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REDISCOVERING HAWAII

Produced by the Cartographic Division

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

GILBERT M. GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN
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Washington, D.C., September 1995

Molten Earth to Modern Cities

LURED BY IMAGES of gilded beaches, plush golf courses, and fantasy resorts, nearly seven million visitors a year come to Hawaii for a dose of its soothing tropical therapy. Yet there's more here than big surf and swaying palm trees. Though only slightly larger than Connecticut, the state encompasses an array of landscapes from steaming lava fields to snow-crowned peaks. Beyond the resort-strewn coast the land is resonant with history and rich in endemic flora and fauna, harboring at least 8,800 kinds of plants and animals found nowhere else on earth.

This natural diversity is mirrored in the kaleidoscopic makeup of Hawaii's 1.2 million people, less than 20 percent of whom claim Hawaiian ancestry. Yet despite the welter of foreign influences, native culture is experiencing a renaissance: A growing grassroots movement is seeking some form of sovereignty for native Hawaiians. If approved by plebiscite, a state constitutional convention will decide what form sovereignty should take.

Historic Lahaina

Steeped in history and the romantic flavor of a 19th-century Hawaiian town, the town of Lahaina on Maui's western shore has been metamorphosed in several forms over the past two centuries. Lahaina served as capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii from 1817 to 1845. Whalers and missionaries had arrived in the 1820s, setting the stage for a longstanding feud that at times flared into violence. Distressed to find grog shops and bawling Irish lazing Lahaina's streets, the clergymen persuaded the Hawaiian government to ban the sale of "ardent spirits" and forbid island women to visit ships. Charged by the two strictures, whalers rebelled. The conflict reached a crescendo in 1827, when increased seaborne whaling cannibals in the main house before sailing for the lush island of Honolulu.

With the decline of American whaling in the late 1800s, a rekindling came to a close, and Lahaina faded into a sleepy sugar town. Ravaged during the 1960s by resort development and a surge in tourism, the seaside village has taken pains to preserve its past. Today, the town's historic core is a national historic landmark. Though checkbook with restaurants and trendy shops, the old, authentic Lahaina shines through in places like the Baldwin Home Museum, the restored bungalow of medical missionary Dwight Baldwin, and aboard the *Caribbean II*, a floating museum dedicated to whaling. From December through May, whale-watching excursions depart Lahaina harbor.

Honolulu's Cultural Cauldron

Home to nearly a third of the state's population, Honolulu is the place to be if you like the hustle and bustle of Hawaii. More than 60 percent of the state's citizens are of Asian descent, and the city is a melting pot of cultures. The city's culture is a mix of Asian, American, and Hawaiian, and it is reflected in the city's architecture, food, and customs. Honolulu is a city of contrasts, where the modern and the traditional coexist. The city is a cultural cauldron, where the different cultures of the world have come together to create a unique and vibrant city.

HALEAKALA CRATER

1 A basin big enough to hold Maui's highest peak, Haleakala Crater is a volcanic caldera. The crater is a large, bowl-shaped depression in the earth's surface, formed by the collapse of a volcano's interior. Haleakala Crater is a national historic landmark and is a popular destination for visitors to Maui.

KAUAI STATE PARKS

2 A sea-dropping scenery unfolds as you drive through the mountains of Kauai. The state parks offer a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, swimming, and fishing. The parks are a beautiful and scenic area, and they are a great place to spend a day in Hawaii.

KILAUEA CALDERA

3 A "hazardous" area, Kilauea Caldera is a volcanic caldera. The caldera is a large, bowl-shaped depression in the earth's surface, formed by the collapse of a volcano's interior. Kilauea Caldera is a national historic landmark and is a popular destination for visitors to Hawaii.

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

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Charting the Course of Change

Whether compass or chart, guided solely by their senses and their keen knowledge of the stars, currents, winds, and the flight of birds, Polynesian mariners have traversed a route spanning 14,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean. In more than ten centuries of voyaging, they remained from Samoa to the Marquesas Islands, then struck out on all directions, southward as far as New Zealand, southeast to Easter Island, and north to the Pacific's northern coast, Hawaii.

Departing the Marquesas 1,400 to 1,700 years ago, Hawaii's first inhabitants arrived in double-hulled canoes with staples that included breadfruit, sweet potatoes, pigs, fowl, and hard-boiled fish. The first Hawaiians built a highly organized society that reached its apex under Kamehameha the Great, the famed warrior king who consolidated the islands' warring, feuding chiefdoms into a single monarchy in 1810. Polynesian Hawaii's golden age would be short-lived, however, for an invasion of outsiders had already begun.

HONOLULU, OAHU

The capital and largest city of Hawaii, Honolulu is a vibrant and bustling metropolis. The city is a mix of modern and traditional, and it is a great place to visit. Honolulu is a city of contrasts, where the modern and the traditional coexist. The city is a cultural cauldron, where the different cultures of the world have come together to create a unique and vibrant city.

MAUI VALLEY

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Exploring Hawaii's Heritage

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OAHU'S ODYSSEY

THREE MILLION YEARS AGO

Three million years ago, Oahu's volcanic landscape was a vast, flat expanse of lava fields. The landscape was a mix of modern and traditional, and it is a great place to visit. The landscape is a cultural cauldron, where the different cultures of the world have come together to create a unique and vibrant city.

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TODAY

Today, Oahu's volcanic landscape is a vast, flat expanse of lava fields. The landscape was a mix of modern and traditional, and it is a great place to visit. The landscape is a cultural cauldron, where the different cultures of the world have come together to create a unique and vibrant city.

Hawaii's Fiery Wellspring

Deep beneath the island of Hawaii, a volcanic landscape is a vast, flat expanse of lava fields. The landscape was a mix of modern and traditional, and it is a great place to visit. The landscape is a cultural cauldron, where the different cultures of the world have come together to create a unique and vibrant city.

The source of raw material for this age-old construction project lies more than 50 miles underground in a layer of the earth's mantle called the asthenosphere. Here, rock kept in a plastic state by heat and pressure continuously rises, cools, and sinks—creating a cycle that has been going on for billions of years.

When molten magma rises to the surface, it can erupt as a volcano, or it can sink back into the mantle. The magma that sinks back into the mantle is called "magma recycling." This process is a key part of the Earth's geological cycle.

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Islands Under Construction

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THE RISE AND FALL OF VOLCANIC ISLANDS

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