

With tips and recommendations
from the experts at **Frommer's**

6th Edition

Hawaii

FOR

DUMMIES



Cheryl Farr Leas
John Rosenthal

Hawaii FOR DUMMIES®

6TH EDITION

by Cheryl Farr Leas
with John Rosenthal



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About the Authors

Cheryl Farr Leas may live on the mainland, but she's a Hawaii girl at heart. She fell in love with Diamond Head, aloha wear, and mai tais in 1994 and has had trouble staying away ever since. Whenever she's not in the islands, she and her husband, Rob, make their home in Phoenix, Arizona, where they love to hike the desert mountains with their German Shepherd, Caleb.

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Dedication

This book is for Rob, for loving Hawaii as much as I do.

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Introduction

I'm here to spread the good news: Hawaii really does live up to its heady promise. These lovely tropical islands offer all the ingredients of a carefree beach vacation.

Hawaii has an undeniable appeal — whether you're 6 or 60, single or the head of a growing family, the *Survivor* type or a newly minted millionaire. Enjoyment is just a matter of knowing what you want from your island vacation — and how to make it happen.

Planning a Hawaiian escape is easy — too easy, in fact. Far too many people head off to Hawaii blindly without exerting just a bit of effort to tailor a mass-market vacation to their own needs, tastes, and desires. So just knowing that you want to look before you leap puts you well ahead of the pack.

And picking up this guidebook shows that you have the right instincts about your vacation planning.

About This Book

An island vacation is supposed to be easy and fun. *Hawaii For Dummies*, 6th Edition, will make the planning process easy and fun, too.

I've done all the legwork for you, and I'm not afraid to share my honest opinions. I'll help you decide what to include in your island vacation — and even more important, what *not* to include. You've worked hard to set aside a few precious weeks for relaxation, and I don't want you to waste any time or money.

This book gives you the tools you need — *just* what you need, not too much — so that you can make smart decisions about what works for you and what doesn't. Building your Hawaii vacation is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. This book helps you assemble the right puzzle pieces so that they interlock smoothly. The finished product will reflect the picture *you* want, not somebody else's image of what your island paradise should be.

Conventions Used in This Book

The structure of this book is nonlinear: You can dig in anywhere to get information on a specific issue without any hassles.

Hotels and restaurants are listed alphabetically with actual prices and frank evaluations. I use the following abbreviations for commonly accepted credit cards:

AE: American Express

DC: Diners Club

DISC: Discover

MC: MasterCard

V: Visa

I include some general pricing information to help you as you decide where to unpack your bags or where to dine. A system of dollar signs shows a range of costs for one night in a double room in each hotel or a typical meal at a restaurant (including appetizer, main course, dessert, one drink, tax, and tip — per person). Check out the following table to decipher the dollar signs:

<i>Cost</i>	<i>Hotel</i>	<i>Restaurant</i>
\$	Less than \$150	Less than \$20
\$\$	\$150–\$225	\$20–\$35
\$\$\$	\$225–\$325	\$35–\$50
\$\$\$\$	\$325–\$450	\$50–\$75
\$\$\$\$\$	\$450 or more	\$75 or more

Finally, for those hotels, restaurants, and attractions that are plotted on a map, a page reference is provided in the listing information. If a hotel, a restaurant, or an attraction is outside the city limits or in an out-of-the-way area, it may not be mapped.

Foolish Assumptions

As I wrote this book, I made some assumptions about you and your needs as a traveler:

- ✔ You may be an experienced traveler who hasn't had much time to explore Hawaii and wants expert advice when you finally do get a chance to enjoy some time in the sun.
- ✔ You may be an inexperienced traveler looking for guidance when determining whether to take a trip to Hawaii and how to plan for it.
- ✔ You're not looking for a book that overwhelms you with all the information available about the Hawaiian islands. You don't have time to wade through a gigantic list of every single hotel, restaurant, or attraction out there. Instead, you want to zero in on the places that offer the very best experiences in Hawaii.