





# Hawai'i

Look out for surfacing whales and tee shots over jagged lava amid some of the world's most spectacular golf. Peter Ellegard goes island-hopping in the South Pacific

**A**s a sightseeing boat was slowly cruising around in circles just offshore as my local golfing partner and I teed off. Reaching the coconut palm-fringed green he explained that it was a whale-watching cruise boat looking out for humpbacks.

"Can you see them from the course?" I asked hopefully while lining up my putt. Sure, he replied, although it was now mid-April and there were fewer around. But in the peak months of December to March they often spouted and surfaced in full view, he explained.

The 3rd hole, Mauna Kea, Big Island: 240-yard carry, anyone?



PETER ELLEGARD

"Like that, you mean?" I ventured, seeing a sudden burst of spray erupt from the water when I looked up from my putt. He didn't need to answer, as the giant whale had already surfaced. We just stood and watched, awe-struck, until it arched its back and slid gracefully back below the blue waters. Golfers on adjacent holes were doing exactly the same, even after its tail flukes had disappeared.

We were playing the Gold Course at Wailea Golf Club, on Maui, but I could have had a similar experience on many other courses in

Hawai'i. During the 1991 LPGA Women's Kemper Open on Wailea's Blue Course, some players were warned for slow play because they stopped to watch cavorting whales.

To play golf in Hawai'i is like playing nowhere else in the world. That same hole where I saw the whale has an ancient lava rock wall lining the fairway. The lush fairways and slick greens of a number of courses are laced through rugged lava flows—true rough in every sense. Some holes not only call for shots over jagged lava, but over foaming ocean as well.

How about a round high up on an active volcano, or on rainforest-clad slopes of razor-like peaks with carries over yawning chasms? Maybe a game with the world's largest mountain, measured from its ocean-floor base to its peak, as the backdrop?

And there's nothing like a game in the lush surroundings of Kaua'i where they filmed the movie *South Pacific*. With more than 80 courses in Hawai'i, spread throughout the six main islands and all offering heavenly golf, this really is golfing in the garden of the gods.





## O'ahu

O'ahu is home to the Hawai'ian capital, Honolulu, and evocative, crescent-shaped Waikiki Beach, topped by Diamond Head.

This is the island where surfing was born and where the world's best come to ride the waves. It also has more golf courses than the other islands, at more than 40 out of the 80-plus across the archipelago. Golf first arrived on O'ahu in the mid-1890s, when missionaries are recorded as playing on a makeshift course. The first proper course, today's Moanalua Country Club, was built in 1898.

O'ahu's newest course, Royal Kunia Country Club, opened in spring 2003. Its mountain-top location gives golfers views over Pearl Harbor and Honolulu. Several other courses are also near the capital, Akiro Sato's Pearl Country Club and Ted Robinson's Waikole Golf Club both overlooking Pearl Harbor. The 27-hole Hawai'i Prince Golf Club, co-designed by Arnold Palmer, is a partner facility to Waikiki's Hawai'i Prince Hotel and open to non-residents. Coral Creek, a recent addition, features six man-made coral lakes and an island green while Kapolei has hosted the Ladies' Hawai'ian Open.

Makaha Resort Golf Club, on the west coast, is one of Hawai'i's most beautiful courses, its fairways and greens towered over by 1,500ft volcanic cliffs.

Ko'olau, just 20 minutes north of Waikiki, claims to be the world's most challenging course, with an unofficial and tortuous slope rating of 162 from its 7,310-yard tips, the official USGA maximum being 155. The course spans three climate zones as it cuts through 280 acres of tropical forest below the 2,000ft Ko'olau peaks and golfers must carry more than a dozen ravines.

The Ko'olau Mountains also dominate Pete and Perry Dye's nearby 6,595-yard Launa Hills Country Club, in the Maunawili Valley, and the 6,304-yard Olomana Golf Links.

Ko Olina Golf Club, on O'ahu's southwest tip, is part of a major resort development and architect Ted Robinson includes many of his trademark waterscape features in its design.

