

HAWAI'I



WAIKIKI BEACH



Legendary islands

are full of life

Ask anyone to name a legendary tropical Pacific island destination for a family holiday and they will probably mention Hawaii. And ask them to mention a beach in Hawaii, and Waikiki Beach will spring to mind, with visions of its wonderful arc of sand, perfect waves, surfers and outriggers, and high-rise hotels and resorts. But that's only the beginning. For this group of islands has a huge variety of experiences for families to enjoy.

Hawaii comprises eight main islands and dozens of smaller ones, but the main destinations for family holidays are Oahu, the island of Hawaii (Big Island), Maui and Kauai. The flight from New Zealand lasts about eight hours. Quite a haul for parents with babies or toddlers, but for school-aged kids and teenagers, the journey is a breeze and Hawaii is an absolute blast. The variety on offer is amazing and each island has outstanding attractions with their own unique feel.



OAHU

Waikiki Beach

Waikiki Beach, overlooked by the iconic summit of Diamond Head, is one of the best-known beaches in the world. And for good reason.

That sweep of golden sand will be an instant magnet for children, for lots of reasons. The surf is gentle, but just high enough to be a great place to join a learn-to-surf group, or jump aboard a classic outrigger canoe, paddle out beyond the breakers, then wait a moment to catch a wave back to the beach, with the Hawaiian crew deftly controlling the canoe right up onto the sand.

Just back from the beach is the Ala Moana Centre, where you can take your pick of the food vendors and restaurants, listen to musicians playing Hawaiian music in the late afternoon, or shop for bright Hawaiian shirts and other beach attire. Honolulu Zoo and the Waikiki Aquarium are also nearby.

The story of the Second World War will come to life, especially for older teenagers, at Pearl Harbour. The attack by waves of Japanese aircraft on December 7, 1941 destroyed or damaged

several warships, including the battleship *Arizona*, and a visit to her memorial is a moving experience. And don't forget to also visit the battleship *Missouri*. Boys big and small will be awed by her size and massive firepower!

Exploring Oahu

Now here's something different. Rent a convertible Ford Mustang and drive to the North Shore with the top down. Dad (and maybe Mum) will fulfil a secret ambition, and the back seat is the perfect spot for kids to enjoy the warm breeze and take in the sights.

Take the route via the eastern coast to stop by Kualoa Ranch, a working cattle ranch and farm. If you've seen the movies *Jurassic Park*, *Lost*, *Godzilla* or *Kong: Skull Island*, you may recognise many of the scenes, as they were all partially filmed here. And if their parents are fans of Elvis, they will certainly see scenes from *Blue Hawaii*.

The eastern coast has at least three zipline tours and adventure parks, where kids can sweep down a hill or across a valley, or cross narrow suspension bridges. Lots of fun! Just remember to look around as the scenery whizzes by in fast-forward. Hanauma Bay is one of the easiest places in all of Hawaii to go snorkelling amid vivid corals and marine life.

Mention the North Shore, and anyone interested in surfing will immediately think of beaches like the Banzai Pipeline and Waimea, which serve up monster waves in the northern hemisphere winter. For the rest of the year, everyone can have fun boogie boarding or body surfing the gentler waves close to the beach.



USS BOWFIN SUBMARINE, PEARL HARBOR ©HAWAII TOURISM



TURTLE BAY RESORT



AULANI – A DISNEY RESORT AND SPA

PLACES TO STAY

Embassy Suites

This hotel is a Kiwi favourite. The kids will enjoy ordering their own breakfasts just the way they like them, Mum and Dad will like the spacious apartments, and the buffet will set the family up for the busy day ahead. The Grand Lanai, or balcony, includes a children's pool where they can cool off, while parents relax poolside on a recliner and enjoy a drink from the outdoor Pakini Bar.

The mini-kitchen in each apartment makes preparing meals simple. Plus it's a great way for everyone to pitch in and help, and then sit on the balcony and take in the panoramic view.

Turtle Bay Resort

The vast space at Turtle Bay Resort will keep kids entertained for days. The waterbabies can try stand-up paddling, join a group of kayakers, wear a snorkel and seek out Hawaii's state fish, the humuhumunukunua'pa'a – now that's a mouthful. Or take surfing lessons from a pro, and see who's first to stand up on their board.

