

Pacific Romance

YOUR GUIDE TO WEDDINGS, HONEYMOONS
AND ROMANCE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



HAWAII

HAWAI'I

Finding heaven in Hawai'i

Tying the knot



A couple must obtain a marriage licence when they arrive in Hawai'i. This can be done from a marriage licence agent (there are many agents on each island and they can be found online or an appointment can be arranged by your wedding coordinator). Note: you have to appear together to obtain the marriage licence. As a rule, there is no waiting period for your licence, it is granted on application.

- Bride and groom need to be over the age of 18 years – otherwise a birth certificate and written consent from both parents, a legal guardian or a family court judge is required.
- Proof of age – Passport, drivers licence or birth certificate.
- If either partner has been married before a divorce decree is required.
- Once the marriage licence is obtained, you have 30 days to get legally married in Hawai'i.





Hawaii has all that couples need for an unforgettable romantic retreat. With so many places to see and things to do on offer on each island, it can be a challenge to squeeze everything you want in – a blessing and a curse for meticulous planners! But the beauty is that no matter what you choose to do in Hawaii, every couple will be in a state of bliss.

For romance travellers, the best way to start planning your getaway is by looking into each of the four main islands – Oahu, Maui, Hawaii (The Big Islands) and Kauai. They are all brilliant in their own right, but they each have their own distinct flavour and attractions. Most couples won't have time to visit every island, so it's best to write a list of priorities before finding the island(s) that match.

◆◆◆◆◆ OAHU

Home to Hawaii's capital, Honolulu, and the renowned Waikiki Beach, Oahu is a splendid combination of natural beauty and cosmopolitan sophistication – modern living meets Pacific paradise.

World-famous Waikiki Beach is exactly how pop culture portrays Hawaii: sand, sun, surf, colour, waves of tanned bodies, towering high-rises, surrounded by volcanic peaks. The beach is always buzzing, but a couple will still be able to find a spot to put their towel down.

Soak up the hot sun and ever-changing scene and grab a drink and a bite to eat from the countless vendors, before diving into the warm turquoise waters.

Oahu also offers some of the finest dining experiences in the Pacific. Romantic meals are found with ease! The resorts are an excellent place to start. Then hit the streets, where you'll find any number of mouth-watering restaurants. And keep your eyes peeled for hole-in-the-wall spots, you are sure to stumble across some absolute gems.

Make the time to go to a luau – you will not be disappointed. It's a traditional feast that may feature laulau (pork wrapped in leaves), poke (raw marinated fish, usually served as an appetiser), lomi salmon, and opihi and poi (taro paste). They are essentially parties, beaming with hula dancing and other traditional entertainment to sit back and admire – sometimes you can join in!

Shopping is excellent in Hawaii, particularly around Waikiki. You may want to prepare your credit card for at least a little bit of damage! Ala Moana Shopping Centre is the largest open-air shopping centre in the world. It is packed with luxury brands and department stores alike – a retail paradise.

But, what if shopping's not your thing, but your partner has a hankering to shop? Don't worry – you won't have to shadow them while they browse; instead, you could head up to the fourth floor for an abundance of international cuisine, a mix of local and Asian flavours, and live music.

For a phenomenal view of Oahu, hit the trail up to the summit of Diamond Head mountain. It starts with a relatively light 30 minute walk, followed by numerous switchbacks as you close in on the summit. Near the end, you will pass through a military tunnel, go up a few flights of stairs and out through a bunker.

Couples looking to soak up some history will want to pay a visit to Pearl Harbor – where the infamous surprise attack on the US Navy took place, dragging the superpower into World War II. Although you can visit all four of the historic sites within six hours, it is best to make a day of it – if possible – to absorb everything on offer; such as immersing yourself in the Aviation Museum and the theatre of war. You can buy a range of tour tickets at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Since it is still an active military base, you will have to leave your bags back at the hotel or in the storage area.

