

Your travel guide to
Hawai‘i

American  Sky

WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE TO

Hawai‘i

Ready to book the trip of a lifetime to Hawai‘i? Each Hawaiian island has its own magic, and with so many ways to explore, planning can feel a bit overwhelming. But don’t worry – we’re here to help you every step of the way, making the process simple, stress-free, and tailored to your dream holiday.

Waimanalo Beach



What you'll find in this guide:

- **Expert guidance**
We have travelled through Hawai'i extensively to find the best experiences and recommendations for you.
- **Different ways to travel**
From island hopping to getting around each island, we'll help you find your travel style.
- **Advice on when and where to go**
We'll recommend the best islands and times to visit based on different interests.
- **Tips for your journey**
We'll help you choose your stopovers, turning them into memorable parts of your journey.



Why book your holiday with us?

- **We have 20 years of experience**
Our award-winning team has been dedicated to creating bespoke experiences for over two decades.
- **Every trip is customised**
Tailored to your preferences for the best Hawai'ian experience.
- **We work with trusted local partners**
They will be there for you around the clock, allowing peace of mind.
- **You can fly from regional airports**
We offer flights across the UK and Ireland for added convenience.
- **Your money is safe with us.**
We're fully licensed with ATOL in the UK and IAA in Ireland, ensuring top service and financial security.

THE BEST TIME TO VISIT HAWAI'I

Hawai'i enjoys a warm, tropical climate year-round, with two main seasons. Summer (May to October) is typically warmer and drier, while winter (November to April) brings milder temps and occasional showers.

You can travel to Hawai'i year-round, however summer offers the best beach weather. For whale watching, aim for November to May.

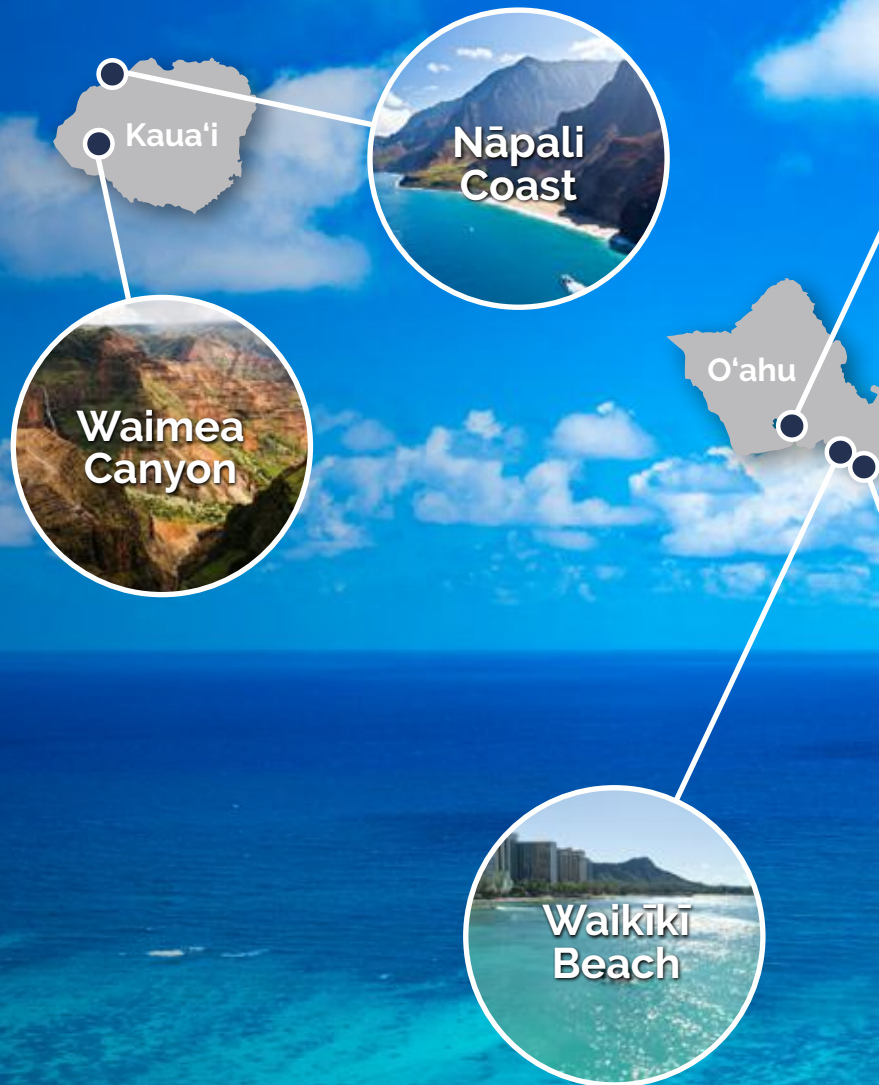
Whenever you go, we recommend at least a week - though 10 to 14 days is ideal for a truly unforgettable trip.