Landlubbers have their own equivalent, a Segway, to learn how to balance on and explore the coastline. There is also horse-riding, trail biking, tennis, Frisbee, and mopeds for those who already have their driving licence.

Aulani – a Disney resort and spa

Situated on "the other side" of Oahu, opposite Waikiki, Aulani has a real Hawaiian atmosphere. The complex frames a valley with a small river running through it, so there are heaps of great things to do. Kids can hang out at Aunty's Beach House, take a dare to go down the Volcanic Vertical, a tunnel body slide, go tubing down some rapids, or snorkel in the private lagoon. The younger ones can also make new friends at their own, scaled down version at Menehune Bridge, or the Splash Zone, with its squirting jets. Meanwhile, Mum and Dad can relax in a spa pool or the grotto.

Darmic Waikiki Banyan

Spacious, comfortable and just a hop, skip and a jump from the sands of Waikiki Beach, the self-contained one-bedroom holiday rental apartments of Darmic at Waikiki Banyan provide visiting families with quality accommodation at a budget-friendly price. The apartments are individually furnished, giving them a homely feel that you won't find in a traditional resort.

Although the apartments aren't serviced, they come with everything else you could possibly need, including linen, a fully equipped kitchen, free wifi and complimentary toiletries. Plus guests have unlimited access to all the property's resort facilities too. For the family that's happy to do a few basic chores, the cost savings easily outweigh the effort.

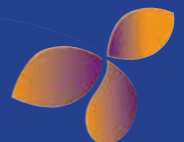


Waikiki Banyan, 201 Ohua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii

Darmic, the only New Zealand company in the Waikiki Banyan offers fully self-contained one-bedroom apartments just one block from Waikiki Beach. All guests receive a welcome pack plus complimentary bathroom amenities. Featuring a large recreation deck with pool, jacuzzi, sauna, playground, tennis court and BBQs, there is also a mini mart, coffee shop and tour desk in the lobby. Free parking, 24 hour security and resident managers on site.

Contact Jamie or Sue in our Auckland sales office:
09 444 7203 • sales@darmic.com • www.darmic.com

DARMIC
At the Waikiki Banyan, Hawaii





HAWAII - THE BIG ISLAND

Called “The Big Island”, to avoid confusion with the state itself, Hawaii appeals to adventurous families as well as those who like nothing more than relaxing within their resort.

There are two sides to Hawaii, as the Kona side is baking hot and the tropical vegetation on the Hilo side often drips with rain. The big attraction is to head for the hills, in particular, Volcanoes National Park. It reopened in mid-September 2018 after several months of spectacular eruptions from the summit, Mount Kileaua, where rivers of lava spewed across a small part of the island and into the sea. Yes, (at time of writing) it is all safe to visit, and it’s even more magnificent than before.

The crater at the summit is much bigger and more impressive, and kids will love the place, as it’s easily accessible by car up the Crater Rim Drive, which passes hissing vents of steam. There are no swaying palm trees up here. The red-hot lake of lava in the crater has gone. Instead, park at the Jagger Museum, look at the exhibition, then peer into what is now a colossal hole.

Better still, now that the lava glow in the evenings has gone, the stars in the night sky are spectacular from the 1227 metre-high summit.

And for something a little different, Hawaii has some beaches that are as colourful as its people. Apart from various shades of white and cream, there is green sand at Papakolea, accessed after a walk from the carpark, and the black sand at Punalu’u.

PLACES TO STAY

Mauna Kea Beach Hotel

Children, or keiki, will love making sandcastles on Kauna’oa Bay, the site of the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. The beach is the centrepiece of the hotel, and their parents will enjoy it too, as they lounge, paddle, swim or snorkel. Tennis players of all ages will enjoy the courts at the Seaside Tennis Club.

The staff are also happy to take children out when they cast a traditional fishing net, show them how to open a coconut, or tell them about the giant manta rays which sometimes feed off the rocks. The whole family can tuck into fresh Hawaiian cuisine in one of the restaurants or at a lu’au evening, then watch some authentic hula dancing. The clambake on the beach will also satisfy the kid’s hunger pangs.



