



Hawaii Lights

**50 things
to do on the islands**

Individual travel tips from Hawaii-expert Florian Krauss



„The only place you've ever been is on foot.“
(Johann Wolfgang v. Goethe)

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Foreword

Dear reader,

For good reason, the Hawaiian Islands are associated with paradise. The sweet smell of the South Seas. Dream beaches, palm trees, surfers, sun, warm water and tanned island beauties dancing the flowery hula. Lightly dressed tourists sipping Mai Tai.

The natural attractions of Hawaii have never failed to captivate me. Above and below the water. The paradise on earth makes even dreams fade away. Nature has showered the remote chain of islands with its most beautiful inventions. On Hawaii you find something that can hardly be described in words. It is an energy, a mood, an attitude towards life, which makes me come back again and again.

The chain of islands has much more to offer than palm trees and water sports. Nowhere in the world do the 4 elements play more with each other than in Hawaii. Just like on Big Island: born of fire, formed by wind and waves. Spitting volcanoes. Snow on the peaks of the 4000-metre mountains. 11 different climate zones on one island. Summer temperatures all year round. Black, white, red and even green beaches. And of course, rain here and there. „No rain, no rainbow. No rain, no waterfalls.“ That’s a Hawaiian saying.

On Oahu’s North Shore the surfing elite meet on the islands during the winter months from October to February and ride the biggest and most beautiful waves.

Oahu is an Island with over a million inhabitants in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and includes Waikiki Beach, one of the most famous beaches in the world.

On the Road to Hana on Maui, the most beautiful and exciting coastal road on the island boasts 620 curves, countless waterfalls and lonely beaches. Haleakala is the biggest volcanic crater in the world, which shines like a moon landscape in all imaginable colors.

Kauai, the garden isle has untouched and unique natural worlds, endemic animals and plants, legendary hiking trails through colorful canyons and steep cliffs. It has been the background of many blockbusters like „Jurassic Park“, „King Kong“ or „6 Days, 7 Nights“. The Kalalau Trail is one of the most beautiful but also most challenging hiking trails in the USA, offers a unique challenge, which ends at the world-famous Kalalau Beach. Kauai is a very special island far away from big cities and mass tourism.

Molokai is authentic. It has lonely beaches, as well as Father Damien's leprosy colony on Kalaupapa Peninsula, which can only be reached by helicopter, mule or on foot.

Why this guide? When there are already countless travel guides or illustrated books about the Hawaiian Islands?

I like to share my enthusiasm about Hawaii and tell those who are not sure to visit this paradise, Hawaii does not have to bankrupt you. Although there are travel guides and English-language editions like „50 things to do on Oahu“ or „Ultimate Guidebook“ (which I highly recommend), German Guides with a personalized point of view are rare. The feeling in Hawaii is encompassing a fantastic beauty and perfection of nature and inhabitants. I have seen and experienced a lot in 28 weeks in Hawaii and I am excited to

share my insider knowledge. Last but not least, my guide is small, light and handy and fits in every travel bag. My first book „Lavaflow - Adventures in Hawaii“, on the other hand, is too big and too heavy and serves more as a travel preparation or as an „appetizer“.

I am happy to pass on my tips. Many of them are just not in the conventional travel guides. This guidebook shows the 50 most important highlights in Hawaii: From spectacular hikes to the active lava flows of the volcano Kilauea, to helicopter flights on the garden island Kauai, to the loneliest beaches, which often cannot be found in any travel guide. Even insider tips on bakeries or local restaurants are included. The map cut-outs allow you to find the „Hawaiilight“.

Please note, that some hiking trails or roads may be closed temporarily due to rainfall or new lava flows. That should be asked once you arrive on the islands.

More free island maps for further orientation are available at the airports. GPS files for hiking apps or similar can be requested from me. Just contact me at www.lavaflow.de.

The 50 tips are listed in random order. It is therefore up to you to decide what you would like to call your personal „Hawaiilight“.

Have fun exploring!

