



Go Intrinsically Hawaiian

You can do *that* in Hawaii? Surprises from the Aloha State.

Hawaiian vacations might be a cluster of stereotypes, but at least they're sumptuous stereotypes. Sun. Surf. Tropical cocktails. Hula shows. For classic Hawaiian-vacation fun. But the 50th state's range of activities, attractions, and destinations is wider than most visitors will ever know, offering unforgettable experiences that aren't overrun with tourists but *are* intrinsically Hawaiian.

By Anneli Star Josselin Rufus

Photo courtesy Hawaii Tourism Authority; Courtesy NELHA

An Islamic-Art Wonderland

Heiress Doris Duke was so enchanted with Islamic-style art during her 1935 honeymoon that in 1937 she commissioned the building of a panoramic Islamic-style Oahu estate called Shangri-La, whose features include a Damascus Room and Mughal Garden and which Duke spent 50-plus years filling with thousands of Islamic-style artworks. Public tours are operated through the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art and the Honolulu Museum of Art.

4055 Papu Circle, Honolulu, 808-734-1941,
ShangriLaHawaii.org.

The World's Premier Ocean-Tech Park

Using sunshine and seawater to educate science-minded students, promote renewable energy, and grow sustainable, ocean-based industries, this cutting-edge Big Island facility operated by the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority features extensive land-to-sea pipelines, a meteorological station, animal rehabilitation center, Natural Energy Lab, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Tower, and more. Tours are



Hawaii has scenic beauty, top, and technological innovation at NELHA.

offered by Friends of NELHA.

73-987 Makako Bay, Kailua-Kona, 808-327-9585,
NELHA.hawaii.gov.

Haute Couture

Every spring, Honolulu Community College's Fashion Technology department hosts its Bon



Equally Amazing Options

Squeeze in visits to volcanoes, verdant valleys, rainforests, and palaces.

Seeking more obvious yet still amazing options? Consider adding these to your classic island itinerary.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park:

Extending in head-spinningly diverse part-jungle, part-mooncape glory around its main attractions — the active Kilauea and Mauna Loa volcanoes — this 323,000-acre Big Island ultrapark was largely closed to the public last year due to volcanic activity and toxic ash, but now most of it has been reopened. 808-985-6000, NPS.gov/havo/index.htm.

Valley of the Temples Memorial Park:

Nestled in a verdant Oahu valley, used as a location for the TV series *Lost*, this lovingly configured 20th-century replica of an actual 11th-century Japanese Buddhist temple is flanked by gorgeously landscaped gardens and grounds featuring ponds, waterfalls, wildlife — including peacocks — and a picturesque cemetery. 47-200 Kahekili Highway, Kaneohe, 808-725-2798, Byodo-In.com.

Hawaii Tropical Botanic Garden: In a rainforest spanning a dramatic valley that opens onto the Big Island's wild Onomea Bay, this 17-acre spectacle is a nonprofit undertaking planted thickly with hot-weather flowers, trees, ferns, and more. Strolling amid its many ponds and waterfalls under leafy overhead canopies feels like being lost in time. 27-717 Mamalahoa Highway, Papaikou, 808-964-5233, HTBG.com.

Iolani Palace: The only royal palace on U.S. soil, this splendid structure with its bold façade, clocktower, and colonnades replaced a traditional Hawaiian greathouse where King Kamehameha III dwelt in 1845. Commissioned by Kamehameha V and completed in 1882, it blends Italianate and Hawaiian features. Visitors can tour its throne room, grand hall, and more. 364 S. King St., Honolulu, 808-522-0822, IolaniPalace.org. —ASJR



Watch cowhands work cattle and learn cowboy ways at the Big Island's Parker Ranch.

Voyage Fashion Show, where student designers showcase not just swimsuits and aloha shirts, but a range of styles worthy of any Paris catwalk. Or schedule a private, Champagne-inclusive "shopping rendezvous" at the Big Island's Hualalai Resort, whose Seaside Luxe combo-boutique comprises highest-echelon international designers. Its 2008 launch was huge news. Honolulu.hawaii.edu/ft, 72-100 Ka'upulehu Drive, Kailua-Kona, 808-325-8000, HualaiResort.com/shopping/seaside-luxe.

