

With just two seasons, summer and winter (not the kind of winter ever in Canada), Hawaii is one terrific year-round destination. Take this Inside Scoop with your travel documents—you'll be saying "aloha" in no time.

travel: delighting in the spirit of adventure • a vacation from home to explore places that are not your home • knowing life is different, knowing this is a joy of travel • enjoying the journey, not just the destination • a privilege best used with patience, humour and curiosity • fun • coming home with great tales •

ENGLISH	HAWAIIAN	pronounce
family	ohana	oh-hana
food	ai	eye
thank you	mahalo	ma-ha-lo

Aloha means love, peace, affection and compassion—with sincerity from the heart. It has expanded to be said both for hello and goodbye.

Your Counsellor

Our knowledge and experience help turn dreams into first-rate vacations. Ask your counsellor about any details, including:

- cool excursions and tours
- transportation options
- stopovers
- islands suiting your style.

LeGrow's Travel
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LeGrow's Travel Inside Scoop: Hawaii

Know before you go: travel isn't just your destination, it's also the journey

The Hawaiian Islands are an ideal vacation spot. Standard summer clothes are perfect any time; bring a jacket for evening walks along the beach and don't turn your back to the ocean—while super for surfers, its waves and currents can be forceful. Some tips:

- Plan a transition day before and after your trip—you'll benefit by slowing down.
- Be realistic: we know you want value for money in balancing choices with your budget. No matter what, relax and enjoy. Know that special requests are only requests, e.g. an oceanview room. These are premium (and why upgrade fees apply).
- Everyone must have a valid passport www.cic.gc.ca/english/passport. Keep a copy of its ID page with your other records.
- Before you leave, see www.gohawaii.com for local events and links to the areas you'll go to. Book tours through your counsellor and suggested suppliers—you'll get guaranteed spots and can budget in advance.
- The islands are in the US, so major credit cards are accepted, as are debit cards (be aware of withdrawal fees).
- Check with your cell phone provider regarding roaming charges. Internet is widely available. **Note!** Honolulu is the first major US jurisdiction to fine pedestrians for glances at electronic devices while crossing a street. In its Distracted Walking Law, those looking at phones etc. while crossing a street face fines (with higher fines for repeat offenders).
- US healthcare is not covered by Canadian provincial health plans. We strongly recommend LeGrow's Travel cancellation/interruption and medical insurance.
- Hawaii has its own Hawaiian Standard Time zone (no Daylight Saving Time). In Hawaiian, "W" is pronounced "V" as in *Ha-vhy-ee*, but people aren't stuck on tradition. Many words have meanings from the context of what's being said in a sentence.

Pack Strategically

The world is overrun with black bags: put coloured tape or ribbon on your luggage to spot it quickly. Put your name outside and inside and remove old tags. In your carry-on, pack valuables such as jewellery; over-the-counter and prescription drugs in original containers with a list, dosage and your doctor's phone number.

Pack most liquids/lotions/gels in checked bags (inside plastic bags)—due to carry-on restrictions, the maximum size container is 100ml (3.4oz). All must fit in 1 clear/resealable plastic bag of no more than 1 litre (often available at start of airport screening), then place the bag in the tray provided. You may take baby formula, food or milk if a child aged 2 and under (0-24 months) is travelling.

Items regular travellers pack in carry-on: pen/notebook, disinfectant hand wipes, munchies (no fruit, meat or veg over borders). Permitted in carry-on: cell phones, laptops, portable music players, disposable razors, canes and nail clippers. Items you can't take on include knives (an obvious no-no), corkscrews and sports gear such as golf clubs, baseball bats, racquets and pool cues. If you love to snorkel, bring your gear as some resorts limit equipment time (and sometimes gear is not as clean or as new as you might like). Make sure you check with your airline in advance for their restrictions.

The sun is strong so pack sunscreen, good sunglasses, hats and—particularly for children—full coverage light clothes. **Tip:** in case of sunburn, the balm inside the arms of Hawaii's aloe plant soothes.

Getting married? Hawaii is an ideal wedding spot with little red tape and lots of charm with terrific views—ask your counsellor.

Above all, travel with a positive attitude. With extra security, having patience and a spirit of adventure will carry you through any experience.

The Lore of the Lei

Although *lei* is a series of objects strung together to wear (unlike Christmas tree garlands), most popular is Hawaii's flower wreath for around the neck, given as a sign of affection when visitors arrive or leave. A lei represents love, so to throw it away throws away the giver's love. Alas, customs is sticky about bringing flowers back into Canada. No worries; leis are to be returned to the place that flowers were gathered or given back to the earth by hanging in a tree, burying or burning.

Your Airline

As your plane might be coming in from elsewhere and delayed, confirm your flight prior to departure. CATSA can prohibit items as security risks www.catsa.gc.ca/home and note: "Travellers should arrive at the airport earlier than usual, exercise patience and **contact their airline for further information on their flight(s).**" Airline staff are on duty some 2-3hrs prior: due to staffing and security, check-in (and bag-drop) closes 1hr before departure. If late, you're not entitled to board (or a refund). Unless booked ahead, seats are first-come first-served. Many airlines have reciprocal "code-shares," you have tickets for one airline and travel on another airline.

Baggage: Size/weight restrictions for checked and carry-on varies: check with your airline. **Entry & Departure:** you must have a valid passport.



Get Packing Checklist and General Planning & Packing Tips at www.legrowstravel.ca/inside-scoops

- Your sense of adventure & humour!

