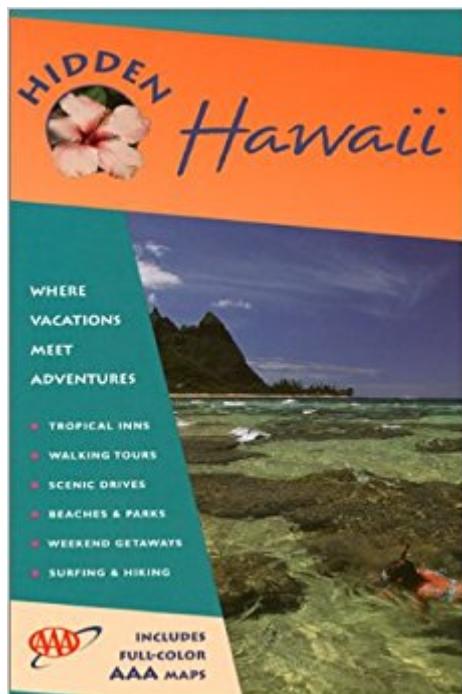


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# Hidden Hawaii



## **Synopsis**

Where vacations become adventures! The Hidden series combines descriptive reviews of little-known sights, small inns, and local restaurants with outdoor adventures and "hidden" locales to provide travelers alternatives to ordinary vacations. The goal of each title is to offer the traveler an authentic experience of local culture.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

>From lodging to local dining establishments, this provides off-the-beaten-path advice for any heading to any of the Hawaiian islands. There are plenty of general Hawaii travel books out there; but most feature better-known or tourist destinations. This examines offbeat choices which promise high-quality romance, seclusion, or exceptional regional experiences. The pointer markers for 'hidden' places help easily distinguish better-known from offbeat. -- Midwest Book Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I take great exception to the August 23 review from California. I have now purchased my third edition of Hidden Hawaii since I used the 1st edition for my first trip to Hawaii. The islands are certainly the most wonderful destination in the World, but I do think my intimate knowledge of the hidden pockets of paradise have actually made Hawaii better for us than it would have been. I can't count the number of times we've followed elaborate directions for miles into the wilderness to find ourselves under our own personal waterfall. And by the way, Garden of the Gods is in the book's

index. The text gives clear directions. It is also on the book's Lanai map.

The information contained in his books is inaccurate and biased. Not only is the Big Island the worse of all the islands to visit, it's Ray's favorite! I found that information from his first book was missing and it appeared that he was hiding the best places now. Don't bother going to there. I moved to the big island in 2006. The Kamaaina spirit has left Hawaii. It's not like it was back in 1984 when I first visited. The people are selfish and hateful. There is a movement called free hawaii . org that wants to take the star off of the USA flag. Only 7 percent of the population is actually native. Don't let your car break down and leave it. You'll come back with broken out windows and it full of beer bottles. Be careful on the beach after dark. The bathrooms on the beaches are absolutely hideous! For a state that relies on tourism you'd think they would clean the toilets and sinks! I've never seen such filth and most of them are disgusting. They are also full of these giant poison toads. So unless you are a millionaire and stay in the tourist areas you will encounter problems with the locals. You can't go anywhere and leave your car. My goods were destroyed by careless workers at the post office, I was attacked on the beach, threatened with violence by my white / filipino neighbor who wasn't even a native because I had a "Hawaiian Style" sticker from the previous owner on my car, cheated on a car deal, even my landlord kept the items I was donating to the Salvation Army when I left. Maui is just as bad if you are not careful. There are hundreds of rats that run up and down the trees and your house. I'll never go back!

I used this guide on a recent and very enjoyable sojourn in Kauai. While I enjoyed the guide's expertise on Hawaiian history and culture and the information on the hidden beaches, I felt that the author does a great disservice to his readers when he equates budget or affordable dining and lodging options as very basic while dubbing very expensive options as "ultra-deluxe." Hawaii can be very expensive, but paying a lot of money for a hotel room or a restaurant dinner does not automatically insure that one receives ultra-deluxe treatment. Often the same thing can be had at a more affordable price by looking around--the information a reputable travel guide is supposed to give. Paying 40 dollars for a restaurant entree--something all too easy to do when eating at a resort restaurant on the island--often provides no better quality food than eating at a cheap but good restaurant. Look for places full of happy locals as opposed to tourists. The expensive Bali Hai restaurant, recommended in the guide, served very mediocre if overpriced food, with very mediocre service. However, the Hanalei Mixed Plate, a village take out stand, served superb fresh fish everyday for less than 10 dollars. The food was better, only you ate it outside on wooden tables

surrounded by local people as opposed to other tourists. You be the judge of how you want to spend your money. In my opinion, the 8 dollars I spent to rent a boogie board one day yielded far more fun than a 40 dollar restaurant entree could ever manage to do.

This book made our trip to Hawaii very special. The highlight was the beach it recommended on the west coast of Kauai. You have to drive down a dirt road through sugar cane fields, but when you get there, it is amazingly beautiful and secluded. I sold some of the pictures I took there. We never would have known about this beach without the book. It makes places like this easy to find, and I always felt safe.

My wife & I lived on Oahu for 3 years and frequently traveled to the neighbor islands as well. We scored everytime we used the book. Great tips on standard tourist info, but the strength is on the items marked "hidden." When you have a little more time than the average molohini (visitor), the "hidden" suggestions are always worth the effort!If you can't have fun with this guide, you can't have fun!PS: Hidden Florida & Hidden California guides worked for us as well!

Upon learning that my husband and I were traveling to Hawaii, a friend loaned us her copy of "Hidden Hawaii". Exploring the "Big Island" was an adventure that holds some anxiety. We were able to visit areas we might have been hesitant to explore without the knowlege provided by the author. The tips on the facilities available at each location as well the information regarding the water activities were invaluable to us our entire visit.

Catchy title, but you'd do better without it. The only thing hidden in this book is the information. Try finding, for instance, the Garden of the Gods using this book; you'll be hopelessly lost and lucky to find your way back to the hotel. Same for several of the beaches, waterfalls, and so forth. One has to wonder whether the author actually visited the places he's written about or just looked them up in other books. There are some good guidebooks for Hawaii out there, but, unhappily, this is not one of them. I'd pass on it.

I always take my old copy with me when I visit Hawaii. I especially like the budget hotels and eateries. I like the Mom & Pop hotels that offer rooms without tvs & phones. All have been clean and comfortable and the staff very nice. I plan to buy the new edition of the book before next visit in 2003. You really can find places to stay that don't cost \$100/nite but you will never hear of them

from the travel agency.

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