Aloha and Mahalo,

Florian Krauss

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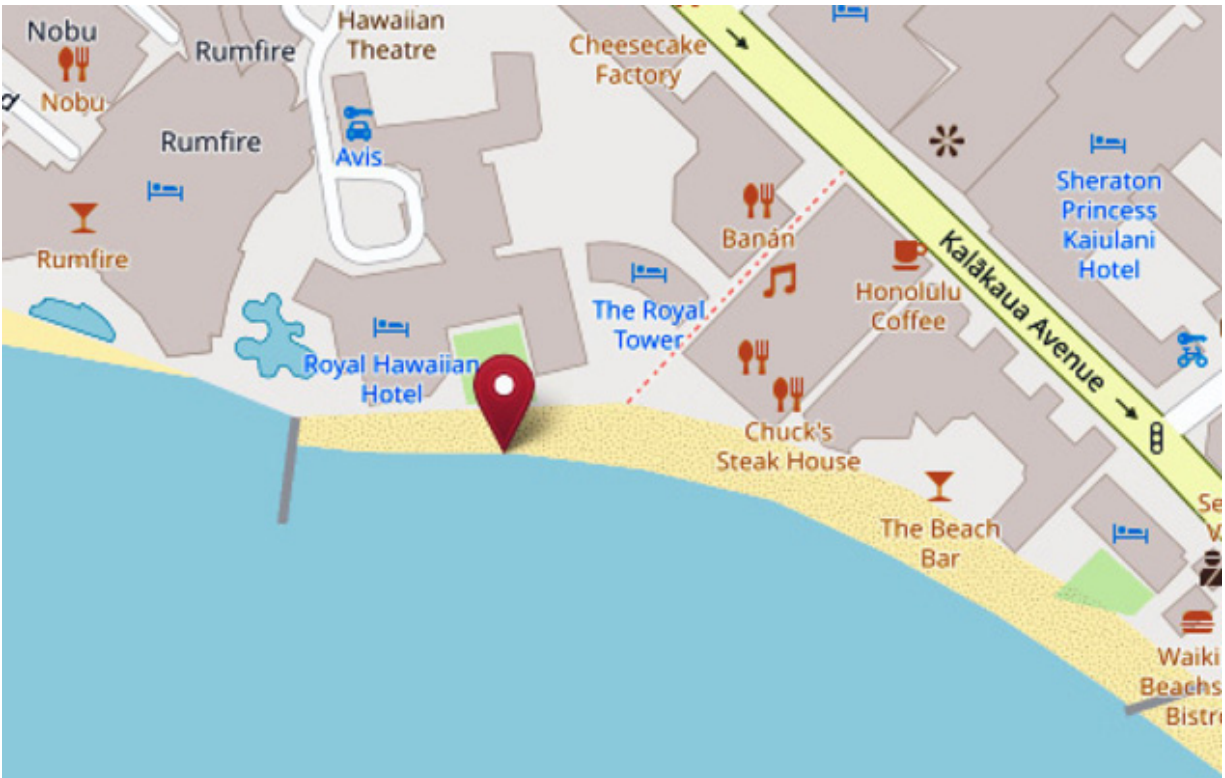
1. Waikiki Sunset Cruise

Hawaii is expensive. But not always. An extremely touristic affair is the daily sunset cruise in front of the skyscraper scenery of Waikiki. But it doesn't matter. It's still great and I do it every time I am in Waikiki.

What makes the Sunset Cruise so special? For sure also the price. For about 25 dollars you can sail in the gentle surf of the Pacific Ocean in front of the skyline of Waikiki. All soft drinks, cocktails and beer are included. Something very special are the spectacular sunsets, which are abundant in the south of the island.

Plus the surfers in the evening sun. Small tip: Best on Fridays, because afterwards there are fireworks in Waikiki.

Why? Because it's „Aloha-Friday“.



Departure depending on the season between 4.00 and 5.00 pm at the beach restaurant „Duke’s“ next to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel „Pink Palace“. The „first come, first serve“ principle applies: Whoever comes first is on the boat. Payment is made in cash at the beach. Duration: about 2 hours.