July to August

- Enjoy the warm weather on all islands, perfect for outdoor activities
- With light showers in north Kaua'i and Hilo on Hawai'i Island, these areas are ideal for hikes through the lush green scenery
- Great for beach trips, swimming and water sports like surfing and kayaking
- It's busy and popular, so be prepared to book accommodation and activities in advance

May to June and September to October

- It's less crowded, so you can enjoy popular destinations without the masses
- All islands are warm and sunny, perfect for beach trips
- Wildlife tours and boat trips are popular, and conditions are usually calm.
- Slightly cooler temperatures are ideal for exploring inland and hiking in national parks
- An excellent time for cultural experiences like luaus, food tours and temple visits





Pearl
Harbour

Lahaina

Haleakalā

Kona

Diamond
Head

Volcanoes
National
Park

Hawai'i Island

OUR TOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Endless horizons

Hawai'i is a destination of endless allure, from volcanic landscapes to lush rainforests and golden beaches. Whether you seek vibrant culture, island adventure, or tropical relaxation, Hawai'i delivers unforgettable experiences.

Hawai'i Island (ha-why-ee)

The youngest and largest of the islands, Hawai'i Island stuns with its diverse landscapes and epic scale. Head to Hawai'i **Volcanoes National Park**, where you can drive yourself or take a guided tour up Kilauea and view the glowing caldera. Witness the extraordinary Mauna Loa, the largest active volcano on Earth, making up half the island. Stargaze from the summit of Mauna Kea or explore black and white sand beaches along the coast. The **Kona** coast offers excellent water activities, including snorkelling or diving with manta rays, while Kohala, in the north, offers beautiful white sand beaches and world-class golf courses. Fly into Hilo for a gateway to rainforests and volcanic adventures.



Maui (mau-ee)

Maui is all about striking scenery and laid-back luxury. Watch the sunrise from the summit of **Haleakalā**, a dormant volcano within a national park. Maui is one of the best whale watching spots, with over 10,000 humpback whales migrating to Maui's warm waters from November to May. We recommend a whale-watching cruise for the best viewpoint with beautiful backdrops of golden sunsets, but you may also see them breaching from the beach. **Lahaina** and nearby Kaanapali are at the heart of West Maui and the perfect base for your stay. Here, you'll find beachfront accommodation, boutique shopping, oceanfront dining and great swimming and snorkelling. This gorgeous stretch of coastline is perfect for relaxation, culture and adventure.



O'ahu (ow-aa-hoo)

O'ahu blends natural beauty with urban buzz, making it ideal for first-timers. Climb **Diamond Head** (Lē'ahi), an iconic volcanic crater, for stunning panoramic views. Early morning visits are best to avoid the heat and crowds. Known for its long, mellow waves and sandy bays, **Waikīkī Beach** is perfect for surfers. The **North shore** is ideal if you would rather watch the pros while relaxing on **Waimea Bay**, or spot sea turtles lounging on the sand at **Kūkae'ōhiki** (Laniakea Beach). Discover movie magic at **Kualoa Ranch**, with 4,000 acres of lush valleys and dramatic cliffs, you can tour Hollywood film locations from Jurassic Park, Jumanji and 50 First Dates. We recommend everyone visit **Pearl Harbour**, this moving and fascinating war memorial and museum is beautifully presented, providing an insight into the events of 1941. A trip is never complete without some shopping and Honolulu is a shopper's paradise.

Kaua'i (kuh-wa-ee)

Kaua'i is the oldest and least developed island, ideal for nature and adventure lovers. Visit the legendary **Nāpali Coast**, with its perfect hiking trails, secluded beaches and cascading waterfalls. With 15 miles of breathtaking views, take a helicopter ride for an unforgettable experience from above of emerald cliffs and waterfalls spilling into the sea. Explore the dramatic **Waimea Canyon** and enjoy a scenic picnic, or opt for a helicopter trip here to see the dramatic red and green ridges, winding rivers and hidden waterfalls. Glide along the Wailua River by kayak, zipline over lush valleys, or hike through Kōkee State Park. On the south shore, stroll through the stunning Allerton Botanical Garden, where Jurassic Park fans will recognise the famous Moreton Bay Fig Trees.



HAWAIIAN ADVENTURE

Getting around

Getting around Hawai'i is easy and stress-free, making it the perfect destination for exploration. We recommend some fantastic options for your trip—here's our advice to help you make the most of it!



