

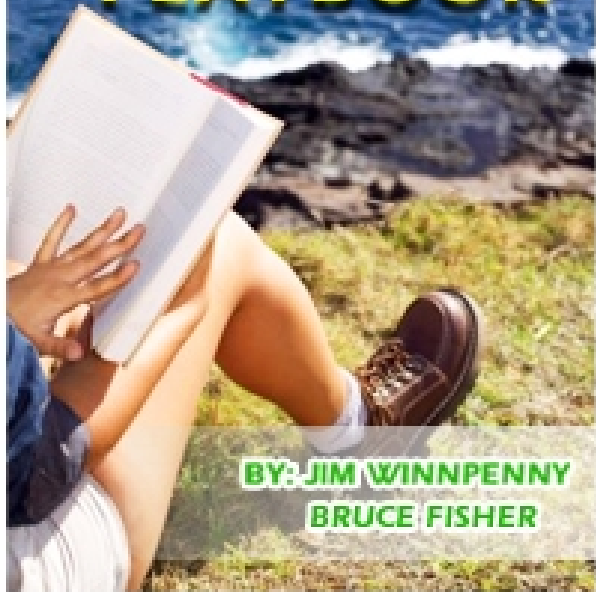
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The Hawaii Vacation Playbook

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HAWAII VACATION PLAYBOOK



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Lanai, The Enticing Isle

Only 3,000 people live on this little island. It has just one town, Lanai City, yet it boasts two award-winning resorts, the Lodge at Koele (upcountry) and the Manele Bay Hotel (on the ocean). The golf (two courses) is wonderful, and there are fine restaurants to choose among.

Comb Shipwreck Beach (Kaiolohia Bay) and try the swimming and snorkeling at Hulopoe Beach Park. You can reserve a court at the Manele Tennis Center or go on a horseback excursion from the stables near the lodge. Take a four-wheel-drive vehicle to the unique rock formations at The Gardens of the Gods (Keahikawelo). Peace, quiet and luxury. It's a beautiful escape.

7 Try Another Island ... but Wisely! ((1 p.))

As often as not, vacationers reach their islands of choice, then consider spending time on another island or two. They get on the Internet, make some decisions and re-tool the rest of their vacations.

There's a better way to do it.

To begin with, you should have planned your entire vacation with a travel agent who is based in Hawaii and who knows the islands intimately. An open secret among travel agents is that they can get better deals – save you more money – if they package everything you do. That takes planning and reserving up front, and it's worth the effort! Otherwise, you're doing everything *ad hoc*, buying everything *a la carte*, and limiting your options because some things you'd like to do are unavailable when you want to do them.

These islands – each and every one – are filled with wonders and adventures. Enjoy as many of them as you can without wasting your precious time and money. That's what Hawaii-based travel agents are here for.

8 Hawaii's A Nice Place to Vacation ... and Retire ((3 pp.))

The purpose of this Web site is to give you as much information as possible about visiting Hawaii, and to make arrangements for you when you've

decided to come. Most of the visitors to this site aren't looking to retire here, but we thought we'd pass along the following piece of news, which speaks well for our islands.

AARP has completed a report ranking the best cities in the nation in which to retire. Honolulu ranks second. We were a little surprised to see that Ann Arbor, Michigan tops the list. It gets COLD there in the winter! But Ann Arbor is a college town, and it's a hotbed of medical innovation. The University of Michigan Health Center is one of the largest university medical centers in the world. And AARP points out that college towns are full of young people, and younger residents often create a demand for lifestyle perks such as bike paths and accessible fitness programs, which benefit all members of a community.

The physical aspects of the communities evaluated (clean air and water, for instance) were factors in the rankings, as were the health and habits of the people who live there. AARP notes that if you live near a hiking-and-biking trail and all your neighbors use it, you'll probably use it, too. If a farmers' market is just down the street, you're likely to eat more fruits and vegetables. If your city has multiple hospitals, there's a good chance you'll get superior medical care. Honolulu scores high in all respects.

Honolulu's warm weather and scenery encourage residents to spend more time exercising than do people in almost any other city in the survey, and those of us who live here enjoy one of the highest life expectancy rates. This is an outdoor life, all year round.

And, in spite of Honolulu's relatively high cost of living (We call it the "sunshine tax"), experts say other economic strengths—a very low unemployment rate, for instance—can offset that drawback. According to AARP, we residents benefit from Honolulu's commitment to preserving the island, with strict growth limits, sustainable-tourism efforts, and programs to protect views and the shoreline.

Sarah Yuan, an expert on aging at the University of Hawaii, pointed out for AARP that Hawaiians embrace growing older. We feel more natural about aging, and we have a lot of respect for our elders, and our older people have a high status.

And we really do remind each other every day, "Lucky you live Hawaii!"

9 The Idea of Moving to Hawaii

It must be nice. It's being reported that actor Owen Wilson is moving to Hawaii. He made a couple of movies here, likes the place and decided to move here. Just like that. Why not? He's not the first celebrity to do so. Roseanne Barr, Drew Barrymore, Pierce Brosnan, Kelsey Grammar, Woody Harrelson and Oprah Winfrey all have done the same thing recently.

The thought occurs to just about everyone who visits the islands that living here would be great ... if. Those celebrities work wherever their work takes them and can "live" anywhere they choose. They can afford to. "Average" people enjoy the thought, consider the cost, and usually dismiss the idea almost immediately.

Not so fast. Average people do move to Hawaii regularly. The people who find it easiest to move here are the rich (of course), military personnel, and younger