

# ISLAND SWING

**Think about it for a second: the bent knees, the controlled arm work, the familiar feel of a stick between their hands. No wonder hockey players love to trade in their Bauers for nine irons during off-season playtime.** *BY JORDANA DIVON*

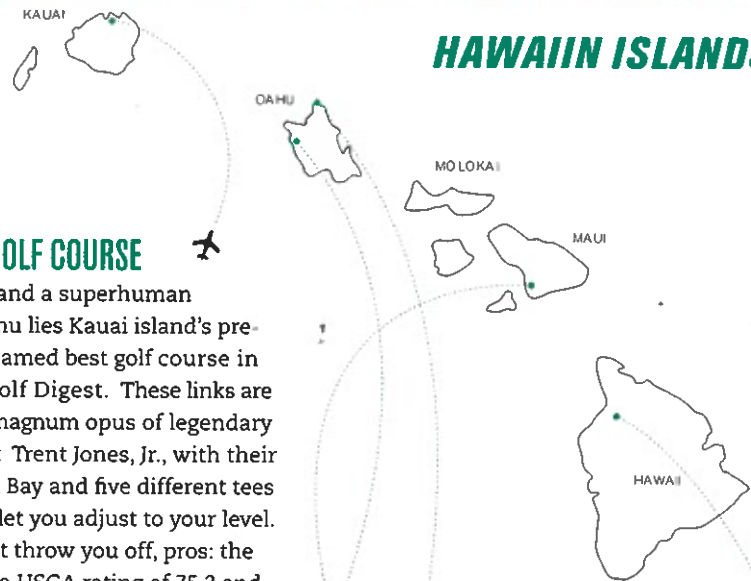
SO WHEN IT COMES TO GOLF VACATIONS, IT'S NOT really a question of when, but rather, where. That's when access to the good life comes into play. Because you can find courses of equal or superior value in Scottsdale or Augusta; but teeing off against a backdrop of lush, swaying palm trees, striking mountains on your left, and cerulean blue waters to your right? And, well, that's just the start. "It's a great place to learn how to surf and it's just a very laid back culture," says Colorado Avalanche defenceman Kyle Quincey. "Great

place to go after the season to recharge the batteries. I'd go back in a heartbeat." Hawaii offers the athletically inclined, like Quincey, a chance to play hard and unwind even harder. And if that sentence confused you, then you've never had a rum punch-enhanced beachfront massage after a grueling day of double bogeys. To decide which of the archipelago's eight major islands fits your personal definition of paradise, we've singled out our Top 5 picks for your ultimate NHL-style golf getaway.





## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS



### PRINCEVILLE GOLF COURSE

Just a hop, skip and a superhuman jump across Oahu lies Kauai island's premier fairways, named best golf course in all Hawaii by Golf Digest. These links are considered the magnum opus of legendary architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr., with their view of Hanalei Bay and five different tees on each hole to let you adjust to your level. But don't let that throw you off, pros: the course received a USGA rating of 75.3 and has spectacular adjoining facilities fit for the world's top players. Set to reopen this summer after an extensive facelift.

5-3900 Kuhio Highway Princeville, Hawaii  
[princeville.com](http://princeville.com)

### MAKAHA RESORT & GOLF CLUB

It may be an hour's drive from Honolulu's famed Waikiki Beach, but this 18-hole championship course has its own stunning vistas to wreak havoc on your game concentration. Nestled between the Wai'anae Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, you may have trouble tearing your eyes from the view. Muster all your willpower, because the course, named Oahu's best by Honolulu Magazine, has been known to challenge both amateurs and pros.

84-626 Makaha Valley Road Waianae, Oahu  
 808.695.9544 | [makaharesort.com](http://makaharesort.com)

### TURTLE BAY PALMER

Those conflicted by their desire to surf and tee off will find the perfect compromise at this Arnold Palmer-designed course. Located on Oahu's North Shore – home to some of the world's most challenging waves – the course's rolling hills and high winds will give your game an equal run for its money. After a morning of chasing breakers, get your energy up for the same 18-hole run tackled by leagues of LPGA champions.

57-091 Kamehameha Highway Kahuku, Oahu | 808.293.6000 | [turtlebayresort.com](http://turtlebayresort.com)

### WALEA GOLF CLUB

Nature lovers tend to prefer Maui over the more touristy Oahu for its abundance of all things flora and fauna. The same goes for this popular trio of golf courses along the island's sun-soaked southern shore. Named after colours found in natural abundance on the Valley Isle, the Old Blue, Emerald, and Gold courses provide varying vistas and levels of play, all of which can be equally classified as outstanding.

100 Wailiea Golf Club Drive Wailea, Maui  
 808.875.7450 | [waileagolf.com](http://waileagolf.com)

### WAIKOLOA BEACH RESORT

Set amidst the volcanic rock of Hawaii's largest landmass, golfers looking for more rugged terrain will prefer this beautifully designed tee-scape. (We totally made that word up, but we think it has potential). Those who like to go big or not at all will appreciate the spot's frequent humpback whale sightings, as they tend to pop up along the island's coast. And hey – if the resort is good enough for the earth's largest mammals, let's just say you're in fine company.

69-1020 Keana Place Waikoloa, HI |  
 808.886.6060 | [waikoloabeachresort.com](http://waikoloabeachresort.com)

Visit Hawaii's official tourist site for more detailed information, photos, and travel options at [gohawaii.com](http://gohawaii.com). ☒