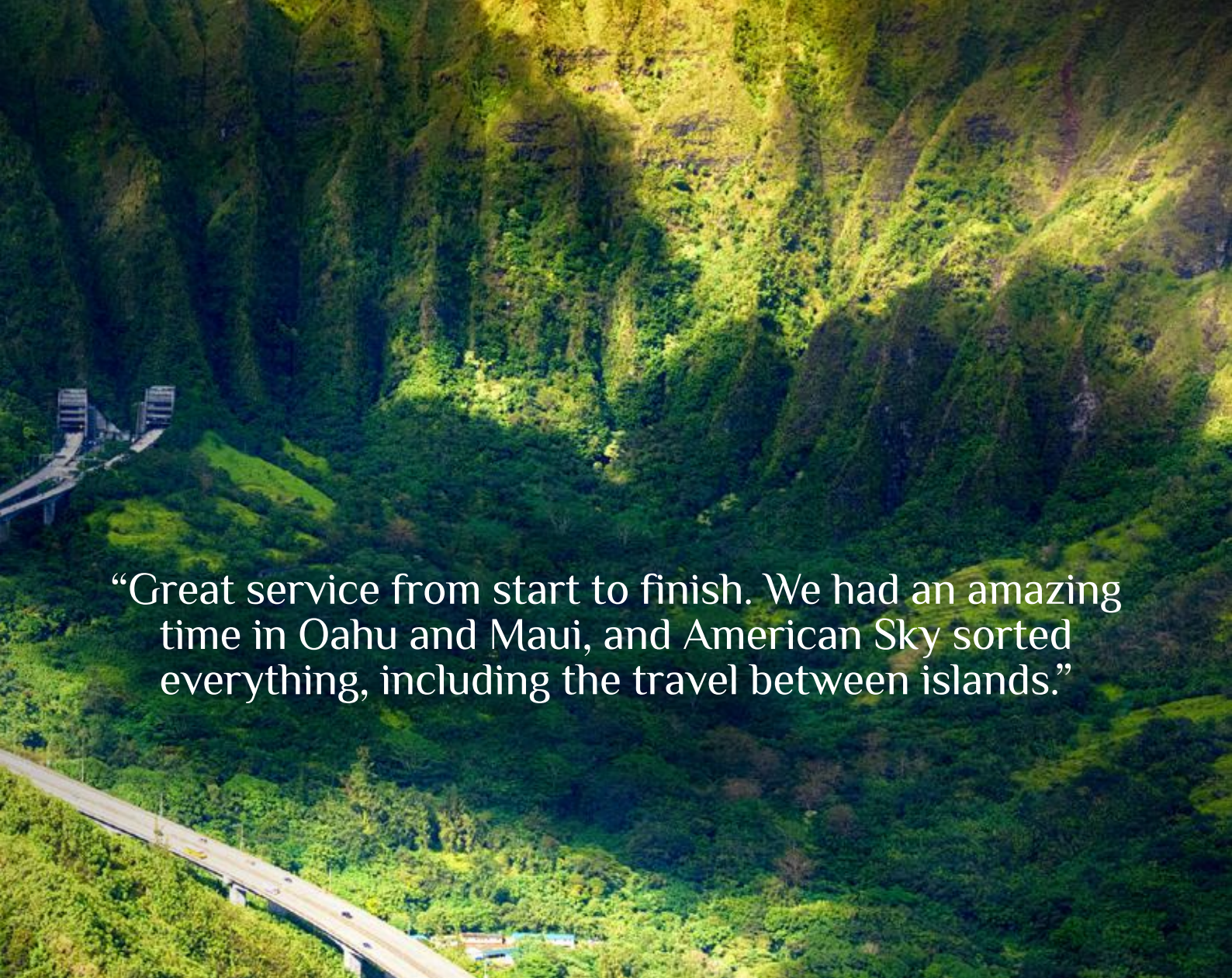
Self-drive by car

Hiring a car is a great way to explore more of Hawai'i, whether Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui or Hawai'i Island. Roads are easy to navigate, traffic is light, and the ocean views are unforgettable. With great value and flexibility, a self-drive lets you explore at your own pace. Combine a few days' car hire with guided activities and excursions for the perfect Hawaiian escape.

Escorted tours

Escorted tours are the easiest way to see all the best sights and visit multiple islands. You will travel in comfort and be secure in the knowledge that your tour manager, who will be with you from beginning to end, will take care of all the details. These tours are a great way to meet new friends while exploring Hawai'i with a group of like-minded people.





“Great service from start to finish. We had an amazing time in Oahu and Maui, and American Sky sorted everything, including the travel between islands.”

