

# TRAVELER



Ideas, Tips and Adventures for AAA Members JULY | AUGUST 2011



## Your Hawaii Style

Countdown to Cruising • Holiday Trip Ideas • Theme Park Smarts





# Your Hawaii Style

Picking an island  
for your next  
vacation is simple

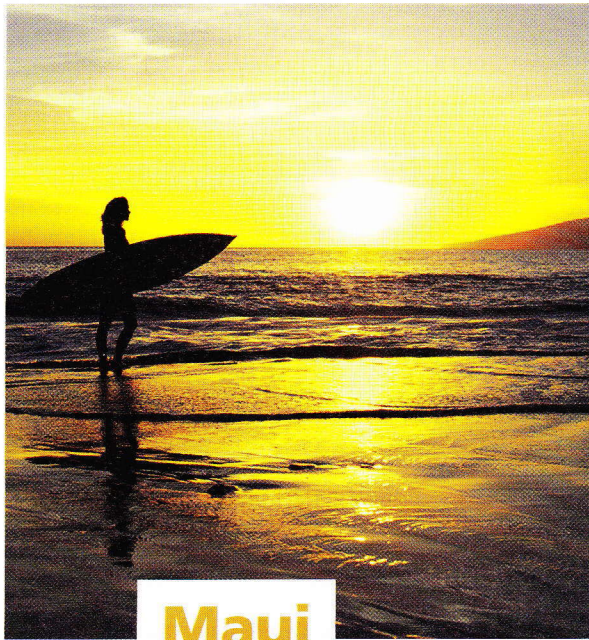
BY JODI HELMER

Forget updating the passports and exchanging currencies. Traveling to Hawaii for an exotic vacation is as simple as packing a bathing suit and sunscreen.

Hawaii's most popular islands—Maui, Oahu, Kauai and The Big Island—each lure travelers with a distinct vibe, which can make it hard to pick just one.

Choosing the right island is as simple as answering the question: What is your perfect Hawaiian vacation? Read on and find your Hawaii style!





## Maui

**YOUR HAWAII STYLE: Sun, surf and sand. I'm going to relax on the beautiful beaches.**

Miles of white sand beaches and turquoise waters dominate Maui. The second-largest island in the chain, Maui was voted "Best Island in the World" by *Condé Nast Traveler* and is a favorite destination for travelers who want to spend their vacations lounging on the beach.

You'll find 120 miles of shoreline on the island, from deserted coves and rugged outcroppings to stretches of white sand perfect for long walks or building sandcastles. Spend the afternoon soaking up the sun on Napili Bay, walking along the black sand on Oneuli, watching the colorful sails that dot the horizon of the windsurfing mecca of Hookipa Beach and enjoying spectacular sunsets on Makena Beach.

Let a AAA Vacation Specialist help create your ideal Hawaiian vacation with Pleasant Holidays. Turn to Navigator page 4 to get started today.



## Kauai

**YOUR HAWAII STYLE: I want to be active. Hiking the volcanoes, parasailing above the Pacific Ocean, swimming in waterfalls and snorkeling in secluded coves are on my must-do list.**

Between hiking and horseback riding, parasailing and golfing, it's hard to sit still on Kauai. Nicknamed the Garden Isle for the abundance of lush flora, the small island of Kauai has some of the best recreational activities in Hawaii.

Hikers are drawn to Kauai for its volcanic peaks and dramatic views. The best trails on the island are in Waimea Canyon. Dubbed "The Grand Canyon of the Pacific," its most popular hike is Kukui Trail, a five-mile (roundtrip) hike to a swimming hole on the canyon floor.

You don't have to lace up a pair of hiking boots to explore Kauai. Other off-the-beaten-path experiences include soaring over the treetops on a zip line tour, kayaking off the coastline and tubing in the crystal clear waters.

Relaxing is an important part of your time on the island of Kauai. After working up a sweat, pull up a beach chair and chill out.





## Oahu

**YOUR HAWAII STYLE:** Experiencing the culture with tours of historic sites, visits to coffee plantations and enjoying a luau.

Its nickname is The Gathering Place, but its moniker should be the Historic Isle. Oahu, the most populated island and home to the state capital of Honolulu, offers cultural experiences that are second to none.

The USS *Arizona* Memorial on Oahu commemorates the lives of the 1,177 American servicemen who died aboard during the World War II attack on Pearl Harbor. Other WWII sites on the island include the USS *Missouri* and the Pacific Aviation Museum.

No visit to any island of Hawaii is complete without a traditional luau. Watch dancers perform the hula and then feast on island favorites. It's the perfect way to end a day.

Jodi Helmer is a travel journalist and frequent contributor to AAA *Traveler*. Her Hawaii style is matched on Kauai.

## Still Can't Decide? Pleasant Holidays Makes Your Island Escape an Easy Choice.

When it comes to choosing an island for a Hawaiian vacation, there is no bad choice. Each of the islands has beaches and recreational activities galore. With 50 years of travel experience, Pleasant Holidays offers choices that make your planning stress free. AAA Vacation Specialists will work with Pleasant Holidays to match you to a vacation package that combines outstanding experiences with great value.

Every season is beautiful in Hawaii, but with fewer people and low prices, fall is the perfect time to travel. Pleasant Holidays has the perfect deal to match that perfect season. This fall you could spend three days at the Honua Kai Resort & Spa on Maui's beautiful Kaanapali North Beach for as little as \$983 per person (including airfare!). This is just one of the many exclusive travel packages for AAA Members available from Pleasant Holidays.



## The Big Island

**YOUR HAWAII STYLE:** Omnivorous. I want relaxing beach time, cultural discoveries and active adventures.

The Big Island got its name for a reason: It's almost twice the size of all of the other Hawaiian Islands combined. Plus, The Big Island offers a mix of active adventures, cultural activities and beach relaxation.

One of the most spectacular sights on The Big Island is Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Hike past volcanoes and lava beds, watch billowing steam vents and hear the legend of the goddess who lives at the summit of Kilauea. Feeling adventurous? Hike to the snowcapped peak of Mauna Kea.

Be sure to set aside enough time to snorkel, scuba dive and windsurf in the turquoise waters. Then, explore the shops, casinos and nightclubs. •