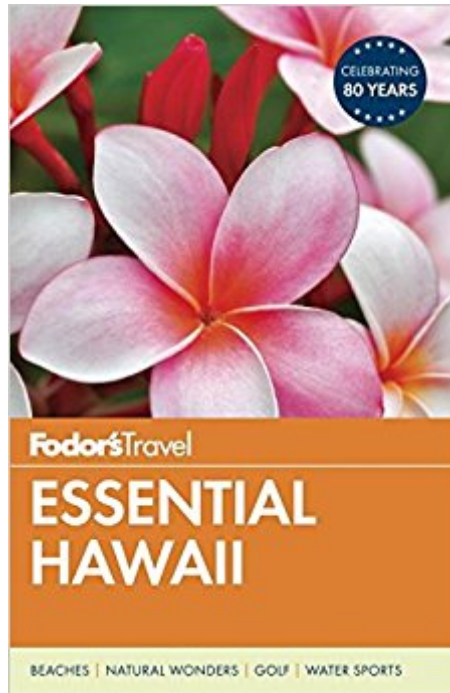




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Fodor's Essential Hawaii (Full-color Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering expert advice for all tastes and budgets for 80 years. Hawaii overflows with natural beauty, from its soft sand beaches to its dramatic volcanic cliffs. The islands' offerings, from urban Honolulu in Oahu to the luxe resorts of Maui to the natural wonders of Kauai and the Big Island, appeal to all tastes. There's also much to appreciate about the state's unique culture and the tradition of aloha that has welcomed millions of visitors over the years. This travel guide includes:

- Dozens of full-color maps
- Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations, with Fodor's Choice designating our top picks
- Multiple itineraries to explore the top attractions and what's off the beaten path
- In-depth breakout features on Hawaii's unique culture focusing on lei, luau, and hula
- Coverage of Big Island, Kauai, Maui, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Wailea, Haleakala National Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hana, and more.

Planning to focus on one Hawaiian Island? Check out Fodor's travel guides to Maui, Kauai, Oahu, and Big Island of Hawaii.

Book Information

Series: Full-color Travel Guide (Book 1)

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: Fodor's Travel (November 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101879920

ISBN-13: 978-1101879924

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #68,253 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Travel > Caribbean > General #126 in Books > Travel > United States > West > Pacific #151 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Tourist Destinations & Museums

Customer Reviews

"Fodor's is pitched a few notches higher than aimed at a fairly discerning traveler with an appetite for background and the occasional surprise. • The New York Times "The Fodor's guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions. • Chicago Tribune "In terms of comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series

remains one of the best on the market. Fodor's Booklist "Fodor's super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail. Sacramento Bee "Fodor's can help you plan the perfect adventure. Arizona Republic

For over 80 years, Fodor's Travel has been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler's trip. We hire local writers who know their destinations better than anyone else, allowing us to provide the best travel recommendations for all tastes and budget in over 7,500 worldwide destinations. Our books make it possible for every trip to be a trip of a lifetime.

The suggestions were spot on. We didn't always stick to what was in the book, but when we did we were never disappointed.

Very complete and useful for planning our upcoming trip.

I'm not really a fan of multi-destination guidebooks. They're usually way too generalized and the epitome of the phrase "jack of all trades, master of none". With that in mind, I had lukewarm expectations for this guide. Having visited different Hawaiian islands, I wanted to see how much the book suggested beyond the many already very well known attractions. After reading it through, I found that the guide definitely has usefulness. However, I still feel it is no replacement for a fully devoted single-island guidebook. While the main attractions are all mentioned, there are many smaller attractions missing. As I feared, the attractions listed are more like a top-ten list of no-brainer activities. Less popular and lesser-known attractions are largely omitted. The descriptions in this guide are mostly brief bullet points although they match the bullet points found in Fodor's single island guides verbatim. There are plenty of maps but I noticed differences between the maps here and Fodor's single island guides. For example, there's a pretty obvious discrepancy between the maps of hotels on the east side of Kauai. The roads and geography on the maps are identical, but the hotel placements on the maps differ. The correct map is in this guidebook. There are plenty of photos but, once again, not as many as the single island guides. So, as I said, the guide definitely has usefulness. If someone is spending relatively short periods of time on multiple islands, like on a cruise, it would be very helpful. Those type travelers don't need a thick guide for each individual island. Another great use is for helping someone planning to visit the islands to get a good overview of what's available on each. It could also be a cost efficient alternative to individual guides if

someone is visiting three islands or more and doesn't need extensive guides. Otherwise, I'd stick with a single island guide if visiting one or two islands. If only visiting one island, I absolutely suggest sticking with a single island book.

No guide book can be all things to all people. If you are lucky enough to be going to Hawaii, this is a very good guide book to get a decent overview of the six basic islands and to start planning your trip. If you are looking for a picture book for arm chair reading, this is not it. This review is of the printed version of this guide. Fodor's "Essential" guides are fact-filled, fairly well organized, easy to read, and small enough (5 1/2" x 8") to carry with you. This particular guide to Hawaii provides over 600 pages of general information, maps, recommendations on trip planning, itineraries, hotels, places to eat, and things to do. Once you get your itinerary down, you can get a more place-specific guide such as *Fodor's Oahu: with Honolulu, Waikiki & the North Shore* which dedicates a full 240 pages to Oahu and has a pull out map of that island. Fodor's tag line is "Everything in this guide is worth doing -- we don't cover what isn't." I can't argue with it.

This book gives a very good overview of the Hawaiian islands, with the first 40 or its 600 pages giving background on history, general characteristics of each island, food, and best times to go before moving on to chapters devoted to each island. The chapters give a lot of information on each island, starting with highlights of the island and suggested itineraries. There are good description of attractions and things to do by area within each area of the islands, followed by separate sections (again organized by area of the island) on where to eat, where to stay, where to shop, and where to find sport activities (e.g., fishing, scuba, golf). I always find information on hotels and restaurants a bit of problem in these sorts of guides, in that this information often is out of date and can easily be updated with a bit of web browsing. Having said that, this sort of book might be useful for planning a trip, as long as you check things before hand. A nice feature of the book is that nearly every site (hotel, restaurant, attraction) has a web site listed. I have visited Hawaii several times and would have found this book useful, both on the ground (maps are good) and in terms of planning. Despite it's length, it really is not a bulky book (less than an inch thick) so could be carried as you travel. I think this book would be good if you were going on a trip covering several islands (say a cruise) rather than one, in that there are good books for individual islands that are smaller and give more detail. Having said that, this is a good book that provides lots of good information and could be used even for a trip to one island.

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