Domestic flights

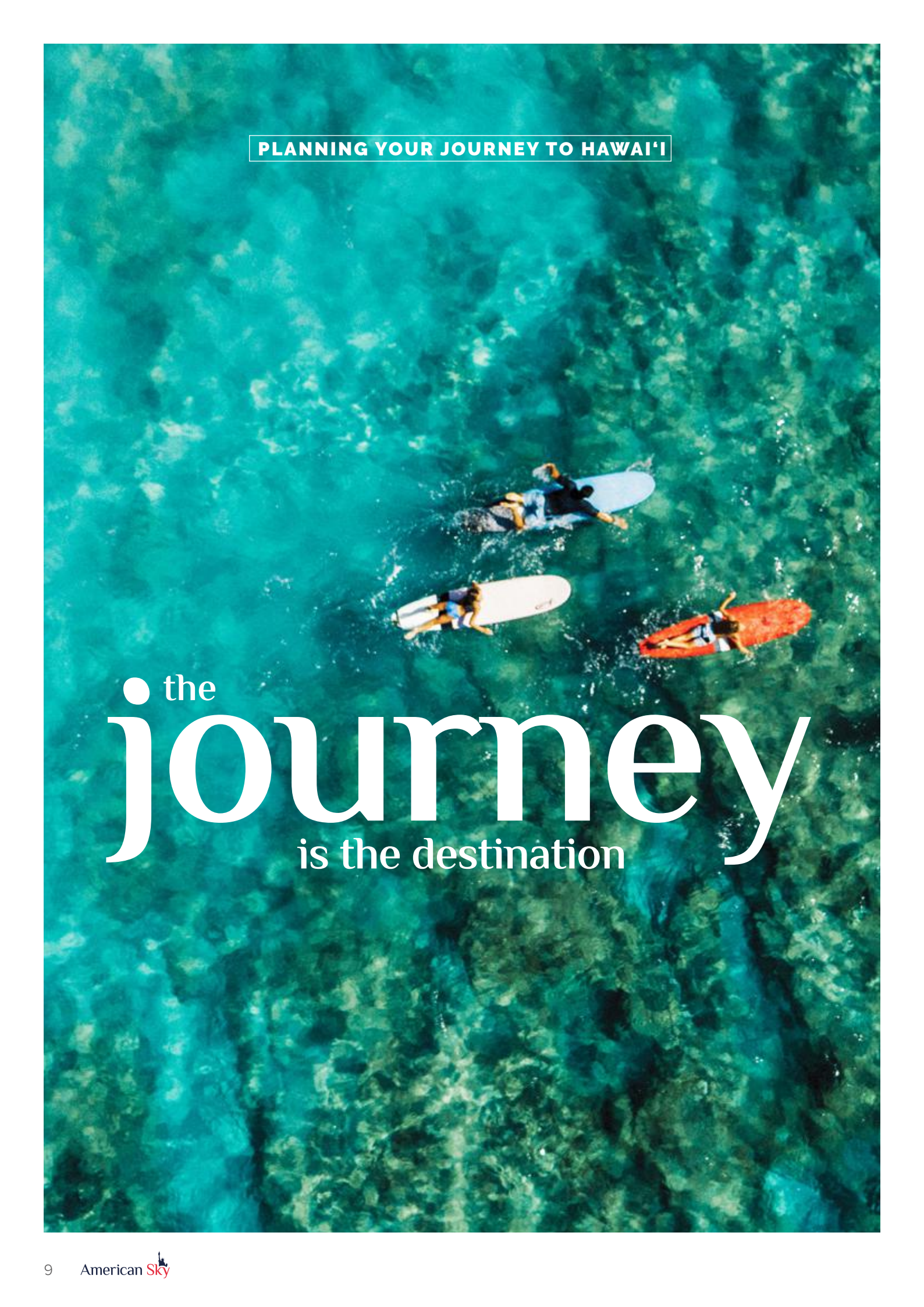
We would highly recommend visiting more than one island when in Hawai'i, as each offers a unique experience different from the rest, and flights between the islands are frequent and efficient. There are hundreds of inter-island flights every day, and so it's simple to slot this into your itinerary and make the most of your time in Hawai'i.



Cruises

A cruise around the islands is a wonderful way to experience the many sides of Hawai'i. Combining comfort with adventure, it allows you to explore the islands in style. From relaxing on white-sand beaches and hiking volcanic peaks to snorkelling in crystal-clear waters, each shore excursion reveals a new facet of Hawai'i's natural beauty. Best of all, you only need to unpack once.



An aerial photograph of three surfers riding waves on vibrant turquoise water. The surfers are positioned diagonally across the frame, with one on a white surfboard at the top, one on a white surfboard in the middle, and one on a red surfboard at the bottom. The water's surface is textured with ripples and small waves, creating a dynamic background for the text.

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY TO HAWAII

● the
journey
is the destination



We believe a trip to Hawai'i isn't complete without a stop along the way. With no direct flights, it's the perfect excuse to add another amazing destination – perhaps Los Angeles, San Francisco or Vancouver – making the journey part of the adventure, not just the route.

