

# Alaska



- **Alaska**, constituent state of the United States of America. It was admitted to the union as the 49th state on January 3, **1959**.
- Upon attaining statehood, Alaska increased the size of the United States by **nearly one-fifth**.
- Alaska lies at the extreme northwest of the North American continent and is the largest peninsula in the Western Hemisphere. (Because the 180th meridian passes through the state's Aleutian Islands, Alaska's westernmost portion is in the Eastern Hemisphere.)
- Thus, technically, **Alaska is in both the Western and Eastern hemispheres.**)
- In the Alaska Range is Mount McKinley, 20,320 feet (6,194 metres) high—the highest peak in North America.
- Alaska continues to be the country's **last frontier**



<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/12252/Alaska>

# Amazing facts about the geography of Alaska

- Alaska has an immense area and a great variety of physical characteristics. Aside from its mainland peninsula, the state includes about 15,000 square miles (38,800 square km) of **fjords**
- About four-fifths of Alaska is underlain by permafrost (permanently frozen sediment and rock). **Tundra**—the vast, treeless Arctic plains—makes up about one-half of the state.
- Alaska has more than **130 active volcanoes**, most of which are on the Aleutian Islands and the adjacent Alaska Peninsula. The Alaska earthquake of 1964 was one of the most powerful earthquakes recorded in the United States.

# Alaska

- Population of Alaska: about 0,7 million
- Alaska is the largest state in the United States by area,
- the 4th least populous and
- the least densely populated of the 50 United States.
- The name "Alaska" (Аляска) had been introduced in the Russian colonial period, when it was used to refer to the peninsula. It is derived from the Aleut *alaxsxaq*, meaning "the mainland" or, more literally, "the object towards which the action of the sea is directed". It is also known as *Alyeska*, the "great land", an Aleut word derived from the same root.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska>

# Alaska - history

- Indigenous peoples: Eskimos, Indians, Aleut
- As early as 1700, native peoples of Siberia reported the existence of a huge piece of land lying due east. In 1728 an expedition commissioned by Tsar Peter I (the Great) of Russia and led by a Danish mariner, **Vitus Bering**, determined that the new land was not linked to the Russian mainland, but, because of fog, the expedition failed to locate North America. On Bering's second voyage, in 1741, the peak of Mount St. Elias was sighted, and men were sent ashore. Sea otter furs taken back to Russia opened a rich fur commerce between Europe, Asia, and the North American Pacific coast during the ensuing century.
- The first European settlement was established in 1784 by Russians at Three Saints Bay, near present-day Kodiak. With the arrival of the Russian fur traders, many Aleuts were killed by the newcomers or overworked in the hunting of fur seals. Many other Aleuts died of diseases brought by the Russians.
- British, American and Russian fur-trading companies

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/12252/Alaska/281289/Sports-and-recreation#toc79231>

# The Alaska Purchase - 1867

- The near extinction of the sea otter and the political consequences of the Crimean War (1853–56) were factors in Russia's willingness to sell Alaska to the United States.
- After much public opposition, Seward's formal proposal of \$7.2 million was approved by the U.S. Congress, and the American flag was flown at Sitka on Oct. 18, 1867. The Alaska Purchase was initially referred to as "Seward's Folly" by critics who were convinced the land had nothing to offer.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/12252/Alaska/281286/US-possession>

# Alaska - economy

- 1968 - discovery of oil
- The oil and gas industry dominates the Alaskan economy, with more than 80% of the state's revenues derived from petroleum extraction.
- Alaska's main export product (excluding oil and natural gas) is seafood, primarily salmon, cod and crab.

# Alaska – dog-sled racing

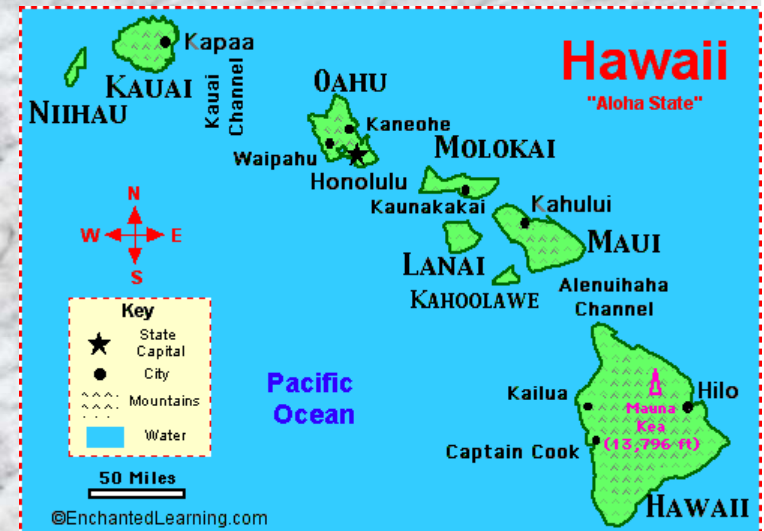
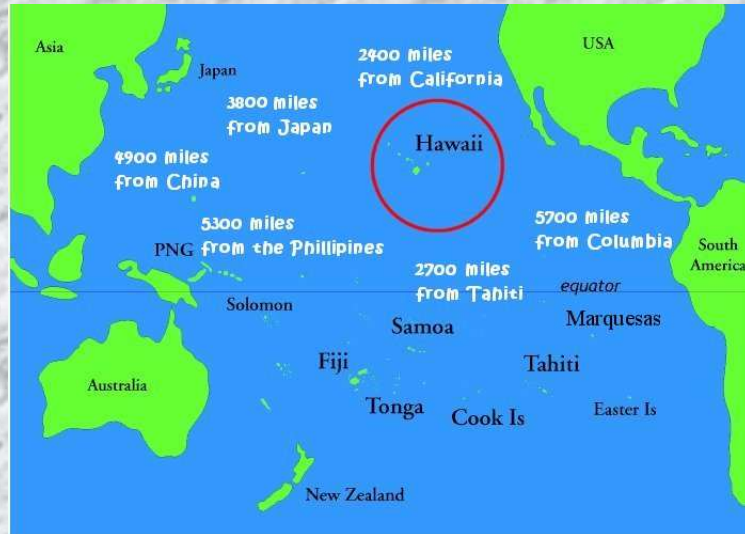


