

Notable Neighborhood Eats

VENTURE INTO OAHU'S LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR A UNIQUE TASTE OF HAWAII. THE OAHU EATS GUIDE FOCUSES ON RESTAURANTS WITHIN EASY REACH OF HAWAII'S LARGEST RESORT ZONE WAIKIKI. THIS BONUS SECTION DIVES A LITTLE DEEPER INTO SOME OF THE ISLAND'S MOST NOTABLE NEIGHBORHOOD EATS.



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Ala Moana

ALA MOANA IS DOMINATED BY ALA MOANA CENTER, AMERICA'S LARGEST OUTDOOR MALL. IT'S HAWAII'S PREMIER SHOPPING DESTINATION WITH OVER 340 STORES, JUST A 5-MINUTE DRIVE FROM WAIKIKI.

AFTER SHOPPING UP A STORM, HIT UP ONE OF 160 DINING OPTIONS! THE MAKAI MARKET FOOD COURT (OAHU'S BIGGEST FOOD COURT) AND THE LANAI FOOD COURT ARE BOTH GREAT, OR REFUEL AT ONE OF OUR TOP PICKS.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Shop at Macy's, Bloomingdales, Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom major retailers
- Bag a bargain at Ross, Marshalls, and Saks OFF FIFTH discount stores
- Nerd out at bookseller Barnes & Noble
- Explore the LEGO Store
- Sneak in a drink at the bar inside Foodland Farms supermarket

JADE DYNASTY

[Ala Moana Center](#)

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[@jadedynastyseafoodrestaurant](#)



A Chinese restaurant on the 4th floor offering dim sum (yum cha) with fresh-to-order plates from \$2.95. Expect to put your name down for a table, it's popular. The menu reflects the best of Chinese dishes, trusty favorites and Chef recommended items.

SEE ALSO OAHU EATS GUIDE: Goma Tei Ramen (45), Makai Market (26) and The Lanai (27) Food Courts, Liliha Bakery (48), Ichiriki Nabe (32), Don e Don (52), SomiSomi (43).

OLIVE GARDEN

[Ala Moana Center](#)

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[@olivegardenhi](#)



This Italian chain restaurant replaced Bubba Gump on the 4th floor. This is Hawaii's first Olive Garden and it's not unusual to see a lunchtime line out the door. The free buttery breadsticks and side salad are a nice addition to their indulgent Italian meals.

RUSCELLO

[Ala Moana Center](#)

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[@ruscellohawaii](#)



Pause for a meal on Ruscello's gorgeous open-air balcony located inside Nordstrom. This department store restaurant celebrates the sunny flavors of the Mediterranean, from soups, salads and sandwiches, to pasta and pizza. A hearty choice.

Diamond Head

DIAMOND HEAD, ON WAIKIKI'S DOORSTOP, IS THE SUBURB BORDERING THE DORMANT VOLCANO OF THE SAME NAME. I'VE CALLED THIS PLACE HOME FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS AND I LOVE IT!

IT'S ANCHORED BY MONSARRAT AVENUE, STRETCHING FROM THE EAST END OF WAIKIKI BEACH TO THE DIAMOND HEAD CRATER ENTRANCE. THERE ARE LOTS OF COOL THINGS TO DO ON THIS STREET.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike the Diamond Head Summit Trail for incredible views over Waikiki Beach
- KCC Farmers Market (Sat 7:30-11am)
- Grab a great coffee and peruse the rotating art exhibit inside Ars Cafe
- Get a mani-pedi at Creative Nails salon
- Try natural organic fruit shave ice at Monsarrat Shave Ice (Sat-Sun 11am-4pm)

ALLEGRINI

[3045 Monsarrat Ave, Diamond Head](#)

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[@littleitalyhawaii](#)



A little Italy in Hawaii. Authentic food made by Italian native Pasquale. The number one fan choice is the lasagna. There's also fifteen pizzas to choose from, generously topped with only the best local and imported ingredients. The tiramisu dessert is sensational.

SEE ALSO OAHU EATS GUIDE: *Diamond Head Market & Grill (48), South Shore Grill (18).*

DA COVE HEALTH BAR

[3045 Monsarrat Ave, Diamond Head](#)

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[@dacovehawaii](#)



'Live Healthier, Be Happier' is Da Cove's motto. A menu full of goodness from acai and pitaya bowls, to fruit juices and smoothies, green salads, healthy wraps and sandwiches. The chili ahi bun is so good, a seared ahi baguette with tomato jam and tapenade.

