

CREATE YOUR OWN LEI

*Lei po'o (headwear) has been part of Hawaiian culture since early Polynesian settlement. Craft one and tune into nature's soothing sounds—in a meditative workshop with **ECO MINDFUL LEI** on Waikiki Beach, O'ahu.*



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HEART OF HULA

Plan a trip around the week-long **MERRIE MONARCH FESTIVAL**. Held in Hilo, Island of Hawai'i, the prestigious hula competition attracts the finest dancers. The synchronised performances are so precise it's as though they move as one. There's also a hive of free daily entertainment.



MO'OMEHEU (CULTURE)

From the art of hula to sailing on a traditional Polynesian canoe, immerse yourself in the cultural heart of Hawai'i.

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LEHUA WAIPA AH NEE (HULA DANCERS), TOR JOHNSON (PEARL HARBOUR)



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PEARL HARBOUR'S TEARS

On 7 December 1941, O'ahu changed forever when Japanese fighter planes pounded the island's naval base at Pearl Harbour in a surprise attack. Visit the five historical sites, including the sunken hull of **USS ARIZONA**, which still leaks oil-slick tears as though remembering those who were lost.



O'AHU'S INDIGENOUS SAILING EXPERIENCE

Jump aboard **KAMOAAULI**, a traditional wooden 46-foot double-hulled Polynesian sailing canoe. Certified by the US Coast Guard, this floating cultural classroom is the only one of its kind worldwide.

What began as a napkin sketch in a restaurant in 2017 has now become a successful, sustainable and educational venture. While Kamoauli's ethos is show-and-tell based, they also have a wider reach empowering local youth and communities to uphold their legacy in looking after the environment.

Embrace Kamoauli's *aloha* spirit by booking a sunset voyage and sailing away while listening to *mo'elelo* stories; these myths and legends are the unyielding fabric that's knitted Hawaiians together for centuries. As the dedicated crew weave you along Honolulu's picturesque waterways you'll be regaled with ancestral knowledge from the storied landscape. Sit back as the sun sets while tasting farm-to-deck dining and hearing the *kiho'alu* (slack key guitar), 'ukelele and Hawaiian folk music.

This deeply cultural experience threads in hula and hands-on activities, revealing an authentic window into native traditions and beliefs. The ceremonial sunset *'oli* (chant) echoes long after the canoe docks.

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COFFEE CULTURE

Get a caffeine hit at O'ahu's **KONA COFFEE CULTURAL FESTIVAL**.

For 10 days, with over 20 scheduled events, it's not just about the coffee bean; artisans, cultural demonstrations, exhibitions and farm-based experiences all feature in a fabulous line-up.



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A LŪ'AU FEST

*Be immersed in a spectacular lū'au at **WALEA BEACH RESORT**, Maui. Dine under the stars while listening to ancestral stories about romance, early voyages and nurturing nature told through ancient song and dance.*



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Kaua'i's healing sanctuary

*Experience a mini-pilgrimage at **LAWAI INTERNATIONAL CENTER**. Nestled in Lawai Valley's forested landscape, 88 shrines built on a hillside replicate 88 temples on a spiritual 1150-kilometre walk in Shikoku, Japan. The sanctuary, sitting on an ancient Hawaiian temple site, embraces the true aloha spiri and welcomes all who visit.*

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ROYAL LIFE

Built in 1882 by King Kalakaua, **IOLANI PALACE** on O'ahu was the home of Hawai'i's last reigning monarchs. Today, it's a registered National Historic Landmark, a reminder of Hawaiian national identity. It's open to visitors from Tuesday to Saturday.





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CELEBRATING HULA

In the early 1800s, hula was forbidden by missionaries who believed dance was a pagan act; they also banned Hawaiian language and cultural art forms. Determined to keep their culture alive, Hawaiians performed hula in secret until it was deemed legal years later.

Kaua'i now celebrates the ancient joy of hula every Thursday at 12.30pm with a free show at the **NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN**. Arrive early, lie back under a tree and absorb the welcoming soulful chant sung by master hula teacher Leinā'ala Pavao Jardin. Accompanied by two performers who dance ancient and modern hula, Leinā'ala tells emotive stories about the hardships her people endured, from which came an unwavering strength and unity.

Before and after the show (10am to 2pm), browse an array of stalls at **ALOHA MARKET**. You'll find everything from handmade jewellery and art to sweet treats and fresh farm produce. Later, take tours exploring Allerton, Kahanu, Limahuli, McBryde and The Kampong Gardens to appreciate the National Tropical Botanical Garden's extensive plant life. You'll also learn how Indigenous knowledge is blended with scientific research to preserve the largest collection of native Hawaiian plant species in the world. ●