Turtle Bay Country Club is named after the island's northernmost bay where green sea turtles gather each year and is the only golf facility with two courses.

### O'AHU WHERE TO PLAY

#### Ko Olina Golf Club

6,867 yards, par 72  
\$160

Contact: 00-1-808-676-5300  
koolinagolf.com  
*Waterfalls, ponds and lakes galore on this glorious resort course*

#### Ko'olau Golf Club

7,310 yards, par 72  
\$135

Contact: 00-1-808-247-4653  
koolaugolfclub.com  
*Exquisite torture: the ultimate test of golf in incomparable surroundings*

#### Hawai'i Prince Golf Club

27 holes, from 7,117-7,255 yards, par 72  
\$90-\$140

Contact: 00-1-808-944-4567  
princeresortshawaii.com  
*Mounding, hillocks and 10 lakes add bite to the generous fairways and large greens*

#### Turtle Bay Resort Golf Club

Arnold Palmer Course: 7,199 yards, par 72: \$165  
George Fazio Course: 6,635 yards, par 72: \$155

Contact: 00-1-808-293-8574  
turtlebayresort.com  
*Arnie provides the tougher challenge of this duo by the North Shore surf waves*

### WHERE TO STAY

#### Hawai'i Prince Hotel Waikiki

Contact: 00-1-808-956-1111  
princeresortshawaii.com

#### Turtle Bay Resort Golf Club

Contact: 00-1-808-293-6000  
turtlebayresort.com

#### Ko Olina Resort & Marina

Contact: 00-1-808-680-7680  
koolina.com



Ride the waves at legendary Waikiki Beach



## Big Island

Officially called the island of Hawai'i but known by everyone as the Big Island, it styles itself as the Golf Capital of Hawai'i for its abundance of top-class facilities.

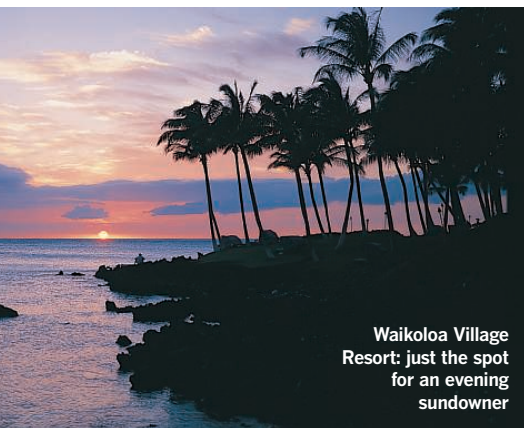
Here, golfers' White Hot putters will feel at home when they play 4,000ft up on the rim of Kilauae, the world's most active volcano. The semi-private, 6,547-yard Volcano Golf & Country Club is within the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and first opened in 1920.

But when Robert Trent Jones Sr laid out the



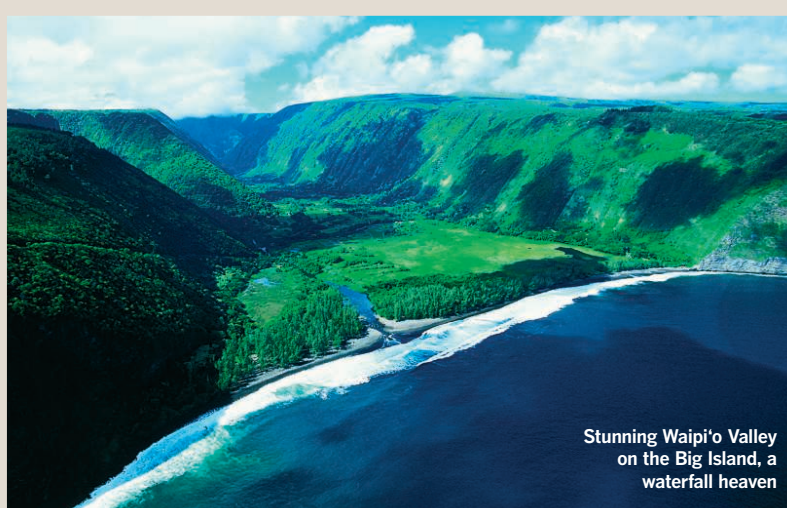
Beach course, Waikoloa Beach Resort: "a unique contrast of Eden-like grass amidst black lava"

