

SURFING IN HAWAII

IT'S A LONG (BUT INTERESTING) STORY!

Surfing began in the islands of Hawaii and other areas of the Pacific Ocean more than 200 years ago although historians say it existed in some form in Tahiti as early as 2000 BC.

It wasn't a hobby, it was a way of life. Making a surfboard was a spiritual experience and a great deal of care went into its construction. The people were interested in discovering the mysteries of the waves and the ocean, and the most skilled surfers were highly respected in society. It was said the top surfer was also the chief of his local community.

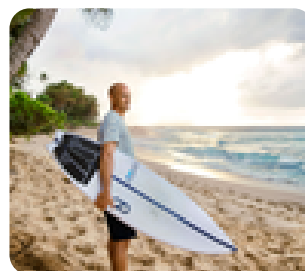
As tourists began to travel to Hawaii in the 1900s they learnt about the sport. Soon the sport spread to the United States, especially California, and to Australia and beyond. The first surfboards were made of wood and were very large and heavy.



The Banzai Pipeline, is a surf reef break located in Hawaii

Surfing is a popular worldwide sport and according to the International Surfing Association, there are an estimated 23 million people taking part across the globe. In the United States, there are around 2.8 million surfers, while there are 1.7 million in Australia and 500,000 in the United Kingdom.

WHAT IS SURFING?



Kelly Slater and Duke Kahanamoku's surfboards.



Few people could carry them. During the 1900s scientists developed new materials that made it possible to build much lighter boards. The sport became even more popular as a result.

The best surfer out there is the one having the most fun."