

Dreaming by the Sea

Spending a night at the seashore—in a temporary shelter—is a well-established activity in the Islands. Early Hawaiian fishermen often took refuge from the weather in caves and bluff outcroppings close to the sea. Archaeological investigations have turned up wooden fishhooks and marine artifacts in lava tubes that had been occupied as fisherman’s shelters dating back to about 1250. Along the coastal Kings Highway, which is built over the old Māmalahoa Trail in Kona, C-shaped stone break-walls still stand where early travelers took shelter against prevailing winds.

Intrepid visitors to the Islands during the nineteenth century spent many nights under the stars. Isabella Bird, writing about her journeys in the Hawaiian Archipelago, described blankets and tent gear used in transiting the Big Island. Less than fifty years later, Jack London wrote about camping on Maui “in a small grove of ‘ōlapa and kōlea trees.”

In modern times, camping-out takes on a recreational seaside flavor. Boating, snorkeling, surfing, fishing and swimming are the main daytime activities; by evening, there’s barbequing and socializing. State, County and National parks draw thousands to Hawai‘i’s shore every year. On O‘ahu alone, there are seventeen campgrounds offering 225 campsites for up to five days, by permit. These outdoor recreational areas are fundamental to preserving Hawai‘i’s ocean-based traditions—they are some of the most beautiful places in the Aloha State where people connect with their sea-going heritage.

Please join with Young Brothers, Limited and Foss Hawai‘i as we journey to some of the most spectacular camping spots in the Islands. The images in our 2016 calendar highlight well-known beach gathering centers, as well as far-flung getaways where only the sound of the surf lulls you to sleep.

Swanzy Beach Park, O‘ahu.

JANUARY

Mā‘ili Beach Park, O‘ahu

The shoreline around Mā‘ili Beach can change with the seasons, sometimes dramatically. During summer, the long stretch of sand gets wider, then in winter, can get washed away. Dangerous winter surf and rip currents keep swimmers out of the water from October through March, but the water is generally calm during summer months and is very popular with local residents. Some old-timers once thought that the name Mā‘ili was a contraction of the word *mā‘ili‘ili* which translates as “little pebbles,” but there is no clear evidence that ‘*ili‘ili*’ were ever found along this coastline. The small water-worn stones were used as net sinkers. The park offers twelve campsites, two comfort stations and outdoor showers. Our shot shows the shoreline of exposed reef and bedrock glistening as the sun sets on O‘ahu’s western coast.

FEBRUARY

Pāpalaua State Wayside Park, Maui

Pāpalaua State Wayside Park is bounded on one end by sea cliffs, and takes its name from a gulch that dips across the slopes of Haleakalā—pāpalaua means “rain fog.” A sliver of sand fronts nearly the entire length of the park, which has picnic tables, barbeque pits, and a portable restroom. There is a rather natural charm about the area, which is shaded by *kiaue* trees, but otherwise, remains without landscaping. The rocky offshore bottom attracts snorkelers rather than swimmers, but children can often be seen enjoying the shallow water that extends in a gentle slope from the shoreline. A spectacular view of the western shore of Kaho‘olawe can be seen at sunset.

Below: Pāpalaua State Wayside Park, Maui.



One Ali‘i Beach Park, Moloka‘i.

MARCH

Hulopo‘e Beach Park, Lāna‘i

The long, wide crescent of white sand fronting Hulopo‘e Beach Park is arguably the most popular picnic site on the island, with the best conditions for swimming and snorkeling during calm weather. Tide pools beckon to leisurely waders, and historic sites are only a short beach walk, in either direction. Dolphins often frolic in the bay. The private park was created in 1961 by the Kō‘ele Company, which installed picnic tables, barbeque pits, showers and restrooms. There are currently eight campsites available, each offering room for up to five people. Campers are advised to come well-prepared—the nearest supermarket is roughly seven miles away in Lāna‘i City.

APRIL

One Ali‘i Beach Park, Moloka‘i

Spacious lawns and sunny skies provide a perfect setting for family gatherings and softball games at One Ali‘i Beach Park, on Moloka‘i’s south shore. The park is named after Ali‘i fishpond, an ancient pond that is no longer accessible to the public because of dense surrounding shrubbery. The shoreline is pleasant for beach strolling, but the near-shore ocean bottom is shallow and murky, so campers, fishermen and picnickers—rather than swimmers—are the main visitors. There are showers, pavilions, and camping areas. Our shot shows Lāna‘i across the channel, still visible as the sun is setting.





Campground at Wai'anapanapa State Park, Maui.

MAY

Wai'anapanapa State Park, Maui

Encompassing one-hundred twenty acres—with historical sites, a shoreline hiking trail, and black-shingle beach—Wai'anapanapa is a campers' paradise. There are barbeque grills, restrooms and showers, picnic tables, and for those craving some creature comforts, twelve lodging cabins and a caretaker's residence. Wai'anapanapa means "glistening water." A large water-filled cave, that is actually a collapsed lava tube, is located on the park grounds. Low sea cliffs line the shoreline, and surf can funnel unchecked into the bay, creating dangerous swimming conditions for the inexperienced, but there are protected pockets of black sand for relaxing and sunbathing. A construction project limiting cabin use is scheduled for completion early in 2016, and will not affect the camping area.

