

Hawaiian Island Hopping

By *Kate Bustillos*

→ **Whether it's a 3-day getaway or a week-long retreat**, island hopping is a thrilling way to explore the diversity and beauty of the Hawaiian archipelago.

Interisland travel is a great way to experience all that Hawaii has to offer. Plus, with flight times between 20-50 minutes, island daytrips can be a breeze. For a perfect home base, you can find your resorts on three of the biggest islands — The Big Island, Kauai, and Oahu.

A PARADISE FOR OUTDOOR THRILLS

Princeville Kauai

The oldest in the island chain, Kauai is home to some of Hawaii's most unique and iconic natural wonders. From dramatic cliffs and emerald valleys to luxuriant rainforests and thundering waterfalls, Kauai's epic landscape has been featured in movies and television since the 1930s. Crowned Hawaii's "Garden Island," Kauai is a treasure trove

of natural splendor and thrilling outdoor adventures. Hike the majestic Waimea Canyon, the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific." Explore enchanting sea caves on the breathtaking Napali Coast, where the water glows blue. Kayak the Wailua, Hawaii's largest navigable river, retracing an ancient path. Soar over lush valleys and mountainsides on a backcountry zip line tour. Embark on an off-roading expedition through tropical jungle and historic landscapes, including famous movie locations for Jurassic Park and Raiders of the Lost Ark.

FOR HEALTH MANDATES,

Be sure to check the state's travel requirements for each island prior to planning your vacation.



To help you spend less time planning and more time soaking up paradise, here are a few highlights of each, so you can choose the best home base for your island-hopping adventure.

Each of these islands showcases a different style of paradise, so you really can't go wrong.



A PARADISE FOR LEISURE

Honolulu Oahu

Nicknamed the “Gathering Place,” Oahu embraces a fusion of ancient and modern cultures. The island itself is as diverse as its population and you’ll find the perfect blend of big city energy and tropical island vibes. Oahu is also home to Hawaii’s capital and largest city, Honolulu. Whether you’re in the mood for shopping, sunbathing, or sightseeing, Honolulu offers a vibrant hub of luxurious amenities and historical attractions surrounded by pristine beaches and striking mountain ranges. For soft sand and calm, clear water, visit [Ala Moana Beach Park](#), a local favorite.



THE GATHERING PLACE

Enjoy over 350 shopping and dining options at [Ala Moana Center](#), the world’s largest open-air shopping center. Watch the sunset in Waikiki and explore [Waikiki Beach Walk](#), an oasis of high-end shops, specialty boutiques, and award-winning restaurants in a two-level open-air mall.



A PARADISE FOR SIGHTSEEING

Kailua-Kona Hawaii

A stay in Kailua-Kona puts you on the west coast of the “Big Island,” the largest island in the Hawaiian archipelago. Famous for its variety of climate zones, the island of Hawaii offers a diversity of natural landscapes. Visit rare green and black sand beaches, encounter two of the world’s most active volcanoes at [Hawaii Volcanoes National Park](#), stargaze atop [Maunakea](#), the world’s largest sea mountain, and swim with manta rays in dazzling jade waters. Tour one of Kona’s picturesque [coffee fields](#) and sample famous [Kona coffee](#) straight from the source. Stroll through the seaside town of [Historic Kailua Village](#) for local cuisine, artisan souvenirs, and historical landmarks, like the [Hulihee Palace](#). Follow a paved footpath through the lush rainforest of [‘Akaka Falls State Park](#) for a stunning view of 442-foot ‘Akaka Falls.