Taking a break in another destination can turn that long flight into a series of exciting mini-adventures, helping you recharge and avoid fatigue. On your way to Hawai'i, you can stop off at Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Vancouver, and several other north American cities. A few nights in one of these places can make all the difference, allowing you to feel refreshed after exploring another fantastic destination, combining the culture and natural beauty of Hawai'i and a vibrant city all in a single itinerary.

The same goes for the way back, San Francisco is a great stop to soak up more adventure before heading home. Explore the city on foot or try one of the famous cable cars whilst visiting some of the most iconic sites in America, including the Golden

Gate Bridge. An extra few days could be just what you need to extend your holiday vibes before heading back. The flight to Hawai'i is often further than people expect, and many of our customers who've upgraded their flights on this long journey say it's well worth it. While they wouldn't usually choose it, the ability to lie down and enjoy premium services made the journey much more restful, leaving them recharged and ready to enjoy the adventure ahead or the downtime on the way back.

“American Sky helped us plan the perfect trip. Starting with a few days in San Francisco to get over the jet lag, then on to the stunning green landscapes of Kaua’i. Everything ran smoothly, and the whole holiday just worked really well for us.”

Cultural etiquette

Always stay on marked trails and do not remove lava rocks or sand, the land is sacred to Native Hawaiians. Dress modestly and keep noise levels low when visiting sacred sites.

Travel tips

The primary languages are English and Hawaiian, with English being widely spoken and understood. Use reef-safe sunscreen to protect your skin and coral reefs. The currency is the US Dollar. Tipping is customary, around 20% at restaurants and a few dollars for hotel staff and tour guides. Most Hawai'i hotels, like those across the mainland USA, are based on a room-only basis, allowing you to explore local dining at your leisure.

Communication tips

- Hello – Aloha
- Thank you – Mahalo
- Welcome – Komo mai
- Until we meet again – A hui hou



Cruise inspiration



Embrace the spirit of the sea on this suggested 10-day island-hopping cruise itinerary. From dramatic cliffs to golden beaches, each stop brings a new adventure, and we tailor every itinerary to you.

DAY 1-4: Stopover on journey to Hawai'i

Many US cities connect directly to Honolulu, O'ahu, making it easy to turn that long journey into an epic experience. Fly direct to Los Angeles and enjoy a few days of glitz and glamour in Hollywood, soaking up the sun on the beaches of Southern California or buzzing around the parks of Disneyland and Universal Studios.

DAY 5-7: O'ahu

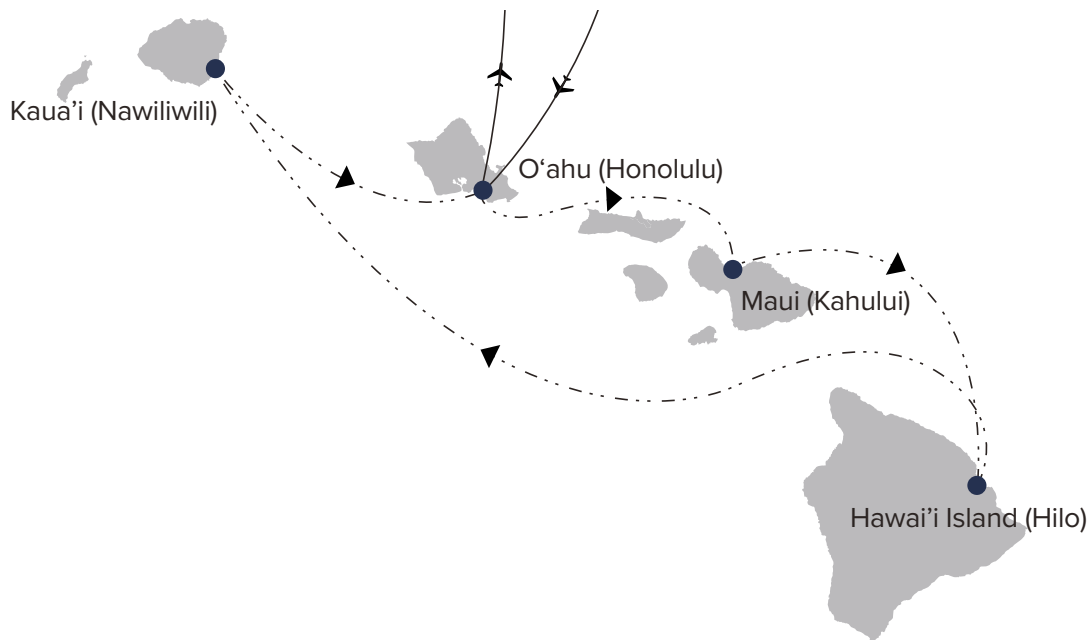
Your Hawaiian escape begins with three unforgettable nights on vibrant O'ahu. After landing in Honolulu, unwind at your hotel or set off to explore the island's mix of city buzz and island beauty. With two full days, the island is yours to discover, whether guided tours or independent exploration suits your style. Relax on the golden sands of Waikiki, stroll palm-lined boulevards, or sample island flavours in lively Honolulu. History and culture lovers will enjoy Pearl Harbor and Iolani Palace, while those seeking adventure can hike up Diamond Head for sweeping coastal views.

