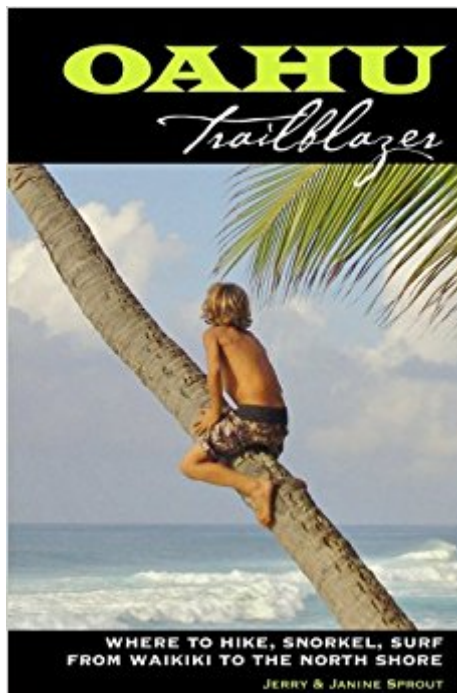




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# Oahu Trailblazer: Where To Hike, Snorkel, Surf From Waikiki To The North Shore



## Synopsis

A NEW 2013 EDITION of this title is currently available on . Search by title or ISBN 978-0-9829919-9-2. Mahalo! Expanded coverage of Waikiki and Honolulu, along with updates on the best trails and historic sites, make this second edition of Oahu Trailblazer the must-have guide for the adventurous and independent traveler. As usual, Jerry (writer) and Janine Sprout (designer, photographer) hit all the highlights like Pearl Harbor, Waikiki, Diamond Head, Iolani Palace, Hanauma Bay, North Shore surf sites, and the Polynesian Cultural Center offering a wealth of photographs (about 200 black-and-whites), precise driving directions and activity descriptions, and hot tips that give travelers the inside track. But, as Trailblazer readers have come to expect, the book also shines by delivering the goods for dozens of mountain-ridge hikes and garden strolls, as well as beachcombing and all the island's best snorkeling spots. There is no doubt that this is the definitive title for visitors who want to explore places to call their own, since many of these land and sea adventures, and quirky attractions, do not find their way into other guidebooks. Oahu Trailblazer is highly versatile, working well for visitors are looking to take scenic driving tours of major attractions and explore all the museums and parks of Honolulu and Waikiki, and also just the ticket for extreme sports nuts looking to strap on the boots and swim fins to sample the surprising wealth of Oahu's outdoor offerings. A Trailblazer Kids section is available for families, and the Resource Links provide lots of planning information. Safety tips are throughout the book, as well as the historical and cultural background that adds meaning to a vacation. The Sprouts love and respect the islands, and it shows in their books. Like good outdoor gear, Trailblazer guides are well made, well organized, and easy to use.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It counts to have the best trail tested outdoor gear along for Hawaii. This couple pulls out all the stops. Trailblazer guides are a must have. --Via

Trailblazer Travel Books are dedicated to all people who are working to preserve the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Hawaii.

but not as easy to read or navigate, but that could easily be operator error. We will be putting the guidebook to good use and it does have a lot of information that I'm sure wouldn't surprise locals but does give tourists a small edge in planning their adventures.

perfect

This book is really great. I love how detailed it is and I loved the access to trails that are not well-known and therefore aren't crowded. Loved the hikes I did from this book on vacation.

I did not like the way they organized the information in this book. They list items by geographic area rather than type of activity. It was hard to find the best snorkel spots until I found the "best of" section in the front which lists some places and a page number. Then you have to flip back and forth thru the book to compare the different snorkel areas. They listed a lot of hikes and gave detailed info on the hike but they really didn't give you a feel for which ones were better than other ones. It was more of a factual description of the hike without enough opinion on the pros and cons of the hike. Overall, I did not like the book and would not recommend it. I also bought the Kauai trailblazer book and have the same criticisms of that one.