MOUNT KILEAUA



©HAWAII TOURISM



MAUNA KEA BEACH HOTEL

AS IF AN
OCEAN VIEW
WASN'T ENOUGH



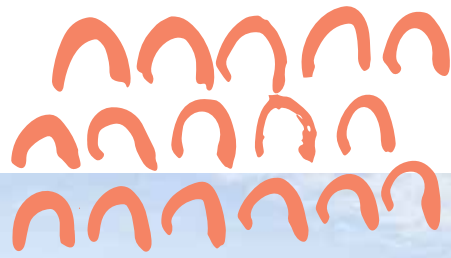
EXPERIENCE OUR ROOM & BREKKIE PACKAGE

Includes an ocean view room, welcome drinks for two, daily breakfast at 100 Sails Restaurant & Bar, guaranteed early check-in at noon and no resort charge. 5 night minimum stay required.



At the Prince Waikiki, the infinity pool and ocean merge while our personalized service helps everyday life vanish into the horizon.

Find your escape at [PRINCEWAIKIKI.COM/BREKKIE](https://princewaikiki.com/brekkie)
RESERVATIONS@PRINCEHAWAII.COM



©HAWAII TOURISM



MAUI

It's well-known as a hot spot for honeymooners, but Maui also has plenty to entice visiting families. Children will enjoy the new humpback whale experience at the Maui Ocean Centre, on the opposite side of the island from the main town of Kahului. They can immerse themselves in a 3D film where the whales will come to life. They can also learn about Hawaii's rich marine life, and go behind the scenes at the centre and feed the sea turtles.

Of course nothing beats the real thing. Whale-watching season in Maui runs from December to May, with the peak months being January to April. Lahaina Harbour is the launching point for numerous whale-watching charters. At the height of the season more than a thousand whales will cruise off Lahaina's coast, so a close encounter is close to guaranteed!

If you're lucky, a whale will swim right next to you and, depending on the size and design of your boat, kids can put a mask on, dip their head in the water and watch the whale swim by.

Another popular activity is driving the famous Road to Hana. The town is 80 kilometres from Kahului on the twisting, turning, scenic Hana Highway (if car sickness is an issue it's probably best to avoid). If not, there are literally adventures around every corner. The road passes rainforest, waterfalls, beaches, lava tubes and lookouts. And 16 kilometres south of Hana are the popular Pools of Oheo, where waterfalls spill into tiered pools leading to the sea.

PLACES TO STAY

Kaanapali Beach Hotel

Voted one of the Maui's best family-friendly hotels, Kaanapali Beach Hotel is a paradise for kids. The beach (itself voted one of America's best) is a hive of activity with amazing swimming, snorkelling and stand-up paddleboarding to be enjoyed. The hotel also prides itself on its authentic cultural activities, including ukelele, hula, bracelet-making and lei-making lessons, garden tours, pineapple cutting and Hawaiian language classes. The live entertainment is a must-see with the *Legends of Kaanapali* Luau every Monday and the sunset hula show.



POOLS OF OHEO, ROAD TO HANA ©HAWAII TOURISM



LAHAINA ©HAWAII TOURISM

SIMPLY
Hawaiian

Voted "Best Hotel in Hawai'i"

Ka'anapali
BEACH HOTEL
HAWAII'S MOST HAWAIIAN HOTEL

MAUI, HAWAII
WWW.KBHMAUI.COM
1.808.661.0011



KAUAI

Tell the children they're going to the island where the movie *Jurassic Park* and its sequels were filmed, and they'll probably insist that you take them on a helicopter ride.

Do it if you possibly can, for the Napali Coast on the North Shore is as rugged and spectacular as you can imagine. No roads traverse its 900 metre high densely green cliffs that drop dramatically to the coastline. The coastal waters are home to several species of dolphins, as well as humpback whales during the winter.

Crescent-shaped Hanalei Bay, with its backdrop of a misted mountain range, is the centre of activity on the North Shore. The surf is calm during the northern summer, but during the winter it becomes a focus for surfers keen on riding the giant swells.

