



Honolulu, Hawaiʻi

An Affordable and Adventure-Filled Summer Destination

An Overview of Honolulu, Packing List Ideas, Planner/Budget
Calculator, Travel Tips, & More!



Honolulu, located on the island of Oahu, is one of the most accessible and affordable destinations in Hawaii, offering a perfect blend of adventure, culture, and natural beauty. Its tropical climate, pristine beaches, vibrant city life, and outdoor activities make it a top choice for adventurers, especially in the summer. Honolulu is not just a beach destination but also a hub for history, outdoor adventures, and vibrant local culture. Visitors can surf, hike, snorkel, or simply explore the fascinating traditions and history of Hawaii—all while keeping costs manageable compared to other Hawaiian islands. Honolulu offers warm, sunny weather year-round. Summer temperatures typically hover around 80-90°F (27-32°C), perfect for beach activities, water sports, and hiking. While Hawaii can be expensive, Honolulu is often more budget-friendly than the more remote islands. With a range of accommodations, dining options, and free activities like hiking or visiting historical sites, it's possible to enjoy Honolulu on a reasonable budget.

Budget Planner: To estimate your trip expenses, adjust each section according to your preferences!

- Flight

Flights to Honolulu from mainland U.S. typically range from \$400 to \$700, depending on the season and your location.

Estimated cost: \$500 (avg.)

- Accommodation

Budget: Hostels or budget hotels: \$50–\$100 per night

Mid-range: 3-star hotels or vacation rentals: \$150–\$250 per night

Luxury: 4-5 star resorts: \$300+ per night

Estimated cost for 5 nights: \$250 (budget) to \$1,250 (luxury)

Average mid-range stay: \$1,000 for 5 nights

- Food

Budget: Local food trucks and casual dining: \$20–\$30

Mid-range: Casual sit-down restaurants: \$40–\$60

Luxury: Fine dining: \$70+

Estimated cost for 5 days: \$100 (budget) to \$300 (mid-range)

- Activities

Hiking: Free to minimal (Diamond Head hike: \$5 entry fee)

Water activities (snorkeling, surfing lessons): \$50–\$150

Pearl Harbor visit: Free, but tours can cost \$50–\$100

Estimated total for activities: \$100–\$250

Estimated Total for 5-day trip (Budget):

Flights: \$500

Accommodation: \$250

Food: \$100

Activities: \$100

Total: \$950 (Budget)

**Have you thought about
whether you want to
stay in a luxury resort or
a more budget-friendly
hotel?**



Want to see more hidden gems in Honolulu? Ask the locals where their favorite spots are!



Honolulu is easily accessible via Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL), which offers direct flights from major U.S. cities and international locations. The airport is just 10-15 minutes from downtown Honolulu, with convenient transportation options including taxis, rideshare services like Uber and Lyft, and shuttles. For accommodation, budget options like The Surfjack Hotel & Swim Club, known for its retro style and proximity to Waikiki, and Hostel Beach Waikiki Hostel, ideal for backpackers, are great choices. Mid-range options include Ala Moana Hotel, located near the Ala Moana Shopping Center, and The Modern Honolulu, a stylish hotel with excellent amenities. For luxury stays, Halekulani Hotel, offering stunning oceanfront views, and the iconic Royal Hawaiian, known as the “Pink Palace of the Pacific,” provide top-tier service and accommodations. Dining in Honolulu is diverse, with breakfast spots like Liliha Bakery for their famous coco puffs and Koko Head Cafe, offering modern island-inspired brunch. For lunch, try Giovanni’s Shrimp Truck for shrimp scampi or The Pig and the Lady, which serves Hawaiian-inspired Vietnamese dishes. For dinner, indulge in Hawaiian fusion at Roy’s Hawaii Kai or Alan Wong’s Honolulu, both offering upscale, local-inspired cuisine. When it comes to activities, must-see spots include Waikiki Beach for surfing and sunsets, the iconic Diamond Head volcanic crater with panoramic views, and Pearl Harbor & USS Arizona Memorial for a poignant WWII history lesson. Nature lovers will enjoy a relatively easy hike to Manoa Falls, the pristine snorkeling at Hanauma Bay, and the historic grandeur of Iolani Palace, the only royal residence in the U.S. Don’t miss Waimea Bay, a world-famous surf spot with stunning beaches.

Travel hacks/tips:

1. Book Flights Early: Honolulu is a popular destination, especially in summer. Book flights several months in advance to secure the best prices.
2. Public Transit: Honolulu has a reliable bus system, TheBus, which is an affordable way to get around. A 1-day pass costs \$5.50.
3. Explore Free or Low-Cost Activities: Hike to scenic viewpoints, enjoy free events at Kapiolani Park, or visit the city’s many beaches.
4. Local Eats: Save money by eating at food trucks or local casual eateries—Hawaiian plate lunches are both filling and affordable.
5. Use City Passes: Consider getting a Honolulu pass that offers discounts on popular attractions.

Tip: To avoid the crowds, consider visiting Waikiki in the early morning or late afternoon.



Optional for Adventure Seekers: (Click to check)



Packing List Essentials: Don't forget to pack these essentials for your trip! (Click to check)



Do you enjoy history or nature more? All types of activities are abundant in Honolulu!

Book your next summer trip to Honolulu, Hawaii today!