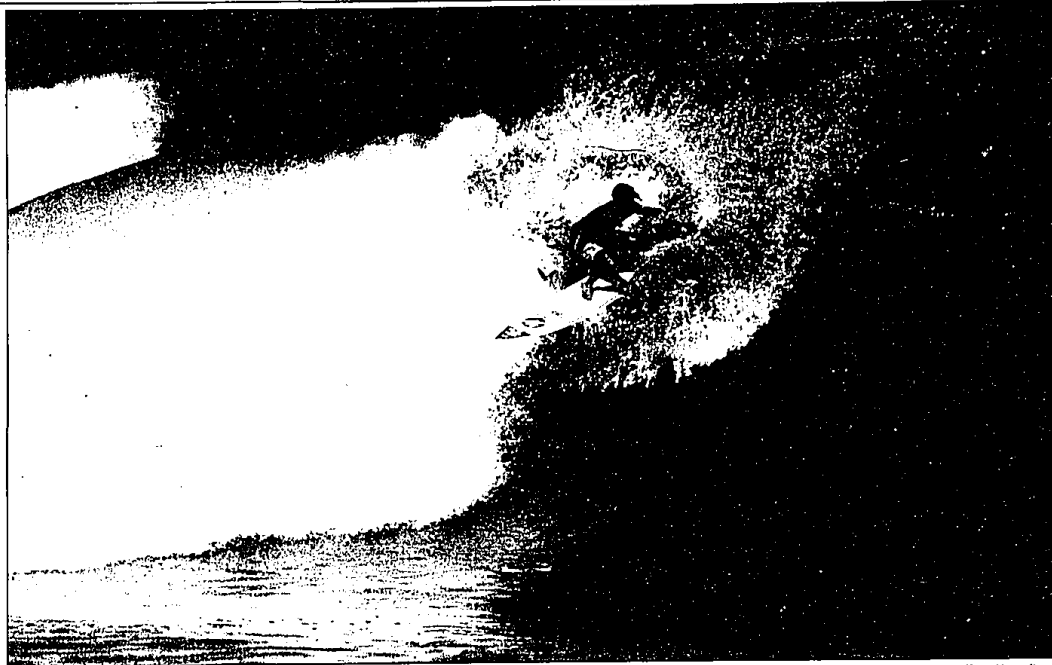


TRAVEL



Courtesy of the Hawaii Visitors Bureau

Surf's up:
With its 12-
or 15-foot
waves,
Haleiwa
Beach in
Honolulu,
Hawaii,
holds mythic
status for
surfers.

P A R A D I S E S T Y L E

BY LENORE MAGIDA
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

Over the years Honolulu has been described in all manner of ways: Crossroads of the Pacific, America's Most Exotic City — not to mention such dubious distinctions as Most Expensive Housing Market in the Country.

Right now, though, it could understandably bill itself the Luckiest City in the World. The reason lies in the events of Sept. 11. For a while that morning, Hurricane Iniki, with winds topping 150 miles an hour, was aiming for the island of Oahu, with 835,000 of Hawaii's 1.1 million residents and home of Honolulu.

Shoreline areas all around Oahu, including Waikiki, were evacuated. Thousands of hotel guests huddled in shelters.

In the end, however, Iniki swerved west and savaged Kauai, where about 51,000 people live. Much of Kauai will be in ruins for some time.

In contrast, Honolulu and most of the rest of Oahu — except for the end of the island closest to

Kauai — sustained only easily repairable damage.

Much of Honolulu's attention remains directed toward Kauai. Residents are still contributing to the hurricane relief effort; stories about the aftermath of the storm still fill the news.

In other respects, though, the city has returned to normal, and everything is up and running elsewhere in the state. And this is a lovely, lively time of year to visit.

The torpid days of late summer have given way to the warm, crystalline, breezy weather that defines fall in the capital of Hawaii. The cultural calendar is building up, as are the legendary surfing waves on Oahu's North Shore.

Events

If you visit Honolulu in the late autumn or the winter you might want to pay homage to the season's surf on Oahu's North Shore. The beaches there hold mythic status for surfers, as well as for anyone who can be awed by a 12- or 15-foot wave.

If you stop at Waimea Bay, Haleiwa Beach or Banzai Pipeline

between Nov. 17 and Dec. 19 you may catch some of the Triple Crown of Surfing. (808) 837-8863.

The main draw is the Marui Masters at Banzai Pipeline. It is scheduled from Nov. 27 to Dec. 6; but the participants — the world's top professional surfers — will compete only on the best four and a half days during that period.

Also on the water the King Kalanui Regatta, (808) 526-4126, takes place on Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to about 1:30 p.m.

Staged in honor of the birthday of King David Kalanui of Hawaii, who reigned from 1874 to 1891, the event aims to replicate the monarch's own birthday regattas, including canoe sailing, canoe paddling and paddle boarding.

Races begin at Magic Island, adjacent to Ala Moana Beach Park and head both eastward toward Diamond Head and westward toward Honolulu Harbor.

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 6 the 11th annual Hawaii International Film Festival, (808) 944-7203, takes place at locations around Oahu,

and from Dec. 6 to 12 on other islands. The festival features films from Asia, the Pacific and the United States. Screenings are free.

Sightseeing

The Bishop Museum, 1555 Bernice St., (808) 847-3511, is known as a center of Hawaiians, with such attractions as feather cloaks worn by Hawaiian royalty, Hawaiian arts and crafts demonstrations, a 55-foot sperm whale skeleton, a planetarium and more.

To Jan. 3 the museum is presenting Space Expo '92 featuring large models of space shuttles, rockets from the United States and Japan, interactive computer programs and transmissions from weather satellites. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission (includes Space Expo) \$7.95; \$6.95 for seniors, military and those ages 6 to 17.

