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This is a continually evolving project, so if you think anything is missing or inaccurate, please email your suggestions/changes to aloha@mauiguide.com.

Disclaimer: Most of the material is our own, but some was shared from sources we obtained permission from. None of the businesses mentioned here are paying to be in this ebook. Some have paid for promotion via other avenues (websites), but we never share an advertiser unless we truly love their product.

We've run through this ebook to check on businesses, locations, or other attractions that have changed or have closed due to COVID-19. We apologize if we missed anything, but keep in mind that our business landscape is more dynamic than ever. We'll do our best to update this document as we see things change.

Planning your 1st Trip to Maui

Below we've made a simple checklist of 11 steps to prepare the best trip of your life!

1. Choose your Dates

You need to decide what time of year, month work best for you, your family, and your work schedule. ALSO, and just as important, you need to choose a time that fits your needs as far budget and weather. Our off-season is usually around March-

May and September-November. At this time, you'll get cheaper tickets/rooms and there will be less people on the island (barring any holiday or Spring Break). Coming during the winter is attractive to those that live in colder, snowy climates, and in the summer for those that have incredible humidity where they live.

2. Where to Stay

Maui is made up of a diverse range of micro-climates and unique towns. You need to choose by area and by town. Keep in mind you'll likely want to fly into Kahului even if staying near the airport on the west side. Driving for an hour along the beautiful coast is usually better than spending a fortune flying into Kapalua. [Here are the best areas to stay.](#)

South Maui - Kihei, Wailea, Makena

This is your best chance of having sun 100% of the time. It's the desert side with some great beaches, restaurants, activities. Kihei is less expensive, but only south Kihei is really nice (in our opinion.) South Kihei Road runs the entire length of both north and south Kihei, so don't be fooled. We like everything south of Kanani Road. Wailea and Makena have amazing resorts and condos on golf courses with great beaches, but you'll pay for it.

West Maui - Lahaina, Kaanapali, Kapalua, Napili

Also on the dry desert side, Lahaina Town is very concentrated and busy with great shopping and lot of restaurants on the water. Kaanapali and Kapalua are golf course towns on the water with big resorts. Napili is a more quiet village area with some pretty beaches too. Kahana is nestled between Kaanapali and Kapalua and has some nice beaches and good prices.

East Maui - Hana Town

Hana is generally what you think of when you imagine Hawaii. Lush rainforests that hug pure coastlines of lava rock, empty beaches, and slow living. This is where all the waterfalls are too. There aren't many choices on where to stay, but you can rent a condo/house or stay at the Travaasa Hotel. Renting a place can be good, but we've had a few bad experiences. Staying at the hotel is one of the best experiences we've had while in Hana. It's in the heart of town with amazing amenities, friendly staff, and a full spa with ocean views.

Upcountry Maui - Makawao, Kula

Not many visitors stay Upcountry, but we recommend it to those that want a cooler experience with great views. These quiet villages are high on the slopes of Haleakala, so you won't have beaches, but you'll likely be able to see them! The weather is much cooler and it feels like you're staying in the moors of Scotland. It's gorgeous with some beautiful landscapes.

3. Rent a Car

Get a good price on a reliable car. Major considerations are getting a vehicle that can hold all of your luggage and yourselves, gas mileage since you may be driving a lot, and your preference of a convertible. If you want to surf and need a rack, make sure it has one or buy a portable one. You'll most likely be flying into Kahului Airport, so rent your car from here online beforehand. Here you can find some good Maui car rental rates.

4. Research Activities

Some visitors spend all their time at the beach in front of their hotel/resort. Some like to do some exploring of the island. Others rarely see their rooms and are out and about all day long every day. What ever type of person you are, you're going to want to do some activities on Maui (outlined below by visitor-type.) Book them ahead of time for discounted prices.

Resort Goers

If you came to relax and that's it, then stay at a beach front accommodation and consider the following activities: Luaus, Shows, Golfing, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle, Restaurants, Massage, Beach Portraits.

Sight-Seeing Explorer

If you came to relax at the beach, but you still want to get out and see some of Maui, these are some fun ways to see our island: Road to Hana, Hiking, Molokini Snorkeling, Whale Watching, Sailing, Submarine.

Hard-Core Adventurers

If you're itching for excitement and adventure, you should consider: Helicopter Tours, Scuba Diving, Ziplines, Volcano Biking, Hiking, Sport Fishing, Parasailing, Kayaking.

5. Research Dining & Food

For many of you, you'll be renting a condo or some kind of accommodations with a kitchen. In order to save time and enjoy your trip to the fullest, Maui Grocery

Service will buy your groceries as well as deliver and stock your fridge with your new items.

Maui has some award-winning restaurants and some pretty crappy ones too. So, it's good to get an idea of where you'll be going when visiting Maui. Read through this site, and consider buying one of the many Maui Guidebooks, and learn about the amazing restaurants, snack shops and food trucks.

6. Pack

Some things you will want to consider bringing when busting out your suitcase:

- Sunblock, sun glasses and hats (the sun will get you!)
- swim suit
- Sweatshirt and long pants (if you go to Haleakala Crater, you'll need even more than this.)
- A backpack (for hiking and day trips.)
- Camera/camcorder (you'll want plenty of pics/video. Just don't leave them in your car!)
- Some cash (not everybody takes credit cards here.)
- Music (CD's and/or Ipod for use in your car rental and hotel rooms)
- Bug Spray (Depending on where you'll be staying, and whether you taste good, you'll be bitten)
- Snacks (airlines are getting cheaper and cheaper these days.)

7. Learn about Maui

Hawaii is a magical place to visit. In the least, it leaves everyone with a sense of inspiration and serenity. If you want to get the most out of our islands, learn something about our unique culture, powerful history, Hawaiian legends and geographic landscapes. You'll appreciate it much more if you do. Also, learn about some of the dangers and things to watch out for. Paradise can turn sour if you don't know what you're doing. Cliffs are unstable, reefs are razor sharp, roads are twisty and wet, bugs bite, waves crash, and the sun burns.

8. Stay Updated

Ever watch Willie Nelson play in a small bar? Enjoy a 5 course meal by star chefs at a pop up restaurant on a farm? Watch bon Jovi live from the beach followed by a firework show? have cocktails and great food while mingling with celebrities? We have! These are some of the amazing events and shows that most visitors don't know about. Follow us on our social networks with [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#).

9. Review/Share your Experience

The best way to plan a trip is to get helpful tips and information from other people that have recently been to Maui, so help others by sharing your experience (good and bad.) Our blog is open to anyone that really wants to share their experience with photos, video, reviews, and more. Feel free to contact us and let us know if you're interested.

10. Plan your Next Trip!

There's no better time to begin planning your trip to Maui than right after having been. Everything is fresh in your mind, and you'll be able to correct any mistakes you made in planning the first time. Write down the restaurants you really liked, the activities you'd do again, the resorts/hotels you'd like to try next time, and start

picking dates. Refer to #1 on this list and get ready for an even better trip than you're about to have! ALOHA!

11. Consider Permanence in Paradise

Whether you're interested in making Maui your permanent home or you're toying with the idea of purchasing an investment property, a dedicated realtor is necessary to walk you through the process. Evan Harlow of Coldwell Banker Maui is one of the island's top choices, investing personal care into each one of his clients. With sharpened customer service and negotiating skills, as well as extensive knowledge of Maui's real estate market, current vacation rental laws, property taxes, and subdivisions and condo complexes, Evan's expertise makes for a smooth experience in the often chaotic event of buying a home. You can browse his site, [Maui Elite Property](#), to learn more about the aforementioned topics, or view Maui real estate for sale.

Car Rental Tips

Millions of travelers make their way to Maui each year from locations around the world, and one of the most frequent questions we receive is whether renting a car is really necessary, and our answer almost always remains the same - yes.

While Maui does have a decent bus system, the infrequent schedule (runs once every hour to hour and a half) and lack of late-night bus options, not to mention limited routes, leaves much to the imagination in terms of getting around while on vacation. In addition, taxis are very expensive and especially during peak seasons, holidays and special events, hard to come by. Hitchhiking can be great for small journeys, but is an unreliable option as far as timing and space for more than one traveler. And, of course, there's a question of your safety with a stranger. Uber is

becoming more common on Maui, but we've had mixed experiences with not much night time availability.

Renting a car in Maui shouldn't have to be one of the top expenses on your next vacation, but it could be if you don't know what to expect. We've gathered some of the best local tips about renting a car in Maui, and with our help, you'll be exploring before you know it.

#1 What Kind of Car Should I Rent?

There are many options for [car rentals in Maui](#), from standard 4-door economy cars to Hummers and Porsches. First of all, you should know that off-roading in any rental vehicle on Maui is a violation of the rental agreement, so don't waste your money upgrading to a car with 4 wheel drive. Most anywhere you (legally) want to drive on Maui, you can do without 4WD.

The most economical option, and our recommendation, is to go with a standard 4-door, fuel efficient car. Keep in mind that gas in Hawaii is among the highest in the country at any given time, and paired with the fact that you'll likely be doing lots of driving during your trip, renting a gas guzzler is not the best option.

#2 Do I Need Insurance?

Insurance is usually a good idea, but it may not be necessary for you to purchase additional insurance from your car rental company. Before you leave home, call your current car insurance carrier to ask about coverage while you're in Hawaii. You'll likely already be covered, and some rental companies use this tactic to scare you into buying additional coverage you don't really need.

Keep in mind that if you violate your rental agreement and have a problem, including off-roading, your insurance, both from your home state and with the car rental agency, may be entirely void. Hawaii also doesn't allow visitors to leave the state until all debt is settled, so save yourself a headache and ask about coverage

before you leave home. Driving only where you're supposed to and staying off of forbidden roads is a good rule of thumb.

