



MAKE A BREAK FOR HAWAI'I

BY BEKAH WRIGHT

Spring break. Two words that elicit sighs. Couple them with this one—Hawai'i—and full-blown smiles emerge. Yes, it's that time of year. Time to escape gloomy winter weather and day-to-day doldrums. Waiting to assist this endeavor with everything from whale watching and lava flow tracking to picnicking and fine dining are the islands of Hawai'i.



Kaua'i's Kohola

Families of the human variety aren't the only ones headed to Hawai'i for spring break. Indeed, 15,000 endangered *kohola*, or North Pacific humpback whales, migrate there from Alaska from November through May. Their destination: the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, encompassing Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu, and Hawai'i Island. On Kaua'i, experience prime onshore viewing from Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge and Poipu Beach Park. Kaua'i ATV's Koloa Tour has a whale-watching stop at Mahaulepu Beach. Or get a closer look on a Capt. Andy's Sailing Adventure. There's a two-hour Poipu Sunset Sail on Kaua'i's south shore—a favorite area for cetaceans. Appetizers, live music, and Kaua'i sunsets add to the ambience.



Moloka'i East to West

Picnicking is a cherished family pastime. For outstanding picnic sites, Moloka'i can't be beat. First things first: Pick up sandwiches, salads, and soup from Sundown Deli and cinnamon rolls from Kanemitsu Bakery. Pack a cooler, grab a blanket and head to the sacred Halawa Valley for lunch on the rocks of Halawa Bay. Or book Moloka'i Fish and Dive's five-hour Halawa Valley and Moaula Falls Cultural Hike, with a lunch stop beside a 250-foot waterfall. Ready to chase the sunset? Head west to Papohaku Beach. Choosing the perfect picnic spot is easy as this beach is frequently deserted, as if reserved for a family occasion just like this.

Bird's-Eye Hāna Maui

Maui's Road to Hāna carries awestruck travelers along a 52-mile stretch filled with 600 twists and turns that delight with ocean panoramas, bamboo forests and surprise waterfalls. Driving time can range from two to four hours. Tip for the travel weary: upon landing at the Kahului Airport, get a bird's-eye view by catching a 20-minute Mokulele Airlines flight to Hāna Airport. Plan a three-night stay at Travaasa Hāna Resort and the flight is free. Visitors captivated by the views should look into glider rides offered through Travaasa. Other Hāna activities that allow for soaking in the scenery include throw-net fishing, archery, stand-up paddleboarding, and hikes to breathtaking sites like Fagan's Cross and the Pools of 'Ohe'o aka the Seven Sacred Pools. Aviation fans will want to stop in Kipahulu at the Palapala Ho'omau Church to visit the grave of Charles Lindbergh.



Going with the Flow on Hawai'i Island

Some destinations leave indelible impressions. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, a 333,000-acre International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site offers awe-inspiring discoveries, from lava tubes to steam vents. Visitors' Center-recommended drives and hikes within the park dazzle. Want to see nature's heartbeat? That's possible, too. Lava Ocean Adventures provides four tours that let visitors see Kilauea Volcano in action. Guided hikes get thrillingly close to active lava flows. Boat tours also give a stunning perspective, with black sand beaches and sea arches included in the mix. One outing that imprints itself in memories is the Full Moon Boat Tour—a chance to see fiery lava at its best.

Nobu on Lāna'i

Ask gourmands which dining venues top their lists and one name stands out in bold: Nobu. The moniker isn't just a reference to famed Chef Nobu Matsuhisa. It's become synonymous with his traditional Japanese fare that delights palates with South American and Western flavors. Nobu can be found in some of the globe's most exotic locations: Hong Kong, Milan, Moscow, Dubai, London, Melbourne, Miami.... Joining this illustrious list is the private island of Lāna'i. The place to convene the family is the Four Season Resort Lāna'i at Manele Bay, where Nobu Lāna'i serves up cliffside Pacific panoramas, a feast infused with local ingredients, and a night to remember.



An O'ahu-Style Night at the Museum

Enchanted by the *Night at the Museum* films? Honolulu Museum of Art's monthly ARTafterDARK has its own grown-up version that includes cocktails, live music and, depending on the schedule, a scavenger hunt or two. In its 10th year, ARTafterDARK offers museum fans an opportunity to mix and mingle over the museum's visual arts collection with its focus on Hawai'i's rich diversity. And though there's no witching hour when exhibits come to life, what better way to take in the works of local artisans like Roberta Griffith, Yumiko Glover, and Amber Aguirre than under an Hawaiian moon?



Resource Directory

Aston Hotels & Resorts
2155 Kalakaua Avenue, 5th Floor
Honolulu
(866) 774-2924
astonhotels.com

Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa
92-1185 Ali'nui Drive
Kapolei
(714) 520-7001
disneyaulani.com

Travaasa Hana, Maui
5031 Hana Highway, Hana
(855) 866-7282
(855) TO-TRAVAASA
Travaasa.com/hana

Spectacular views.
Part of the Aston Select experience.



ASTON WAIKIKI BEACH HOTEL Experience our hotel's best ocean views when you stay in an Aston Select room. Located directly across the street from Waikiki Beach, this full-service hotel features contemporary island-themed rooms, on-site dining and daily "Breakfast on the Beach."

Oceanfront Select Rooms

- Exclusive oceanfront rooms with panoramic views
- Special Arrival Amenity with beverages and snacks selected by the General Manager

Ocean View Select Rooms

- Exclusive rooms with ocean views
- All Oceanfront Select benefits



866.774.2924 AstonHotels.com