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FLIP COVER



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HOTEL CHECK OAHU, HAWAII



Turtle Bay Resort

Lobby

any of our needs. The best feature, though, was the beach at the doorstep.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The resort takes full advantage of its dramatic surroundings, with dining venues, meeting facilities and terraces that overlook the ocean. From an upscale dining facility (21 Degrees North) to a relaxing beach bar (The Sand Bar), the cuisine at the eight different eateries generally focuses on island and Pacific Rim specialties. Sushi, kebabs and a variety of seafood were plentiful, but I was still able to enjoy a hearty plate of nachos at The Bay Club in front of a 52-inch plasma TV.

BUSINESS AND LEISURE FACILITIES

Turtle Bay is readily equipped for both business and leisure travel. It offers more than 28,000 square feet of meeting space in addition to 12 breakout rooms. The

Kuilima Ballroom features the requisite ocean view and can accommodate up to 1,000 people (560 banquet), and the Kahuku Ballroom has a similar capacity. Wireless Internet is available throughout most areas of the resort.

There is no shortage of activities to keep leisure guests busy at this resort. At the 36-hole championship golf facility, guests can enlist in the Turtle Bay Golf Academy. For the more aquatic-minded, the property is home to the Hans Hedemann Surf School, where guests can test their mettle with the legend and his team of instructors in private or group lessons. The stables provide the muscle for horseback, wagon and carriage rides, and a tennis center is equipped for night play. Scuba diving lessons and helicopter tours are available for the adventurous, and the spa awaits those in search of pampering.

VERDICT A more serene locale is hard to imagine, and I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the way Turtle Bay Resort balanced the natural beauty of its surroundings with a top-notch destination experience.

PRICES Rates start at \$300 for a room and \$827 for an Ocean Villa.

CONTACT 57-091 Kamehameha Highway Kahuku, Oahu, Hawaii 96731; tel. 808-293-6000; www.turtlebayresort.com

—Adam Rodriguez



Junior Suite

We left the door open to take in the ocean breeze as we unpacked, and one of the more curious locals paid a visit: a white dove, which would return each day of our stay—perhaps part of the welcome committee or an honorary member of the Ho'okipa (valet) staff that provided a number of services during our stay?

WHERE IS IT? Located on the northernmost tip of Oahu, Turtle Bay is far removed from

just about anything, and the lengthy drive into town discouraged us from leaving the resort for the most part. For many, the isolation is part of the appeal. Just be sure that you don't book your stay with the intention of hitting any of the late-night bars in town.

HOW MANY ROOMS? Turtle Bay Resort has 375 guest rooms and 26 suites, while The Beach Cottages at Turtle Bay Resort offers 42 beachfront cottages.

ROOM FACILITIES Our cottage was outfitted with the standard amenities of a hotel room, but afforded the privacy of a rented villa. There was a minibar, wireless Internet, and a staff that was ready to cater to

WHAT'S IT LIKE? Five miles of beach and an elaborate series of paths through the surrounding wilderness set the tone on this island resort. Guests are free to meander about the property or reference a resort guide that marks the various workout stations along the course. I found it useful in planning a track that ran along the ocean and forest.

We booked one of the beachfront cottages that had been tastefully outfitted by Los Angeles designer Michael Smith. A lush green lawn led to the entrance, beyond which lay a hardwood floor stained in two-tone chocolate shades. From within our island sanctuary, I had an unspoiled view of the Pacific lapping at the coastline, the sound of which was punctuated only by the occasional bird call.