#3 What Kind of Additional Fees Should I Expect?

Good news! While you'll likely pay more for gas than you will back home, Hawaii falls somewhere in the middle in terms of taxes and fees for rental cars. The State of Hawaii charges a Motor Vehicle Surcharge per day for all rental cars (plus more at airport locations) in addition to a daily registration fee, general excise tax and an 11% recovery fee for airport locations.

There are likely additional fees to add extra drivers and for drivers ages 21 to 24. If you're in need of infant or child safety seats, ask about daily rental charges from your car rental company.

In any case, always make sure to ask about final charges like mileage, taxes, pick-up fees, etc. before giving anyone your credit card number over the phone. Most companies require a credit card to finalize the reservation, but may allow you to do so when you arrive. If your plane arrives before the rest of your party, make sure the reservation for the rental car was made in your name, otherwise you could be stuck waiting until the rest of your party arrives to hand over the correct credit card.

#5 Should I Fill Up the Car Myself or Let Them Do It?

If you don't mind paying way more for gas or are running behind on time, the easiest answer is to let them do it for you when you return the car at the end of your trip.

However, our suggestion is to fill up the car yourself at any of the surrounding gas stations near the airport. If you have a Costco card, the cheapest gas on the island is located at the Costco near Kahului Airport.

#6 How's the Driving on Maui?

In a word, slow. Most travelers from the mainland, and everywhere else for that matter, are surprised to find that Maui's highways have speed limits of 35 to 55mph. While some of this is for good reason, including the Pali Highway, a two-lane road that curves along steep ocean cliffs, other areas are not. Keep an eye out for speed traps and go with the flow.

The main question for travelers on Maui is about driving the Road to Hana. If you know you're prone to motion sickness, take Dramamine (or any number of related seasickness remedies) the day before and know what you're getting yourself into. You'll be driving between 5 to 35mph the whole day, but the 600 turns and 58+ narrow, one-lane bridges are enough to scare some people off. Don't let it. Take your time, pull over to let the locals get passed you, and take frequent breaks to explore Maui's natural scenery.

If you're concerned about whether or not to drive the back road around Haleakala, keep in mind that it's partially unpaved and if you have an accident here, it would be a very difficult place to get help. That being said, we've seen countless rental cars on this road, so use your discretion.

Another important thing to remember is that there are lots of foot, scooter/moped, dirt bike/motorcycle and bicycle traffic on Maui. If you're staying in Kihei, Lahaina or Paia, make sure to drive slowly and keep an eye out for surrounding riders (who are allowed to drive in the bike lane) and pedestrians on the frequent crosswalks in these areas.

One last note about driving in Maui is remembering to drive with aloha. "Slow Down, This Ain't The Mainland" is a bumper sticker for a reason, so do just that - slow down, enjoy the scenery (which does not include whale watching or waterfall gazing from the driver's seat), let people in, refrain from honking unless absolutely necessary, and drive with a bit of aloha, at least while you're here. Save the road rage for home... you'll get there.

#7 What are the Chances of My Rental Car Being Broken Into?

Like anywhere else, there are good and bad seeds on Maui. Rental cars are almost always easy to differentiate from local cars and are sometimes targeted by thieves, so we suggest not carrying anything of high value in your car, including in the trunk. Take only what you need and don't leave anything valuable visibly out in your car.

#8 What Should I Do in the Case of An Accident?

If your car breaks down or you have an accident, call the number provided by the rental car company. If you try to handle the situation on your own, the result may be out-of-pocket expenses that are not covered by your insurance provider or rental car company.

#9 What's the Parking & Traffic Like on Maui?

You'll likely be pleased to find that most places in Maui offer free parking. While there are some paid lots around high traffic areas and resort neighborhoods like Lahaina and Ka'anapali, most places on Maui offer free lots and/or street parking. Some of the roads here are one-lane, meaning if you're stuck behind a particularly slow driver, it could stay that way for a while. Traffic, however, unless you're trying to get to Costco at 5pm on a Friday, or through Paia almost anytime, is typically few and far between, especially compared to Oahu and any big city on the mainland. Enjoy it while you can!

#10 What's the Best Thing about Driving on Maui?

We've found that generally the best thing about doing anything on Maui is the fact that you're on Maui. Aloha and drive safe!

Maui By Region and Town

South Maui (Kihei, Wailea, Makena)

Kihei

Welcome to always sunny Kihei! This beautiful, near endless stretch of beaches is located in South Maui on the leeward side of Haleakala. The weather is almost always perfect and the #1 priority is to hang out and have fun. Cruise the main drag, South Kihei Road, which runs ocean side, to watch some sand volleyball or windsurfing; or, just exhale, enjoying the crystal light reflecting off of the glossy waves. A happening little beachfront town, visitors can find shopping, family dining, nightlife, and fun on the water for any age or skill level.

This sandy Maui coastline sees only about 10 inches of rain in a whole year and enjoys lusty trade winds throughout, causing any vacationer to drool with envy. Looking out over the blue Pacific waters, offers a view of Lanai, Kahoolawe, and Molokini. There is a considerable grassy patch at the top of Kamaole Beach Park III, where it has become a local pastime to pull up a beach chair or bocce ball set and watch the sun go down over the horizon. As the sun lazily streaks the sky with oranges and pinks, the crowd is serenaded each night with the blowing of the conch.

Winter Fun

From December 15th - Apr 15th the humpback whales come and inhabit our local waters to breed and give birth. They are so plentiful and close, you can actually count them from your beach chair in the sand! For those who want an up close view, be sure to embark on a whale watching boat excursion out of Kihei Boat Ramp. This is a once in a lifetime experience.

Summer Fun

As summer arrives, the waters warm by a few degrees and the whales continue on with their migration back to arctic waters. Maui water conditions shift in the summer, and local surfers are 100% “stoked” for the arrival of the South Summer Swells. Loaded with beginner and intermediate surf spots, Kihei also has many surf shops offering surfboard rentals, stand up paddle boards, and premium lessons that promise that everyone catch their very first Maui wave.

Remember to always check with your lifeguard before you go out. Kamaole Beach Parks I, II, & III all have lifeguard towers, restroom facilities, barbecue, volleyball courts, snorkeling, and excellent swimming. Kalama Park and Cove Park are known as great beginner surf spots, but do not offer the safety of a lifeguard. Almost all Kihei beaches allow for wonderful swimming, snorkeling and kayaking.

Snorkel, Scuba, Sunset Cruises

Anytime of year is perfect for a snorkel trip to Molokini, a scuba diving adventure or a sunset cocktail cruise. There are a variety of types of boats and tours available, and Kihei Boat Ramp offers the most convenient departing location for those staying in South Maui. For a really fun trip snorkeling, we suggest going with the Kai Anela crew because we've always had a ton of fun with them.

Kihei Town History

Ahead of the onset of the tourism boom in the 1970s, Kihei was dotted with small fishing villages. It was a royal retreat in ancient Hawaii before it was discovered by the first Europeans in 1778. Captain George Vancouver, later to settle in Vancouver, BC., landed in an area across from the Aston Maui Lu Resort which is marked by a large totem pole. Kihei went mostly untouched for years. There was a spike of military personnel during the war years on Maui, and many were stationed at the Navy's Demolition Training Station in Kihei. During its peak there were 200,000+military on island of Maui, outnumbering residents 4 to one. But, Kihei remained very rural and rustic. In fact, the population of Kihei in 1970 was only 1,636, the last census of 2010 revealed that it had ballooned to 20,881. When

tourism hit in the 1960s and 1970s, the county saw Kihei as the next intelligent area for growth. The Kihei Civic Development Plan was developed in 1970. And, constant discussion has been underway since, to maintain smart growth and integrity to the landscape and lifestyle that gained Kihei the title of “Best Town to Live In” 2013, by our local Maui Time Weekly.

Whether watching dolphins swim at Kamaole Beach Park II or grabbing a few sarongs to take home from an open air market, to taking in a round of golf, there is certainly something for the whole family in Kihei. The possibilities are endless. Or, if you prefer downshifting in paradise, light up the BBQ grill, throw a shaka to your neighbor and enjoy the view.

Sightseeing and Cultural Sights

For sight seeing, start on the north end of South Kihei Road at the Kealia Pond National Wildlife Preserve. call (808) 875-1582. This 700- acre U.S. Fish and Wildlife Conservation wetland preserve is home to the endangered Hawaiian coots, Hawaiian stilts, Hawaiian duck, and black-crowned high heron. And as a wonderful treat, the hawksbill turtle lays her eggs here from July to December. A self guided tour takes you on the boardwalk through sand dunes and ponds with interpretive signs.

Proceeding South from here is the Kihei Canoe Club, where you can catch a glimpse of local teams heave hoeing for upcoming outrigger canoe races. The beautifully crafted wooden canoes are usually parked on the beach for viewing.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Education Center is located a short distance down the road. This visitor center houses cultural artifacts, and a living classroom with scientific exhibits.

Heading further down South Kihei Road, at Kalepolepo Beach Park, you'll find a renovated ancient fishpond known as Ko'ie'ie Loko I'a. Local legend tells of the Menehune, mythical beings of tiny stature, who built the fish pond centuries ago. A

cultural group works to preserve the pond and is eager to share the history of the area.

Wailea

Welcome to Wailea! Situated between sunny Kihei and the beautiful beaches of Makena, Wailea is the perfect place to go in Maui if you're looking for high-end shopping, golfing, celebrity spotting and a relaxing day at one of the many golden sand, crescent-shaped beaches.

