



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2007

**THREE DAYS IN PARADISE:
BEST WAYS TO EXPLORE OAHU IN 36 HOURS**

HONOLULU, Hawaii – For many who have yet to journey across the vast Pacific Ocean, they regard Waikiki as a dream destination to behold. Once here on the island of Oahu, there are pockets of Hawaiian paradise to discover, even if time is short. Here are great suggestions from the friendly associates of the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa on the best things to do and places to see in only 36 hours:

Day One: Exploring Waikiki

Once you shake off the jet lag, you only need to look outside to realize you're really in Hawaii. Your first stop – **Kuhio Beach**, a 2.5-mile sandy beach with the best stretch located directly in front of the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Kuhio Beach was recently rejuvenated after the State of Hawaii pumped sand from offshore in order to expand the eroding shoreline and make Kuhio Beach more sparkling and inviting than ever. The walk along Kuhio Beach delivers a most spectacular view of world-famous Diamond Head. Mingle with local residents and visitors alike who frolic under the sun. It is certainly a reality check that you've finally arrived in Hawaii.

One of the best things about Hawaii is the food. The islands' blend of cultures makes for a vast array of delicious cuisines. And some of the best places to eat are conveniently located near the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Resort associates share their favorite spots:

- more -

Three Days in Paradise: Best Ways to Explore Oahu in 36 Hours

Page 2

Hawaiian

- **Ono Hawaiian Food** – A hole-in-the-wall that draws a line almost every night, this is the place for authentic Hawaiian food. Located just outside Waikiki on Kapahulu Avenue, trust us – the wait is well worth it. After all, the name of the restaurant, “*Ono*,” says it all – delicious!

Japanese

- **Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar** – Located on the third floor of the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa, this trendy restaurant serves up creative and contemporary sushi and Japanese dishes.
- **Irifune’s** – Also located on Kapahulu Avenue, garlic lovers will savor this laid-back Japanese restaurant. Favorites include garlic ahi and garlic crab, while a non-garlic winner is the fried tofu.

Seafood

- **Nick’s Fishmarket** – Further down Kuhio, the award-winning restaurant features live Maine lobster, fresh island fish and mouthwatering desserts.

There’s no better way to dine in paradise than having an open-air meal accompanied by live entertainment. Locals say the only place to enjoy authentic Hawaiian music is at the **Moana Terrace**, located at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Get a great view with complimentary poolside seating. From authentic Hawaiian slack key guitar and Hawaiian falsetto performed by the legendary Genoa Keawe (every Thursday night) to contemporary twists and old-time Hawaiian favorites, you can bet it will be a memorable evening under the Hawaiian moon and stars, daily from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

- more -

Day Two: Exploring Honolulu

Rise and shine! Get your adrenaline pumping with a trek up one of Hawaii's most famous landmarks, **Diamond Head**. There are more than 100 steps to the lookout point where the panoramic view promises to take your breath away. Yet another reality check that you are in Hawaii and inside a dormant Hawaiian volcano. Don't forget to bring a flashlight, bottled water and a camera to capture the moment.

Hang ten off Waikiki Beach with professional big board surfer Tony Moniz. He sets up his surf shop – **Faith Riding Company** – on the third floor of the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. Whether it's your first time or your tenth, you'll be amazed when you conquer a wave off Hawaii's most famous beach.

An insight into Hawaiian history awaits you. Jump on the open-coach Waikiki Trolley and take the Red Line directly to the historic **Iolani Palace**. As the only official state residence of royalty in the United States, Iolani Palace was built in 1882 by King Kalakaua. It was the last home of his sister and successor, Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii's last reigning monarch. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays, there are three types of palace tours available –

1. Docent-guided tour every 20 minutes between 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.; \$20 adults, \$5 children (5-17 years); no children under 5 years old
2. 50-minute self-guided, pre-recorded audio tour every 10 minutes between 11:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; \$12 adults, \$5 children (5-17 years); no children under 5 years old
3. Self-guided tour of the basement between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; \$6 adults, \$3 children (5-17 years); no children under 5 years old

Other Waikiki Trolley stops on the Red Line include: the **Honolulu Academy of Arts, Hawaii State Capitol** and **Bishop Museum**.