PIONEER SALOON

[3046 Monsarrat Ave, Diamond Head](#)

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[@pioneersaloonhawaii](#)



Yummy Japanese-style plate lunches. It's a saloon that also sells handmade vintage trinkets, takeout only at the moment. The menu is broad and includes dishes with seafood, beef, chicken, curry, vegetables and more. Prime rib available on the weekend.

Downtown Honolulu & Chinatown

DOWNTOWN HONOLULU AND CHINATOWN FORM OAHU'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, COMPLETE WITH SKYSCRAPERS, HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS, INCLUDING THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL.

FIND AN INTRIGUING ASSORTMENT OF CULTURAL SIGHTS, ECLECTIC SHOPS, FRESH FLOWER LEI STANDS, ART GALLERIES, CUTE CAFES, SOPHISTICATED RESTAURANTS, WINE BARS, FRIENDLY PUBS AND SO MUCH MORE.

HIGHLIGHTS

- View the Kamehameha I statue in front of the Hawaii State Supreme Court
- Take a guided tour of Iolani Palace
- Shop trendy clothing boutiques like Fighting Eel and Valia Honolulu
- Get caffeinated at Local Joe cafe
- For the authentic Chinatown experience head to Maunakea Marketplace

DONER SHACK

[79 S Pauahi St, Honolulu](#)

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[@donershackhi](#)



One of the few places to satisfy doner kebab cravings on Oahu, open Monday to Friday. Fill your doner kebab with chicken shawarma, lamb, beef or veggies, and top with yogurt garlic, balsamic vinaigrette, BBQ or hot sauce. Make it gourmet with add-ons like feta, hummus, olives and avocado.

SEE ALSO OAHU EATS GUIDE: *The Pig & The Lady (54), Little Village (53), Murphy's (53), Pai Honolulu (22), Pizza Mamo (57), Rangoon (53), Senia (22), J. Dolans (57).*

FETE

[2 N Hotel St, Honolulu](#)

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[@fetehawaii](#)



A brick-walled brasserie-style restaurant serving New American food.

The vibe is one part Hawaii and one part Brooklyn, with meals created around seasonality and rooted in the local farm-to-table movement. The food here is always delicious.

FOOK LAM

[100 N Beretania St, Honolulu](#)

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N/A



The best place for dim sum (yum cha) in Honolulu's Chinatown district.

Located in Chinatown Cultural Plaza, this place is legit Chinese food. Grab what you like off the carts, or order off the extensive menu (with handy photos) - everything from dumplings and short ribs to chicken feet.

Haleiwa

HALEIWA ON OAHU'S NORTH SHORE IS LAID BACK AND FEELS LIKE ONE OF HAWAII'S NEIGHBOR ISLANDS. IT'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF HONOLULU'S METROPOLIS ON OAHU'S SOUTH SHORE - LIKE NIGHT AND DAY.

IN WINTER (NOV-APR) SURF'S UP ON THE NORTH SHORE WITH WAVES AS HIGH AS 40FT (12M). AT THIS TIME, CATCH PROFESSIONAL SURFERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COMPETING IN SURFING EVENTS.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hang ten in the historic surf town of Haleiwa
- Shop local brands at Haleiwa Store Lots
- Visit North Shore beaches: Sunset Beach, Banzai Pipeline and Waimea Bay
- Hike to a waterfall in Waimea Valley
- Venture off the beaten track to Mokuleia Beach Park

HALEIWA BEACH HOUSE 🌊💙

[62-540 Kamehameha Hwy, Haleiwa](#)

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[@haleiwa_beach_house](#)



A breezy two-storey beach house known for epic dishes and superior sunsets.

Signature items are identified on the menu by a wave icon, such as, the tuna tartare and Kalua pork grilled cheese for starters and the spicy tuna club and loco moco for entree (main).

SEE ALSO OAHU EATS GUIDE: *North Shore Crepes (30).*

HALEIWA JOE'S 🌈💙

[66-011 Kamehameha Hwy, Haleiwa](#)

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[@haleiwajoes](#)



People come from miles for the prime rib (it sells out) and Sunday brunch.

This is Haleiwa Joe's original location boasting harbor views (the second is in Kaneohe). Try the paradise pie with Kona coffee ice cream, Oreo cookie crust, chocolate sauce and almonds.

TED'S BAKERY

[59-024 Kamehameha Hwy, Haleiwa](#)

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[@tedsbakeryhi](#)



The home of chocolate haupia cream pie. Hit Ted's up for pastries, cakes, donuts and pies, along with breakfast sandwiches, burgers and plate lunches. Popular items on the menu are the loco moco and garlic shrimp (includes a free slice of cream pie).