Popular visitor activities in Wailea include browsing art galleries and shops in the Shops at Wailea, enjoying a spa day at one of the five resorts in the area, playing tennis at the award-winning tennis center and teeing up at one of the three beautiful, world-class golf courses. There are also several great restaurants in the area, including Capische? at Hotel Wailea, Spago, Duo and Ferraro's at the Four Seasons Resort, Ko in the Fairmont Kea Lani, Longhi's at the Shops at Wailea, and Monkeypod.

Wailea Beaches

'Ulua and Mokapu are great for scuba diving while, Polo, Keawakapu and Wailea Beaches are better for swimming and laid-back snorkeling around the natural lava rock that still encompasses several of Wailea's beaches.

Wailea Events

Each year, Wailea hosts a number of events that attract visitors from around the globe, including the [Maui Film Festival](#), [Taste of Wailea](#), Wailea Food & Wine Festival, and Wailea Restaurant Week.

Wailea Properties

Wailea also houses a number of stunning residential complexes, including the Ho'olei Estates and many other luxury condos and estates. If interested in learning more or touring these properties, check out these [Maui Real Estate options](#).

Wailea History & Legend

Like most areas of Maui, Wailea has its own share of Hawaiian history. Lea, the goddess who watched over canoe builders, was said to have transformed into a forest bird called 'elapaio and fly down from Haleakala along the shores of South Maui. This area later became known as Wailea, or the "waters of Lea".

Makena

Located in south Maui, only minutes from Wailea and Kihei, Big Beach Makena is our #1 pick for best beach in Maui, Hawaii.

Big Beach Information

Makena is the furthest South portion of Maui, past Wailea and Kihei. This area is largely covered in volcanic rock fields formed from the last eruption on Maui in 1790 (debated as having happened more likely between 1450 and the 1600's.) The lava fields stretch over Cape Kinau at Keoneoio to a cinder cone high above on the Southwest slopes of Haleakala. You'll find that Makena is vast and undeveloped relative to its neighbor of Wailea.

The most famous beaches on Maui can be found in Makena. Makena Beach, Oneloa (Big Beach), is one of the longest beaches on Maui. It has over 3,000 feet of perfect white sand. Big Beach's north end is bordered by Pu'u Ola'i, a large dome like cinder cone. On the other side of this Pu'u Ola'i is Little Beach. Little Beach is one of the

most beautiful beaches. It requires a scramble over a rock path that takes you over a wall of volcanic rock. Once you're on the other side, you'll find many nude sunbathers. Though it is against the law, Little Beach manages to be overlooked due to its remote location being difficult to access by the majority.

Makena History

Small villages of the Ancient Hawaiian people can still be seen along the coast of Makena. These villages were populated by fisherman and by those living Upcountry, which would relocate to Makena when it was cooler in the winter months.

In 1786 Francois de Galaup, captain of La Perouse, was the first person that was not of Polynesian descent to set foot on Maui. This area is now known as La Perouse Bay. La Perouse Bay is used primarily as a snorkeling destination where spinner dolphins often congregate. When a rare large South swell wraps in, La Perouse Bay has some of the heaviest left-hander waves on the island. Extremely dangerous to surf due to exposed dry reef, La Perouse still manages to have a bit of a crowd during good swells.

Makena is right next door to Wailea, the up-scale resort town in south Maui. Next time you're staying in Maui and thinking about buying something, check out Wailea real estate for sale. Now is a great time to buy, considering the economy.

Directions to Big Beach, Makena

From Lahaina - 1 - 1.2 hours

Drive south on the Honoapiilani Hwy (ocean on the right). Pass Maalaea Harbor, and take a right at North Kihei Rd. Turn right on the Piilani Hwy. Then follow directions below.

From Kihei - 15-20 minutes

Drive south on the Piilani Hwy (ocean on the right). Road turns right into Wailea Ike Dr. Continue down the hill. Turn Left on Wailea Alanui Dr. Drive past the Makena Beach Golf Resort. Turn right into one of the entrances with a sign saying "Makena Beach (Big Beach.)" Park and take your valuables with you. BE CAREFUL OF THE SHOREBREAK! People break their necks all the time.

Kanaio Coast

South East Maui, Backside of Hana

The most desolate area on Maui, the Kanaio Coast stretches from Makena, South Maui to Hana in the East. This arid and dry area composes the entire Southeast coast as well as the Southeast side of Mount Haleakala. A road from Upcountry leads you around and down to the Kanaio Coast from Kula.

This road is made up of the Kula Highway, Ulupalakua Highway, Piilani Highway, and finally the Hana Highway. The road is blocked on occasion just before Kipahulu barring access to Hana Town and the connecting circumference of the island. Popular for years as a part of the Road to Hana drive, after an earthquake, the road was blocked off. There was no apparent damage in this area, and the road can be safely driven from both directions. Speculation points to the road being closed because the local people want to curb the constant traffic from tourist vehicles past their homes. As of this writing, it is back open, but could be closed again without notice.

The coast can best be accessed by boat on many different tours available. Snorkeling and scuba diving in this area reveals large expanses of diverse volcanic underwater landscapes and undisturbed tropical fish sanctuaries. The sea caves both above and below water offer some great perspectives.

West Maui (Lahaina, Ka'anapali, Kapalua, Napili)

Lahaina Town

Lahaina, a seaside town which sits along HWY 30 on Maui's west shore, offers a vacation experience all its own. Dining, shopping, history, art, nightlife and even surfing and boat excursions from Lahaina Harbor are available in this fun and charming spread.

The main drag, Front Street, was named one of the "Top 10 Greatest Streets" in America. And the county of Maui takes added measures to preserve and care for the heritage of the area. You won't find any billboards or flashy neon signs in this historic strip, but instead painted wooden signs and crabs scattering across the salty wet rocks.

Lahaina Harbor

The Lahaina harbor is legendary and the center of town. Many beautiful boats take guests snorkeling nearby and to the island of Lanai.

Lahaina History

Lahaina Le Le), meaning relentless sun, was the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom until 1845. It was a much wetter environment than the dry Lahaina we know today. In fact, the royal household lived on a recently re-discovered small island in the middle of what was once a 17-acre lake. The island that was unearthed, Moku'ula, holds great cultural significance and is part of an ongoing archeological project.

With the arrival of the European explorers came much change. Mangos were brought to the islands in the early 1800s and thrived heartily in the wetland environment. You'll find some still scattered throughout the town, and some

residents offer up their juicy candy-like fruit in curbside stands. Just pop a dollar in their "vacation fund" jar.

As more ships arrived for trade, they began to take note of the humpback whales that came by the thousands to the tropical Maui waters to mate and give birth each year. The town became a hub of whaling activity; and the once calm sunny coast, became a raucous and tawdry area full of sailors. This, of course, became a point of contention for the Christian missionaries who had settled in the area.

In time, the waters of marshy Lahaina were diverted by the next big industry - sugar cane. Sugar cane, pineapple and also coffee became big enterprises. A further influx of migrant workers arrived from mostly Japan, China and Portugal to work these plantations. Thus the landscape was forever changed.

To learn more about the colorful history of this town, definitely take the FREE self guided walking tour called the [Lahaina Historic Trail](#). Many of these key points of pre and post civilization are designated with an informative plaque throughout the town of Lahaina, all a short distance from one another. You can read more about the walking tour or print out your own guide.

The population now consists of some salty dogs, surfers, random celebrities, locals who love nothing more than to just sit and "talk story", a long haired gentleman who rides his bicycle up and down front street each day with a macaw on his handle bars, and other colorful characters. And, of course, it wouldn't be the front street we know without visitors from across the globe here to capture a piece of the magic isle. The sunsets are impeccable, and chances are the fish on your menu was caught off Lahaina Harbor that very day! By day or night this historic port town offers something for the whole family.

Halloween in Lahaina

Regarded as the Mardi Gras of the Pacific, Halloween on Front Street in Lahaina is something special. Tens of thousands of party goers come dressed up in wild costumes and enjoy a parade for the kids, costume contests, live music, great food and cocktails. Depending on which year you go, the streets are often closed off from vehicular traffic allowing pedestrians opportunity to take over the streets and have some creative fun. [See each year's photos here.](#)

Lahaina Harbor

Lahaina Harbor is one of the most popular spots in West Maui to enjoy a variety of ocean activities, including whale watching, sailing, snorkeling, submarine, sport fishing, scuba diving, parasailing and more. On your next trip to Maui, make sure to visit this Lahaina staple for excursion offerings and gorgeous sunset views in West Maui.

Location

Lahaina Harbor is located at 675 Wharf Street, Lahaina, in front of the historic Pioneer Inn, Banyan Tree Park and Banyan Tree Fine Arts Gallery.

Directions from South Maui

Areas: Kihei, Wailea, Makena

Approximate Time: 45 Minutes

From South Maui, drive west on Hwy 31 through Kihei. Follow the sign for Lahaina and turn left onto HI-310 W for 3.6 miles. Turn left onto HI-30 W for 15.3 miles until you reach Lahaina. Turn left onto Prison Street, right onto Front Street, left onto Hotel Street and left onto Wharf Street.

Directions from Central Maui

Areas: Kahului, Wailuku, Waiehu, Waihee Waikapu

Approximate Time: 35 Minutes

From Central Maui, get on HI-380 and head southwest toward Maalaea Harbor. Turn left onto HI-30 S for 15.7 miles until you reach Lahaina. Turn left onto Prison Street, right onto Front Street, left onto Hotel Street and left onto Wharf Street.

Directions from West Maui

Areas: Kapalua, Napili, Kahana, Ka'anapali

Approximate Time: 15 Minutes

From West Maui (north of Lahaina), get on HI-30 W until you reach Lahaina. Turn right onto Dickenson Street, left onto Front Street, right onto Hotel Street and left onto Wharf Street.

