

Hawaii, Key West, Russian River or an RSVP cruise

*Take your pick, your luggage and your lover to the place your
travel fantasy leads*

BY NORMAN NEVERS

The sun's breaking out, summer is here and it's time to plan our annual vacation, but what should we do? Do we do something exciting or quiet? Decisions! Decisions!

Caressed by gentle tradewinds, the Hawaiian Islands are blessed with a year-round moderate climate, spectacular golden beaches and warm ocean water. There is an exciting, vibrant resort area at Waikiki Beach . . . majestic mountains overlooking tranquil valleys . . . captivating sunsets . . . the charm of Hawaii's people . . . enchanting Hula dancers . . . and the fragrance of tropical flowers filling the air. This is paradise!

Waikiki is the gathering place for those looking for an action vacation. There are six gay bars and clubs in the Waikiki area and one gay friendly bar in the Inn on the Park Hotel. There's one gay hotel . . . the Hotel Honolulu, offering studio and one-bedroom units. It's two blocks from the beach and close to the gay clubs. All suites have either a kitchenette or full kitchen, air conditioning, phones, and lanais. There is also a rooftop sun deck.

If the Hotel Honolulu is full, or you just prefer to stay in a non-gay hotel, I recommend the Park Shore at the Diamond Head end of Waikiki. The Park Shore is located directly across from the beach and next to the Honolulu Zoo and Kapiolani Park. There is a choice of



standard or ocean view rooms. All rooms are air-conditioned, have cable television, phone, refrigerator and lanai. There is a pool, 24-hour restaurant and sundry store.

Near the Park Shore is Queen's Surf, the gay beach. For those of you who have been there let me warn you they are re-doing area. The Pavilion is gone and the beach looks like a war zone. Most of the gays have migrated up the beach and are now almost across from the Park Shore.

Kauai, "The Garden Isle," is noted for its lush tropical foliage and miles of beautiful white sand beaches. Sightseeing ranges from Hanalei Bay to Waimea Canyon, the "Grand

Canyon of the Pacific." Kauai is the peaceful tropical isle of which dreams are made.

On Kauai, there are five gay-owned and operated bed-and-breakfast homes. Most are small and intimate and offer pools or the ocean for swimming and sunning. Some offer nude-sunbathing.

Maui, "The Valley Isle," also has lush tropical foliage and beautiful waterfalls. You can drive to the top of 10,000 foot Mount Haleakala for scenic vistas of the crater and the neighbor islands. Visit the historic whaling town of Lahaina which features a variety of restaurants and colorful shops. It is also home to the only gay bar on the neighbor islands.

There are two gay bed-and-breakfast establishments on Maui. One is in the Kihei area and one is at the 3200-foot elevation in up-country Maui.

Hawaii, "The Big Island" is larger than all the other islands put together. There are two gay bed-and-breakfasts located on Hawaii. Both plantation style homes. One is located in the South Kona District and one on the north tip of the island.

Pacific Ocean Holidays (vacation packages) have been welcoming gay men and women to the islands for over eight years and do a superb job. Aloha!

Although Key West is one of the most popular gay resorts in the world—for both American and international visitors—those of us here in the Northwest have tended to let it slip by.

It is estimated that some 400,000 gay visitors go to Key West each year.

Key West is more than just another resort, it's a way of life. No matter how you arrive in Key West once you're there, time has no meaning. Your days and nights are governed only by the rising and setting of the sun.

From its beginning, Key West has been an island populated by those whose lifestyle



demonstrated independence of thought and action. You will find Key West unsurpassed for amiability, acceptance and sheer delight in living. Whether you like to dance 'til dawn and watch the sun rise, or soak up the sun all day and go to bed at sunset, you will find your lifestyle in Key West.

There are tours or you can take a seaplane to the Dry Tortugas, 70 miles south into the Atlantic. Historically popular as a sunbathing spot for gay men and women, the Reynolds Street Pier has been rebuilt and is now open. It's a great spot for an Atlantic Ocean swim. Windsurfing boards and catamarans are available on the beach. Thatched roof gazebos and palm trees along the shore provide shade from the sun.

Culinary specialists of world renown share their wealth of delectable skills with your palate. Seafood never tasted better. You coffee lovers must try a cup of dark, rich Cuban espresso (bucci).

Key West has become well known for its daily ritual sunsets at Mallory Dock. Acrobats and performers of talents line the dock to exhibit their skills, and caterers wheeling hors d'oeuvres make the experience all the more enjoyable.

As the sun nears the horizon, a hush falls, and all stand facing the flaming colors. At the exact moment the sun disappears, applause breaks out; and as the colors soften into pastels, all head for the evening's excitements.

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