

The Spell Of The Hawaiian Islands And The Philippines: Exploring Two Exotic Paradise Destinations

Picture yourself standing on a pristine white sandy beach, feeling the warm breeze brush against your skin while watching the turquoise waves gently kiss the shore. You look around, taking in the breathtaking beauty of your surroundings — lush green mountains, vibrant tropical flowers, and an unmistakable sense of serenity. Welcome to the spellbinding Hawaiian Islands and the captivating Philippines!

The Enchanting Hawaiian Islands

The Hawaiian Islands, located in the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean, are a tropical paradise like no other. Made up of eight main islands, each with its distinct charm, Hawaii offers a diverse range of experiences that will leave you mesmerized.

1. Oahu

Oahu, the most populous island in Hawaii, is a vibrant blend of cosmopolitan energy and natural wonders. Honolulu, the state capital and largest city, is home to famous Waikiki Beach. Here, long stretches of golden sand meet the sparkling blue waters, providing the perfect backdrop for relaxation and water sports.

The Spell of the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines

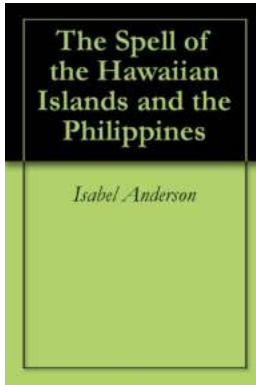
by Murray Stewart (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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For adventure seekers, Oahu's North Shore is a must-visit. Known for its colossal waves, surfers from around the world gather here to tackle the ultimate test of skill and courage. The secluded Lanikai Beach, with its azure waters and palm-tree-lined shores, is a hidden gem perfect for a peaceful escape.

2. Maui

The second-largest island, Maui, is renowned for its stunning natural beauty and dramatic landscapes. The Road to Hana, a scenic drive along the island's northeastern coast, unfolds a spectacle of cascading waterfalls, lush rainforests, and breathtaking coastal cliffs. The sunrise from the summit of Haleakala, a dormant volcano, is an experience that will make you feel like you're on top of the world.

Maui also offers world-class snorkeling and diving opportunities, allowing you to discover the vibrant marine life that inhabits its pristine coral reefs. The quaint coastal town of Lahaina is the perfect place to immerse yourself in Hawaiian history and culture while enjoying delicious local cuisine.

3. Kauai

Known as the "Garden Isle," Kauai showcases nature's splendor at every turn. The Na Pali Coast, with its jagged towering cliffs and emerald valleys, is a sight that will leave you awe-struck. Take a helicopter tour or embark on a thrilling boat ride to fully appreciate the grandeur of this untouched paradise.

For hikers and nature enthusiasts, a visit to Waimea Canyon, often referred to as the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," is a must. The ethereal beauty of this vast canyon, adorned with vibrant shades of red and green, is a testament to the island's raw magnificence.

The Allure of the Philippines

The Philippines, an archipelago of over 7,000 islands, offers a treasure trove of natural wonders and cultural experiences. With each island boasting its unique charm, a trip to this Southeast Asian gem guarantees an unforgettable adventure.

1. Palawan

Palawan, often hailed as the world's best island, captivates visitors with its otherworldly landscapes and crystal-clear turquoise waters. El Nido, a pristine beach town nestled at the northern tip of the island, is a gateway to an underwater paradise. Embark on island-hopping tours to explore the enchanting lagoons, hidden beaches, and awe-inspiring limestone cliffs.

Coron, another gem in Palawan, is famous for its mesmerizing shipwreck diving sites. Dive into the translucent waters to witness sunken Japanese warships, vibrant coral gardens, and a rich marine ecosystem that will leave you in awe.

2. Boracay

Boracay, once a hidden gem, has transformed into a world-renowned tropical destination. With its powdery white sand beaches and vibrant nightlife, this small

island has something for everyone. Picture yourself relaxing on the famous White Beach, sipping on a refreshing fruit shake, and being lulled by the gentle sound of the ocean.

A visit to Ariel's Point, a cliff-diving spot, will give you an exhilarating rush of adrenaline. Explore the underwater world by indulging in snorkeling or scuba diving, where you'll encounter colorful coral reefs and an array of marine life.

3. Cebu

Rich in history and natural wonders, Cebu offers an array of experiences that will satisfy any traveler's desires. The vibrant city of Cebu is the perfect blend of modernity and tradition. Delve into the bustling markets, feast on local cuisine, and immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere of Sinulog Festival, a grand celebration of Filipino culture.

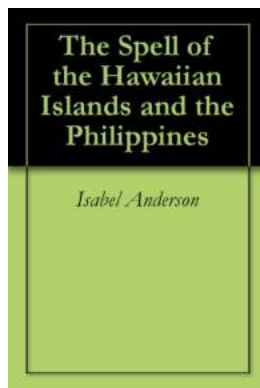
Southern Cebu's hidden gems, including Kawasan Falls and Osmeña Peak, provide an escape into lush greenery and cascading waterfalls. Swim in turquoise pools, hike to breathtaking viewpoints, and experience the serenity of these natural wonders.