DAY 8: Board the cruise

Spend your final morning on O'ahu at leisure, perhaps a gentle walk along the beach and a chance to pick up souvenirs from local boutiques. In the afternoon, make your way to Honolulu's cruise terminal, where your ship awaits. Once aboard, take time to get acquainted with the ship. Explore inviting lounges and deck spaces, browse through shops, or check the schedule for entertainment and activities. As evening falls, savour a delicious dinner in one of the ship's restaurants, then watch from deck as the city lights fade into the distance and your voyage into the Pacific begins.

DAY 9-10: Maui

Spend two days in Maui, an island of romance and natural splendour. Disembark your cruise ship and discover these varied landscapes. Drive past lush rainforests, cascading waterfalls and dramatic coastal cliffs on the Road to Hana, before visiting Haleakalā National Park where you



can journey to the summit as sunrise paints the sky in unforgettable hues. For ocean lovers, Molokini Crater is a snorkelling paradise, its crescent-shaped reef alive with tropical fish and coral reefs, while Lahaina's historic whaling town invites you to explore art galleries, cafés, and shops. With an overnight stay in Kahului, you'll have time to blend guided adventures with moments of quiet discovery, letting Maui's mix of beauty and charm unfold at your own pace.

DAY 11-12: Hawai'i Island

Cruise to Hawai'i Island for days seven and eight, where landscapes are as diverse as they are dramatic. Explore Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, marvel at steaming craters, hardened lava fields, and ancient lava tubes that tell the story of the Earth's power in motion. Journey inland to the lush rainforests of Akaka Falls, or head west to Kona, where black-sand beaches and fertile valleys meet crystal-clear seas. Spend the day snorkelling among dazzling reef fish, join a tour of a traditional coffee farm, or simply relax with ocean views as your backdrop. Whether immersed in adventure or simply relaxing with ocean views, Hawai'i Island is unforgettable.

DAY 13-14: Kaua'i

Your final port, Kaua'i, is often called the "Garden Isle" for its dramatic scenery and lush beauty. Stand in awe before Waimea Canyon, with its red cliffs and deep valleys, offers views that rival any landscape in the Pacific. Glide along the Wailua River to hidden waterfalls or lift off on a helicopter tour for breathtaking views of the Na Pali Coast, where emerald cliffs plunge into turquoise seas. As evening falls, set out on a sunset cruise along this same rugged shoreline. With the golden light illuminating secluded beaches and jagged ridges, it's the perfect finale to your Hawaiian odyssey.

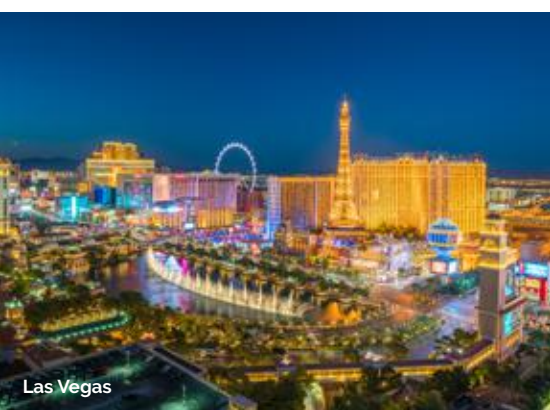
DAY 15-18: Stopover on journey home

On your way home, from Kaua'i via Honolulu, why not stopover in Las Vegas – Entertainment Capital of the World. Enjoy a spectacular show, browse the endless shopping opportunities, marvel on a night flight over the strip and take your chances in the casinos. You could even tick one more thing off your bucket-list and take a day trip to the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon.





Independent island-hopping inspiration



This independent island-hopping adventure begins with a perfectly placed stopover before you arrive in Hawai'i. Start in a vibrant US city, then continue to the islands for a seamless blend of discovery and relaxation. Every itinerary can be tailored just for you.

DAY 1-4: Stopover en route to Hawai'i

There are excellent connections across the US to Hawai'i, so turn your journey into part of the holiday. Stop in San Francisco to explore its iconic waterfront and nearby Napa Valley vineyards, or drive the spectacular Pacific Coast Highway south to Los Angeles before flying on to Honolulu. Each option offers a fun, flexible start to your adventure.