Three Days in Paradise: Best Ways to Explore Oahu in 36 Hours

Page 4

When it's time to eat, stroll through Honolulu's version of **Chinatown**. Resort associates recommend their favorites:

- **Little Village Noodle House** – This popular Chinese restaurant on Smith Street boasts a wide variety of traditional and vegetarian dishes.
- **Sweet Basil Thai** – On Maunakea Street, this hole-in-the-wall puts a fresh twist on traditional Thai cuisine. Catch their famous lunch buffets or their Saturday seafood buffet.
- **Grand Café & Bakery** – Located on North Pauahi Street near the Hawaii Theatre, this café radiates contemporary charm, while serving delicious salads, sandwiches and entrees.

Day Three: Exploring Oahu

Rent a car for the whole day and circle the island. Travel west on the H-1 freeway, then north on the H-2 and drive through the pineapple fields of Wahiawa on your way to the North Shore. Take a break in **Haleiwa**, a small town known for its eclectic shops and assorted eateries. Stop at **Kua Aina** for a juicy burger and fries, **Cholo's** for appetizing Mexican food and **Matsumoto's** store for refreshing shaved ice.

Once your stomach is full, drive along the two-lane Kamehameha Highway through one quaint town after another. If you're still hungry, stop in Kahuku near the old sugar mill at **Giovanni's Shrimp Truck**. Don't let the casual setting get in the way of the best garlic shrimp plate on Oahu!

Continue south on Kamehameha Highway down into **Kailua** town, home to a mixture of locals, transplanted Mainlanders and military personnel. Slap on your sunscreen and make a stop at **Lanikai Beach**. Located at the edge of Kailua, Lanikai Beach is surrounded by multi-million dollar beach homes. It's a great spot for both families and adventurers, with its smooth sand, clear water and perfect condition for kayaking.

Three Days in Paradise: Best Ways to Explore Oahu in 36 Hours

Page 5

Proceed through Kailua into **Waimanalo**, pass polo fields and the house used in the hit television show, “Magnum P.I.” Once through Waimanalo, you’ll drive along one of most scenic coasts, with the rugged mountains on one side and steep cliffs dropping into the ocean on the other. Along the way, you’ll pass by hot spots such as **Sea Life Park** and **Hanauma Bay** (closed Tuesdays for maintenance) on your way back into Honolulu.

No matter how you spend your time, you’ll be sure to have fun! And if you can’t pack it all in during 36 hours, you’ll have an excuse to make a return trip to Oahu soon!

*Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa boasts the best stretch of Waikiki Beach. The resort hotel is located across from exciting, and newly restored, Kuhio Beach and is in the pulse of Waikiki. The hotel offers 1,310 refurbished guest rooms and suites with a private lanai providing a spectacular view of world-famous Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach; Kuhio Beach Grill, featuring the best in Pacific Rim cuisine; Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar and d.k Steak House; Arancino di Mare Italian Restaurant; Restaurant Run, contemporary sushi bar; Moana Terrace, offering live Hawaiian entertainment nightly; Seattle’s Best Coffee; Paul Brown’s Spa Olakino * Salon; Faith Riding Company Surf School; two freshwater, heated, swimming pools; 10-person whirlpool; 24-hour fitness facility; business center with 24-hour Internet access; high-speed and wireless Internet access throughout the resort’s guest rooms and public spaces; shops and boutiques; and Hawaiian cultural activities.*

The hotel is located within walking distance from the International Marketplace, Waikiki Aquarium, Honolulu Zoo, Diamond Head, Kapiolani Park and Kuhio Beach, which was recently re-nourished and rejuvenated with 10,000 cubic yards of sand pumped from waters off Waikiki.

#

For More Information, Contact:

Noreen Kam, Account Supervisor, or

Erin Kinoshita, Account Executive

1001 Bishop Street, Pauahi Tower, Suite 950

Honolulu, HI 96813

(808) 531-0244 phone

(808) 521-7163 fax

E-mail: noreen@mcneilwilson.com or ekinoshita@mcneilwilson.com