Charles Lindbergh's Grave

The pioneering Michigan-born aviator — the first to fly solo from New York City to Paris — chose to spend his final years in Maui, where his poignantly picturesque grave can be found overlooking the Pacific under a plum tree behind the 19th-century limestone Palapala Congregational Church near Hana. Before dying in 1974, Lindbergh designed the tombstone, which is gracefully engraved with part of Psalm 139:9: "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea."



Here lies the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh whose tombstone reflects Psalm 139:9.

40990 Hana Highway, Hana, PalapalaHoomau.org.

Cowhands at Work

Founded in 1847, thus pre-dating mainland "Wild West" ranches by decades, the Big Island's Parker Ranch originally employed Mexican vaqueros hired by Hawaii's King Kamehameha III. On what remains one of the U.S.'s largest working cattle ranches, some 17,000 head of livestock now graze 250,000 acres, maintained by the sustainability-minded Parker Ranch Foundation Trust. Two of the ranch's historic homes, sprawling Puuopelu and two-story koa-wood Mana Hale, are open for free self-guided tours. 66-1304 Mamalahoa Highway, Waimea, 808-885-7311, ParkerRanch.com.

Fine Art

Maui's Grand Wailea resort maintains a world-class art collection comprising original paintings, sculpture, murals, artifacts, and other creations by esteemed international artists, including nine works by the contemporary Colombian figurativist



Get lost exploring the green hedge-walled paths that create a maze at the Dole plantation.

Fernando Botero and 18 by the early-20th-century French modernist Fernand Léger. A dozen-plus others include Honolulu-born sculptors Wayne Miyata and Satore Abe, Indonesian-born Yvenne Cheng, and Maui-born ceramicist Shige Yamada. Programs include free tours that on-site experts can tailor to suit various tastes.

3850 Wailea Alanui Drive, Wailea, 808-875-1234, GrandWailea.com.

The World's Largest Plant Maze

You might expect such a horticultural puzzle, composed of nearly 2½ miles of zigzaggy, right-angled, hedge-walled pathways, to languish in the cool shadow of a European castle. But no: Expanded in 2007 in order to retain its Guinness-record status, it's on the Dole pineapple plantation near the town of Haleiwa on Oahu — and, best seen in aerial photos, a pineapple-shaped mini-garden awaits plucky maze-ists at its heart.

64-1550 Kamehameha Highway, Wahiawa, 808-621-8408, DolePlantation.com.

Microalgae Growing Ponds

A visitors' center offers fascinating, futuristic, what-planet-is-this panoramas of Cyanotech's 90-acre Kailua-Kona facility, whose vast emerald- and ruby-tinted tanks sprawl seaward under bright blue skies. Water drawn from 2,000 feet under that sea's surface is used in those tanks to process microalgae — the alleged immune-system booster spirulina and antioxidant powerhouse astaxanthin — which are used in dietary supplements. A 684-kilowatt photovoltaic system was commissioned here recently to reduce greenhouse emissions.

73-4460 Queen Kaahamanu Highway, Kailua-Kona, 808-326-1353, Cyanotech.com.

Maze, Slob/istock; plane courtesy Hawaiian Airlines



You Can Get There From Here

Flying from Oakland to Hawaii: It's a Cinch

On clear days, you can almost see Diamond Head from Jack London Square. OK, no, from Alameda. OK, no, you can't. But it's a straight shot and easy flight across the sea.

From Oakland International Airport, Hawaiian Airlines operates daily nonstop flights to Honolulu, Maui-Kahului, and Kauai-Lihue. These flights include that almost-extinct in-air luxury: complimentary meals.

Alaska Airlines, which offers more nonstop flights year-round to Hawaii from the West Coast than any other airline, flies nonstop from Oakland to Honolulu, Kona (on the Big Island),

Maui, and Kauai.

Southwest Airlines announced plans last year to start service to Hawaii this year, and chose Oakland as one of the few mainland airports in the program.

Hawaiian Airlines debuted its Oakland-Kauai flights last July, timing the debut to coincide with the 91st anniversary of the first-ever flight from the U.S. mainland to Hawaii. That flight, of course, began in Oakland.

At 6:29 a.m. on June 28, 1927, the Atlantic-Fokker C-2 Bird of Paradise left Oakland — whose airport had been chosen because its especially long runway could accommodate the heavy plane, which pilot Lester Maitland and navigator Albert Hegenberger landed safely in Kauai's Wheeler Field 25 hours hence.

These days, the flight takes only five hours.

—ASJR