

Where to Buy a Vacation Home in Hawaii: An Island-by-island Guide

Welcome to your tropical home away from home.

By [Patricia Doherty](#) October 18, 2021



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Owning a home [on a tropical island](#) amid swaying palm trees, balmy breezes, and ocean views is a dream for many of us. Buyers of [vacation homes in Hawai'i](#) are making that dream come true, creating huge demand for island properties. According to Rob Kildow, director of residential sales at [Hualālai Realty](#) on the Big Island, "The pandemic caused many people to hit 'pause' and take stock of what was important to them, from careers to remote work and spending time with family. People have been looking for safe harbor and are still actively seeking their Hawaiian dream home."

Lauren Bradley, principal of [Experience Studio](#) at Kukui'ula on Kaua'i tells *Travel + Leisure*, "We have many buyers who have chosen to work from home at Kukui'ula in the wake of the COVID era, and many new owners have even put their kids in school here." Demand for real estate throughout Hawaii is strong and outweighs supply significantly. An increasing number of people desiring vacation homes are even purchasing them sight unseen, according to data from [Vacasa](#). Buyers are relying on their agent's assessment of the home along with online tools because properties are selling so quickly.

Vacation homes in Hawai'i are located in gated developments, single-home residential communities, multi-acre estates, [resorts](#), and condominium projects. The islands of O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Lana'i all offer vacation homes, although availability, price, style, and amenities differ widely. Within each island, microclimates range from dry and desert-like to lush and green. For that reason, Donna Hansen of [Hansen Ohana - Maui Luxury Real Estate](#) has agents on the other islands who specialize in details like rainfall, weather, and things to watch for when purchasing property. Asked about luxury vacation homes in Hawaii, she responded, "Living in Hawaii is a luxury in itself."

We couldn't agree more — and with that in mind, here's a look at [where to buy vacation homes](#) in Hawaii.



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Kaua'i - "The Garden Isle"

On the island's south shore, [Timbers Kaua'i](#) features oceanfront residences, championship golf course, farm-to-table dining (with an on-site farm), and luxury amenities. Chris Burden, chief development officer at Timbers, tells T+L that "closings in 2021 have already doubled year over year." Burden added, "While details for Timbers Kaua'i at Hokuala's forthcoming townhomes are to be announced in the coming months, buyers can expect the new luxury duplex homes to offer Timbers' signature five-star resort services and amenities."

Also on the south shore, [Kukui'ula](#) is set on 1,000 acres with golf, ocean views, plantation style architecture, and "barefoot luxury." According to Bradley, "We've seen prices accelerate 30% or more in the past year, and when people can't find the home they want, our available homesites have drawn some to build. We currently have only 28 new home sites ranging from \$735,000 to \$12 million, and just one move-in ready resale home." She continued, "In response, we are planning to bring another new neighborhood to market in the near future ahead of its original planned release date."

On the north shore of Kaua'i, the [Princeville](#) area features condos, townhouses, single-family residences, and home sites at a wide range of prices.

Link: <https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/where-to-buy-a-vacation-home-in-hawaii>