

12 Things You Must Know Before Going On A Hawaii Vacation

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Taking a Hawaii vacation is a great experience. Incredible, really. But there are certain things you are going to want to know before you visit the Islands. These are things you should be aware of, and keep in mind while you are visiting.

Keeping these tips in mind will help you enjoy more of your vacation, as well as keeping yourself from being exiled from the Islands... well, ok, so not really exiled. :) But it will save you some possible embarrassment and will keep you looking favorable in the eyes of the local residents... because, chances are, once you go on a vacation to Hawaii, you'll return many times over in the years to come... and you'll see the same local people and you'll get to know them well.

So, here's the list... in no particular order. Read and re-read... then book your vacation to Hawaii if you haven't already!!

Decide what you want to do before you get to Hawaii.

Do your research. There are many websites out on the Internet that offer a lot of quality advice, tips, and information. You can also find photos and videos of the places you may want to visit. Just remember, the pictures and videos don't do Hawaii justice. Yes, you'll see some great photos and videos, but it's the pure Aloha Spirit that you experience when you are there that sets this paradise apart from other tropical places on this earth. And it's hard to convey that with photos, or even video.

The ***Travel and Tourism*** section of **The Hawaii Directory** website (<http://www.the-hawaii-directory.com>) is a great resource for researching and planning your vacation. Lot's of quality information, and always being updated.

The last thing you want to do on your Hawaii vacation is spend a day planning out your days... especially if you are going with a group of people. Get your planning out of the

way (or at least most of it) before you even set foot on Hawaiian soil.

Be prepared for the plane ride – it's not short.

No matter where you are coming from, the plane ride is not a short one. Plan to be in the air at least 5 hours, no matter where you are coming from. In fact, the majority of people will be in the air for more than 8 hours. So, with that in mind, you will want be prepared. You will probably be flying in a jumbo jet, which means that either movies or television shows will be playing, but many times, you are not in a great position to see the screen or you just don't want to watch what is being played.

Bring things to keep you occupied, because looking at bright white clouds is only fun for so long. And, unless you are under 4 feet, or riding first class, good luck getting any snoozing in on the ride there. Bring a portable gaming system, a laptop, a DVD player, or something else you can do while sitting.

Just remember, when you are about 20 minutes from landing, open that window shade back up and take a look. You'll start to see the Islands, and after that long ride of anticipation, this *really* gets your adrenaline pumping.

Take video of your Hawaii vacation.

And lots of it. If you do not own a video camera, it is well worth the investment to buy one before you leave for your trip. Don't rely on taking 30 second video clips from your digital camera... bring a real camera that you can take hours of video with.

We've got a lot of video from our very first trip to Hawaii and we still watch it from time to time. It brings back memories and is so much more vivid than photographs with no sound. You may even want to get a professional video editor to make you a nice

vacation DVD using your video you shot... something nice enough that you can show family and friends without getting them too board -- you know, the kind of boring stuff where you forget to turn the camera off, but stick the lense cover on.

Combine all your good video footage with some good Hawaiian music, and you've got yourself a nice Hawaii vacation video that you, and even others, will enjoy for years.

Getting "leied" in Hawaii is customary.

Giving leis is customary in Hawaii. Just like ancient Hawaii, leis are giving for all kinds of special occasions, including weddings, birthdays, graduations, and more. Leis are also given many times when you get off the plane after arriving in Hawaii.

As you can see, leis are not given *just* to tourists, so don't let it make you feel like one if you are visiting the state. Of course, you *are* a tourist if you are not from the state, but the point is that giving leis is a Hawaiian tradition, not just something that's simple done for tourists!

And, if you'd like, you can send somebody a lei for free by visiting www.YouGotLeied.com!

It's easier to sunburn.

Hawaii lies only 23 degrees North of the equator. Be careful, as it may be much more easy for you to burn than you might think. You don't want to fry yourself the first day or two and then not be able to really enjoy the rest of your vacation!

Be prepared to particiapte in a luau.

You cannot ***really experience*** Hawaii without experiencing a luau. They are fun, entertaining, and the food is great! Just make sure you are prepared to participate. During the show, the dancers will usually pick a few people from the crowd to dance with them. Don't refuse! It's considered rude.