Movie buffs have to check out the Jurassic playground that is Kualoa Ranch, for tours of its famous film sites. But be careful, rumour has it a T-Rex is still on the loose. Even if you're not a fan of Spielberg's classic dinosaur film, you'll nonetheless have a blast riding quadbikes or horses over wild terrain, or ziplining above the jungle. The perfect day out for couples craving adventure.

Strap on the snorkel, Hanauma Bay awaits. It was formed within a volcanic cone and homes crystal clear water and a magnificent ecosystem, brimming with tropical fish and marine life. This is a must-do for any couple spending time on Oahu.

If you feel like escaping the crowds of Honolulu without leaving the island, take a trip to the North Shore, where 12 kilometres of sand stretch out over the still rural coast where some of the world’s biggest waves crash.

The winter waves at Waimea Bay, the Banzai Pipeline and Sunset Beach can rise to seven stories high, causing the beach to shake as they smash into the sand. In summer, however, the surf is much more welcoming, and the area offers many great spots for a picnic. While you’re at it, cruise into the nearby surfing town of Haleiwa, a laid-back spot to check out art galleries, surf shops, or treat yourself to some pastries at Leonard’s bakery or cool off at Matsumoto’s Shave Ice Shop.



PLACES TO STAY

Kahala Hotel and Resort

The Kahala Hotel and Resort resides on a pristine white sand beach, only ten minutes from the hustle and bustle of Waikiki. Swim in the stunning lagoon, meet dolphins, kick back poolside, play tennis or golf, or take a complimentary bike for a ride – there’s so much for couples to enjoy here. This romantic resort is the perfect place to celebrate your love. And they have a variety of honeymoon packages on offer. From private romantic dinners overlooking the vast blue to couple’s spa treatments, there is something bound to suit your tastes. If you came to Hawaii to tie the knot, however, Kahala has you covered with an array of wedding packages to choose from too.

‘Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach

Situated in the heart of Kalakaua Avenue, ‘Alohilani Resort has become one of Waikiki’s finest following a multi-million-dollar transformation. The Swell Bar and Lounge is a cool spot to have a drink, with its infinity pool, cabanas, driftwood sculptures, lanterns and glowing fire pits. And when the sun decides to call it a day, it’s time for live music and cocktails. For an intimate romantic dinner, couples will want to try one of the resort’s two spectacular Japanese restaurants – both are run by esteemed ‘Iron Chef’ Masaharu Morimoto



PEARL HARBOR, OAHU © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



WAIKIKI, OAHU © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / DANNY SEPKOWSKI

WAIKIKI TROLLEY – EASY WAY TO GET AROUND

Whether you want to visit Diamond Head or Pearl Harbor, the easiest way to get around Honolulu is by hopping on a Waikiki Trolley bus. With one- and four- and seven-day passes, couples have unlimited access to all lines providing an inexpensive, pleasant and stress-free travel experience to famous sites. And on the double-decker buses, you will be treated to some fantastic views along the way.



WAIKIKI, OAHU © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



BALDWIN BEACH PARK, MAUI ©HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA)

MAUI

Known as the honeymoon island, Maui has some of the best beaches in Hawaii and the romantic resorts to match. It is the second most visited island in Hawaii after Oahu. And that's not surprising considering its tantalising variety of activities and sights.

If you have the willpower to rise before dawn, drive over (or get on a tour) to Haleakala Visitor Center for a mesmerising sight: sun rays piercing the darkness as it appears to rise out from the dormant volcano, creating a tantalising dance of light and colour. A truly romantic experience. (And not such a bad spot to propose).

Ever wanted to see a whale? Whale watching season runs from December to May, and the best times to spot these magnificent creatures is from January to April – where you are likely to encounter a whale up close as thousands of them hang around there. Lahaina Harbour on Maui's West Coast is the most popular launching spot for a range of whale watching charters. Back in the 1800s, Lahaina Town was purely a whaling settlement; now it is a busy little town with some great bars, restaurants and shops.

Kaanapali Beach, which is regularly voted as one of the best beaches in the United States, is a glorious stretch of sand aligned with many fantastic resorts and apartment blocks. The Hawaiian royal family once claimed it as their own retreat.