PETER ELLEGARD



Waikoloa Village Resort: just the spot for an evening sundowner

PETER ELLEGARD



Stunning Waipi'o Valley on the Big Island, a waterfall heaven

HVCB/KIRK AEDER



Nip into the practice bunker before taking on Turtle Bay's Palmer layout

TURTLE BAY RESORT

## BIG ISLAND WHERE TO PLAY

### Mauna Kea Golf Course

7,165 yards, par 72  
\$195

**Contact:** 00-1-808-882-7222  
maunakearesort.com

*Are you man enough to take on its legendary 3rd over ocean and lava?*

### Volcano Golf & Country Club

6,547 yards, par 72  
\$63.50

**Contact:** 00-1-808-967-7331  
volcanogolfshop.com

*Your game may not be hot but the setting is, on the rim of an active volcano*

### Waikoloa Beach Course

6,566 yards, par 70  
\$175

**Contact:** 00-1-808-886-6060  
waikoloabeachresort.com

*Sea of green amidst black lava and the blue Pacific*

### Kona Country Club

Ocean Course: 6,748 yards, par 72; \$155

Ali'i Mountain Course: 6,634 yards, par 72; \$140

**Contact:** 00-1-808-322-2595  
konagolf.com

*Spectacular golf down by the ocean or high on the slopes*

## WHERE TO STAY

### Mauna Lani Resort at Kalahuipua'a

**Contact:** 00-1-866-877-6982  
maunalani.com

### Hilton Waikoloa Village

**Contact:** 00-1-808-886-1234  
hiltonwaikoloavillage.com

### Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa

**Contact:** 00-1-808-930-4900  
sheratonkeauhou.com

beautiful Mauna Kea course along the rugged, lava rock coastline on the north-western Kohala Coast below dormant Mauna Kea volcano in 1964 he started the modern golf boom on the island. Today there are nearly 20 courses, but RTJ senior's spectacular 7,165-yard creation remains among its best and demands heroic golf – not least for the daunting signature par-3 3rd hole across a bay to a lava-edged promontory green. Originally a 240-yard carry, it was reduced to 180 yards because few could reach safety, but has since been restored

to its previous length. Golfers are clearly gluttons for punishment in these parts.

Local designer Bob Nelson, responsible for many of Hawai'i's courses, echoed it for the equally-photogenic 15th of his South Course at neighbouring Mauna Lani Resort, making the fairway escape route even tighter with sea one side and lava the other. The North is laid out on an older lava flow, the signature par-3 17th tucked in a natural lava amphitheatre, a green dish gripped in a fist of jagged rocks.

Just down the coast, the Waikoloa Beach

Resort also has two courses. The King's Course, by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, is a 7,000-yard links course with six large lakes. The par-70 Beach Course is 500 yards shorter but, like father like son, Robert Trent Jones Jr has conjured up a piece of magic, draping its narrow fairways and vivid greens on ink-dark lava rocks and describing it himself as "a unique contrast of Eden-like grass amidst black lava."

Nicklaus-designed Hualalai GC is the newest on the Kohala Coast with lush fairways and greens against black lava and blue Pacific.



Luxury resorts line the western part of the island and humpback whales are often seen in winter. Behind the coast, upland layouts include the links-style Hapuna, Pete Dye's Big Island Country Club and Makalei Hawai'i Country Club which both feature island greens, and Waikoloa Village Golf Club, a Trent Jones Jr course on former ranch land.

