

# People and Places of the Pacific

A CELEBRATION ON STAMPS



*Sending a powerful message requires a powerful tool. The United States Postal Service is proud to use the power of the postage stamp to commemorate the people, places, history, and culture of the Pacific Islands and the Pacific Rim.*

*The Pacific is where the dawn meets the evening star, where the world's largest ocean laps against the shores of thousands of islands, and where yesterday's stories are still reflected today like sunlight on blue waves.*

*In the middle of the Pacific Ocean lies the 50th of the United States, Hawaii. Farther west are the people of archipelagoes and islands with whom the United States has strong and long-established bonds — Micronesia, Palau, American Samoa, the Marshall Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. And still farther west — in fact, to the Far East — are the nations of Asia, all of which have shared friendship, ideas, and their unique cultures with the United States over the years.*

*We are pleased to have celebrated our relationships with these countries and shared the stories of their people and history.*

*For more than two centuries, we have been America's messenger, binding the nation together and extending communications across the globe to other nations and peoples. The United States Postal Service: We are continuing to transform ourselves to meet the challenges of the 21st century.*



### **“Hawaiian Missionary” Stamps**

*To be issued 2002*

Reproductions of the first Hawaiian stamps issued 1851–1853.

These stamps acquired their nickname because most were used on correspondence from American missionaries in Hawaii to their families back home. Because of their rarity, they are considered among the world's foremost philatelic items.

## United States Trust Territory

After World War II, the United Nations assigned several Pacific island groups to a Trust Territory administered by the USA. Starting in the 1970s, the groups worked to become independent, self-governing districts, yet all of them still have strong associations with the USA.



## Federated States of Micronesia

*Issued 1990*

Commemorates the Compact of Free Association with the USA that became effective November 1986. The four major island groups (totaling 607 islands) are Truk (Chuuk), Yap, Kosrae, and Pohnpei (Ponape).

## Republic of the Marshall Islands

*Issued 1990*

Commemorates the Compact of Free Association with the USA that became effective October 1986. The republic has more than 1,000 islands, including Bikini and Kwajalein.

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

*Issued 1993*

Salutes the group of 14 islands, including Saipan and Tinian. In 1978, the islands became a commonwealth of the USA.

## Republic of Palau

*Issued 1995*

Celebrates the first anniversary of Palau's independence, which became effective October 1994.

## Cranes

*Issued 1994*

The first joint issue between the USA and China, intended to recognize friendship between the two countries. The stamps feature the Black-Necked Crane from China and the Whooping Crane from the USA, rare birds that are the subject of conservation efforts in their homelands.





### **American Samoa**

*Issued 2000*

Commemorates the centennial of the union between American Samoa and the USA. American Samoa is a territory of several islands, including Tutuila and Aunuu, whose capital is Pago Pago.



### **Greetings From Hawaii**

*Issued 2002*

Celebrates the 50th state as part of the *Greetings From America* release. The stamp features a likeness of Diamond Head, Waikiki Beach, and the state flower, the hibiscus.

### **Duke Kahanamoku**

*To be issued 2002*

Three-time Olympic gold medal swimming champion, champion surfer, Hollywood actor, and Hawaiian folk hero.





## Hawaii Territory

*Issued 1937*

Celebrates Hawaii's status as a U.S. territory, which it became in 1900. The stamp features a statue of King Kamehameha, who starting in the 1790s united the main Hawaiian Islands and promoted trade with Great Britain and other nations.



## Diamond Head, Hawaii

*Issued 1952*

Depicts Diamond Head, one of the most notable and beautiful natural landmarks in Hawaii. This extinct volcano is on the southeast side of the island of Oahu.



## Hawaii Statehood

*Issued 1959*

Celebrates Hawaii becoming the 50th state of the Union.



## City of Refuge, Hawaii

*Issued 1972*

Honors the area on the island of Hawaii that was founded in the 1500s as a sacred religious sanctuary. This area is now called Pu'uuhonua o Honaunau National Historic Park.



## Hawaii State Flag

*Issued 1976*

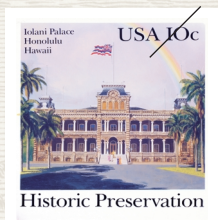
Celebrates the Hawaiian flag as part of the *American Bicentennial* series. Commissioned in 1816 by King Kamehameha, the flag's eight stripes represent Hawaii's eight islands, and the "Union Jack" honors Hawaii's early friendship with Great Britain.



## Captain Cook's Ships *Resolution* and *Discovery*

*Issued 1978*

Commemorates the 200th anniversary of British explorer Captain James Cook's arrival in Hawaii with his two ships *Resolution* and *Discovery*.



### **Iolani Palace, Hawaii**

*Issued 1979*

Honors the centennial anniversary of the construction of the only royal palace on U.S. soil. First used by King Kalakaua, it served as Hawaii's capitol building until 1969, when it became a National Historic Landmark.



### **Hawaii State Bird and Flower**

*Issued 1982*

Presents Hawaii's state bird and flower as part of the *Birds and Flowers of the 50 States* series. Hawaii's state bird is the Nene (pronounced "nay-nay"), also called the Hawaiian Goose, and its state flower is the hibiscus.



### **Hawaii Statehood Anniversary**

*Issued 1984*

Celebrates the 25th anniversary of Hawaii entering the Union as the 50th state.



### **China and Korea - World War II**

*Issued 1942 and 1944*

Shows support for China and Korea in World War II. Both countries had been invaded and occupied by Axis powers but were still fighting for freedom alongside the Allies.



### **Opening of Japan**

*Issued 1953*

Commemorates the centennial anniversary of the opening of Japan to the West by U.S. Navy Commodore Matthew C. Perry.



### **U.S.-Japan Treaty**

*Issued 1960*

Honors the 100th anniversary of the treaty between the USA and Japan.



### **Sun Yat-sen and the Republic of China**

*Issued 1961*

Celebrates the 50th anniversary of the formation of the first Republic of China and the election of Sun Yat-sen as its first president.



### **Hokusai, Japanese Artist**

*Issued 1974*

Reproduces a scene from a work by the famous Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849). This image of a Japanese woman engaged in writing honors the 100th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union and the theme of uniting the world's people through letters.



**Year of the Rooster**  
*Issued 1992*



**Year of the Tiger**  
*Issued 1998*



**Year of the Dog**  
*Issued 1994*



**Year of the Hare**  
*Issued 1999*



**Year of the Boar**  
*Issued 1994*



**Year of the Dragon**  
*Issued 2000*



**Year of the Rat**  
*Issued 1996*



**Year of the Snake**  
*Issued 2001*



**Year of the Ox**  
*Issued 1997*



**Year of the Horse**  
*Issued 2002*

**Lunar New Year Series**

The Postal Service's award-winning *Lunar New Year* series celebrates the 12-year cycle of the Chinese lunar calendar and the animal associated with each year. Stamps depicting ten animals have been released so far, with stamps of the remaining two animals to be released in the coming years.