

With just 2 seasons, summer and winter (not the kind of winter ever experienced in Canada), Hawaii is one terrific year-round destination. Take this Inside Scoop with your travel documents—you'll be saying "aloha" in no time.



Know before you go: travel isn't just your destination, it's also the journey



travel: delighting in the spirit of adventure • a vacation from home to explore places that are not your home • knowing life is different there and knowing this is a point of travel • enjoying the journey, not just the destination • a privilege best used with patience, humour and curiosity • fun • coming home with great tales to tell •



packing list on overleaf

Your Counsellor

Our knowledge and experience helps turn dreams into first-rate vacations. Ask your counsellor about any details, including:

- family excursions/tours
- transportation options
- stopovers
- islands that suit your style.

The Hawaiian Islands are an ideal vacation spot. Standard summer clothes are perfect any time, just bring a jacket for evening walks along the beach and don't turn your back to the ocean—as this surf photo shows, while super for surfers, its waves and currents can be forceful. Tips:

- Plan a transition day before and after your trip—often needed if an airline changes a flight and you'll benefit by slowing down.
- Be realistic: we know you want value for money in balancing choices with your budget. No matter what, relax and enjoy. Special requests are requests only, e.g. oceanview room. These are premium (why upgrade fees apply).
- You must have a valid passport www.ppt.gc.ca/index.aspx?lang=eng. Keep a copy of its ID page with your other records.
- Before you leave, see www.gohawaii.com for local events and links to your area. Book tours through your counsellor and suggested suppliers—you'll get guaranteed spots, good value and budget in advance.
- It's the US, so all major credit cards are accepted, as are travellers cheques and debit cards. Check with your cell/phone card provider regarding use (beware of roaming charges). Internet is available.
- Health care is not covered by Canadian provincial health plans. We strongly recommend Maritime Travel cancellation/interruption and medical insurance.
- Hawaii has its own Hawaiian Standard Time zone (no Daylight Savings Time).
- In Hawaiian, the "W" is pronounced "V" as in *Ha-vhy-ee*, but people aren't stuck on tradition. Although there is great diversity and cultures among its citizens, everyone speaks English.
- Travel with a positive attitude. With extra security issues, having patience and a spirit of adventure will carry you through any experience.

English	Hawaiian	pronounced
family	ohana	oh-hana
food	ai	eye
love	aloha	(you know how)
visitor	mea kipa	may-ah kee-pa
thank you	mahalo	ma-ha-lo

Pack strategically

The world is overrun with black bags: put coloured tape or ribbon on your luggage to spot it quickly. Put your name outside and inside and remove old tags. In your carry-on, pack valuables such as jewellery; over-the-counter and prescription drugs in



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original containers with a list, dosage and your doctor's phone number (syringes/needles for personal medical use with caps in original containers).

Pack most liquids/lotions/gels in checked bags (inside plastic bags)

—due to carry-on restrictions, the maximum size container is 100ml (3.4 oz). All must fit in 1 clear/resealable plastic bag of no more than 1 litre (often available at start of airport screening), then place the bag in the tray provided. You may take baby formula, food or milk if a child aged 2 and under is travelling.

Items regular travellers pack in carry-on: pen/notebook, disinfectant hand wipes, munchies (no fruit, meat or veg over borders). Permitted in carry-on: cell phones, laptops, portable music players, disposable razors, umbrellas, canes and nail clippers. Items you can't take on include knives (an obvious no-no), corkscrews and sports gear such as golf clubs, baseball bats, racquets and pool cues. If you love to snorkel, bring your gear as some resorts limit equipment time (and sometimes gear is not as clean or as new as you might like).

Most hotels provide hair dryers. Walkie-talkies can help your family stay connected within a resort (remember the batteries).

The sun is strong so pack good sunglasses, a hat and, particularly for children, full coverage light clothes (and use sunscreen). **Tip:** in case of sunburn, the balm inside the arms of Hawaii's aloe plant is soothing.

Thinking of getting married? Hawaii is an ideal wedding spot with little red tape and lots of charm—ask your counsellor.