Just dance the best you can... of course, it's usually hilarious for the rest of the crowd as dancing the way that they want you to takes lots of practice, and you'll be doing it for, more than likely, the first time. It's all in fun. If it helps, get some mai tai into your system to relax you a little if you are uptight about possibly having to "shake it" in front of the crowd. :)

Take off your shoes when entering somebody's house.

This is a simple rule of etiquette. Of course, this is something you may already do where you live now, but for Hawaiians, it's customary... it's part of their culture and tradition. Taking your shoes off at the doorway of somebody's house is just good manners.

In Hawaii, flip-flops are the footwear of choice. So, taking your footwear off before entering and putting it back on when you leave is a matter of 2 seconds.

When I say houses, I mean normal houses, bed and breakfasts,

Lock your rental car when parking it.

One thing you'll notice when you go to Hawaii is that they are the most courteous, most friendly people you will ever encounter... but, there are always exceptions to the rule.

Believe it or not, there are some bad people in Hawaii... and they target naive tourists. The kind of tourists who leave their car unlocked or windows rolled down with valuable things in them as they walk away to explore or engage in activities. It doesn't happen often, but it does happen just like it does in all other places of the world. So, as always, it's better safe than sorry.

Just remember... **LOCK AND ROLL** baby!

Know and obey surf rules and etiquette.

If you are going to surf or boogie board (also known as **body surf**), get to know the surf rules and etiquette beforehand. I've witnessed ignorant surfers actually get beat down badly for not obeying rules or not following proper etiquette. That's extreme. If you are doing something wrong, and somebody tells you, responding positively is the best way to go.

At a minimum, being ignorant may get people very upset with you, and you will surely feel unwelcomed, especially if there is a surfing event taking place.

The bottom line is this -- if you are going to surf, but haven't really done it much, find an area where there aren't a lot of people around and go at it. You won't have to worry then!

Respect the sea life.

Do not touch or take coral. I know, I know... you'll go on a snorkeling or scuba diving expedition, you'll see the incredibly beautiful coral and shells, and you'll really feel the urge to want to take some to display at home. But don't. It may seem insignificant, but

you've heard it before – if everybody did it, damage would most certainly be done.

Another thing that isn't advisable is touching the sea life while in the water. Sea turtles are a perfect example. You may take an excursion where you will actually get to swim with the turtles. And it's pretty amazing, because these gigantic sea turtles will come very close to you... close enough that you can just reach out and touch them. Don't. There have been incidents where humans have spread diseases to the turtles just by touching them.

Besides the turtles, it's just a bad idea to touch anything under the water unless told by a guide that you can. Not only is it bad for the sea-life, but if you don't know what you are touching, you could be stung, poisoned, hurt in some other way, or even killed (unlikely, but it has happened).

Driving is much more laid back than most places.

Hawaii, as a whole, is much more of an easy-going society. Most people are generally friendly, easy-going, and courteous, and this carries over into their driving. You will rarely hear a horn, if at all. It is considered rude to honk your horn... so don't do it unless you or somebody else is in immediate danger.

Nobody is in a hurry in Hawaii. Just remember... "no worries!"

The Hawaii "Entertainment Book" can save you loads of money.

This tip alone could easily save you *hundreds* of dollars, if not more. Before you go to Hawaii, buy this coupon book. There are many deals in this book that will save you lots of money, such as two for one dinners, hotel discounts, and attraction / activities discounts. The book will pay for itself many times over, even on just a one week

Hawaii vacation.

If you don't know where you can buy one, you can do so at the [main Entertainment book website \(click to visit\)](#). Totally worth it.

***** BONUS TIP *****

Of course, don't forget to bring back gifts for your friends and family!

Unlike many vacation destinations in the world, Hawaii is a place you can actually bring back a useful and fun gifts for people... gifts people will actually enjoy getting, unlike the typical "thanks for thinking of me, but this gift is terribly useless and ugly" type of gift. You know what I'm talking about!

Even though your friends and family may not have been able to join you in Hawaii, the least you can do is bring back a little bit of Hawaii to them!

We hope this report was informative, enjoyable, and helps you get more out of your vacation to Hawaii. Feel free to give this report away to anybody you want, or simply keep it all for yourself.

And, don't forget to [subscribe to our newsletter](#)... it's free!

Now, go book that trip to Hawaii!

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