

# Historic Hotels!

## L: Waikiki's *Royal Hawaiian Hotel*

The *Royal Hawaiian* opened its doors on February, 1, 1927. Built by the Matson family, owners of the *Matson Lines*, its gracious halls and suites were filled with the kind of vacationers who thought nothing of staying the whole season. During World War II, it was used as a rest and recreation center for American servicemen. After the war, it reverted to the Matson family (not until 1947), but they were persuaded to sell the hotel to Ernest Henderson's *Sheraton Corporation* in 1959. It wasn't too long before the need for more guest rooms created the need for the curving tower addition. The grounds were gradually hacked away, until they became vestigial. What grounds that do remain are beautifully maintained, though. Now, after its 75th birthday, the hotel is as vibrant as ever.

More than a hotel, the Royal Hawaiian is a legend. It became an instant hit with high society, the wealthy and the famous. From Shirley Temple to Joe DiMaggio, celebrities almost always stayed there. Matson Navigation built the hotel to accommodate its luxury cruise passengers and within a few short years, the Royal Hawaiian became the most celebrated landmark on Waikiki Beach. With its unique blend of Moorish-Spanish design, soaring turrets and pink stucco, the hotel is considered the Grande Dame of Waikiki.

Renovated in 1997, the hotel contains a more modern wing and the Historic Wing, where there are 4 poster or canopy beds, a sense of the history of the hotel, and those wonderful pink linens. They serve a Royal Tea every afternoon overlooking the picturesque Coconut Grove. Combining East & West, the tea is served as it had been over 75 years ago – a kimono-clad server presents a selection of finger sandwiches, scones, pastries and cookies along with a wonderful selection of teas.

The published rates range from \$345.00 to \$825.00 and up up up for the suites. *[a little out of my price range]*

For over three quarter's of a century, the Royal Hawaiian Hotel has been a marvelous destination, filled with history, a beautiful location, and an ambience that is unforgettable. The Royal Hawaiian Hotel...one of Hawaii's great hotels!

*[courtesy of [http://www.pandaonline.com/hotel\\_oahuroyalhawa.html](http://www.pandaonline.com/hotel_oahuroyalhawa.html)]*

