

The Pearl Harbor Memorial

by Jan Ross, Staff Writer

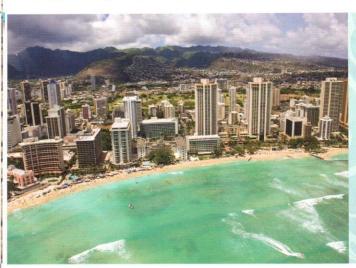
In May, we traveled to the lovely, tropical islands of Hawaii and visited four of the islands. Our first stop was Oahu, where we stayed at Waikiki in Honolulu, the capitol of Hawaii.

One of the best things we did during our stay in Oahu was our visit to the Pearl Harbor Memorial. We were with an escorted tour where this was included but, honestly, I think the experience would be better if you went on your own. Just rent a car - you will want one anyway to get to the North Shore where you can swim, snorkel and see beautiful rain forests and incredible waterfalls. We were limited on time and were not able to participate in the audio narrated portion of the tour, which I think would make it much more memorable.

I suggest you get there as early as possible, because it does get crowded. When you arrive, you will be given a timed ticket, which tells you when you are supposed to catch the ferry over to the actual Memorial. I was hyper about not missing the ferry, but apparently it's not that big a deal; you just catch the next one. They let everyone on with a timed ticket, but then asked if there was anyone else who needed a ride as well. This may not be the case later in the day, however. When you buy your ticket, you can also rent a headset, which will provide a narrated tour done by Pearl Harbor survivors. It will take you to 24

destinations and is available in many different languages.

Before you head out on the ferry or when you return, allow plenty of time to walk around to see everything. There is a movie theatre under construction – when we were there, they had the movie set up outside. Don't miss this movie; it really adds to the experience and explains all about the attack with news clips, etc. It runs often, so just check the schedule. There's also a museum, exhibits about the Pearl Harbor attack, a bookstore and gift shop, plenty of restrooms, and a snack bar.



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Leave all your purses, bags, backpacks, etc. locked in your vehicle or you can place them in a storage locker they offer for a fee. You are only allowed to bring a camera or camcorder to the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park, the battleship Missouri and the Pacific Aviation Museum.

The USS Arizona Memorial commemorates the final resting place for most of the ship's 1,177 crewmen who were killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7. 1941. It was the greatest loss of life on any U.S. warship in American history. The 184-foot-long white Memorial structure spans the mid-portion of the sunken battleship. There is an entry room, an open central area which overlooks the sunken ship and a shrine room, where the names of those killed on the Arizona are engraved on the marble wall. We were particularly moved to see a small shrine with the names of the men who died after - some long after - the event but wanted to be placed with their fellow crew

When you make your list of things you want to do when you visit Oahu, the Pearl Harbor Memorial should be on there, right at the top.

About the Author:

Jan Ross is a freelance travel writer and the Social Media Director for The Travel Authority. Contact her at jan@samplerpublications. com with comments or suggestions for article topics. You can read her travel blog at http://thetravelauthority.blogspot.com/ to find out about other great travel deals and information. Or call The Travel Authority at 1-877-AXP-1515. They have locations all over Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Florida and Tennessee and will help you get the possible deal for your next trip.



Practice boating safety

by Ann Wheeler, Staff Writer

Recently friends from New York rented a houseboat on Lake Cumberland and invited us to spend a night with them. I had not been on a boat since moving to Kentucky from Illinois and did not know the Kentucky boating laws. No matter how much experience you have, it's always a good idea for everyone to review boating safety rules before departures.

One of the most important parts of boating safety is to use your common sense. This means operating at a safe speed at all times, especially in crowded areas. Be alert at all times, and steer clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn. Also be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids.

Always check local weather conditions before departure- TV and radio forecasts can be a good source of information. If you notice darkening clouds, changing winds, or sudden drops in temperature, play it safe by getting off the water.

Boating is a popular activity on all of Kentucky's waterways, but it can

also be a dangerous one. Nationwide, nearly 1,000 people die in boating accidents each year.

Alcohol contributes to about onethird of all boating accidents, according to estimates by the USCG.

The Division of Law Enforcement of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is the sole agency responsible for enforcing the boating laws and regulations applicable to the waters of Kentucky. Enforcement personnel have the authority to stop and board vessels to check for compliance with state and federal laws.

The U.S. Coast Guard also has enforcement authority on all federally controlled waters.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources strongly recommends that USCG approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) be worn while boating, especially by children and non-swimmers. Federal as well as state law requires a Type I, II, or III PFD be carried on all boats for each person onboard a vessel. Most PFD's have a whistle attached. Children should be taught the correct way to use the PFD and the whistle.

Operators and passengers of personal watercraft must wear a PFD at all times. Persons under 12 years old must wear a USCG-approved PFD while a boat is under way unless they are in an enclosed cabin.

In addition to the safety equipment required by law, boaters should strongly consider carrying the following list of items: first aid kit, boat paddle, radio (Marine Band or CB) or cell phone, tow line, owner's manual, spare parts and tools, bailing device or bilge pump, jumper cables, emergency food, drinking water, and a blanket. These items will assist in an emergency and make for a safer and more pleasant cruise.

Every vessel less than 65.6 ft. in length must carry an efficient sound producing device, such as a portable air horn and have a spare can of air.

You learned the "Rules of the Road" before you drove a car and you should do the same before taking the helm. Just like in driving, it is very important to have the boating information and certifications you need to be a safe boater before you hit the water.

As of May 26, 2010 -- All boaters in

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