Lahaina Harbor Parking

There are several lots within walking distance to Lahaina Harbor. We suggest spending the \$5-\$10 to park your car in an lot with all day parking if you plan on enjoying one of the many tours available that depart here. While there are a number of free parking spots available, they fill up fast and most are limited to somewhere between half an hour and 2 hours.

Lahaina Center, Whaler's Village and Wharf Cinema Center offer free parking with validation, usually in the form of purchasing something from one of the surrounding businesses.

Available lots are located in several places in Lahaina Town, including:

- Dickenson Street between Wainee and Luakini
- Front Street between Papalaua and Lahainaluna
- Luakini Street near the intersection of Lahainaluna Road and another near the intersection of Prison Street
- Lahainaluna Road between Wainee and Front Street
- 505 Front Street Shopping Center underground lot

Type of Tours Available

Lahaina Harbor offers a wide variety of ocean activities, including snorkeling, scuba diving, whale watching, sailing, submarine, glass bottom boat, parasailing, sport fishing and more. Find the one that best suits your interests and enjoy a beautiful day on the water in Maui!

- Slip #1 & 4: Pacific Whale Foundation - Snorkeling and Whale Watching
- Slip #2: Scotch Mist - Snorkeling, Whale Watching, Sunset Sailing Cruise
- Slip #3: Hawaii Ocean Project - Whale Watching, Sunset Dinner Cruise, Sunset Cocktail Cruise, Lanai Snorkeling, Molokai Ferry Tours
- Slip #5 & 18: Atlantis - Submarine Tour, Lanai Snorkel Cruise & Submarine Tour
- Slip #6: Reefdancer - Glass Bottom Boat Tours
- Slip #7: Finest Kind Sportfishing - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #8: Hawaii Ocean Rafting - Snorkeling, Lanai Snorkeling, Whale Watching
- Slip #9: Big Game Fishing - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #10: Die Hard Sport Fishing - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #11: Maui Adventure Cruises - Lanai Dolphin Adventure, Lanai Landing Adventure, Whale Watching
- Slip #12, 13, 19, 20, 35, 36: Start Me Up Sportfishing - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #14: No Problem Sportfishing - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #15: Parasail in Paradise - Parasailing Adventures
- Slip #16: Maui Pacific Divers - Shore Scuba Diving, Scooter Diving, Boat Scuba Diving
- Slip #17: Ultimate Snorkel - Lanai Snorkeling and Whale Watching
- Slip #22: Lahaina Divers - Scuba Lessons, Dive Packages, Scuba Charters
- Slip #27: Hinatea Sportfishing - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #32: Offshore Hunter - Sportfishing Charters

- Slip #50: Luckey Strike II - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #51: Reel Lucky - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #63: Jayhawk - Sportfishing Yacht Charters
- Slip #67: Kamehameha Sails - Whale Watching, Sunset Sailing, Coastal Cruises
- Slip #87: Bad Influence - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #88: **Shadowfax** - Snorkeling, Sailing, Cocktail & Pupu Sailing, Whale Watching
- Slip #95: Exact - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #96: Reel Hooker - Sportfishing Charters
- Slip #97: Trilogy Excursions - Picnic Snorkel & Sailing and Lanai Snorkeling

Navigating the Harbor

To find a particular slip at Lahaina Harbor, it's easiest to begin at the far west end in front of Pioneer Inn, which begins with Slip #1 and increases in numbers until reaching the end. Continuing in ascending order around the opposite side of the harbor, you'll find the highest slip numbers directly across from the lowest. If you need assistance, simply approach one of the many tour operator employees for specific questions and concerns.

Ferries to Neighbor Islands

If you're interested in seeing more than one island on your trip to Hawaii, a convenient way to do so is to take one of the available ferries from Lahaina Harbor to the neighbor islands of Lanai and Molokai. Not only are these islands beautiful, but they also hold some of Hawaii's most fascinating history, legends and remote beauty.

Ferry from Maui to Lanai: Hop on a ferry from a public loading dock at Lahaina Harbor directly to Lanai's Manele Bay, departing daily at 6:45am, 9:15am, 12:45pm, 3:15pm and 5:45pm. One way ticket prices for Adults 12 and over are \$30, \$20 for Children 2 to 11 years old and free for Infants under 2 years and under. Guests will

cross the Auau Channel and enjoy views of Maui, neighbor islands and even humpback whales during whale season. Return trips from Manele Bay to Lahaina depart at 8:00am, 10:30am, 2:00pm and 6:45pm daily. Please visit go-lanai.com for more information and to reserve your tickets. Ask about overnight parking options in Lahaina.

Ferry from Maui to Molokai: Hawaii Ocean Project offers ferries from Lahaina Harbor to Molokai's Kaunakakai Harbor, departing Monday - Saturday at 7:15am and Monday - Sunday at 6:00pm. This two hour ferry ride takes guests on a beautiful ride northwest with views of neighbor islands and ocean cliffs. One way ticket prices for Adults are \$72.28, \$36.14 for Children and free for Infants 3 years and under. Two carry-on items per person only. Return trips from Kaunakakai Harbor to Lahaina Harbor depart at 5:15am Monday - Saturday and 4:00pm Monday - Sunday. Check-in for the Molokai Ferry is at the harbor's main loading booth. Please visit hawaii-oceanproject.com for more information and to reserve your tickets. Ask about overnight parking options in Lahaina.

Lahaina Town History

Polynesian Settlers Arrive in Hawaii - 300 - 700 AD

Traveling in dugout canoes, some large enough to hold up to 80 people, the Polynesians carried essential items like edible plants, water, basic tools and animals to ensure a safer voyage for those who took off in search of land. To keep track of each other at night, they blew conch shells. After first landing on the Big Island, they named it Havaiki, the name for a homeland they believed they originated from and would return to after death. They were the sole inhabitants for several hundred years until the Tahitians landed around year 1000.

Captain James Cook Arrives in Hawaii - 1778 AD

Captain Cook, despite evidence of earlier Spanish sailors, was the first recorded westerner to set foot on Hawaii when he landed on the Big Island's Kealahou Bay in 1778. Fortunately for Cook, he arrived just in time for a sacred festival and was

mistaken for Lono, the God of Fertility and Music. He was also the first British explorer to have contact with the Hawaiian Islands when he landed on Kauai later that year. He subsequently named the Hawaiian Islands "The Sandwich Islands" in honor of John Montague, the Earl of Sandwich, who sponsored much of his journey.

Captain James Cook Killed in Hawaii - 1779 AD

During his third visit to the Hawaiian Islands, one of Cook's crewmen died, showing the men for what they were - mortals. After rough ocean conditions damaged much of Captain Cook's ship, they were forced to return to Hawaii and greeted with hurling rocks. When one of Cook's men shot and killed a lesser Hawaiian chief after an altercation, the Hawaiians attacked Cook and his crewmen, killing Cook on February 14th, 1779, at the age of 51.

Last Lava Flow on Maui - 1786 AD

Haleakala Volcano, considered the world's largest dormant volcano despite technically still being active, erupted most recently in 1786. The lava flow did not come from the crater at the top of Haleakala, but rather the southwest part of the volcano, creating a path of lava rocks that is found today at La Perouse Bay in South Maui.

Maui Army defeated in Battle of Kepaniwai - 11790 AD

In an effort to unite the Hawaiian Islands, Kamehameha landed his war fleet on the shores of North Maui while Maui's Chief, Kahekili, was away on Oahu. Kahekili's son, Kalanikupule, entered Iao Valley with other Maui chiefs and army members, planning to use Iao Needle as a protective hideout. What he didn't know, however, was that Kamehameha brought many Western weapons along with him, including a cannon, which killed many in the battle. While none of Maui's major chiefs were killed, the damage was done. Chiefess Kalola escaped with her life, accepting Kamehameha's protection and promising her daughter to him as a future wife. After returning to Maui, Chief Kahekili refused to give control to Kamehameha, the reason for his return in 1794 to reconquer the island.

Kamehameha makes Lahaina the Capital of Hawaii - 1802 AD

In 1802, King Kamehameha made Lahaina the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. He built a brick palace there, along with residences and other royal buildings, and Lahaina served as the center of the Hawaiian government for over 50 years, until permanently relocating to Honolulu for its harbor.

King Kamehameha Unites the Hawaiian Islands under his Rule - 1810 AD

After many years of hard work and bloody battles, King Kamehameha finally united the Hawaiian Islands in 1810 when King Kaumualii of Kauai peacefully agreed to become a tributary kingdom under Kamehameha's rule. Not only was this feat utterly impressive, but the Hawaiian Kingdom enjoyed a peaceful period under Kamehameha's rule. He also unified the legal system and used taxes to encourage trade with Europeans and Americans. June 11th is widely celebrated as Kamehameha Day, and four statues exist to commemorate his lasting legacy as Hawaii's greatest King.

Kamehameha Dies, Kamehameha II becomes King - 1819 AD

King Kamehameha died in 1819 of an unknown illness, and his final resting place remains a mystery to this day. His son, Liholiho, or Kamehameha II, became King, bringing about dramatic changes that altered the daily life of the Hawaiian population. The Kapu system, for instance, was a set of strict rules set in place to keep control and wealth within select groups of power. Liholiho abruptly abolished this system, and under advice from his father's advisor, began allowing missionaries to settle in the islands.

