

HAWAII... America's Paradise

By Richard F. DiMaria
President, DiMaria Travel Agency

Being a travel agent all my adult life, invariably, when I meet new friends, the most prominent question asked is "what is my favorite place" in the world. Of course being travel oriented, I find practically every new destination rewarding. Some I enjoy more than others. However, in answer to the "big question" without hesitation, I will blurt out HAWAII.

Why Hawaii? Well, 35 years of travel has brought me great memories and I don't mean just the obvious, London, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, etc. These are all marvelous places which one can visit time and again. However, the world is changing rapidly. Some of the areas that we took for granted are not accessible for one reason or another, be it politics or financial. That is why Hawaii has become a favorite of

mine. It offers the most outstanding scenery, from daily rainbows in the mountains clearly visible from your hotel, to secluded beaches, to active volcanoes, to rain forests, etc.

It is a melting pot of all nationalities. Similar to New York of 75 years ago, it is foreign, yet it is America. No matter what you hear or read from so-called experts about Hawaii being commercial, overrun by foreigners, expensive and all those other detrimental statements, Hawaii has something for everybody.

Commercial? Yes. Waikiki may be busy, but so is London, so is Toronto, so is San Francisco. Places like this are commercial because they have something to offer. One need drive just 20 minutes from Waikiki to experience some of the most beautiful secluded beaches like Hanauma Bay, Sandy Beach, Makapu Beach etc. They are there for the taking. All of this and the availability of fine dining and enter-

tainment at all price ranges back at Waikiki.

The foreigners make this part of America interesting. Not only the Japanese (who contribute greatly to the economy of Hawaii), but the Australians and New Zealanders, and the Germans make this melting pot second to none.

But one must not forget the most important ingredient of a successful trip to Hawaii and that is the people of Hawaii. That marvelous mixture of Polynesian with Portuguese and Filipino and Chinese and Japanese. This mixture has produced a most beautiful people, most friendly and anxious to please, anxious to share their beautiful land with others.

Beyond Waikiki, the never to be forgotten Maui, winter home of the hump-back whale has become a favorite with many, a warm weather lover. Kaanapali Beach is one of the finest beaches in the world, rolling and sanddune like, the beach offers all sorts of water sports and while enjoying these sports, the views of major islands Lanai and Molokai provide a memory

that will last a lifetime.

Golfing on this Island is superb with the courses strutting the ocean. They themselves become scenic points of interest. While on Maui, the day-long trip to old time Hana provides continuing outstanding oceanside scenery, with beautiful waterfalls interspersed periodically. Another major destination in Maui is the volcano Haleakala, which is the largest dormant volcano in the world and home to beautiful plants and flowers found only on the slopes of the volcano.

And on the "Big Island" of Hawaii, the wonders of Kiluea Volcano never cease to amaze those who have not experienced the power of mother nature. Weather is near perfect practically all year round.

For more information about America's paradise, please don't hesitate to call DiMaria Travel, 716/271-0100, or stop in at 1521 Monroe Avenue to learn more about Hawaii and our Hawaiian programs.

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