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Oahu Trailblazer: Where To Hike, Snorkel, Surf From Honolulu To The North Shore



Synopsis

Expanded coverage of Waikiki and Honolulu, along with updates on the best trails and historic sites, make this second edition of Oahu Trailblazer the must-have guide for the adventurous and independent traveler. As usual, Jerry (writer) and Janine Sprout (designer, photographer) hit all the highlights like Pearl Harbor, Waikiki, Diamond Head, Iolani Palace, Hanauma Bay, North Shore surf sites, and the Polynesian Cultural Center offering a wealth of photographs (about 200 black-and-whites), precise driving directions and activity descriptions, and hot tips that give travelers the inside track. But, as Trailblazer readers have come to expect, the book also shines by delivering the goods for dozens of mountain-ridge hikes and garden strolls, as well as beachcombing and all the island's best snorkeling spots. There is no doubt that this is the definitive title for visitors who want to explore places to call their own, since many of these land and sea adventures, and quirky attractions, do not find their way into other guidebooks. Oahu Trailblazer is highly versatile, working well for visitors are looking to take scenic driving tours of major attractions and explore all the museums and parks of Honolulu and Waikiki, and also just the ticket for extreme sports nuts looking to strap on the boots and swim fins to sample the surprising wealth of Oahu's outdoor offerings. A Trailblazer Kids section is available for families, and the Resource Links provide lots of planning information. Safety tips are throughout the book, as well as the historical and cultural background that adds meaning to a vacation. The Sprouts love and respect the islands, and it shows in their books. Like good outdoor gear, Trailblazer guides are well made, well organized, and easy to use.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oahu Trailblazer is an all-in-one adventure guide that serves the armchair and actual traveler alike. Though organized as a series of trailheads emphasizing hiking, snorkeling and surfing, the book has Hawaiian culture, history, and attractions to spare. The book is marvelously flexible. If you aren't sure of what you're looking for, the Best of Oahu section lists top attractions and activities to suit your needs. It's possible to gain a solid sense of Oahu's offerings without reading the entire descriptions. But then you'd miss some great armchair traveling. -- SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

DEAR READERS AND FELLOW TRAVELERS: A new edition of Oahu Trailblazer is currently available on . Please search by title and you will find the new 2009 edition. ALOHA AND HAPPY TRAILS!

Just returned from a week in Oahu. Rented a car and explored the entire island. This guide has detailed, accurate information on beaches, trails, activities, locations and my wife and I used it extensively with total satisfaction. You can use this guide to really plan what you intend to do, where to go, etc. And if we are fortunate to return to Hawaii again, I'd take this with me. In addition, we found that the "Hawaii: Honolulu Oahu (Nelles Maps)" also sold through , to be an excellent companion to this Trailblazer guide.

Neither me nor my wife found this bood useful at all. No maps in the book to help you find anything. To find anything, they basically give you these obscure directions like you're on a treasure chest hunt: go down to the 6th palm tree on the left down the road then when you see goat grazing near a fire hydrant then look to your right and take that road about 300 ft and there you'll run into the old lay with the pirate patch. Ask her where.... Seemed like the people who wrote this book were simply trying to find any easy way to tax write-off their travels in Oahu. Lame book. Don't buy!

There are four activity guidebooks in this wonderful series: Oahu Trailblazer, Maui Trailblazer, Kauai Trailblazer, and Hawaii the Big Island Trailblazer (there is also a great planning guide to all the islands called No Worries Hawaii). I have been reviewing guidebooks for many years (and, in fact, wrote several well-received guides to travel guides in the pre-Internet era) and I can say without reservation that these four books are the best available for Hawaii. The authors, Jerry and Janine Sprout, have been roaming the Hawaiian islands for decades and taking a lot of useful notes and beautiful photos along the way. All of this translates into a wonderful, informative read (I've read

them all cover to cover) even if you're only an armchair traveler dreaming of a vacation in the land of aloha. You'll learn a lot about these magical, magnificent places in addition to the activities that best meet your needs. No matter which island you pick, each book is similarly organized and equally well done. And the black-and-white photos are a joy. (If you're not sure where you're headed, their planning guide, *No Worries Hawaii*, can help you decide which island to head for and what part of that island makes the most sense). Important tip: Be sure to read the "How to Use This Book" section to learn how to get the most out these great resource books. And don't miss the "Best Of" section, which is divided into lots of useful categories from waterfall walks, big views, and sunset beaches to town strolls, gardens, and perfect places with little walking--there is something here for everyone. There are also good maps to orient you. Driving and parking directions are excellent--no small trick in a place where the only sign to tell you you've arrived may be a small mile marker along the highway. You'll definitely want to learn two new, directional words, which are very helpful in a land surrounded by water: makai--meaning "toward the ocean," and mauka--meaning "inland or toward the mountains." Read carefully, follow along and the Sprouts will get you to some places few tourists ever go. Each walk or hike provides parking instructions, round-trip distances, elevation gained, and other practical information. Hiking/walking directions are also very well done. In general, you won't need a topographical map, but for more serious hikes some folks may feel more comfortable with one. Other activities at each location, such as surfing, biking, snorkeling, are carefully described as well. Practical information on every possible subject includes great driving tours, the best stuff for kids, climate, important resource numbers, and cryptic but very well chosen lists of the best food and lodging choices in each area. Whatever all-purpose guide you choose, don't visit the islands without the appropriate Trailblazer guide in hand. It will make all the difference.

Oahu was a good vacation spot. We picked the Ko Olina Resort and intended to stay put but came across this book before leaving. It changed everything and allowed us to sample the less trampled corners of the west side. In some places you'd never know you're on the same island that is home to Honolulu. I guess you could call this a Full Service guide because it covers a lot of territory. The travel tips for avoiding the commute traffic is worth the price of the book alone. Their walking tour of historic Honolulu was well worth our time, the Iolani Palace and Chinatown and Academy of Arts Museum - DO SEE, it filled up one day. Our best beach experience was not Waikiki, but Sandy Beach where the water was bluer and the sand was yellow and clean. Both of us can unequivocally recommend trailblazing Oahu.

We highly recommend this book. This was our first visit to Hawaii and we bought it because we aren't keen on organized tours. We started out slowly by following their trail through Honolulu downtown and beaching ourselves all afternoon near Waikiki. After getting over jetlag, we felt fresh enough on day two to hike to Manoa Falls and wander the arboretum nextdoor. That's when we knew we scored by buying this book - this list of trails seems endless and they all sound worth trying. Our big escape to Oahu was enormous fun and we eventually hope to see all the islands one year at a time.

I'm glad we brought this book with us. It's the second in the Trailblazer series that we own. It's very comprehensive and covers all the highways and offshoots, places that our friends who live there didn't even know about. Everyone knows about Waikiki, but there are better beaches to be found right in this book. The tone is positive and a splash of humor comes along with their valuable advice. We do a great deal of hiking and this one contains just about every recreational activity you can think of. It sure beats researching on the internet. Having all the info collectively right by our side made all the diff.

For two couples not knowing their way around, this guidebook certainly was our anchor. It's an idea book and with it come all the directions. What we really valued: the detailed tour of the windward side that you never read about. The beaches there were prettier and cleaner than any of the ones we saw on Maui. Most fun: We split up to swim (with fins) and kayak to an offshore island for a picnic. The cliffs are more dramatic and the two lane road was so scenic. Driving directions in this book are right on. They've even recommended hotels and restaurants, just enough. We liked their take on Oahu.

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