

## TRAVEL

# With good advice, Hawaii really is magical

BY BARRY JENSEN  
STAFF WRITER

Before my wife and I visited Hawaii last month to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary, we talked with friends who had already been to Hawaii. They had lots of good suggestions. Listen to those recommendations. All the suggestions that we took worked out well.

We flew into Honolulu (via Northwest from Los Angeles). From there we took an inter-island flight to our first destination, Maui.

Flying first class is worth the expense. The five-hour flight from Detroit to Los Angeles gets you not quite half way to Hawaii. The flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu is another 5-1/2 hours. That's a lot of time to sit in one place. And the free movies in first class make turbulence more bearable.

Hawaii's time is five hours behind Detroit's. Coupled with the length of the flights, the time change will throw your body out of sync. After we landed in Hon-

## Things you will want to take along:

A credit card  
Another credit card  
Cash  
Sun screen lotion  
Mosquito repellent  
Enough film  
A couple packets of hot chocolate  
Body powder  
A hat  
Your car insurance policy number and insurance company's name  
Sunglasses  
Several pairs of shoes  
Several paperback books

olulu, took an inter-island flight to Maui, rented a car and drove to our hotel, we were exhausted. We spent much of the first day sleeping and taking it very easy. The next day jet lag became minimal.

Maui is retail-oriented, with more than a few shopping centers. As is appropriate in a tourist area, the people were friendly and their merchandise

expensive. But we did run into a couple good deals.

The old whaling port of Lahaina is still there, but it has a thriving commercial district where you can buy nearly anything. Attention fans of James Michener and the TV mini-series "Hawaii." The house put up by the first missionaries is also in Lahaina.

We did the usual tourist things: eating at and watching a

luau (many hotels sponsor them), sailing out on a whale watch (while watching is best in winter when the whales are off the Hawaiian Islands), swimming in the hotel pool, and visiting "historic" sites. Some aren't so historic, others are. Cavent emperor.

We also ate dinner in restaurants aimed at tourists. The food was good, but it was not cheap. One place that came highly recommended was Roy's, in the Kahana Gateway Shopping Center on Maui's northwest coast. They make a great chocolate soufflé. Ask them about it when you order your entree.

The weather is as wonderful as billed, and the vegetation is every bit as lush. Most nights we were in Hawaii, it rained. Most days were sunny and breezy. Many of the public buildings are open to the breezes and are not enclosed. That comes as a shock to someone living in Michigan.

Prices are higher: 30-percent higher, according to one Hawaiian newspaper. Gasoline is \$1.75 there vs. \$1.25 here. But the fast

food in Hawaii costs about the same as fast food in Detroit.

After we flew to Kauai, we did very little. That's what the "Garden Island" is all about: taking it easy. Oh, the hotel did have tennis courts (and golf courses seem to be a Hawaiian tourist's idea of paradise).

If you are going to Kauai, look up the Brick Oven pizza place on Highway 50. (It's called a highway, but most of the automobile transportation on the island is on two-lane blacktop - which tends to go every which way but straight.)

A well-known attraction is the Fern Grotto, an honest-to-pete natural stone grotto that is covered with ferns. The ferns used to be a lot longer and there used to be more of them, but the island took a direct hit in 1992 from Hurricane Iniki, and some greenery is not yet fully recovered.

Hawaii's official state bird is the Hawaiian goose, but it should be the wild chicken. Wild roosters can be heard all over the island.

The island has many tourist attractions, such as Na Pali coast on the northwest corner of the island, the Olu Pua Gardens and the Fern Grotto, but Kauai is not swarming with high-profile tourist attractions. One you may well unintentionally overlook is Kauai's historical museum.

We were surprised when we entered the historical museum 45 minutes before closing and the woman selling tickets told us we wouldn't have time to see the museum. But she was right. The Kauai museum occupies two floors, with all kinds of visual and electronic displays. The museum is in a stone building just to the left of the county building on Rice Street in the city of Lihue, home of the island's main airport. Notice how said the museum is next to the county building, not the Annex, to the county building.

Barry Jensen is an editor in the features group of the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers.

## Amtrak eliminates stress of travel

(NAPS) - What would make the perfect family vacation? According to a recent survey conducted by the U.S. Travel Data Center, learning something new and not having to drive head the list.

Although nearly eight out of 10 Americans (77 percent) are likely to drive on a family vacation, an almost equal number (78 percent) say the perfect family vacation would avoid the hassles that come with driving.

Seeing or leaning something new along the way appealed to 42 percent of respondents in a nationwide sampling of adults who have taken a vacation with children under 18 in the past year.

Ingredients for the perfect family vacation include a mixture of time with and without children (22 percent) arriving still speaking to one another (18 percent) and meeting interesting people (10 percent).

"Clearly train travel offers families the kinds of pleasures that make their wish lists," suggests family travel authority Candace Stapen, author of 50 Great Family Vacations: Western North America, 50 Family Vacations: Eastern North America and Cruise Vacations With Kids.

For a free Amtrak Travel Planner to help you explore family rail vacation possibilities, call a travel agent or 1-800-USA-RAIL. 7320203

They say other important

## GREAT ESCAPES

Great Escapes features various travel films and destinations. Send news leads to: Keely Wygonik, Arts & Leisure Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

### SNOWMOBILE RACES

The Northwestern Michigan Fair in conjunction with the Michigan International Racing Association will present the Northern 250 Enduro Snowmobile Races at the Northwestern Michigan Fair Grounds, south of Traverse City on Feb. 22 and 23. More than 50 racers will be attending. Racing begins at 9 a.m. each day. Admission for the weekend event is \$10 payable at several Traverse City businesses

and \$12 at the gate. For more information, call Sharon McWethy at 616-947-0827.

### GOLF DREAMS

British Airways is offering a number of air-inclusive golf vacations this summer to Scotland and Ireland, including special vacations to see the masters play in the British Open. St. Andrews, Gleneagles, Turnberry and Royal Dornoch are some of the courses featured in Scotland and Portmarnock, Killarney, Ballybunion Old Course, Tralee and Royal County Down are some of the courses featured in Ireland.

The basic holidays include transatlantic airfare from British Airways' 21 U.S. gateway cities (including Detroit), three nights hotel accommodations,

three days rental car and two rounds of golf. Golfers can customize their holidays by adding a two night hotel stay, two days rental car and two rounds of golf at a choice of courses throughout Scotland and Ireland. Prices begin about \$1,100.

Further information is available from travel agents, local British Airways sales offices or by calling the airline direct at 1-800-FLY VP BA.

### INTERLOCHEN

Renowned flutist James Galway will perform at the Interlochen Center for the Arts 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 11. Galway's performance is part of a series of April events at the famous north Michigan music camp, which

will also include student and faculty performances. For more information, call the box office at 1-616-276-7440.

### BOTANICAL TOURS

Weatherbee's Botanical Tours, Pinckney, Mich., is offering several camping adventures for nature lovers. The four-day tours scheduled includes: March 23, the Okemos Swamp; April 17, the Great Smoky Mountains; May 29, the Upper Peninsula More For; June 19, the Real Bois Blanc Island; July 24, Drummond Island; Aug. 7, Beaver Island; and Sept. 12, Chippewa River. Prices range from \$135 to \$295.

For information call 313-878-9178.

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