The stark white Arizona Memorial, (808) 422-0561, is in Pearl Harbor above the sunken ship on which 1,102 men died when Japanese warplanes bombed the harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The free 75-

minute program includes a historical film at the shore-based visitors center and a shuttle ride to and from the memorial.

The center is open daily 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with programs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. No reservations are taken and waits of up to three hours are common.

Iolani Palace, (808) 522-0832 for reservations and (808) 538-1471 for information, in downtown Honolulu was commissioned by King David Kalanui as the royal residence for himself and Queen Kapiolani; it was completed in 1882.

After the monarchy was overthrown in 1893 the palace housed government offices until 1969; it has since been restored.

Tours, 45 to 60 minutes, are offered Wednesday to Saturday every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Tickets, which must be bought 30 minutes in advance, cost \$4, \$1 for ages 5 to 12; children under 5 are not admitted.

Just blocks from the palace is Foster Botanical Garden, one of four Oahu gardens that are part of

the Honolulu Botanical Gardens system.

Foster, 50 North Vineyard St., (808) 522-7065, contains 4,000 species of tropical flora. On the island's windward side Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden, Luluku Road in Kaneohe, (808) 235-6636, has 400 acres.

In the cool, rainy hills of central Oahu is the Wahiawa Botanical Garden, 1396 California Ave., Wahiawa, (808) 621-7321.

On the eastern tip of the island are the dry-land plants of rugged Koko Crater Botanical Garden, off Kealahou Street, (808) 522-7060. All are open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily; all are free except Foster Botanical Garden, where admission is \$1.

The city's premier art museum is the Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 South Beretania St., (808) 532-8700, in a gracious, airy building on the fringe of downtown. It is known for, but by no means limited to, its Oriental art. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.; a donation of \$4 is suggested.

Shopping Around

BY EVERETT POTTER
SPECIAL WRITER

The skiing season is just around the corner.

Now's the time to check out the condition of skis and poles, shop for a fashionable parka, plan a ski vacation and, above all, pray for snow.

But before heading down the slopes this winter, every skier should take a lesson, regardless of ability, savvy ski professionals say.

"The most important thing is to build your confidence on the slopes," says Cindy Clement, manager of marketing and sales for the Vail and Beaver Creek Ski School in Vail, Colo.

"People come out here for a week and decide to just go right out on the slopes. Gosh, get acclimated! Why struggle for even half a day?"

"We recommend an all-day lesson or at least a half-day lesson at the level you already ski. Get back into the right technique and make sure you don't fall into any bad habits. You've got to get your legs back under you."

The Vail and Beaver Creek Ski School is the largest of its kind in North America. More than 1,000 instructors are prepared to take enthusiasts of all ages down the slopes — at Vail or at Beaver Creek, 10 miles away.

All Vail instructors are members of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA), the group that governs ski instruction in this country.

Take a lesson: Don't let ski skills go downhill



COURTESY OF THE VAIL DISNEY CO.

On the slope: At the Vail and Beaver Creek Ski School in Vail, Colo., fun for children includes apres-ski parties attended by Sport Goofy, the Disney ambassador of fun.

Having PSIA certify instructors, says Clement, means that "the teaching philosophy is the same in Colorado, Vermont or California — that you learn by doing, not by lecturing."

"You learn by gaining confidence. Instructors are taught that skiing is about 'recreation' and they're trained to work with skiers so they enjoy the sport."

"If you think ski school means

(someone) barking at you on the slopes you're 20 years out of date!"

Vail and Beaver Creek have a variety of ski-school classes designed for skiers of all levels.

In fact, PSIA has designated nine ability levels: beginners are levels one to four, intermediates are levels five to seven, advanced classes and experts are levels eight and nine.

The sessions range from half-day to all-day, for 3-year-olds on up, with an average size of eight participants.

There are "Bump or Powder Workshops" designed for high-energy skiers, "Style Workshops" for those who wish to ski more elegantly and "Race Workshops" for racing enthusiasts.

A half-day class, which offers three hours of intensive training, is \$45, plus the cost of a lift ticket. A three-day "Introduction to Skiing" program "teaches the basics and instills confidence," says Clement.

"In general, average beginners will find themselves at level five at the end of the program, which means they can ski the easy green slopes on their own with ease and confidence." The cost is \$211, which includes a daily lift ticket.

Even if new skiers don't opt for immersion, they need to take some lessons, Clement says.

"If you don't learn the right methods, and this is true for any sport, you'll get into bad habits. And it's harder to break those

habits than to learn fresh."

For further information, including a free brochure, contact Vail and Beaver Creek Ski School, P.O. Box 7, Vail, Colo. 81658 or call (303) 476-3239.

On the East Coast, Stratton Ski School at Stratton Mountain, Vt., offers 250 PSIA-trained instructors, bringing it closer to the average-size American ski school.

"We urge skiers to take lessons throughout the season," says Myra Foster, a spokesperson for the Stratton school.

"You've got to keep yourself tuned up just like you keep your equipment in top shape. Even advanced skiers can benefit because minor adjustments in technique can really help."

Foster is also adamant about beginners taking lessons the first time they set foot on the slopes.

"Lessons are essential if you're going to have any enjoyment of the sport and build confidence, which is a big part of skiing well."

"I see beginners come up here with friends who try to teach them to ski and they end up struggling. Even if your friend is a good skier, it doesn't mean he or she is a good teacher. Teaching skiing goes way beyond patience."

For further information, including a free brochure, contact Stratton Mountain, Stratton, Vt. 05155 or call (800) 843-6867.

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