# Alaska





# Hawaii



- **Hawaii**, constituent state of the United States of America. Hawaii became the 50th U.S. state on August 21, 1959. Hawaii is a group of volcanic islands in the central Pacific Ocean. The islands lie 2,397 miles (3,857 km) from San Francisco, Calif., to the east and 5,293 miles (8,516 km) from Manila, in the Philippines, to the west. The capital is Honolulu, located on the island of Oahu.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/257332/Hawaii>

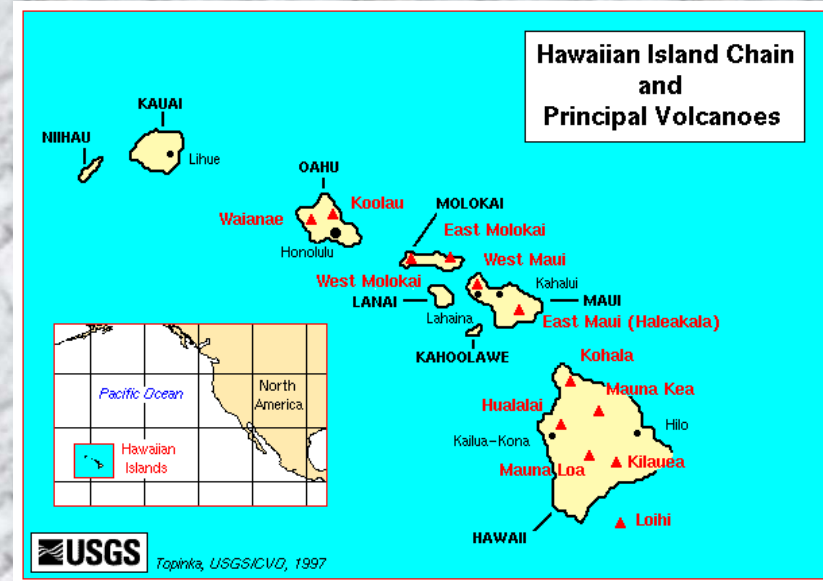
# Hawaii

- The ALOHA STATE
- Tourism
- surfing



- The land area of the state of Hawaii consists of the tops of a chain of emerged volcanic mountains that form 8 major islands and 124 islets, stretching in a 1,500-mile (2,400-km) crescent from Kure Island in the west to the island of Hawaii in the east.
- Volcanic activity has become dormant, with the exception of the volcanoes of Mauna Loa and Kilauea on the easternmost and largest island, Hawaii (often referred to as the “Big Island”), where spectacular eruptions and lava flows take place from time to time.
- The highest Hawaiian mountains are Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, both on the island of Hawaii, reaching 13,796 feet (4,205 metres) and 13,678 feet (4,169 metres) above sea level, respectively.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/257332/Hawaii>



# Hawaii

- The **first inhabitants** of Hawaii may have reached the islands as early as 300 AD.
- The early Hawaiians lacked a written language. Their culture was entirely oral and rich in myth, legend, and practical knowledge, especially of animals and plant life.
- **Capt. James Cook**, the British explorer and navigator, is generally credited with having made the first European discovery of Hawaii; he landed at Waimea, Kauai Island, on Jan. 20, **1778**. Upon his return the following year, he was killed during an affray with a number of Hawaiians at Kealahou Bay.
- In the early 19th century the American whaling fleet began wintering in Hawaii, and the islands were visited with mounting frequency by explorers, traders, and adventurers. Capt. George Vancouver introduced livestock to the islands in 1792. In 1820 the first of 15 companies of New England missionaries arrived. By the middle of the century there were schools, churches and mercantile establishments.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/257332/Hawaii/278750/Sports-and-recreation#toc79294>

## Hawaii – Establishment of US dominance

- In 1887, the United States received exclusive rights to enter and **establish a naval base at Pearl Harbor.**
- The administration of **Pres. William McKinley annexed the islands as U.S. territory in 1900.**
- As a U.S. territory, Hawaii until 1940 was distinguished by a rapid growth in population, the development of a plantation economy based on the production of sugar and pineapples for consumption on the U.S. mainland, and the growth of transport and military links.
- The **Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941,** brought not only Hawaii but the United States as a whole into World War II.
- **Statehood in 1959.**

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/257332/Hawaii/79296/Establishment-of-US-dominance>