

like you're part of the action. Boogie boarders and body surfers cruise right up to you, then past you. You'll quickly gain a perspective of the waves that's not possible from the shore. Boogie boarders often surf right up to the shore, hop on the groin, run to the end and jump off to start over again. (By the way, *we* always thought a groin was something you pulled playing football. Actually, it's a wall that runs perpendicular to the beach to stop sand migration.)

Though the north end of the groin is usually swimming-pool calm, the south end sometimes provides some of the nicest and longest boogie board rides in South O'ahu. **Queen's Beach** is named after a long-gone restaurant by that name. It's also a good place to stretch a towel and is usually less crowded than the beaches in front of the resorts.

The sand beach ends here. Behind you, **Kapiolani Park** is a giant, triangular-shaped lawn where people play soccer, fly kites, walk their dogs and jog to their hearts' content. Diamond Head

seems to tower over this park. The north end is where you'll find the **Waikiki Shell**, a seashell-shaped outdoor amphitheater where live performances are occasionally held.

Kapiolani Park is also where you'll find the Natatorium and the Waikiki Aquarium. (Before you get too worked up over the aquarium, read the **ATTRAC-TIONS** chapter to see if it's for you.)

The **Natatorium** is a WWI memorial built in 1927 to honor Hawai'i's casualties from the "great war." Its 100-meter pool was used by generations of residents for swim meets and recreation. The Natatorium fell into disrepair and was closed by the Department of Health in 1979. It has been partially renovated but is no longer used for swimming and has been stuck in political quicksand for years. It's now merely a convenient place to park and is used for its bathrooms by swimmers at Sans Souci Beach next door. At press time there was talk about tearing it down, but in the meantime, it's sort of a white elephant that Hawai'i res-

Part of Waikiki Beach at Kuhio Beach Park is ultra-protected by a breakwater for effortless swimming.



idents, out of embarrassment, kind of hope you don't see.

Sans Souci Beach is a nice but small beach on the south end of the Natatorium. It's semi-protected by one wall of the Natatorium, has showers, restrooms (at the Natatorium) and lifeguards. The sand is fairly coarse and brushes off more easily than the fine stuff, and it extends far enough into the ocean to provide a cushion for your feet. Park at the Natatorium on Kalakaua Avenue.

International Marketplace

The International Marketplace is a 125,000-square-foot brick-lined tropical bazaar with countless stalls of vendors and bartering customers, sprawling banyan trees and a hissing waterfall. Shop for pearls still in the oyster, tons of inexpensive jewelry, clothing, surfing gear, wood tikis and a billion things that you can put on your desk back home. Located between Kalakaua and Kuhio avenues next to Duke's Lane.

Meet the only royal residence in the United States—Iolani Palace.

Cocktails in Waikiki

It's been our observation that adult beverages in Waikiki sold next to the beach tend to be a bit weak, especially when served by big resorts like the Hilton, and no amount of coaching seems to make a difference. Perhaps they're counting on multiple purchases. For the record, it's illegal to consume alcohol on the beach in Hawai'i. This rule comes as a complete surprise to anyone visiting since restaurants and barefoot bars next to the beach often serve their drinks in plastic cups and sort of wink and nod while they tell you about the law when you ask for a drink to go. The law seems to be little enforced on Waikiki Beach, and a visit to nearly any beach on the weekend will reveal locals with giant ice chests full of beer.