The Lore of the Lei

Although a *lei* is any series of objects strung together to be worn (unlike Christmas tree garlands...), the most popular is Hawaii's flower wreath draped around the neck, given as a symbol of affection to visitors when they arrive or leave. A lei represents love, so to throw it away throws away the giver's love; leis are to be returned to the place the flowers were gathered or given back to the earth by hanging from a tree, burying or burning it. Alas, customs are sticky about bringing flowers back into Canada.

Your airline

As your plane might be coming in from elsewhere and delayed, confirm your flight prior to departure. Transport Canada can prohibit items as security risks www.catsa-acsta.gc.ca: "Travellers should arrive at the airport earlier than usual, exercise patience and contact their airline for further information on their flight(s)." Airline staff are on duty some 2-3 hours prior: due to staffing and security, check-in closes 1 hour before departure. If late, you're not entitled to board (or a refund). Unless booked ahead, seats are first-come first-served. Many airlines have reciprocal "code-shares."

Air Canada	1-888-247-2262
WestJet	1-800-538-5696
Delta	1-800-221-1212
Continental	1-800-523-3273
American	1-800-223-5436
US Airlines	1-800-428-4322

Baggage: Size/weight restrictions for checked and carry-on varies: check with the airline.

Entry & Departure: you must have a passport.

Hawaii's six islands

Oahu, "Meeting Place," is the most populated and popular with Honolulu and Waikiki Beach.

Maui, "Valley Island," is a Canadian favourite with many fine hotels and condo-hotels. **Kauai**, "Garden Island," boasts 5 top rated golf courses. Hawaii's "**Big Island**" is a golfing mecca with more than 20 courses and the largest cattle ranch in the US. The smaller **Lanai**, "Most Secluded" and **Molokai**, "Most Hawaiian" (also "Friendly Island"), offer peaceful escapes.

Honolulu International Airport (HNL) on Oahu and Kona International Airport (KOA) on Hawaii's Big Island are major airports with numerous international and domestic airlines with flights among the 6 islands. Whether going to a hotel, condo or luxury resort, you may be picking up a rental car or will be met—confirm transportation options with your counsellor as for example, if on a package, when you exit the baggage claim area you might be met by your Tour Operator holding a sign. Since others are leaving, rooms may not be ready when you arrive but start on the fun. If you've packed a swimsuit in your carry-on or can shed clothes, head to the pool or beach. Your hotel's front desk will hold luggage: notify them if anything in your room needs repair (e.g. burnt-out light bulb). Banks and stores are plentiful so you won't have problems using major credit cards, getting cash from ATMs or exchanging travellers cheques (into US cash). Most hotels rent in-room safes. Avoid timeshare sales presentations; there's no "free" lunch.

Renting a car is a great way to see the island (although gas prices are high) and you can do so with your Canadian provincial driver's licence. But be aware you should book in advance; often visitors who decide to rent once they get there are out of luck because all cars have been booked. Shuttles, taxis and public transportation are available on most islands, with a 4-day bus pass in Oahu approximately \$20. The Waikiki Trolley is an open-air trolley that takes visitors around also 3 miles away into Honolulu, stopping at 12 of the most popular attractions such as the Aloha Tower and Chinatown. You can also rent bicycles and mopeds (with a driver's licence). Bus tours are a fantastic way to explore the islands without getting distracted—you can even take an Obama tour and discover where he gets his favourite plate lunch and shave ice (like a snow-cone). President Obama is a *kamaaina*, (ka-ma-eye-na) a native born/local who knows where to go and to eat.

What to do...what to do...