This book was not very helpful. I bought it for the hikes listed and most required a car to get to the starting point. Also not helpful for the Chinatown portion, didn't mention that nothing really opens until 11am or so.

This book looked promising, but we found that it was lacking in visuals to reinforce the trail descriptions. We returned this book and purchased one that contains well-drawn maps.

There is so much information available on the internet that makes sorting out what to see on Oahu extremely difficult to pin down. Luckily I found the Oahu Trailblazer that narrows down everything into a very manageable reference. To me, this guide book represented a starting point with all its pictures and maps and freebie tips...hiking, sightseeing, driving, snorkeling, kayaking, you name it. In other words lots of activity choices organized intelligently. First they introduce you to the island, inject some history and orient you to the geography. You can then start to navigate and the world of Oahu opens up to explore. Waikiki is presented with a walking map and directions to a most extraordinary swimming lagoon off the tourist track. We enjoyed nighttime as much as beachtime. Balanced with cautionary tales of visiting the island and practical advice and itineraries and places to surf, swim, snorkel, hike, trail run it's some of the best descriptions of Hawaii I have ever read. Old Hawaii tales, new Hawaii hangouts are infused in the pages. Their advice made it easy to build itineraries that can be accomplished in one day each. Some of the walks are very long and cover a ton of territory. You can adjust the length according to beach plunges you want to take to break up the day. The beaches in Waikiki stretch a long strip. A short list of their recommended accommodations and restaurants compliment the bulk of adventures. Where to stay can be a critical choice in Waikiki. I'd recommend within walking distance to the beach. Use Trailblazer to whet your appetite and back your choice up with websites like TripAdvisor. Activities for independent travelers are really the heart of this book. The advice is excellent. The descriptions are spot on. The Honolulu walking tours are just about perfect and will show you the best of the city. There is absolutely no debate, Oahu has the surfing beaches. Allow yourself time to go up and see Haleiwa and the cool scene there. The coast is covered in great detail, so is the Waianae area where the new Disneyland resort is located. I used the author's Hawaii the Big Island Trailblazer for two previous trips there. And loved it. I'd always thought Oahu was an overcrowded tourist trap and avoided it. Oahu Trailblazer made me see the island with new eyes, just like I did on the Big Island. Hawaii The Big Island Trailblazer: Where to hike, snorkel, surf, bike, drive

My wife and I have been frequent visitors to Oahu, primarily for the surf and the Honolulu Marathon. Rarely, if ever, have we played tourist. In the past we have headed to the north shore or arrived in time to register for the run, run the run, and have run back to the airport. Last month we did the unthinkable: we gave ourselves an opportunity to get to know this island. At a friend's recommendation we picked up a copy of Jerry & Janine Sprout's "Oahu Trailblazer". It's title fit our style: we wanted to know where to hike in Oahu. But after skimming its contents, the book enticed

us to spend time in Honolulu, a city we have run through many times, but knew little about. Not being city tourists - yes, we live in a city, but spending time to visit cities is an anathema for us - we decided to follow their recommendations. And to our surprise, to quote the Sprouts, "Honolulu is Oahu's pleasant surprise for urban hikers." After gaining confidence in the Sprouts and their recommendations, we ventured out into the regions of the island we knew little about - they have nicely divided the island into four regions for visitors - the 'West Side' and the 'Windward Pali' regions. We choose hikes that suited our mood and the day - a helpful suggestion of the authors. Depending on our energy level of the day, we chose a "Trek To the Top", an "Easy View Hike", or a "Forested Exercise Hike". Descriptions of the hikes and "What's Best" and "Parking" were accurate. In short, the Sprout's "Trailblazer" introduced us to an Hawaiian island that we felt we knew, but, in fact, we did not. And our time with their guide book has wetted our appetites to, again, return to Oahu as a tourist. John and Suzanne Barr, Oakland, California

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