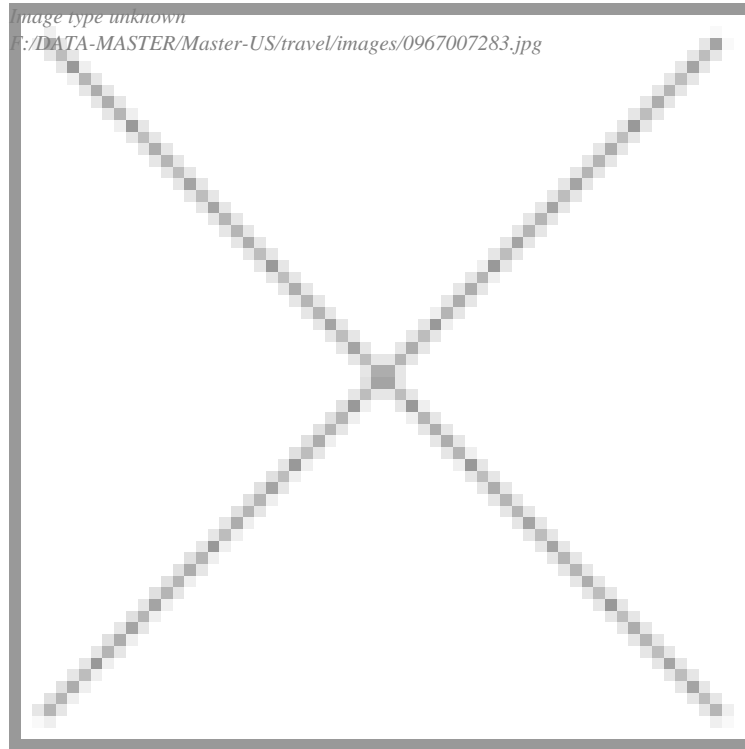


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Oahu Trailblazer: Where to Hike, Snorkel, Surf from Honolulu to the North Shore

Jerry Sprout, Janine Sprout

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Jerry Sprout, Janine Sprout : Oahu Trailblazer: Where to Hike, Snorkel, Surf from Honolulu to the North Shore before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oahu Trailblazer: Where to Hike, Snorkel, Surf from Honolulu to the North Shore:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Top Notch Guide to OahuBy John MatisJust returned from a week in Oahu. Rented a car and explored the entire island. This guide has detailed, accurate information on beaches, trails, activities, locations and my wife and I used it extensively with total satisfaction. You can use this guide to really plan what you intend to do, where to go, etc. And if we are fortunate to return to Hawaii again, I'd take this with me. In addition, we found that the "Hawaii: Honolulu Oahu (Nelles Maps)" also sold through , to be an excellent companion to this Trailblazer guide.1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Seems like an Oahu Diary to Write-Off Oahu VacationBy B. HUNTNeither me nor my wife found this bood useful at all. No maps in the book to help you find anything. To find anything, they basically give you these obscure directions like you're on a treasure chest hunt: go down to the 6th palm tree on the left down the road then when you see goat grazing near a fire hydrant then look to your right and take that road about 300 ft and there you'll run into the old lay with the pirate patch. Ask her where.... Seemed like the people who wrote this book were simply trying to find any easy way to tax write-off their travels in Oahu. Lame book. Don't buy!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Best Activity Guidebook to OahuBy Greg HayesThere are four activity guidebooks in this wonderful series: Oahu Trailblazer, Maui Trailblazer,

Kauai Trailblazer, and Hawaii the Big Island Trailblazer (there is also a great planning guide to all the islands called No Worries Hawaii). I have been reviewing guidebooks for many years (and, in fact, wrote several well-received guides to travel guides in the pre-Internet era) and I can say without reservation that these four books are the best available for Hawaii. The authors, Jerry and Janine Sprout, have been roaming the Hawaiian islands for decades and taking a lot of useful notes and beautiful photos along the way. All of this translates into a wonderful, informative read (I've read them all cover to cover) even if you're only an armchair traveler dreaming of a vacation in the land of aloha. You'll learn a lot about these magical, magnificent places in addition to the activities that best meet your needs. No matter which island you pick, each book is similarly organized and equally well done. And the black-and-white photos are a joy. (If you're not sure where you're headed, their planning guide, No Worries Hawaii, can help you decide which island to head for and what part of that island makes the most sense). Important tip: Be sure to read the "How to Use This Book" section to learn how to get the most out these great resource books. And don't miss the "Best Of" section, which is divided into lots of useful categories from waterfall walks, big views, and sunset beaches to town strolls, gardens, and perfect places with little walking--there is something here for everyone. There are also good maps to orient you. Driving and parking directions are excellent--no small trick in a place where the only sign to tell you you've arrived may be a small mile marker along the highway. You'll definitely want to learn two new, directional words, which are very helpful in a land surrounded by water: makai--meaning "toward the ocean," and mauka--meaning "inland or toward the mountains." Read carefully, follow along and the Sprouts will get you to some places few tourists ever go. Each walk or hike provides parking instructions, round-trip distances, elevation gained, and other practical information. Hiking/walking directions are also very well done. In general, you won't need a topographical map, but for more serious hikes some folks may feel more comfortable with one. Other activities at each location, such as surfing, biking, snorkeling, are carefully described as well. Practical information on every possible subject includes great driving tours, the best stuff for kids, climate, important resource numbers, and cryptic but very well chosen lists of the best food and lodging choices in each area. Whatever all-purpose guide you choose, don't visit the islands without the appropriate Trailblazer guide in hand. It will make all the difference.

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 Sprout's 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.