Kona Country Club's elevated Mountain Course contrasts with its coast-hugging Ocean Course while Waimea Country Club is another upcountry links design in the north.

## Mau'i

Whales, exquisite resorts and golf of the highest calibre are among Maui's magical qualities. The Magic isle packs most of its golf into three resort areas on its north, west and southern coasts – Kapalua, Ka'anapali and Wailea.

Ka'anapali Resort was Maui's first master-planned resort. Today there are six hotels and condominium properties plus two par-71 courses. The undulating 6,994-yard North Course is one of two Trent Jones Sr layouts on the island and typically plays in northeast trade winds blowing up to 15mph. The greens are known for their strong grain and the ball always breaks towards the setting sun. The South Course, which reopens for 2006 after major renovations, is a shorter and friendlier resort track past which the Sugar Cane Train tourist steam locomotive chugs on its way to former whaling town Lahaina, now the centre of Maui's whale-watching industry.

Kapalua has several upmarket resorts and three top courses, among them two co-designed by Arnold Palmer – the 6,600-yard park-like Bay Course combining open aspects and holes by resort buildings, and 6,378-yard, par-70 Village Course, a links layout with more elevation changes than its sister tracks. Accuracy is needed on its front nine and power comes into play on the back.

The tough par-73, 7,263-yard Plantation Course hosts golf's annual curtain-raiser, the PGA Tour Mercedes Championship, each January. The tee of the long, 467-yard par-4 17th is on the highest point of the course and offers superb views across the Pailolo Channel to Moloka'i island. The prevailing wind and a 150ft drop to the green soften the challenge before the 663-yard, par-5 signature 18th, the longest hole on the PGA Tour.

Apart from humpback whales, Wailea is an oasis of luxury with some of Hawai'i's top resort hotels, a shopping centre, the annual Maui Film Festival which attracts Hollywood stars and pizzazz each year, and the Wailea Golf Club. It encompasses two clubhouses, a 12-acre training facility and three stunning courses – Blue, Emerald and Gold.

The Blue was the first development in Wailea, on what was formerly ranch land, in 1972. Views of the ocean and Haleakala, wide fairways lined with fragrant tees and large greens surrounded by traps are key features. Trent Jones Jr created the Gold and the Emerald. Both are regarded among the world's best, the Gold's downhill par-3 8th, with its ancient lava papohaku wall, a green ringed by coconut trees and beyond it the sea and seasonal whales, its star. Views are also a feature of the Emerald, the best the par-5 18th.

Just south of Wailea, secluded Makena Resort has two Trent Jones Jr layouts. The 6,914-yard North Course climbs away from the coast through wili wili and kiawe tree thicket and past lava rock formations, its signature par-5 14th featuring a 200ft drop from tee to green. The front nine of the South was part of Makena's original 18 and has several oceanside holes.

The Sandalwood course in West Maui, Ellear Maui Golf Club and the Dunes at Maui Lani, on ancient sand dunes in central Maui, are among the island's other courses.



Haleakala volcano crater, Maui

PETER ELLEGARD

## KAUAI WHERE TO PLAY

### Princeville Resort

Prince Course: 7,309 yards, par 72, \$150-\$175

Makai Golf Course: 3 nines, 6,875-6901 yards, par 72, \$110-\$125

Contact: 00-1-808-826-5070 princeville.com

*Prince by name, but the king of Hawai'i's courses by popular consent*

### Poipu Bay Golf Course

6,959 yards, par 72 \$125 cart included

Contact: 00-1-808-742-8711 poipubaygolf.com

*Plateau setting with plenty of natural distractions*

### Kauai Lagoons Golf Club

Kiele Course: 7,070 yards, par 72, \$125-\$170

Mokihana Course: 6,960 yards, par 72, \$75-\$120

Contact: 00-1-808-245-5050 waileagolf.com

*Gorgeous couple, but try not to tie yourself in knots at the 17th on Kiele*

## WHERE TO STAY

### Princeville Resort

Contact: 00-1-808-826-9644 princeville.com

### Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa

Contact: 00-1-808-742-1234 kauai.hyatt.com

### Kauai Marriott Resort & Beach Club

Contact: 00-1-808-245-5050 marriott.com



Mauna Kea's 3rd: still fancy the carry?