Hawaii's Six Islands

Oahu, "Meeting Place," is the most populated and popular with Honolulu and Waikiki Beach. **Maui**, "Valley Island" is a Canadian favourite with many fine hotels and condo-hotels. **Kauai**, "Garden Island" boasts five top-rated golf courses. The "**Big Island**" is a golfing mecca with more than 20 courses. The smaller **Lanai** is "Most Secluded" and **Molokai** is the "Most Hawaiian" (also "Friendly Island"); both islands offer peaceful escapes.

Tips: Delays and cancellations are all part of the adventure. Dining out? Tips are welcome—leave between 15-20%.

When You Leave

Do a room sweep for belongings. Although a noon check-out is usual, you may be able to pay a late fee if you have a later flight. Or, pack what you need for a few hours and check luggage with the hotel. Don't buy or accept anything suspect or that can be taken from you at customs, e.g. plants, meat/animal products, wood with holes or endangered species parts. Know your limits and exemptions, www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/bgb-rmf-eng.html such as on duty free alcohol and tobacco.



Websites and emails in blue are hyperlinked; just click!

Canadians: Emergency? See <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-assistance>. Contact Global Affairs 1-800-387-3124 or 1-613-996-8885 (collect if needed), sos@international.gc.ca.

When You Arrive

Honolulu International Airport (HNL) on Oahu and Kona International Airport (KOA) on Hawaii's Big Island are major airports with numerous international and domestic airlines with flights among the six islands. Whether going to a hotel, condo or luxury resort, you may be picking up a rental car or will be met—confirm transportation options with your counsellor as for example, if on a package, when you exit the baggage claim area you might be met by your Tour Operator holding a sign.

Since others are leaving, rooms may not be ready when you arrive but start on the fun. If you've packed a swimsuit in your carry-on or can shed clothes, head to the pool or beach. Your hotel's front desk will hold luggage. Banks and stores are plentiful; you won't have problems using major credit and debit cards or getting US cash from ATMs. Log the dates you'll be away with your bank and credit card company. Most hotels have in-room safes and hair-dryers. Avoid timeshare sales; there's no "free" lunch.

Renting a car is a great way to get around (although gas prices are high) and you can drive with your Canadian provincial driver's licence. But, be aware you should book a car in advance in advance with your counsellor; visitors often decide to rent once they get there but are out of luck because all cars have been booked.

Shuttles, taxis and public transportation are available on most islands, with a 4-day bus pass in Oahu. The **Waikiki Trolley** is an open-air trolley that takes visitors around and into Honolulu, stopping at 12 of the most popular attractions such as the **Aloha Tower** and **Chinatown**. You can also rent bicycles and mopeds (with a driver's licence). Bus tours are a fantastic way to explore the islands without getting distracted—you can even take a Barack Obama tour and see where he gets his favourite plate lunch and shave ice (like a snow-cone). Former President Obama is a *kamaaina*, (ka-ma-eye-na) a native born/local who knows where to go and where to eat.

What To Do...What To Do...

There are festivals at the drop of a lei such as the **Ukulele Festival** or **Pineapple Festival in Lana'i**, an event for residents and visitors to enjoy all things, well, about the pineapple (the 26th Annual in July 2018). It's a celebration with local food, games, crafts, entertainment, and of course, cooking and eating contests. Given the diversity of cultures, restaurants reflect the fantastic offerings in fish and fruits. On the main islands, the **luau** feast of life is THE way to celebrate an occasion such as a birthday or graduation with traditional games, all-you-can-eat buffets, music and dance. One great site for a luau (no alcohol) and night show is **Oahu's Polynesian Cultural Center** showcasing South Pacific areas in seven villages with food, games and heritage crafts of many of Hawaii's citizens. **Tip:** as Hawaii's most popular spot, make reservations in advance with your counsellor (there's so much to see, plan to spend the entire day).

Honolulu ("sheltered bay") is the largest city, with some 370,000 residents; the island of Oahu with some 73% of Hawaii's total population. If going to the **Honolulu Zoo** on a Saturday or Sunday, stroll outside along the east side for the aptly named Art on the Zoo Fence: it's been taking place for more than 55 years across from **Kapiolani Park** (the area is within walking distance from **Waikiki** beach hotels).

On **Maui**, seeing the sun rise at the **Haleakala** summit is magical (it can be chilly so take warm clothes). **Lanai's** white sand beaches are gorgeous (we use that word a lot with Hawaii) and the island is a diver's paradise. The **Cathedrals** off the south coast is named for its 60ft(18m) chambers, home to hundreds of marine life species. There are great tours for swimming with dolphins, whale watching and helicopter rides over the lush **Kauai**, home of the **Waimea Canyon**. Ten miles long and some 3,600ft deep, Mark Twain described it as the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific." Also see Hawaii's famous night shows at major hotels on Maui and Waikiki. You won't want to see *all* 800,000 macadamia nut trees on the Big Island but sample the nuts and see the **Volcanoes National Park**, waterfalls and **Onizuka Center for International Astronomy** (check for rainbows (*anuenue* in Hawaiian); they often accompany light misting rain).

Our 24/7 Emergency Service

We constantly survey airlines, local tour companies and hotels to ensure they meet our customer service standards, so don't let a problem ruin your holiday. Nearly all issues can be handled quickly on site—first seek help from the venue's local staff. Otherwise, call our Emergency Travel Service at **1-888-551-1181**. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Schedule changes can occur and airlines and tour operators have the right to change flight and/or tour times, alter, combine services or substitute accommodations. Your counsellor will work with you to ensure you receive information as soon as possible and ensure satisfaction. See your brochure and ticket terms and conditions.

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