Couples who love a good ol' roadie should head up to Hana. There are two choices for the Road to Hana. You could rent a car and drive at your own pace, perhaps staying overnight, without any other passengers. Or hop on a van tour, where you can sit back in your seat and enjoy the sights as they pass by. Whatever you decide on, you will want to bring a fully-charged camera – or a phone with a great camera – as you will want to stop and snap photos at the various scenic areas along the road.

Maui's majestic waterfalls dot the Hana Highway. The first stop on this romantic road trip is Twin Falls, where, if you can make it past the delicious fruit stand, a short trail will lead you to two falls surrounded by natural swimming pools.

Further along the highway is Lower Puohokamoa Falls, an amazing sight at 200-feet tall. A beautiful lookout point is just a five-minute walk from the carpark. Near the town of Hana, hiding in lush forest along the Piwai Trail, is Makahiku Falls. The view from above the falls provides couples with a romantic photo opportunity.

Maui has some brilliant surfing spots and Lahaina Reefs, on the west coast, is perfect for riders of all levels. Honolua Bay, on the other



TWIN FALLS, MAUI ©HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA)

hand, is one of the greatest surf spots in Hawaii and is best suited for veterans of the plank, boasting powerful waves and long rides.

Ready to do some snorkelling? Head to Maluaka, a beach sheltered behind mountains, for one of the best spots on the island. It is also known as Turtle Town as this coastline is renowned for the abundance of Hawaiian Green sea turtles gliding in both shallow and deep waters. Beautiful coral reefs and vibrant tropical creatures reside here too.

PLACES TO STAY

Kaanapali Beach Hotel

Look no further for the ultimate romantic retreat and a truly authentic Hawaiian experience. The Kaanapali Beach Hotel lies on a gorgeous stretch of sand, facing the crystal-clear ocean, and boasting 11 acres of tropical gardens and an array of fantastic dining options. There's plenty of couples' activities on offer at Kaanapali.

The Beauty of Aloha spa is guaranteed to put you into a state of relaxation. And with the beach on your doorstep, you can do anything from Hale Huakai Stand-up Paddle Boarding lessons to sunset cocktail and dinner cruises. Drink it all in and say, "Ahh-loha."

Westin Maui Resort & Spa

Located in Kaanapali, Westin Maui Resort & Spa is just minutes from white sand, Whalers Village and golf courses galore. Couples will enjoy getting pampered at the resort's spa, taking a dip in one of five outdoor swimming pools, and indulging in the exquisite dining options at the onsite restaurants and Café.



HAWAII - THE BIG ISLAND

Opposites attract. And just like soulmates, the Big Island of Hawaii is made up of two halves – one of cool lush rainforests, the other of arid volcanic landscapes – coming together to form a massive playground for romance.

A couple's love will flare and flow like lava at Volcanoes National Park, one of the most visited parks across the United States. Day hikes around the park will lead you to various volcanic summits and craters. You can hike across a blackened field of lava to see the fascinating Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs – the largest group of petroglyphs in Hawaii. Fire not only destroys but breathes new life. So, stroll along Devastation Trail to witness the rebirth of a scorched landscape, or hike through Kipukapuau for astounding biological diversity and leaves so green they glow.

The Crater Rim Drive Tour is a phenomenal experience, where you'll get the chance to look down into the immense Kilauea crater, which erupted in 2018 with such force that it could have been mistaken for the end of days! Jagger Museum is a must-visit if you want to learn more about this brutal yet beautiful volcano. For an awe-inspiring view, jump on a helicopter tour.

Couples will probably feel like cooling off after a day of touring fiery landscapes. Luckily, on Big Island you can go from flowing lava to flowing water, just like that. For some of the most pristine and picturesque waterfalls in the Pacific, couples can check out Peepee Falls, Rainbow Falls and

Waiale Falls. The biggest of the bunch is Waihilau Falls, where freshwater cascades down from 700 metres high.

Giddy up, you're in cowboy country now. Saddle up at Kalua Ranch and ride horseback through green forests and hills and down to freshwater streams, admiring the island's stunning scenery.