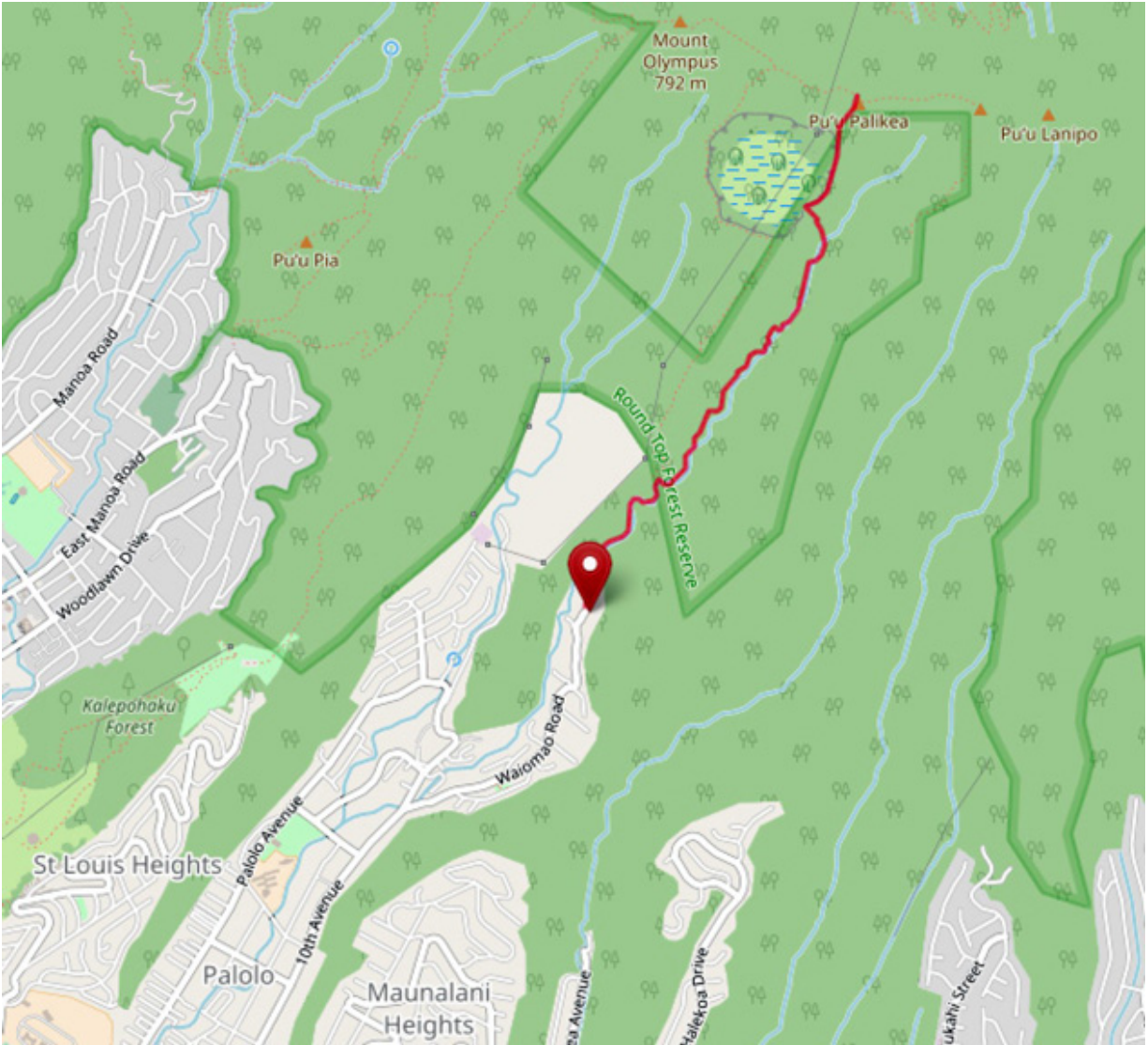




2. Kaau Crater Trail

Certainly one of the most strenuous but also spectacular tours on Oahu. The Kaau Crater Trail offers waterfalls and sensational views over the south and east of the island.

Again and again you cross the Waiomao Stream, pull yourself over a waterfall with attached ropes and finally hike on a narrow ridge up to Puu Palikea, from where you can enjoy a magnificent view over the greater Honolulu area and over the entire east.



Length: 4.3 miles, about 500 meters altitude difference, surefootedness and sturdy shoes are required. Directions: Via 10th Avenue in the Palolo district, turn right into Waiomao Road and park at the end of the street.