Protestant Missionaries Arrive in Lahaina - 1820 AD

Lahaina served as a major whaling port and fishing town in the 1800s due to its prime location on whale migration routes, calm ocean conditions and endless days of perfect sunshine. With as many as 400 ships at a time docked in the harbor, Lahaina soon became a sailor's dreamland. When Kamehameha II gave permission for missionaries to begin settling in the islands, they too were attracted to the weather, beauty and importance that Lahaina offered, causing tension with the hard partying sailors. The missionaries created many new island customs, including

the first high school, first printing press, new way of dressing and introduction of the written form of the Hawaiian language.

Kamehameha III becomes King - 1825 AD

While Liholiho brought about many important changes in Hawaii, he also had a bad habit of drinking and spending money on luxury items. While traveling to London in 1824 with his wife, Queen Kamamalu, and their many attendants, Liholiho and his wife died of measles. Kamehameha III, his younger brother and only 11 years of age, was appointed as King in his absence by a national council, and Ka'ahumanu continued on as regent until she was replaced by Kamehameha III's half sister, Kinohiwa.

Maui's Lahainaluna High School Opens - 1831 AD

Established in 1831 by the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, Maui's own Lahainaluna High School becomes the oldest school west of the Rocky Mountains. The land, given by Chiefess Kalakua Hoapiliwahine, was originally established as a work/study program to "instruct young men of piety and promising talents". Today, Lahainaluna High School remains one of the only few public boarding schools in the country.

Baldwin Home Built in Lahaina - 1834 AD

Now the oldest house still standing on Maui, Baldwin Home was built in 1834 by Reverend Ephraim Spaulding and referred to as the "missionary compound". The following year, Reverend Dwight Baldwin, a medical missionary, moved into the home with his family. Often allowing captains, travelers and even members of the Hawaii royal court to stay as guests, the Baldwin house is now Baldwin Home Museum, open for tours daily.

Lahaina Lighthouse Built - 1840 AD

Commissioned by Kamehameha III, the Lahaina Lighthouse was originally 9 feet tall and topped with a lamp lit with whale oil. When it was unveiled in 1940, it became the oldest Pacific lighthouse in existence and the first lit navigation tower in Hawaii.

Old Lahaina Prison Built - 1853 AD

Hale Pa'ahao, loosely translated as "stuck in irons house", was built in Lahaina in 1853 to lock up troublesome sailors who did not return to their ships at sundown. Built partially of coral and enforcing punishments like "flogging, food reduction or head shaving" for violating the rules, the prison is now open for tours to visitors and residents alike.

Kamehameha III Dies, Kamehameha IV becomes King - 1854 AD

After being Hawaii's longest reigning monarch and formalizing Hawaiian government in many ways, including establishing a declaration of rights, Hawaii's first constitution, executive and judicial branches of government and a land ownership system, Kamehameha III died at the age of 41, naming his adopted nephew, Alexander Liholiho, his successor. "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness", a phrase given during his speech celebrating the return of sovereignty to the Hawaiian Kingdom, is the state's motto to this day.

Pioneer Mill Co. Established - 1860 AD

The first plantation to grow sugar commercially in Lahaina, Pioneer Mill Co. was also one of the first successful sugar mills in Hawaii, operating until its last days in 1999.

Kamehameha IV Dies, Kapuaiwa becomes King - 1863 AD

Liholiho, or Kamehameha IV, was heavily influenced by British policies of reign after traveling to Paris and London as a teenager. Due to the continued decimation of the Hawaiian population by foreign disease, Kamehameha IV and established Queen's Hospital, the Anglican Church in Hawaii and translated the Book of Common Prayer into Hawaiian. After personal tragedy in the last years of his life, Kamehameha IV died in 1863 at the young age of 29, succeeded by his older brother, Lot Kapuaiwa.

Increase in Hansen's Disease on Maui - 1865 AD

During the previous few years, cases of leprosy, or Hansen's Disease, were increasingly common on Maui. In order to stop the spread of the disease, affected individuals needed to be separated from the unaffected. Dr. William Hildebrand suggested that a particular place be designated for those with leprosy, most notably

Kalaupapa on Molokai, which is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on three sides and cut off from the rest of the island by the highest sea cliffs in the world. The first leprosy victims were there 7 years before Father Damien arrived to offer help and a better way of life.

Kamehameha V Dies - 1872 AD

Lot Kapuaiwa, or Kamehameha V, was the last direct descendant of Kamehameha the Great to rule the Hawaiian Kingdom. After his brother passed 9 years earlier, Kamehameha V refused to take an oath to uphold the 1852 Constitution, believing it to restrict his powers too much, so he drafted a new one to give him more power. This revised draft would last for 23 years. While not the most favored King, Kamehameha V founded Molokai Ranch and promoted traditional Hawaiian culture, hosting hula performances at his home on Oahu, which remains a tradition today during the yearly Prince Lot Hula Festival. He died in 1872 of illness without naming an heir, leaving it up to the fate of a future election.

Banyan Tree is Planted in Lahaina - 1873 AD

Now a historical landmark that covers an entire city block and stands over 60 feet tall, Lahaina's Banyan Tree was not indigenous to Hawaii. In 1873, Sheriff William Owen Smith planted the 8 foot Indian banyan tree to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Protestant mission in Lahaina. It was also the site for King Kamehameha III's birthday party in 1886 and a ceremony to mark Hawaii becoming a U.S. territory in 1898.

Lunalilo Dies - 1874 AD

After failing to leave an heir to the throne, a public vote was created to decide who would be the next King. Overwhelmingly winning the vote against his opponent, William Charles Lunalilo became King in 1873. He quickly amended the Constitution of 1864 by abolishing property requirements in order to vote, disbanded the army, and died from tuberculosis and alcoholism after ruling for a little over a year.

Kalakaua becomes King - 1874 AD

Although he had lost to William Charles Lunalilo the year before, Kalakaua won the election of 1874, beginning his reign as "The Merrie Monarch". Kalakaua was the first reigning monarch to ever visit the United States, traveling to Washington to secure the Reciprocity Treaty of 1875, which allowed Hawaii's sugar industry to boom and provided economic prosperity. With a passion for dance, music, parties and luxury, Kalakaua had Iolani Palace built as his new home for a whopping \$350,000.

King Kalakaua Dies, Queen Liliuokalani becomes Ruler - 1891 AD

While he enjoyed a revival of Hawaiian culture and practice during his reign, King Kalakaua was forced to sign the Bayonet Constitution in 1887, severely restricting his powers. Kalakaua sailed to California for medical treatment and died in San Francisco in 1891. "Tell my people I tried" were his famous last words.

Following his death, Kalakaua's sister, Queen Liliuokalani, became the last reigning monarch of Hawaii. When Liliuokalani attempted to restore the powers taken away in the Bayonet Constitution, a U.S. military coup deposed her and formed a provisional government, declaring Hawaii a republic in 1894. Acting as leader of the Stand Firm Movement, Liliuokalani fought against the U.S. annexation, including an 8 month imprisonment in Iolani Palace, until President William McKinley succeeded in 1898. She retired from public life and died at the age of 79 in 1917.

Hawaii Becomes a U.S. Territory - 1900 AD

After the official annexation two years prior, Hawaii was organized into a formal U.S. territory. It would not become an official U.S. state, however, until 59 years later.

Amelia Earhart Flies Solo from Hawaii to the Mainland - 1935 AD

Amelia Earhart was the first pilot to successfully fly solo from Hawaii to California in 1935. Following a 17 hour commercial flight from San Francisco to Hawaii, Pan American introduces regular commercial flights from the mainland to Hawaii in 1936.

Attack at Pearl Harbor - 1941 AD

On the morning of December 7th, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in a two wave air-strike, killing over 3,500 people and destroying 188 planes and 8 battleships in just over two hours. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered his Day of Infamy Speech and Congress declared war on Japan. Three days later, Congress declared war on Germany.

Hawaii becomes a State - 1959 AD

In March of 1959, the U.S. government approved statehood for Hawaii. In June, Hawaiian people voted by a large majority to accept admittance into the United States. Hawaii officially became the 50th state under President Eisenhower, following the state of Alaska. No new states had been admitted since 1912, when Arizona and New Mexico were added to the Union. The new 50 star flag would not become official until the following July 4th.

Haleakala National Park Established - 1961 AD

Amelia Earhart was the first pilot to successfully fly solo from Hawaii to California in 1935. Following a 17 hour commercial flight from San Francisco to Hawaii, Pan American introduces regular commercial flights from the mainland to Hawaii in 1936.

Polynesian Voyaging Society Established - 1973 AD

Established by Dr. Ben Finney, California anthropologist, Herb Kane, Hawaiian artist, and Tommy Holmes, the Polynesian Voyaging Society was created to show that the ancient Polynesians could have purposefully settled the Polynesian Triangle in double-hulled voyaging canoes, navigating without the lack of instruments. Hokule'a, the Polynesian Voyaging Society's famous first project, was the first voyaging canoe to be built in Hawaii in more than 600 years.

Restoration of Old Lahaina Courthouse - 1998 AD

Originally constructed in 1858, the County of Maui recently funded the restoration of the Lahaina Courthouse, which holds the Lahaina Visitor Center, Lahaina Arts Society galleries and Lahaina Town Action Committee offices.

Ka'anapali

Kaanapali is the resort area in west Maui just a few miles north of Lahaina. The Kaanapali Beach Resort was developed in the 1960's, which subsequently opened the world's eyes to this area as a tourist destination. Since then, many hotels and resorts have popped up and tourists have flocked to Kaanapali Beach and the surrounding pristine Maui Beaches.

Some of the big resorts found in Kaanapali are the Sheraton, Hyatt, Westin, Kaanapali Beach Hotel, the Whaler, and Kaanapali Alii. Just north of Kaanapali is Kapalua, another resort area.