MALINA KEA RESORT

PETER ELLEGARD

Waikiki Beach on a quiet surfing day



## MAUI WHERE TO PLAY

### Ka'anapali

Tournament North Course: 6,694 yards, par 71, \$130-\$160  
Resort South Course: 6,555 yards, par 71, \$105-\$160

**Contact:** 00-1-808-661-3691  
kaanapali-golf.com

*Watch the trade winds on the tricky North or your game could go south*

### Kapalua

The Bay Course: 6,600 yards, par 72, \$140-\$200

The Plantation Course: 7,263 yards, par 73, \$130-\$185

The Village Course: 6,378 yards, par 70, \$160-\$250

**Contact:** 00-1-877-527-2582  
kapaluamaui.com

*Plantation is the star of these three beauties and ends with a couple of stunners*

### Wailea Golf and Country Club

Blue Course: 6,397 yards, par 72, \$145-\$175

Gold Course: 7,078 yards, par 72, \$155-\$185

Emerald Course: 6,825 yards, par 72, \$155-\$185

**Contact:** 00-1-808-875-7450  
waileagolf.com

*Try to concentrate on this top-drawer trio's golf rather than the offshore whales*

### Makena Resort

North Course: 6,914 yards, par 72, \$170-\$180

South Course: 7,014 yards, par 72, \$170-\$180

**Contact:** 00-1-808-879-3344  
makenagolf.com

*Inspiring golf amid pristine settings and drop-dead-gorgeous views*

## WHERE TO STAY

### The Fairmont Kea Lani

**Contact:** 00-1-808-875-4100  
fairmontkealani.com

### The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua

**Contact:** 00-1-808-669-6200  
ritzcarlton.com

### Ka'anapali Beach Hotel

**Contact:** 00-1-808-661-0011  
kbhmaui.com

**"How about a round high up on an active volcano, or on rainforest-clad slopes of razor-like peaks with carries over yawning chasms?"**



HVGB/IRK/AEDER

## Kaua'i

Known for its spectacular scenery and pristine vegetation, Kaua'i also lays claim to what many regard as Hawai'i's top course – Princeville Resort's world-class 7,309-yard Prince Course. There the holes wind up, down and along green and lush bluffs skirting the island's northern mountains as well as spanning ravines, all the while offering superb views of mountains and the Pacific. The course is part of a 45-hole facility by Trent Jones Jr which also takes in the 27-hole Makai Course, itself rated among Hawai'i's top 10. It has three nines by the ocean, around lakes and through native woodland. Nearby Hanalei is where the movie *South Pacific* was filmed.

The picturesque 6,959-yard Poipu Bay Resort Course is yet another Trent Jones Jr course, on a plateau overlooking the Pacific in the south of the island. Humpbacks, green sea turtles and rare Hawai'ian monk seals are among visual distractions golfers might face. The course hosts the annual PGA Grand Slam of Golf.

Kaua'i Lagoons has two Jack Nicklaus courses. Rolling, links-style fairways with few forced carries are on offer at the Mokihana Course while the 7,070-yard Keile Course strides across cliffs and promontories above Nawiliwili Harbour. Couples who love their golf as much as each other can even get married in a rotunda by the sea near the 17th tee.

## Lana'i

Smaller than the other islands, Lana'i possesses two of Hawai'i's most beautiful layouts and two exclusive resorts – Manele Bay Hotel, where both Bill Gates and Michelle Pfeiffer chose to tie their respective knots, and The Lodge at Koele, which is undergoing refurbishment throughout 2006 but will remain open with limited accommodation.



