

Island paradise: It's not just for honeymooners

Planning is key to good mini-vacation in Hawaii

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When they checked the bottom of their plant stand in Oklahoma, the couple discovered the royal seal which was traditionally imprinted on royal belongings. The plant stand was returned to palace officials and is now on display.

Tour time: 45 minutes to an hour. Call (808) 522-0832 for reservations. Admission \$4. Open 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday.

Hanalei, the Queen Emma Summer Palace in the Nuuanu Valley, is maintained by the Daughters of Hawaii in a charming Victorian setting with a dash of Hawaiian show.

Queen Emma was born in 1836 and later became the wife of King Kamehameha IV. Tucked back from a busy highway on a slight hill, the summer getaway home is surprisingly private.

The small palace is filled with priceless and exquisitely handmade furniture, such as the koa wood cradle for Emma's son; his godmother was Queen Victoria. The large leather plumes signifying royalty sway in the cool breeze that travels literally in the front doorway, through the house and out the back door.

Tour time: about a half hour. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week. Admission, \$4. Located at 2913 Pal Highway, Honolulu; 595-3167.

GOLDEN BEACHES

With the stuff of Midwestern daydreams are made of: pristine, deserted beaches as far as the eye can see. Or, if you like a bit of scenery in a skimpy bathing suit, there are packed beaches where tourists and natives alike come to take under the hot Hawaiian sun.

Hanauma Bay Beach Park, on Ka-

lanianole Highway (72) past the well-to-do neighborhood of Hawaii Kai, is the place to go for spectacular vistas. Shaped in a splendid half circle, the bay can be photographed from the parking lot above before you follow the steep paved path down to the beach. This is a good place for snorkeling. Get there early on weekends because people are regularly turned away when the parking lot fills. It's located along the coastal highway, so parking is risky.

If you plan to go to Hanauma Bay during the week, keep in mind that there will be major construction on the highway as it heads out of Honolulu for the next several years. Traffic slows to a standstill during morning and afternoon rush hours.

Travel time: East of Waikiki, about 45 minutes plus traffic jams. Ala Moana Beach Park, on Ala Moana Park Drive off Ala Moana Boulevard (92) west of Waikiki, is easier to reach, especially if you only want to spend an hour or two tanning. It is across the street from Ala Moana Center, a huge outdoor mall with Chanel, Gucci and Cartier shops, as well as more reasonably priced stores.

Ala Moana Beach is nice because there is a grassy picnic area, a cool respite from the blazing sun. Locals camp out all day at Ala Moana next to a barbecue. There is parking on a two-lane road along the beach.

For walking, jogging or even roller skating Magic Island, a man-made peninsula, is located on one end of the beach.

TROPICAL SCENERY

The Palii Lookout, on the Palii Highway (61) about five miles past Queen Emma's Summer Palace, is the place to stop for breathtaking views. If it's a clear day, bring your camera. You will get an entirely dif-



Photo by CHRISTINA ZAROBE

Chinaman's Hat, a small peaked island, can be reached via the coast road past Hanauma Bay or via the Palii Highway.

ferent perspective on the Hawaiian landscape.

From the lookout everything looks lush and green, completely opposite from the volcanic scenery found around Hanauma Bay. Deep ridges are carved into the mountains that stretch on for miles.

Chinaman's Hat, a small peaked island, can be photographed through palm trees from the North Shore. You can get there via the coast road past Hanauma Bay or via the Palii Highway, either way will take you around the volcanoes to Highway 83.

This excursion can take the better part of a day but it is beautiful. The North Shore is famous for attracting surfers from around the world who take on the huge waves such as the Bonzai Pipeline. The lifestyle is very laid back.

I felt like I had gone through a

time warp back to the 1960s: long hair, Volkswagen beetles and vans everywhere. After the glitz of Waikiki, the North Shore is refreshing. Be sure to stop in the pretty little harbor town of Haleiwa, near the old sugar plantation town of Waiolua. Art galleries, surf and T-shirt shops line the streets.

Stop at Kua Aina Sandwiches, at 66-214 Kamehameha Highway, for excellent hamburgers and sandwiches. Then, wander down the street and have a shaved ice for dessert at one of the many stores that sell the sweet concoction. To speed the trip back, cut through the middle of the island past the pineapple fields on H-2 and H-1 highways which eventually lead back to Honolulu.

Aloha.

Mackinaw to get festive in August

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log, knot tying, spud throwing and a column climb.

There will be a live band from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, and refreshments will be available at all times. There will also be an art show on Saturday and Sunday. Call 616-456-5574 for more information, or call 1-800-856-0160 for a Mackinaw Area Travel Planner.

TORONTO

Michiganders love to visit Toronto, and Toronto loves to welcome us there. From now until Sept. 30, 60 of Metro Toronto's best hotels are participating in a discount program called Remarkable Toronto Value Package. They are offering special rates 7 days a week - some as low as \$49.95 Canadian (about \$45 U.S.).

If you register under the program, you also receive a kit filled with coupons for discounts on admissions, dining and shopping, and you'll be eligible for gifts, incentives and bonuses at some of the big shopping areas including Eaton Centre and Queen's Quay. Call 1-800-363-1990 for more information.