Ka'anapali remains a favorite for both first time and repeat Maui visitors as it is one of the island's main tourist hubs. While all visitors should get out and explore all that Maui has to offer, there is enough to do in Ka'anapali to keep you occupied for the entirety of your stay. With a slew of resorts located just steps from Ka'anapali Beach, naturally, there are a handful of water activities to keep you busy. Some of the island's best snorkel spots are located near Ka'anapali, as well as the famous "Black Rock", which is a favorite cliff jumping site for both locals and visitors. Ka'anapali Beach is also a launch point for several catamaran tours. In the winter months, hundreds of humpback whales flock to the shallow waters around Ka'anapali, making the area one of the best places on the island to whale watch. (Pro-tip, if visiting Ka'anapali during the winter, try to get an ocean view room! You are guaranteed dozens of whale sightings from your patio during this time of year!)

Around sunset, there is no better place to be than Ka'anapali Beach. Enjoy stunning sunset views as the sun settles near the neighboring island of Lanai. If you look closely, you may be able to see the green flash!

After dark, there are dozens of dining and shopping experiences to enjoy. The Ka'anapali boardwalk is studded with a handful of delicious restaurants to choose from, many offering live music and happy hour deals. Whalers Village is also located in Ka'anapali and is a great place to get some shopping done.

Heading north past Ka'anapali you will soon enter West Maui's more rugged, less inhabited, and ultimately less touristy region. Similar to the road to Hana, this road is full of hidden gems and narrow twists and turns. Exploring the area with a guide is the best way to get the most out of your experience and to assure you don't lose a minute of your time focused on driving. [Hoaloha Jeep Adventures](#) offers fully custom tours of West Maui in a 4x4 convertible Jeep. Hoaloha will meet you at your hotel for a full day of adventure, fun, and exploring. Not only can their 4x4 Jeep access places that most rental cars can't, but they also cater to all guests' personal preferences and allow visitors to explore at their own pace without worrying about time limits or hurrying off to the next location. Hoaloha also employs local, knowledgeable guides to brief you on the rich history, geology, and natural life of the area. Whether you want to explore West Maui's best snorkeling, beaches, valleys, or swimming holes, Hoaloha will make it happen.

Kapalua

[Kapalua](#) has beautiful bays, beaches, the Kapalua Golf Club, high-end real estate, and views of the neighbor islands of Molokai and Lanai.

Upper West Maui Beaches

Kapalua Bay

Kapalua Bay is one of many gorgeous little bays in this area. On the south side of the bay, you'll find Merriman's Restaurant. This beach is popular for weddings as well, and a lot of them like to do their reception at Merriman's.

The beach here is beautiful and the snorkeling around the points are really good, too.

Napili Bay

Sometimes Napili Bay is a little busier with beach-goers, but it's also beautiful. If you go snorkeling here, be careful! If there are waves coming in, you can get put in a dangerous situation around the points. There's also a Monk Seal that uses this beach to rest. If you see it, please leave it alone.

Oneloa Bay

Also known as Ironwoods, this beach is often uncrowded and is a popular spot for surfers and bodyboarders. Beware that the water can be rough and is not recommended for relaxed swimming or snorkeling, but it's a perfect place to enjoy a morning walk or sunset session.

D.T. Fleming Beach

Located in front of the Ritz Carlton Kapalua, this beach was named America's Best Beach in 2006. While beautiful, be aware of dangerous shorebreak and strong currents. Lifeguards are on duty and public restrooms and picnic tables are available for use.

Honolua Bay

One of the best waves in the world, Honolua Bay has two things that work against it:

Fickle - This wave RARELY breaks due to island blocking.

Crowds - The wave is so good, no one ever falls, and it's so fickle that when it works, EVERYONE is out.

Honolua Bay is not far from Kapalua, and a good spot to watch surfing. If you drive on the dirt road to the first turn-around spot, you can park there and walk down the cliff a bit. Once you get a little lower, you'll find a great vantage point to watch the surfers from. Be careful which path you take. Some of the paths go all the way down and are dangerous, even for goats.

Napili

Napili Bay earns its spot as one of Maui's most visited beaches for good reason. White sloping sand, turquoise water and excellent swimming are just a few reasons to make this beach a must-see on your next visit to West Maui. While not visible from the street, you'll know when you've arrived based on the amount of street traffic and cars parked in any nook and cranny possible.

Napili Bay's Beach is perfect for swimming, sun tanning, and snorkeling. The outer reefs protect it from most swell directions, so you get gently lapping ripples and clear water.

Napili Bay Beach Characteristics

- Best Beach for: Swimming and Lounging
- Golden-white sandy beach
- Can be very crowded
- Steep incline into the water, but mostly calm conditions with possible gentle breaking waves
- Great for snorkeling, swimming and stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) on both sides of the bay
- Abundant coral and tropical fish
- Great for sunset views and possible whale watching
- Restaurants within walking distance
- No public restrooms – reserved for nearby condos and restaurant patrons
- No lifeguards on duty
- Street parking available – can be hard to find later in the day, so get here early!

Nearby Accommodations:

The Mauian Hotel, Napili Village, Napili Kai Beach Resort, Hale Napili, Outrigger Napili Shores Resort, Napili Sunset Beachfront Resort, Napili Surf Beach Resort

West Maui Mountains

Maui Komohana or Mauna Kahalawai

One of the few drives that rivals the Road to Hana is around the backside of West Maui. Driving from Lahaina on Highway 30 up and around the island towards Kahului on Highway 340 affords you a chance to see many breath-taking views. The road tends to get very narrow to 1 lane and follows the cliffs around the mountains. This is definitely a drive where the driver should pay full attention to the road.

You'll pass through farmland, along side rugged mountains, near lush rainforest, along valleys, and next to pristine coastline. You'll pass many scenic spots including the Olivine Pools, Nakalele Point and Blowhole, and the impressive, picturesque Kahakuloa Head. Once you've driven all the way around and past Kahului, you'll come to the Iao Valley, something not to be missed.

The best way to see the West Maui Mountains is by helicopter tour. Some of the most incredible sights in all of Hawaii can only be seen by helicopter like the "Wall of Tears", a lush cliff face with dozens of waterfalls draped over it. The West Maui Mountains are older than Haleakala therefore they're more worn, weathered and lush. They resemble the same kind of landscape you'd find at the Napali Coast in Kauai.

North/Central Maui (Kahului, Wailuku, Paia, Haiku, Iao Valley, Maalaea)

Kahului

Chances are that your first experience on Maui will be when you land at the Kahului Airport. Kahului is the hub of activity located in the valley between the West Maui mountains and the slopes of Haleakala on the South side of Maui. The closest towns are Wailuku to the west and Paia to the east. Looking at Kahului from high altitude you'll note that it looks like an actual city where most of the other towns on the island become just small neighborhoods by comparison. It is the most "urban" town on Maui, and you might overhear locals saying, "I'm going into town" referring to Kahului. Kahului is where most of Maui's residents live and work due in large part to the airport, heliport, sea port, malls, warehouses and schools. Most of the island's car rental facilities and large box stores such as Costco, Kmart and Walmart are located in town which makes Kahului very busy almost every day.

Kahului is also home to our official sea port, Kahului Harbor. The large cruise ships often stop here overnight and the harbor is a buzz of container ships and surfers. Located near the harbor and airport you'll find several small malls; Maui Marketplace, Maui Mall and Ka'ahumanu Mall. The biggest of which is Ka'ahumanu which is named after Queen Elizabeth Ka'ahumanu who was born in Hana, Maui in 1768.

Before sugar cane, the valley where Kahului had it's beginnings was largely uninhabited. Later, Kahului was home to Maui's first railroad in the 1880s which hauled sugar cane from the sugar mill to the harbor. A town sprouted up around the sugar cane industry and in the year 1900 a bubonic plague wiped out the entire town. They decided to burn down the town to snuff out the plague. What is now modern day Kahului was the result of a planned community development by the Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Company in 1948.

Today's bustling Kahului is the hub of business on Maui. Sprawling homes, apartments, warehouses and communities dot the landscape and make Kahului the best place to find affordable housing, office space and a place to start up a business because almost everything is nearby.

Once a week a cruise ship docks and visitors embark into Kahului for shopping and renting cars to explore the rest of Maui. Hidden down a few back roads between the Kahului airport and the harbor are a few interesting beaches. Airport Beach and Kanaha Beach Park entertain windsurfers, paddle boarders and kite boarders to this often windswept area. In the early morning you might see a line of 10-15 fishermen standing in the shallows fishing for small bait. A lot of people might be surprised to know that during a brief period in May and June you can watch the sunset from these Kahului Beaches.

Rest assured that Kahului has all the trappings of a city in the making. This town has a great mix of neighborhoods, business, tourism and commerce. Recently a new hotel was built near the airport and Costco is expanding. A Target Department store has recently been added and they're excavating an area for a bus depot near the sugar mill, all signs of expansion and growth.

You might miss most of Kahului if you're vacationing here but it's almost certain that you'll leave Kahului wondering if you might have missed something as you drive through towards the airport. From a local's perspective you may just have missed an opportunity to really get to know the heart of Maui.

Kahului Highlights

Education, Arts & Culture

University of Hawaii, Maui College

Aloha Friday Farmers Market (Maui College)

Maui Arts & Cultural Center

Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum

Kahului International Airport

International Terminal

Kahului Heliport

Inter Island Terminal (small planes)

Rental Car Companies

Cargo Flight

Kahului Harbor

Cargo and Shipping Port

Cruise Ship Docking

Gardens, Beaches & Natural features

Kanaha Beach Park

Kanaha Pond State Wildlife Sanctuary (Birds)

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

Shopping

Costco

Walmart

Queen Ka'ahumanu Mall

Maui Mall

Maui Marketplace

Swap Meet (Saturday, behind Maui College)

Movies

Consolidated Theatres Kaahumanu 6

Maui Mall Megaplex

Dining

Tin Roof

uh... that's about it so far...