HVGB/IRK/AEDER

Aquatic wonders of Hawai'i: lava and, left, surfing

The Challenge at Manele is a Jack Nicklaus tour de force set on the cliffs of the island's southern coast, and offers target golf amid lava outcrops, ravines and lush natural plant life.

Greg Norman's magnificent 7,014-yard Experience at Koele features stunning mountain from its upland setting vistas to neighbouring Mau'i and Moloka'i. The highlight of the course is the spectacular par-3 8th hole, which drops 250ft from the tee to a green cupped in a forested valley. Such is its visual splendour that the tagline for the course is: "Why even bother keeping score?" Why indeed.

## Moloka'i

The least-developed of Hawai'i's islands, you won't find any traffic lights on Moloka'i but there are two golf courses to enjoy.

The Ted Robinson-designed Kaluakoi Golf Course, a recently-renovated par-72 resort layout on 165 acres at the west end of the island, is near Hawai'i's largest white-sand beach. Deer, quail, partridge and wild turkeys roam its fairways and each hole offers spectacular views of the Pacific and neighbouring O'ahu.

Nine-hole Ironwood Hills Golf Club, 1,200ft up in the island's central highlands, was built for the Del Monte Corporation pineapple plantation workers in 1928. It has no tee times or golf pros but its narrow, uphill fairways and tiny greens are a stiff test.

### LANA'I/MOLOKA'I WHERE TO PLAY

#### LANA'I

**The Experience at Koele**  
7,014 yards, par 72  
\$175 (www.lanai-golfing.com)  
**Contact:** 00-1-808-565-4653  
lodgeatkoele.com  
Such an experience you won't bother keeping your score

#### The Challenge at Manele Bay

7,039 yards, par 72  
\$100-\$225  
**Contact:** 00-1-808-565-2222  
manelebayhotel.com  
Tiers of heaven along spectacular coastal cliffs

#### Kaluakoi Golf Course

6,564 yards, par 72  
**Contact:** 00-1-808-552-0255  
molokairanch.com  
Watch the birdies in this natural paradise

### WHERE TO STAY

#### LANA'I

**The Lodge at Koele**  
**Contact:** 00-1-808-565-2000  
lodgeatkoele.com

#### Manele Bay Hotel

**Contact:** 00-1-808-565-2000  
manelebayhotel.com

#### MOLOKA'I

#### The Lodge and Beach Village at Molokai Ranch

**Contact:** 00-1-808-660-2824  
molokairanch.com



The Challenge at Manele, perhaps the most aptly named course on Earth

HVGB

## Hawai'i Islands Facts

### GETTING THERE & GETTING AROUND

Honolulu International Airport on O'ahu is the main access point for the Hawai'ian islands. There are flights from many US destinations, but most visitors from the UK go via San Francisco or Los Angeles. Other options include Vancouver, Phoenix, New York, Houston, Chicago and Las Vegas. Some flights also go from the West Coast to the Big Island. Airlines flying to Hawai'i include **United Airlines** (unitedairlines.co.uk; 0845-8444-777), **American Airlines** (aa.com; 0845-7789-789) and **Continental** (continental.com/uk; 0845-60-767-60).

Inter-island flights link Honolulu with the other islands and there are regular ferries from Lahaina on Maui to both Lanai and Molokai. Hiring a car is the easiest way to get around on the islands.

### GENERAL INFO

**Time difference:** GMT -10 hours. Hawai'i does not observe daylight saving.

**Climate:** Hawai'i's trade winds

make it a year-round destination. Temperatures vary little throughout the year, highs ranging from about 24°C to 30°C. It is usually drier on the leeward (western) sides of the islands and wetter on the windward (eastern) sides. The heaviest rainfall is between December and March.

**Information:** hawaii-tourism.co.uk; 020-7202-6384

**For information on holiday packages contact 3D Golf 08701-200-300; 3dgolf.com**

### KEY ATTRACTIONS

■ **Pearl Harbor, O'ahu:** the USS Arizona Memorial is a moving reminder of the attack on the anchored US Pacific Fleet in 1941 and a memorial to the 1,100 men who died. You can also take in the USS Missouri, as well as the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum.