HOTELS

If you prefer staying a little closer to home, the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Southfield has special weekend rates from now through Sept. 8. Their Summer program offers deluxe accommodations, breakfast for two and use of the facilities which include an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, sauna and fitness center at \$59 per night. Call (313) 827-4000 or 1-800-313-3333 for reservations.

WILLIAMSBURG

Colonial Williamsburg is offering two new attractions this year. The courthouse, built in 1770 has been restored over the last year. It opened in June featuring tours, dramatic presentations and re-enactments.

A new subterranean museum, Winthrop Rockefeller Archaeological Museum at Carter's Grove, explores the history of Williamsburg Towne, an early settlement destroyed by Indian attack in 1622. Call 1-800-HISTORY for information, schedules, and reservations.

RIVERBOATS
The Delta Queen and the Mississippi Queen are the only overnight passenger paddle wheel steamboats still remaining in America. For the fall, both boats are offering special foliage tours.

The Delta Queen will be sailing on the Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers with 3 to 12 night cruises. The Mississippi Queen offers 7 night fall cruises on the upper Mississippi.

Fares range from \$150 to \$550 per night, per person, depending on cabin type, and include all meals (5 a day). Call 1-800-543-1949 for more information.

ADVENTURE

Clipper Charters will be operating the M/S Society Explorer for adventure cruises in 1992. Cruises include Costa Rica's National Parks, the Darien Jungle and the Panama Canal; British Columbia, the Queen Charlotte Islands and Southeast Alaska; and the Inside Passage and Gulf of Alaska including Kodiak Island. Call 1-800-325-0010 for more information.

CAMPING

If you like camping vacations, planning your trip just got a little bit easier. Go Camping America is offering a vacation planner with information about camping opportunities at thousands of public and commercial campgrounds and RV parks.

When you request the packet, you also receive a "Sunshiner" ID card which entitles you to special hospitality at campgrounds across the country, and a "Festival '91" events calendar. Call 1-800-47-SUNNY.

BOATING

As the summer heat sends many of us to the lake, AAA Michigan has released guidelines for boating and canoeing safety. Staying alert is the key to safety, because several hours in the sun, glare and waves can slow down reaction time.

"The best way to stay alert is to avoid alcohol and take a break every couple of hours," said Robert V. Cullen, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services Manager.

Other tips: use a life jacket or other personal flotation device (required by law), don't overload (especially if canoeing), and get off the water when the weather becomes threatening.

FLYING HIGH

The annual Festival of Flight takes off July 19-21 at the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio. They will commemorate the 21st anniversary of that first small step for man with everything from an antique car show to model rocket launches.

On July 20, the Celina Reservoir HAM Radio Club will contact ham radio fans around the world from the museum lobby 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the Brass Chapter of the Antique Auto Club of America will display its cars on the grounds from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; there will be presentations about air and space topics 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a model rocket launch and contest at 1:30 p.m.

Area residents know spots tourists don't find

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"Or climb the waterfalls of the Seven Pools and find hidden ledges, quiet pools, waterfalls you can't see from below."

Lori Byrd of Livonia, who lived in Hawaii at one time, thinks that travelers miss the biggest and best bargain shopping area in all of Hawaii.

"Every weekend 'Kamalnass' or Islanders and military personnel living on the island of Oahu pick up their families, and any 'Hales' (pronounced howl-ees) or visitors from the main land, and head out to the swap meet," Lori says.

The swap meet is Hawaii's, and possibly the United States' biggest yard-sale style, frequented by everyone who knows about it. The bargains range from the traditional Hawaii T-shirts to rattan furniture and the ever-popular flip-flops. Anything that a tourist could ask for can be found here.

"The swap meet is set up around the stadium in a track-meet style oval. Each proprietor has a booth, tables or truck set in an area along one of four ovals that encircle the stadium. Many vendors sell items that are similar in nature, making

bargain shopping an art. Finding the best buy on a T-shirt to take home as a souvenir is more than half of the fun.

"The swap meet is every Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine, at the Aloha Stadium. The stadium, in Honolulu near Pearl Harbor, is very accessible from 'H-1,' one of the two major highways that stretch through Oahu.

"Anyone staying in Honolulu, neighboring towns or cities, as well as in Waikiki, can make their way to the swap meet by way of the island's public transportation system. The bus, as it is so affectionately called

on the islands, is capable of taking a visitor nearly anywhere he wishes to go.

"Oahu is a very beautiful place to live or visit. It has a lot of great bargains to be discovered. Anyone who ventures to Hawaii for any reason should make a day of the swap meet, if for no other reason than the wonderful exercise achieved from walking around exploring the terrific scenery."

Robert Figurski of Canton was in Hawaii last year, or so I was told. When I called his parents, Judy and Lawrence Figurski, I learned that he is Marine Cpl. Robert Figurski, and

he stopped in Honolulu on his way to the Persian Gulf.

Robert graduated from Canton High School, joined the Marines and trained in San Diego, Maine, North Carolina and Virginia before they shipped him out for the Persian Gulf last year.

"He was only in Hawaii two days, and he can't tell you much about it because he's still overseas," Mrs. Figurski told me. "He'll be home in August, and he's already signed up to start at Eastern Michigan University in the fall."

Aloha, corporal.

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