It's no wonder that the winter months are the busiest in Hawaii, as you can still laze on the beaches and soak up the rays. The days begin to shorten in late fall, and November, specifically Thanksgiving weekend, marks the beginning of Hawaii's busiest travel season. If you're considering a trip to Hawaii during this season, book your accommodations early. This is also the most expensive season, however you can sometimes get good prices on airfare.

Winter months bring tremendous surf to all islands' north coastlines. Professional surfers travel to Oahu's legendary North Shore for competitions such as the Triple Crown of Surfing and the Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitation, both of which are thrilling to see from shore. (Avoid getting in the sea if the surf is high.) The Honolulu Marathon takes place in December, with thousands of participants running from Waikiki to Hawai Kai.

Humpback whales, known as kohola in Hawaiian, begin their annual return to Hawaii in November to breed, give birth, and nurse calves. From November to April, an estimated 8000 to 12,000 marine mammals migrate from Alaska to the islands' warm, shallow seas, and the protected marine mammals can be viewed from every island.

Late winter delivers excellent news for budget travelers and anybody looking for a more relaxed vacation: airfare and hotel bargains are common, and beaches, hiking trails, and major sights aren't nearly as busy as they are during peak summer and winter seasons.

Winter months are wetter than summer months, however the showers are usually confined and don't linger long. This is an excellent time to visit farmers' markets, which can be found on every island. - because avocados, citrus fruits, lychees, and other tropical fruits are still in season.

Spring is a sluggish time of year for travel, with the exception of spring and Easter breaks. When schools are out, though, it is another high season. Prices are lower than in the summer and winter, and the weather is pleasant and comfortable rather than summery scorching - ideal for outdoor outings with children.

It's a good time to visit zoos; the Honolulu Zoo on Oahu is the largest, but the Panaewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens in Hilo is charming, with a great playground and floral gardens. During this time, the ocean is quite quiet, making it ideal for snorkeling and swimming.

There's also enough to do indoors if it rains. Indoor playgrounds on Oahu include Kids City in Honolulu and Kapolei, Hawaii Children's Discovery Center in Kakaako, and the new Keiki Kingdom, which contains the island's largest ball pit. This is also an excellent time to attend a luau, which can often be sold out during peak seasons.

Hawaii is one of the most romantic destinations on the planet, and visiting during a slower season - fewer visitors, empty beaches - can set the scene. This is right before peak summer travel season, so you should be able to locate cheaper flights and lodgings.

Temperatures are in the mid-80s, and the weather isn't as rainy as it is in early spring, making it an ideal time to hit the trails, walk along beaches, and explore quaint districts such as Kailua on Oahu, Paia on Maui, and Hanalei on Kauai. This is also an excellent time to explore Hawaii Volcanoes National Park because it is less crowded and wet. (However, if you're hiking through the park, carry rain gear just in case.)