■ Honolulu's historic treasures include the **Bishop Museum**, the principal museum of the Pacific, and 'Iolani Palace, where Hawai'i's last reigning monarchs resided.

■ **The Polynesian Cultural**

**Centre**, on O'ahu's North Shore, is Hawai'i's most popular paid attraction. It depicts traditional village life in seven Pacific nations and includes a canoe pageant, evening show with hula dancers and luau feast, in which a pig is cooked in an underground pit.

■ **The Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park** is centred around Kilauea, the world's most active volcano which has been erupting constantly since 1983. The Big Island park is open 24 hours a day and visitors can often see streams of lava on the mountainside.

■ The summit of 13,796ft **Mauna Kea**, on the Big Island, usually snow-covered from December to May, has the world's greatest concentration of observatories, with 13 telescopes. Free summit tours take place at weekends, weather permitting, as do stargazing tours.

■ Hawai'i's pristine natural wonders include **Mau'i's Hana Coast**, which can be explored by bike or car, and Kaua'i's spectacular **Napali Coast**, best seen from a boat.

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

■ Lose yourselves in the **Dole Pineapple Maze** at Wahiawa, one of the world's largest mazes. O'ahu's remaining 11,500 acres of pineapples are grown here.

■ Horse-riding, quad bikes and wagon rides are available at the 175,000-acre **Parker Ranch** on the slopes of Mauna Kea on the Big Island.

■ **Whale-watching tours** operate year-round throughout the islands. Humpback whales return to Hawai'i's waters from December to April but other species including pilot, sperm and melon headed whales can be found all year.

■ Surf's up on O'ahu's famous **Waikiki Beach** and the island's North Shore, where you can watch experts tackle some of Hawai'i's biggest waves. There are even surf schools where the family can learn to ride the waves together.

■ Build sandcastles on some of the best beaches in the world. They include O'ahu's **Kailua** and **Lanikai**, both on its eastern coast, Maui's Ka'anapali and Wailea beaches, Waikoloa

Beach on the Big Island, Papohaku Beach on Molokai – one of the world's longest – and Lumahai Beach on Kaua'i.

■ Watch dawn breaking from the summit of Maui's **Haleakala volcano**, then cycle down a 30-mile route from the crater, freewheeling almost all of it.

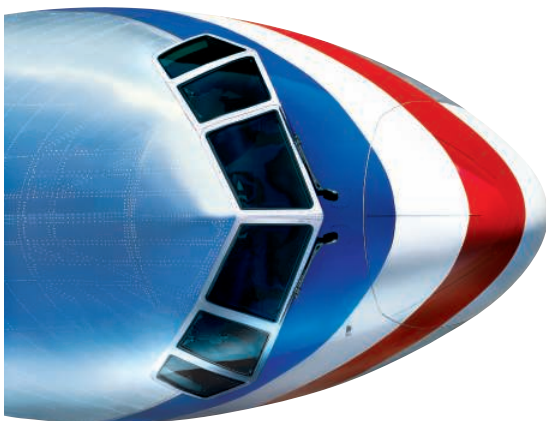
### HAWAII FACTS

■ Honolulu's **'Iolani Palace** is the only royal palace on US soil. Completed in 1882, it served as the royal residence until 1893 when the last Queen was overthrown.

■ Since the current eruption of **Kilauea** on the Big Island began in 1983, enough molten lava has been produced to pave a two-lane road which would encircle the world 50 times.

■ **Captain Cook** was killed in a skirmish with natives in 1779 in Kealahou Bay on what is now the Big Island's Kona Coast. A monument stands on the spot, an ancient sacred site. The area was given to the British Consul and is still British territory today.

■ **Molokai** has the tallest sea cliffs in the world, over 3,000ft high.



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For reservations and information, visit [www.americanairlines.co.uk](http://www.americanairlines.co.uk).

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