JUNE

'Anini Beach Park, Kaua'i

The 'Anini fringing reef is one of the longest and widest in the Hawaiian Islands, offering beachgoers and campers a wealth of coastal and offshore recreational choices: fishing, snorkeling, boating and beach-combing. At the heart of these activities is the 'Anini Beach Park, located about mid-way along the curving white sand shoreline. There are facilities in the park for picnickers and boaters who trailer shallow-draft boats to the boat ramp. Local legend has it that the beach was once known as Wanini. It seems that the W was inadvertently left off or obscured in some way when street signs or park notices were designed and erected, and so, in effect, the beach became re-designated as 'Anini.

Right: 'Anini Beach Park, Kaua'i.

SEPTEMBER

Waimanalo Beach Park, O'ahu

The beach fronting Waimanalo Beach is wide and sandy, the entire park encompassing thirty-eight acres. The site was once a landing for interisland steamers that put in to supply windward sugar plantations, but was set aside for public use by a Presidential Executive order in 1921. Today, the park plays a big role in the lives of the large and active Hawaiian community in Waimanalo. There are fifteen campsites, a comfort station, outdoor showers and a number of recreational areas for picnics, ball games, cooking and ocean sports. Our view shows the glow of the campground reflected in the ocean at sunset, with Mānana Island, more popularly known as Rabbit Island, in the distance.

OCTOBER

Kapa'a Park, Big Island

Picnickers and fishermen are the main visitors to this remote North Kohala park where rocks and sea cliffs make up the rugged stretch of coastline. The isolated setting and historic surroundings combine to make this a truly unique overnight getaway, with stunning views of Maui across the channel. Habitation ruins from earlier times can be found on either side of the park, for those with archaeological interests. Near-shore scuba divers and snorkelers find fascination under the sea, though during winter months, heavy surf precludes almost all ocean activities. There's a camping area, pavilion, restrooms and picnic tables for park visitors.

JULY

Swanzy Beach Park, O'ahu

The strip of beachfront makai of Kamehameha Highway, on the windward coast, is a popular weekend camping destination named after the donor of the land to the City and County of Honolulu. Once known as Ka'a'awa-iki Park, it was officially renamed Julie Judd Swanzy Park in 1950. The entire seaward edge of the park is bounded by a seawall; large patches of sand interspersed with small pebbles make up the beach, which is often frequented by fishermen. Nine campsites are available, with a comfort station and outdoor showers—plus a location that is close to convenience shopping for those last-minute purchases. Swimming is generally safe, but during certain ocean conditions a small break in the offshore reef has a powerful rip current running through it.

AUGUST

Kīpahulu Campground, Haleakalā National Park, Maui

For those wanting an overnight escape in Haleakalā National Park, the remote Kīpahulu Campground provides adventure, without the need to carry a backpack. Getting there is half the fun. There's a long drive on the Hāna Highway along winding one-lane roads and sea cliffs, but the reward is worth the trip. The campground is located a short distance from the Kīpahulu Visitor Center, on the windswept and sometimes rainy east coast of Maui. Camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis and no permit is required. There are picnic tables, BBQ grills and pit toilets, but no drinking water—campers need to stock up in Hāna. Then relax to the sound of the ocean sloshing against the rocks below as you fall asleep.



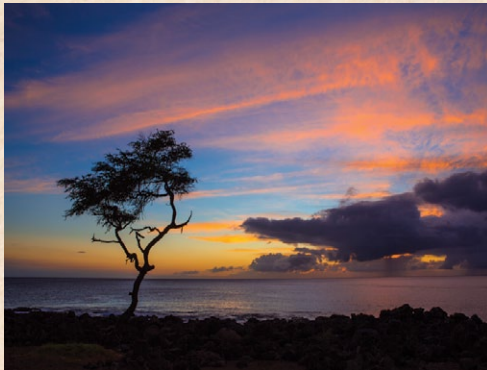
NOVEMBER

Salt Pond Park, Kaua'i

The ancient Hawaiian process of evaporating seawater to produce salt has been carried on near the Salt Pond Park long after most other traditional sites in the Islands have been abandoned. Members of Hui Hana Pa'akai continue a tradition that has been practiced over many generations, using methods that have changed little over the centuries. The nearly six-acre park offers a partially protected beachfront that attracts families with children who enjoy a safe swimming area, except during times when high surf generates a rip current in the offshore channel. Camping is designated on the left side of the park; there are comfort stations, pavilions, picnic tables and cold showers.

DECEMBER

Māhukona Beach Park, Big Island



Māhukona was once a small commercial harbor, and many of the abandoned port structures still stand along the shoreline; railroad wheels, cables and the crumbling wharf are in evidence throughout the park. Snorkelers and divers enjoy the clear summertime water visibility, and fishermen and boaters also frequent the area. The beach park, itself, features a grassy lawn, pavilion, restrooms and picnic tables. There's a camping area adjacent to the harbor for shoreline hikers and water sport enthusiasts. Views of Maui across the channel complete the picture—even during winter, when dangerous waves keep everyone out of the water.

Left: Salt Pond Park, Kaua'i.

Writer: Deborah Uchida; Photography: Mike Danzeisen
Design: Guy Fernandez; Tidal charts: EKNA Services, Inc.
© Copyright 2016
Young Brothers, Limited & Foss Hawai'i
Pier 40 • P.O. Box 3288 • Honolulu, HI 96801
(808) 543-9311
www.youngbrothershawaii.com • www.foss.com