As well as water sports, including kayaking, hire some fishing rods and baits and fish off the old pier, or visit historic landmarks and galleries.

Hanalei town has colourful shops, galleries and restaurants. You'll also find Lumahai Beach. It may look vaguely familiar for some parents, as it was the setting for the movie *South Pacific*.

There are some great places to eat in what used to be the Old Hanalei School House and Ching Young Village.

Further around on the East Side, the kayaking is more placid at Wailua State Park, and the town of Kapaa has some excellent Hawaiian arts and crafts.

Just beyond the main town of Lihue is Kilohana, a restored plantation estate that provides a glimpse of Hawaiian life in the 1930s. The mansion was once the home of a prominent family who owned a huge sugar plantation, and you can still explore the old plantation village or ride on the old railway train as it tours Kilohana's working farm. Kilohana also has a Hawaiian luau experience with dancing and a banquet meal.

Ziplining across lush valleys is another great family activity on Kauai, even for those with a fear of heights.

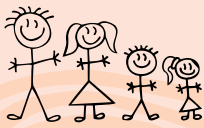
One of the most thrilling marine sights for snorkellers and scuba divers is seeing massive manta rays "fly" through the water. They have no teeth, stingers or barbs and mostly feed during the day, but at Honokohau Harbour families can put on their snorkels and go out at night, where special blue lights attract the plankton on which the manta feed.

PLACES TO STAY

Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa

Sitting over the white sands of Keoneloa Bay, the magnificent (and spacious) Grand Hyatt Resort and Spa is set on 22 hectares of meticulously landscaped grounds. The prime setting is matched by its first-class facilities.

For the little ones the highlight is, without a doubt, the snaking waterslide and winding lazy river, where you can sneak under bridges and hide under waterfalls! There's also a fantastic kids club with a bunch of scheduled activities for them to enjoy.



FAMILY FAVOURITES



Saying Aloha again.

You could say Melissa Rundle has a history with Hawaii, spending time there with her parents as a teenager. Now the Mediaworks Senior Account Manager is sharing the Hawaiian experience with her husband and two young boys. While it's few years later, it's still just as much fun.

How many times has your family visited Hawaii?

We love Hawaii - it's been our annual holiday for the last five years.

Which property/properties did you stay at?

We have mixed it up over the years. We stayed at The Modern Honolulu. On this particular trip we stayed at the newly renovated Queen Kapiolani Hotel. On Maui we have used timeshare and Westin Maui, and on Kauai we stayed at a North County farm stay and then Sheraton Kauai Resort on Poipu Beach.

What was the reason for choosing the accommodation?

The Modern has been recommended to us and we have loved it. The others were around budget, location and the desire to do something different, particularly the farm stay, which was amazing.

How old are your children?

The boys are aged six and four.

What did they love most about the island?

Swimming and vanilla milkshakes is the easy answer.

What did you love most about the island?

I spent time there as a teenager with my parents, so it was lovely to get reacquainted. I love the perfect mix of beach, great food mixes with the retail goodness the United States provides, too. I find the Hawaiian culture and laid-back vibe very appealing.

What were your top three family activities?

Our children are young, so most holidays are like groundhog day. The fireworks at the Hilton each Friday are always a highlight, along with water activities and a drive around the North Shore to see the turtles and eat garlic shrimp. On our first trip we used Wilson from I Love Hawaii Tours, and he was awesome.

What are your top tips for taking a family away here?

There is so much to do, so I think just take your time and enjoy your holiday the way you like to. Some people and planners and others like us just cruise. Oahu is so varied and can be busy, so if you can get to an outer island do it.



If you are travelling to Kauai, be sure to save up for a helicopter ride, as you can only see much of the island by air or sea. Incredible. We used Blue Hawaiian and there is a discount for booking online.

Fave eating spots are Bills, Herringbone at International Marketplace. Breakfast or lunch at The Grove at The Modern. And be sure to enjoy a frozen coconut mojito. If you have a special celebration or just a great love of food, prepare to splurge at the Chefs Table at Senia. Pre-book, as there are only eight seats.