



Adventures by Lori's Vacation Tips

Oahu Tips

Island Exploration

I'd suggest going up the East side to the Island (Cultural Center/Kualoa), to the north shore (Haleiwa), and then returning through the center of the island (Dole Plantation). The direction can be reversed.

- This is a full day trip, so I'd plan on picking up your rental car at exactly 7am or when the counter opens.
- Bring swimsuits and towels in case you find a nice beach to take a swim
- Points of interest along the way:
 - **Diamond Head State Monument**
Reservations are required, entry is \$5 per person and kids under 3 are free!
 - **Polynesian Cultural Center**
 - **Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve**
Open to the public Wed-Friday ONLY, closes to entry at 1:30pm; advanced reservations are highly suggested (open 2 days in advance) but same day walk-in tickets are available to purchase starting 6:45am
 - **Kualoa Ranch**
Movie/TV site tours, ziplining, ATV tours, and horseback riding; advance reservation required
 - **North Shore Food Trucks**
The shrimp trucks here are said to be the best!
 - **Dole Plantation**
 - **Historic Haleiwa Town**
Find fun locally-owned restaurants and amazing Hawaiian Shaved Ice here!

Contact us with any concerns or questions you might have!

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Suggested Activities

- In Waikiki, there is an ABC (convenience store/deli) around every corner; save your receipts for various redemption gifts
- Have a Mai-Tai at the Royal Hawaiian's Mai-Tai bar (best I've ever had!); in the evening they will have live entertainment on the open patio
- On Friday nights, the Hilton Hawaiian Village sets off a brief fireworks show; ask the concierge the time and best location to watch
- Visit Chinatown during the afternoon and have an early dinner at the Lucky Belly - it's an inexpensive Uber/cab ride away
- The Duke Statue is just across from the Hyatt Regency (see how many brides you see on Kalakaua Avenue!)

Tips for Driving In Hawaii

- Rush hour traffic around Waikiki and Honolulu can be very congested
- All speed limits are lower than you think
- No one uses their horn unless they are in immediate danger
- Around the North Shore, traffic can get backed up (especially if the waves are big) as there is only a 2 lane road in and out; roll the windows down and enjoy the scenery!
- Parking in Haleiwa can be hard to find, so plan on having to walk a short distance
- Parking can be hard to find around North Shore, as well, but follow the crowd and pull all the way off the road where able, respecting private land

Other Tips

- Don't leave valuables in the car when beach hopping!
- Oahu is a trendy destination right now, so if you plan to dine at popular restaurants, you'll want to make sure to make a reservation
- Be respectful of the land at all times