DAY 5-6: O'ahu-Maui

Arrive in Honolulu on O'ahu, where golden sands, lively streets and oceanfront dining capture the essence of island life. Spend an evening on Waikīkī Beach, cocktail in hand, before flying to Maui – a tranquil island known for its natural beauty and laid-back pace. A traditional flower lei welcome sets the tone for your stay.

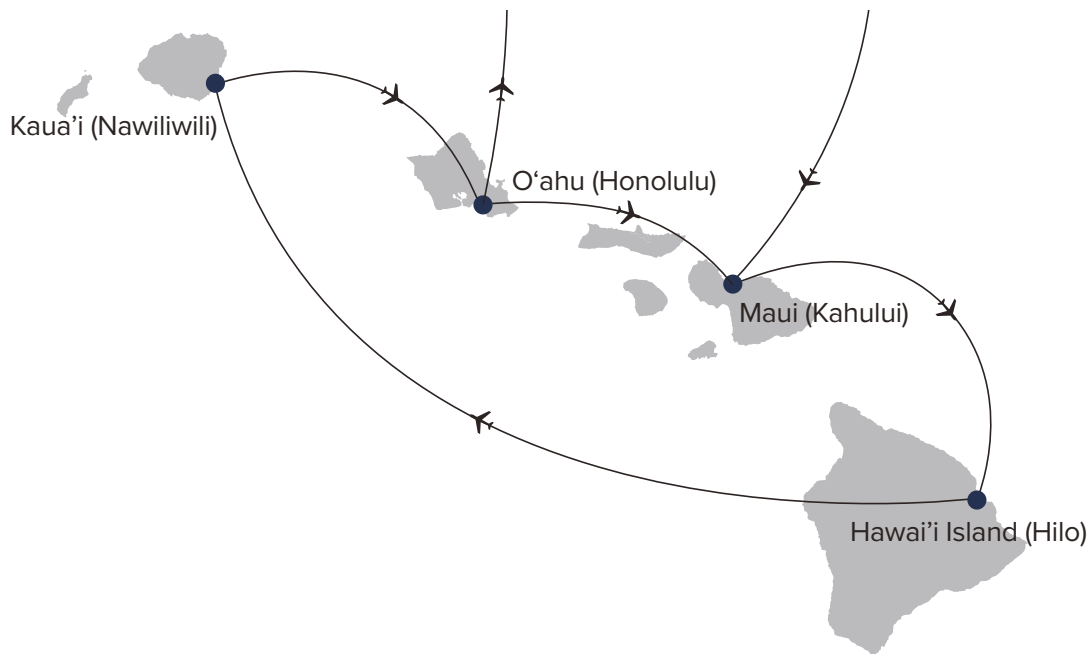
DAY 7-9: Maui

Discover the island's contrasting landscapes, from misty Īao Valley to the volcanic heights of Haleakalā. Rise early to watch the sunrise cast fiery colours across the clouds, or join a guided tour to explore local farms and taste Maui's regional cuisine. Afternoons invite you to unwind on golden beaches, swim in turquoise lagoons, or cruise the coast at sunset. Evenings are for traditional luaus, live music and starlit skies – pure island magic.



DAY 10-13: Hawai'i Island

Fly to Hilo on Hawai'i Island, where raw volcanic energy meets lush tropical landscapes. Explore Volcanoes National Park to see steaming craters, ancient lava tubes and black-sand beaches where sea turtles bask. Walk through the rainforest to Rainbow Falls or visit a local coffee farm in Kona to learn how the island's famous beans are roasted. Don't miss the evening ascent to Mauna Kea for world-class stargazing. With its rugged beauty and tranquil spirit, Hawai'i Island is an unforgettable mix of adventure and serenity.



DAY 14-16 Kaua'i

Arrive on Kaua'i, the "Garden Isle," and immerse yourself in lush greenery and unspoiled landscapes. Visit Waimea Canyon, often called the Grand Canyon of the Pacific, for sweeping vistas, or cruise the Wailua River through tropical forest to Fern Grotto. For a truly spectacular experience, take a helicopter flight above the Na Pali Coast or sail beneath its emerald cliffs at sunset. Evenings on Kaua'i are slow and soulful – think open-air dining, ocean breezes and glowing horizons.



DAY 17-18: O'ahu

Return to O'ahu for the perfect finale. Walk along lively Waikīkī Beach beneath the iconic Diamond Head crater or journey to the island's quieter side to see sacred valleys and legendary surf beaches. Visit Pearl Harbor for a poignant glimpse into history or explore Kualoa Ranch's cinematic landscapes. From Honolulu's vibrant nightlife to the rugged North Shore, O'ahu brings together Hawai'i's culture, scenery and aloha spirit in one dazzling finale.