Wailuku

Old Wailuku town, nestled up against the lush leeward side of the West Maui Mountains, rich with ancient Hawaiian history and now bustling away with a revitalization project, this charming “downtown” holds the county seat and much much more.

Historical buildings and theaters mingle with hip boutiques, authentic Hawaiian artifacts, antiques, local coffee shops, bistros, and mom and pop shops that have been serving up unique finds and iconic treats for generations. Spending the day on Market Street in Wailuku, with its wooden storefronts, is a truly local Maui experience, where you get a slice of cosmopolitan life with a side order of spam musubi.

Located just 10 minutes from the airport, visitors to Wailuku can discover over 20 of the area’s fascinating historical and cultural attractions by taking the “Rediscover Wailuku” tour. Highlights not to be missed are the Bailey House Museum, taking in a show at the historic Iao Theatre, visiting the 180+ year old Kaahumanu Church, and the ancient Pihana Kalani Heiau.

Just beyond the bustle of Main and Market Streets is the area's most notable feature, the iconic Iao Valley, home to the 2,250 foot tall Iao Needle. One of the wettest places on earth, the dramatic mountain crevice is sometimes graced with thousand foot tall waterfalls in the distance and misty clouds that create a magical aura.

The area was once a sacred burial ground for Hawaiian Alii (royalty) and is the site of one of the most notorious battles in Hawaiian history, the battle of Kepaniwai. It was here, in 1790, that King Kamehameha I, in an effort to unite the Hawaiian islands, conquered the army of Maui. The Iao stream was said to have ran red for days.

Visitors now flock to the park to examine the recreated taro farm and homestead. Or, like Georgia O'Keeffe, to find inspiration in the natural beauty. The area is also excellent for hiking, picnicking at Kepaniwai park, enjoying the exotic tropical plants, and swimming in the clear streams and waterfalls. Please be sure to bring proper footwear, water, your camera, and plenty of respect and aloha!

Wailuku History

Wailuku is unique in that it encapsulates the profound changes that Maui endured over the years. Pre-European contact saw a verdant valley and a thriving village. King Piilani made this area his political seat and King Kahekili also resided in Wailuku.

Like much of Hawaii, the mid-1800s saw the arrival of Christian missionaries, whose beliefs would change the customs and landscape forever. Soon after, the Wailuku Sugar Company and other industries began moving in and constructed an enormous irrigation system that collects water from Iao, Waihee, Waiehu and Waikapu streams. It is now co-owned and operated by HC&S and Wailuku Agribusiness. The water is now used primarily by HC&S to improve yields and by local farmers and residents.

With the plantation era in full swing, migrant workers from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Portugal and elsewhere across the globe arrived by the thousands to work the fields. Maui became a melting pot of cultures, cuisines and communication. This gave rise to the popular plate lunch, which is a mix of cuisines devised from plantation workers sharing lunches and flavors with one another.

Wailuku's downtown developed as an eclectic area to suit the needs of the influx of different cultures. On the southern end of town, between Church and Market Streets, original plantation style homes from the era still stand, smushed together on narrow lanes with rare flowers and shrubs that were brought over a hundred years ago.

In 1905, Wailuku was designated the county seat of Maui, and is now the home of government offices. A wave of prosperity ushered into the town, until the gradual decline of the plantation era, which began in the 1960s. During this time, Maui became more accessible and desirable with the advent of television and movies, ushering in her new economic engine - tourism. Flocking to the sunny shores of South and West Maui, tourists eventually enticed many businesses away from Wailuku's downtown streets.

Then in 2005, the county organized the "Revitalize Wailuku" program to bring commerce and life back to its beloved Wailuku town. Funky shops and community events have begun breathing life back into the area. Wailuku First Friday's have become a favorite for residents and visitors alike, as the streets are blocked off to make way for thousands of people, musicians, a beer garden, and food and craft vendors. In Wailuku, there are a variety of activities available devoted to local cultures, communities and the rich Hawaiian history.

Be sure to explore Old Wailuku Town- "Where the past is always present".

Wailuku Areas of Interest

'Iao Valley State Park

Iconic Maui landmark, not to be missed!

Directions: Take Highway 32 (Kaahumanu Road) west. This road turns into Highway 320 which lead directly into the 'Iao Valley State Park. Bathrooms available.

Kepaniwai Heritage Park and Gardens

The park celebrates the migrant worker and the multiple cultures that contributed to the growth and prosperity of Maui. Iao stream flows behind the park and is a great place to soak your feet. Picnic tables, BBQ Grills and restrooms available. Park is located inside of Iao Valley State Park.

Mystery Maui

While Wailuku is full of natural beauty, historical charm and boutique shops and cafes, we are proud to welcome **Mystery Maui** to the list of family-friendly local activities in the heart of Maui. Though escape rooms have become wildly popular on the mainland, we're stoked to see the first of its kind on Maui, designed to keep you entertained and test your crime-solving abilities in an ultra thrilling hour-long experience.

Armed with only a few clues to solve one of two themed mysteries - a missing chef from The Ramen Shop or secret house show with pop singer Stella Superstar - your private group will work together to unlock the mystery surrounding each scenario in 60 minutes or less. This interactive experience is amazingly fun, and ideal for groups of friends, families, honeymooners, coworkers, and even bachelor or bachelorette parties. Fill out a quick waiver, receive a brief orientation from your game marshal, and go for it! Parties must include a minimum of two people and a maximum of six, and you may reserve your [mystery room online](#) or by phone at (808) 249-2062.

Bailey House Museum

Built in 1833 by one of Maui's most prominent families, it was the home of missionaries. Explore the museum to find Hawaiian artifacts, quilts, furnishings, and art pieces from the nineteenth century. Gift Store located on site. Located at 2375 A Main St, Wailuku.

Haleki'i Heiau and the Pihanakalani Heiau

Heiau are ancient Hawaiian structures used for ceremonial purposes. Haleki'i or "house of images" got its name from the many ki'i (images) found on the terraces that guarded the structure. Pihana is reported to have been a luakini heiau, where human sacrifices took place, it also served as the major heiau for Wailuku.

Pihanakalani translates to "gathering place of the ali'i". Directions: Take Waiehu Beach Road (Hwy. 340), Turn left onto Kuhio Place, then left onto Hea Place where you will see an entrance sign. The heiau's are a 5 minute drive from downtown Wailuku.

Ka'ahumanu Church

Beautiful church and cemetery offering great views of the valley below. The church was established in 1832, and named in honor of Queen Ka'ahumanu. She was one of the first Alii (royals) to convert to Christianity, and later broke down the kapu system. The church was built on the site of a heiau, and was originally part of the royal compound of High Chief Kahekili. Located at 103 S. High St.

Waiehu Municipal Golf Course

An affordable course for Maui standards and a favorite for local golfers. The course offers great ocean views. Located at 200 Halewaiu Rd

Waiehu Beach Park

Best for surfing, fishing, kiteboarding (advanced). The water can be rough and windy at times. Located at the end of Lower Waiehu Beach Park Road

Historical Iao Theatre

Built in 1927, this curious theatre hosted Bing Crosby and Bob Hope during WWII, and saw the resignation of the theatre manager in 1973 after he showed the x-rated Deep Throat. This bygone theatre, done in Spanish Mission style, is rich with history and a favorite for locals. Located at 68 N Market St.

Hiking in Wailuku

Iao Valley State Park

Waihee Ridge Trail

Wailuku Cross Trail Hike

Wailuku Lodging and Accommodations

There are not many options in Wailuku, but only a few bed and breakfast and hostels. Here are a few well known establishments:

Iao Valley Inn

The Old Wailuku Inn

The Wailuku Guest House

The Banana Bungalow

North Shore Hostel

Wailuku Transportation and Parking

- Market Street is a one way street heading North, with FREE parking along either side. Market Street is hosts the majority of shopping.
- The best FREE public parking lot is located on W Vineyard and Market Streets
- Maui Public bus transit system line runs to Wailuku. The fare is \$2.00 per boarding. Daily and monthly passes are also available.
- Don't park illegally (even questionably.) We've gotten tickets there for the smallest things.

Paia Town

by Tania Ginoza

No trip to Maui is complete without a trip to Paia, Maui's coolest little town. Located on the North shore, Paia started as a plantation town with the opening of Paia store in 1896 to serve the needs of the multi-cultural plantation workers of Paia Sugar Mill.

Today, the wooden buildings of this quaint little town are still reminiscent of the plantation era but now house some of the best shopping and dining on the island. Paia town's main drag is also just a stone's throw away from one of the best windsurfing spots in the world, Hookipa, and the surf lifestyle has definitely had an influence. Casual and laid back in feel, Paia is a great day trip for some shopping and lunch, followed by a gelato or latte.

Paia Shopping

Paia is home to several Maui designer flagship stores. Tamara Catz is known for her resort clothing and also designs a bridal collection perfect for an island wedding. Popular with visitors and locals, Maui Girl offers a wide variety of bikinis including colorful separates designed by its owner, Debbie Kowalski Wilson. Sisters Lisa Cabrinha and Michele Ross created Letarte in 2000 to offer some of the finest swimwear, cover-ups and sportswear in their signature prints. Both Maui Girl and Letarte suits have adorned the models in Sports Illustrated.

Alice in Hulaland's and Biasa Rose's offerings includes contemporary clothing for men and women. Alice in Hulaland leans toward the funky and hip, including a wide selection of hats and Havianas flip-flops, perfect for island life. Biasa Rose carries a wide selection of luxury contemporary brands like James Perse in cool comfortable fabrics. Biasa Rose also has a wonderful selection of small leather goods, handbags, totes and jewelry.