There are festivals at the drop of a lei such as the Ukulele Festival, and Pineapple Festival in Lana'i www.visitlanai.net, an event for residents and visitors to enjoy all things, well, about the pineapple (the 17th Annual was in June 2009). It's a celebration with local food, games, crafts, entertainment, and of course, cooking and eating contests. Given the diversity of cultures, restaurants reflect the fantastic offerings in fish and fruits. On the main islands, the *luau* feast of life is THE way to celebrate an occasion such as a birthday or graduation with traditional games, all-you-can-eat buffets, music and dance. One great site for a luau (no alcohol here) and night show is Oahu's Polynesian Cultural Center showcasing South Pacific areas in 7 villages with food, games and heritage crafts of many of Hawaii's citizens. **Tip:** it's Hawaii's most popular spot, make reservations with your counsellor; there's so much to see, plan to spend the entire day. Honolulu ("sheltered bay") is the largest

city, with some 370,000 residents; Oahu having some 73% of Hawaii's total population. If going to the Honolulu Zoo on a Saturday or Sunday, stroll outside along the east side for the aptly named Art on the Zoo Fence: it's been taking place for more than 50 years across from Kapiolani Park (the area is within walking distance from Waikiki beach hotels).

On Maui, seeing the sun rise at the Haleakala summit is magical (it can be chilly so take warm clothes). Lanai's white sand beaches are gorgeous (we use that word a lot with Hawaii) and the island is a diver's paradise. The Cathedrals off the south coast is named for its 60ft(18m) chambers, home to hundreds of marine life species. There are great tours for swimming with dolphins, whale watching and helicopter rides over the lush Kauai, home of the Waimea Canyon. Ten miles long and some 3,600 ft deep, Mark Twain described it as the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific." Also see Hawaii's famous "night shows" at major hotels on Maui and Waikiki. You won't want to see all 800,000 macadamia nut trees on Hawaii's Big Island but sample the nuts and see the Volcanoes National Park, waterfalls and Onizuka Center for International Astronomy (and check the sky for rainbows (*anuenue* in Hawaiian); they often accompany light misting rain).

The international language of courtesy & when you leave

Delays and cancellations are all part of the adventure. Tread lightly—on holiday we're all more casual, but littering and cigarette butts are unwelcome everywhere. Dining out? Tips are welcome—between 15-20%. Do a room sweep for belongings. Although a noon check-out is usual, you may be able to pay a late fee if you have a later flight. Or, pack what you need for a few hours and check luggage with the hotel. Don't buy or accept anything suspect or that can be taken from you at customs, e.g. plants, meat/animal products, wood or endangered species parts. See *I Declare* www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5056-eng.html.

Our 24/7 Emergency Service

We constantly survey airlines, local tour companies and hotels to ensure they meet our customer service standards, so don't let a problem ruin your holiday. Nearly all issues can be handled quickly on site—first seek help from the venue's local staff. Otherwise, call our Emergency Travel Service at 1-888-551-1181.

Deposits are non-refundable & non-transferrable. Schedule changes can occur and airlines and tour operators have the right to change flight and/or tour times, alter, combine services or substitute accommodations. Your counsellor will work with you to ensure you receive information as soon as possible and ensure satisfaction. For details, see your brochure and ticket terms and conditions.

Maritime Travel
We Know Travel Best.
www.maritimetravel.ca



Packing checklist

See www.maritimetravel.ca/tools.asp?PageID=617

- a valid passport for each person
- driver's license/insurance for car rental
- copies: passport, travellers cheques, ID, cancellation/medical insurance
- itinerary/contact info to home contact
- if a solo parent, notarized letter from other parent allowing trip
- credit cards/cash, fanny pack for these & passports, maps
- cell phone/charger or phone cards
- sunscreen, toiletries, ear plugs
- personal hygiene needs
- medications/prescriptions, sunglasses
- laundry soap, facial tissues
- hat, sweater/jacket, swimsuit/coverup
- books, magazines, travel games
- notebook/pens, flip flops
- women: dressy outfit; men: shirt/dress pants & jacket, sandals, walking shoes
- camera, extra film or memory card
- address list for postcards/emails
- a tote bag for shopping, binoculars
- Your sense of adventure & humour!**

Canadian citizens: In an emergency, contact consulate offices in Hawaii: Penthouse Suite, 1000 Bishop St, Honolulu, tel: 808-529-8120. You can call Foreign Affairs at 1-888-949-9993 or email sos@international.gc.ca.