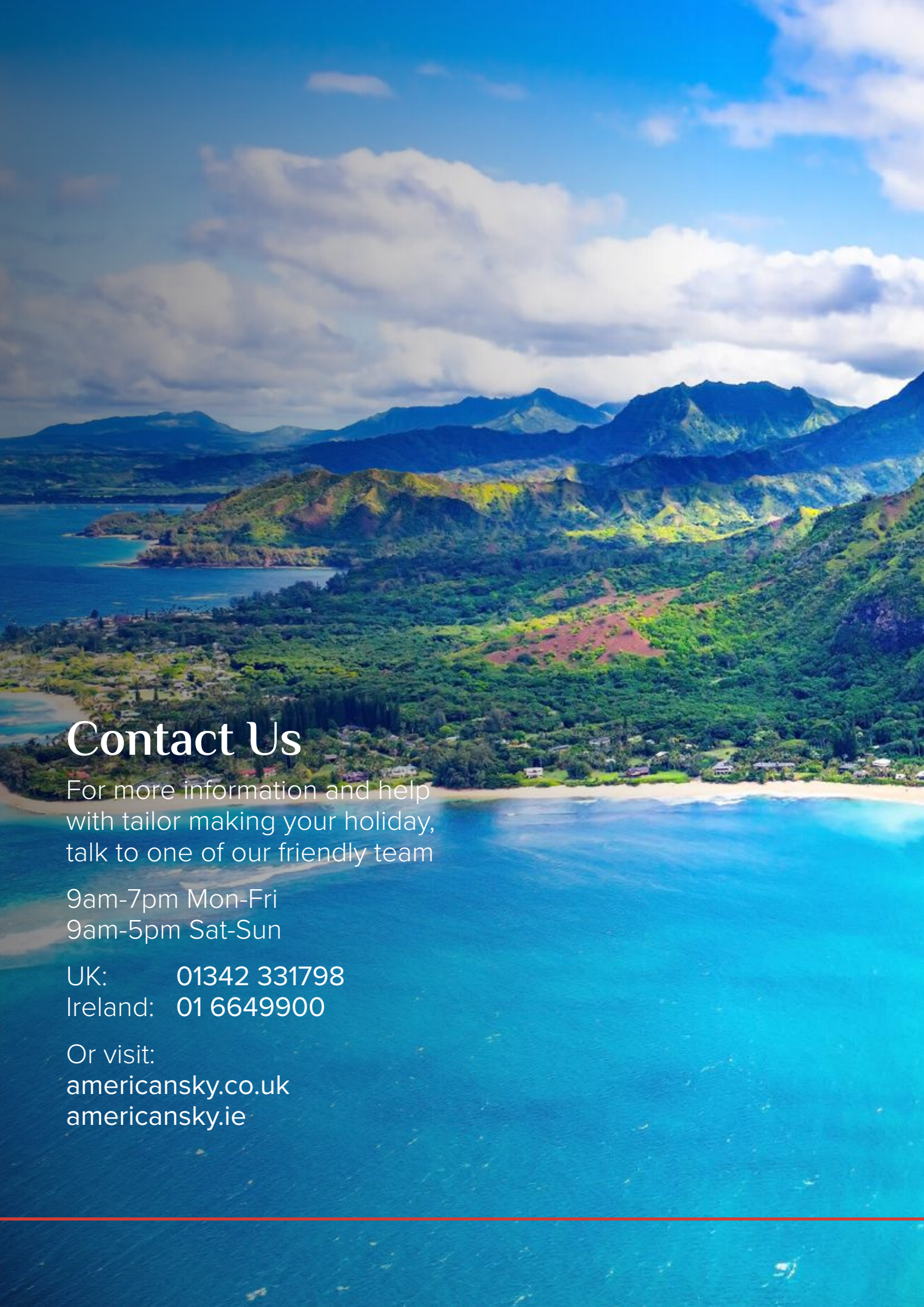
DAY 19-21: Stopover on the journey home

Make your return journey part of the experience with a relaxing stop in Vancouver, Canada. Stroll the scenic waterfront, cycle through Stanley Park, or enjoy local wines and Pacific Northwest cuisine. For something extra special, take a floatplane flight over the mountains and coastline – a breathtaking farewell before heading home.

Your dream Hawaiian journey awaits...

Every element of this itinerary can be personalised – from scenic road trips and island flights to extra nights or unique excursions. Whether you want to explore more, relax longer, or add extra destinations, our experts can tailor every detail to your pace and passions. Speak to us today and let your once-in-a-lifetime Hawaiian adventure begin.





Contact Us

For more information and help
with tailor making your holiday,
talk to one of our friendly team

9am-7pm Mon-Fri

9am-5pm Sat-Sun

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