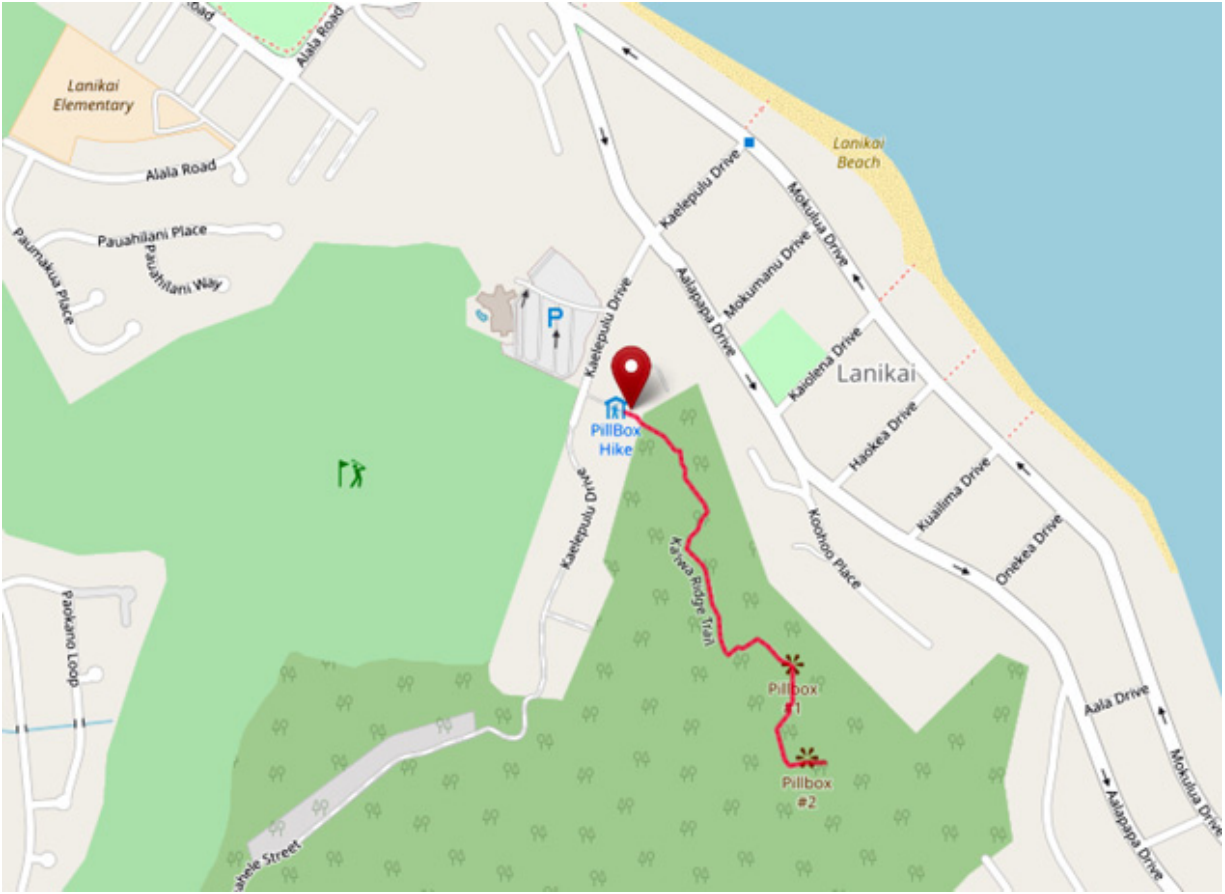




3. Pillbox Sunrise Hike

The Pillbox Hike, also called Kaiwa Ridge Trail, offers a nice start into the day. The views are most beautiful in the early morning hours, when the sun rises between the Mokolua Islands and shows the ocean in its most beautiful turquoise colours. The island has something very virgin magic in the morning, which gets lost during the day when the sun is high.

The Hike is more a walk than a hike, because after about 30 minutes you are already up at the Pillbox Bunker, from where you can enjoy a great view of the 3 dream beaches Waimanalo Bay, Kailua Beach and Lanikai Beach.



Depending on the season you should start between 5.00 and 5.30 a.m. to be on time for the sunrise. Duration: about 2 hours.