Unleash Your Wanderlust

With their hypnotic allure, the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines hold the power to transport you to a world of beauty and bliss. Whether you choose to bask in the sun-soaked beaches, conquer thrilling adventures, or delve into the rich cultures, these two paradise destinations will cast a spell on you that lingers long after you return home.

So, pack your bags, unleash your wanderlust, and embark on a journey to uncover the magic of the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines. Surrender to their

spell, and you'll discover a paradise unlike any other.



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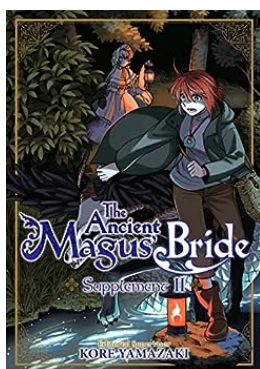
It is my hope that this book about our islands in the Pacific ocean may be of some interest, if for no other reason than that there is at present so much discussion as to whether or not we should keep the Philippines.

Soon after the close of the Civil War my father, who was a naval officer, was sent on a cruise on the Pacific and stopped for a time both at Honolulu and Manila. During this cruise he took part in the occupation and survey of Midway Island, as it is now called—our first possession in Pacific waters. Many years later, when my husband and I started on our first trip to the East, I asked my father if he would give us letters of to his many friends there. He replied, "It is a long time since I visited the islands in the Pacific; if my friends have forgotten me letters would do no good, and if they remember me letters are not necessary." Needless to say, they did remember him and extended to us the most cordial hospitality.

The charm of Hawaii will linger forever in[Pg viii] our memory—those happy flower islands where the air is sweet with perfume and gay with the musical

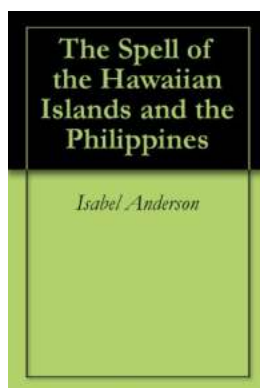
strains of the ukulele. We lived there for a time before the Islands were annexed to the United States and, on another visit, we had the privilege of accompanying the Secretary of War, Hon. J. M. Dickinson, so that we had exceptional opportunities of seeing both Hawaii and the Philippines, and of making the acquaintance of leaders among the Americans and the natives.

We found the Philippines especially fascinating on account of the great variety they provide. The old world plazas, the flowering Spanish courtyards, and the pretty women in their distinctive costume of piña are all enchanting. Nowhere else in the Far East are the mestizos—those of mixed blood—socially above the natives. The Filipinos are unique in that they are the only Asiatics who are Christians. Among the hills, near civilization, live the savages who indulge in the exciting game of head-hunting. The Moros, the Mohammedans of the southern islands, stand quite by themselves. They are very picturesque and absolutely unlike their neighbours.



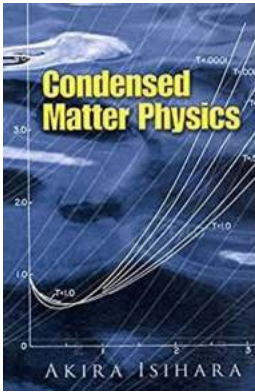
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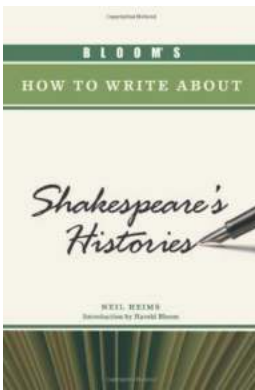
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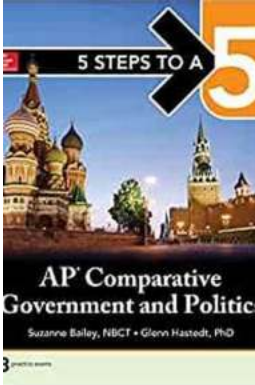
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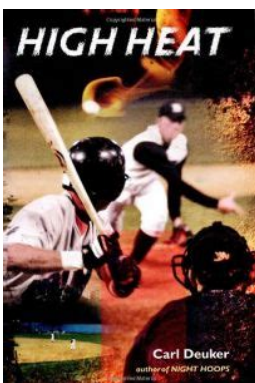
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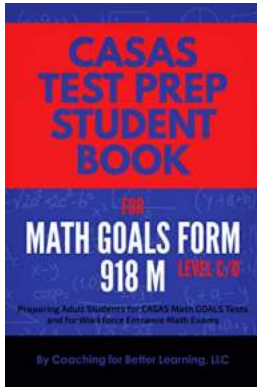
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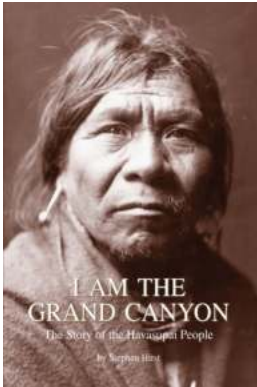
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