Drive west to Kona Coast where you will stumble across the quaint town of Holualoa, which is famous for its Kona coffee. Couples can enjoy a cup of joe and tour the mill to see where the magic happens.



PLACES TO STAY

Four Seasons Resort Hualalai at Historic Ka'upulehu

Situated on the Kona Coast surrounded by white sand beaches and volcanic landscapes, this high-quality resort has everything couples need for an idyllic romantic getaway. There are seven swimming pools, five spa pools and of course the beautiful blue ocean to plunge into. The food is fantastic. The golf course is world-class. And the spa is sensational, providing in-room treatments. What's not to love?

Mauna Kea Beach Hotel

Built in 1965 on a stunning stretch of pristine white sand, Hawaii's first resort, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, has stood the test of time. Its blend of sports and beach activities, handcrafted cocktails and dizzying ocean views will keep couples coming back for many more years to come.



LAVA FIELDS, WAIKOLOA, HAWAII ISLAND ©HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / VINCE SOLIVEN

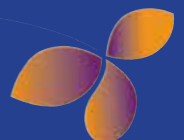


Waikiki Banyan, 201 Ohua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii

Darmic, the only New Zealand company in the Waikiki Banyan offers fully self-contained one-bedroom apartments just one block from Waikiki Beach. All guests receive a welcome pack plus complimentary bathroom amenities. Featuring a large recreation deck with pool, jacuzzi, sauna, playground, tennis court and BBQs, there is also a mini mart, coffee shop and tour desk in the lobby. Free parking, 24 hour security and resident managers on site.

Contact Jamie or Sue in our Auckland sales office:
09 444 7203 • sales@darmic.com • www.darmic.com

DARMIC
At the Waikiki Banyan, Hawaii





KAUA'I

Couples seeking a chilled-out escape amongst nature's finest offerings will want to head to the island of Kaua'i. It is the oldest, smallest and least developed of the major islands, bursting with untouched beauty that makes for some of the most dramatic scenery in Hawaii. Films such as Jurassic Park and Pirates of the Caribbean borrowed this backdrop to help create some memorable cinema scenes.

The fact that only around 10 percent of the island is accessible by car is one reason the island retains its magic. Instead of being jammed with cars and buses, visitors will have to take it slow and soak up all the land has to offer through more straightforward means such as hiking, biking and kayaking.

The Kalalau Trail, which runs along the Napali Coast for 18 kilometres, is a spectacular hike for fit couples looking to test themselves. It is one of the most famous treks in the United States due to the amazing sights dotted along the path; from Ke'e Beach, through dense green valleys, across cliffs overlooking the Pacific, to Kalalau Valley.

You may not be able to get far driving a car, but you can go anywhere in Kauai with a helicopter! Couples must take an aerial tour of the island to soak up all its majesty. Blue Hawaiian Helicopters is one such company that can take couples to cloud nine, where you will see all the main sights – Waimea Canyon, Napali Coast, Bali Hai Cliffs, Hanalei Bay and Mount Waialeale – in around 50 minutes.



PLACES TO STAY

Princeville Resort

Sitting above the picturesque Hanalei Bay, Princeville Resort is a luxurious place for couples to retreat to. Relax on the private beach and go swimming in the sapphire waters, before letting your personal butler treat you to the five-star luxuries on offer. There is also a water sports centre and a 5,000 square foot infinity pool, and spectacular restaurants, bars and Cafés that serve delectable food and beverages.

Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa

Stay on the sunny south shore sands of Poipu at Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa, where lush tropical gardens, luxurious pools, ocean view dining, a tranquil spa and championship golf course will soothe your souls. This resort is thus the perfect place for a honeymoon. Or a wedding – if you're looking to tie the knot – with all the planning tools available along with stunning venues to make your special day unforgettable.



NAPALI COAST, KAUAI © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / BEN ONO



WAIMEA CANYON, KAUAI © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOR JOHNSON



PUKALANI OPEN CEILING CAVE, KAUAI © HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY (HTA) / TOMMY LUNDBERG