not whether, but when. Finally, on March 12, 1959, the islands of Hawaii were finally welcomed as a full member of the union.

In the decades since, despite all the changes that jet airplanes, statehood, and the tourist boom have wrought on these islands, Hawaii remains a beautiful land of sharp contrasts. Hawaii, the Big Island, may have the world's most active volcanoes, but it also has snow-capped peaks that reach more than two miles high. Oahu has the greatest population and attracts even more millions of visitors to its famed Waikiki Beach resort strip, but it also has isolated regions laced with quaint and colorful towns and softened by lush gardens and forests. Tiny Lanai may be a branch office of a modern American conglomerate, but it is almost deserted (only 2,300 residents) and barely developed (millions of pineapples, but only three hotels).

Maui is busy and sophisticated, but it has valleys filled with

waterfalls and exotic plants, and mountain regions that resemble a scene from the moon. Molokai is large yet bucolic, its lovely green fields isolated atop the tallest coastal bluffs in the islands. And Kauai, the Garden Isle, not only has a mountain that gets more rain than any other place on earth, but it also has a dry side where cactus bloom.

Amid all this magnificence are special places—fine resorts and charming inns, intimate restaurants serving excellent and creative dishes—and opportunities for the experience of a lifetime.

As we have done in our other guidebooks, we emphasize throughout this book the Hawaiian locales we found most romantic. The hotels, resorts, and inns we choose are all, in one way or another, special; they have qualities that we found attractive, creative, and interesting. The restaurants were selected because of their high quality of food as well as their ambience.

In addition, for each island we describe a tour of the places of beauty and adventure. Chapter 7 describes adventures that are exciting and unusual: dinner in a king's palace, picnics at an isolated grove next to a waterfall deep within a rain forest, small boat tours of some of the most dramatic and beautiful coastline in the world, sunset cruises, snorkeling and diving expeditions, and journeys into the mouth of a volcano.

All these things—the uncommon beauty of the land, the romantic and luxurious hotels and resorts, and the delightful opportunities for fun and adventure—make the island paradise of Hawaii a place for romance, a place where dreams can come true.

The Hawaiians have a word for it, a word that means welcome as well as farewell. It also means love.

Aloha.

CHAPTER 1

*Hawaii: The
Big Island*