Nuage Bleu is one of the best contemporary boutiques for women on the island and is the perfect spot to pick up the perfect jersey dress or top from brands like Velvet, Fighting Eel and Susana Monaco. They also carry a wide selection of jewelry made on Maui and leather goods including pieces by Linea Pelle.

Imrie's Paia location carries a selection of modern casual basics in neutral colors with a luxurious bohemian feel including it's own private label pieces. Distressed leather belts, bags and wrap bracelets round out their well-edited selection.

A husband and wife team, Daniel and Caramiya Sullivan, own Indigo and design each piece in the store. Walking into Indigo feels like walking into an exotic treasure chest. Indigo is filled with fair trade rugs, up-cycled furniture, linens and home accessories in prints which will add a global feel to your home. Jewelry, bikinis and caftans are also wonderful pieces to wear during your stay on Maui and beyond.

Art, pottery, jewelry and other handmade pieces by local artisans can be found at Maui Hands or Maui Crafts Guild. Paia Contemporary Gallery features dynamic and fresh exhibitions of both upcoming and known artists.

While all of the boutiques carry a wonderful selection of jewelry pieces made on Maui, Sophie Grace has a jewelry bar in addition to pre-made pieces where you can choose your chain, beads and stones and have a custom piece made on-site. The boutique also carries a nice selection of gift items including many pieces perfect for the little ones.

Paia is also home to many a surf shop including Da Kine, Honolua Surf Co and Hi Tech. You can also get your yoga fix with apparel from Lululemon or by joining a class at Lumeria Yoga.

Paia Dining

To start off your day, check out Paia Bay Coffee for breakfast and a cappuccino. For lunch, Milagro's will satisfy your craving for Mexican and Paia Flatbread Pizza serves up lovely thin crust pizzas made with fresh ingredients. Charley's is the perfect place for a few drinks and some live music.

Café Mambo, Café Des Amis and Moana Café are also worth a look. Paia Fish Market is always packed with customers willing to wait for their famous fish burger. Ono Gelato will give your sweet tooth a thrill with their creamy gelato made locally from quality ingredients.

A short drive from the shops of Paia town, before Hookipa, is Mama's Fish House, fine dining in a casual atmosphere with local caught fresh fish specials daily.

Keep in mind that once you leave the Paia/Haiku area, there aren't many places to stop for food. If driving to Hana, we recommend checking out **Jaws Country Store** located at 4320 Hana Hwy in Haiku. Grab the best breakfast on Maui plus a to go lunch with all of your favorite goodies. If you plan on spending the night in Hana, this is also a great place to grab snacks and drinks for your journey back.

Haiku

This appealing town is off the beaten path, which is good news for anyone that wants to explore a side of the island that isn't crowded with tourist. Known for its serene and peaceful atmosphere, you will find yourself in the company of kind locals at a relaxed pace.

Eco farmers breakfast with spiritual leaders and long-time local families start comfortable conversations with artisans. Good will and hospitality pulses through this community and you will find yourself swept up in its contagious spirit.

Nuka

With the ocean 20 minutes away, you're hard pressed to find fish fresher than this! Come to Nuka, and experience the sensational talent of Executive Chef Hiro Takanashi as he prepares sushi like you've never experienced. Make sure to order a bowl of Gobo Chips. You may even wind up ordering another round for the ride home!

Maui Kombucha

If love is on your list of needs, than you're in good company! Maui Kombucha serves love on a daily basis, from their Love Buzz coffee to the handcrafted kombucha served by their "boochtenders". And they don't stop there. They lovingly support local organic farmers and from their bounty, produce some of the most mouth-watering dishes. Whether you're feeling like a beautiful salad, bagel

sandwich or a slice of mango lassi cheesecake, you can eat it all with a clean conscience since it's all raw and vegan. All the goodness without the guilt! Their menu changes daily, so make sure to check their website out.

Colleen's at the Cannery

This popular joint is for those with an appetite for an extensive menu offering delicious food at a reasonable cost. Opening at 6 am, it's one of the few places in Haiku that serves a full breakfast menu. You can be sipping an organic chai tea latte while your partner chows down on a breakfast of champions. If lunch is more your thing, their Reuben Sandwich is the best on the island!

And dinner is always a nice time to try their unique pizzas, like the Trench Town, which consists of basil pesto sauce, Caribbean jerk chicken, red onion, sun dried tomato, goat & mozzarella cheese, pineapple, and peperoncinis.

Island Tacos

If time isn't your friend, then Island Tacos is your ticket. This literal taco stand is where to locals come to enjoy their lunch, so you know you're on the right path! Their fish tacos can't be beat, with tons of freshly grilled Ono (or catch of the day), in a huge flour (or two corn) tortilla. They then load it with tomato, salsa, cabbage, cheese, beans, mango salsa, cilantro and sour cream. You can pick and choose from these toppings to create your perfect meal. And we really mean meal, as these bad boys are packed to the gills! You'll be chock-full on the islands best tacos. They are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11am-8pm.

Fun Nearby Hike & Waterfalls

Twin Falls

If the Road to Hana is more than you feel like taking on, then Twin Falls is a smashing solution. This hike is manageable for all, with lower waterfalls at the 5 minute marker and upper waterfalls a mile up the road. The natural foliage graces these paths, and you'll soon find yourself waiting for Tarzan to swing from the hanging vines of this very tropical rainforest. Make sure to bring your wallet along

for locally made coconut candy or a freshly squeezed cane juice from the Waialele Farm Stand.

General Haiku Maui Information

Driving

This northern village is about 2 miles inland from the beach, and is tucked snugly into the rainforest. You will find most of the roads are paved, but beware of the many potholes that frequent the streets. To benefit you and others on the road, driving slowly is the best mode. And then you'll get a chance to gaze out at the goats and horses put out to pasture amongst the rolling green hills.

Weather

It may be sunny on the other side of the island, but make sure to bring something warm to the North Shore. Haiku is known for its lush greenery, and that comes with the price of a decent amount of rain. The winds also tend to pick up on this side, so don't let underdressing ruin your Haiku experience!

Grooving and Shaking

If you're wanting to explore a few places outside of Haiku, here's a general outline of what's nearby:

Paia: about 15 miles away, depending on traffic (and your speed!), it'll take you 20-30 minutes.

Twin Falls: Depending on where you are in Haiku, it may take you 10-15 minutes to get to the falls.

Ho'okipa Beach Park: If the wind is blowing, you will want to head over to this beach for an award-winning show of expert wind and kite surfers. Expect it to take you 20 minutes or so to get there.

'Iao Valley, Stream & Needle

A thousand years ago, Hawaiians gathered at 'Iao Valley to celebrate and honor the bounty of Lono, God of agriculture, during the annual makahiki festival. More than a hundred years ago, visitors began coming to witness the natural beauty of this valley.

Today, 'Iao Valley is recognized as a very special place for both its spiritual value and spectacular scenery. It's also very easy to access. Travel to Wailuku Town, and you're only minutes away from 'Iao.

Kuka'emoku - Iao Needle

During periods of warfare, warriors used the peak as a lookout. It was here that some of the Maui warriors retreated from the forces of Kamehameha I during the Battle of Kepaniwai.

Kuka'emoku is an erosional remnant. It is at the end of a ridge comprised of a denser dike stone. Streams and waterfalls eroded the softer rock around the dike stone.

The Lookout

When you climb the 133 steps to the top, you will be rewarded with a great 360 degree view of 'Iao Valley and Wailuku.

Ka Wai ola O Kane - The Living Waters of Kane

Trails skirt dramatic coastline or follow pooling streams to Waimoku Falls at the head of a densely forested valley. At Kipahulu you can get a sense of how people lived in old Hawai'i. Foundations of old village sites, cultural demonstrations, and a living taro farm are preserved and perpetuated.

Na Wai Eha - The Four Waters of Maui

The streams of the valleys of Waikapu, Wailuku, Waiehu, and Waihe'e are known as the four waters. The fertile lands and abundant water made this area the largest agricultural system in Hawaii and a major population center of Maui.

Imagine this landscape 200 years ago. Kalo (taro) fields cover the valley floor with 'auwai (ditches) diverting water from the streams to irrigate the planted terraces. The hale (houses) of the farmers dot the valley slopes while the hale of the fishermen line the shore of Kahului Bay. Haleki'i and Pihanakalani Heiau on the dune along 'Iao Stream are the religious center of this very important area.

With Western contact, the landscape of the Wailuku Plain began to change. By the late 1800's, much of the kalo was gone and fields of sugarcane irrigated with water from the four streams covered the plain.

Hawaiian History

Wahi Pano O Na Ali'i - Sacred Place of the Chiefs

From the highest peak of Pu'u Kukui to the shoreline of Kahului Bay, the ahupua'a (land division) of Wailuku was a favorite place of Ali'i (chiefs) and a ruling center of Maui. 'Iao Valley is part of the ahupua'a.

As one of Maui's most important political centers, many battles took place here. Wailuku translates as the "waters of destruction" referring to its history of battles and floods.

'Iao is so sacred that the remains of the highest chiefs were entrusted to secret hiding places in the valley. Kaka'e, ruler of Maui in the late 1400's to 1500s, is believed to have designated this valley an ali'i burial area.

The presence of Pihanakalani, a large heiau (temple) near the shore and along 'Iao Stream, denotes the religious significance of 'Iao.

The Battle of Keaniwai - Uniting the Islands

In the late 1780's, Kamehameha I from the island of Hawai'i began waging battles to unite all the islands under his rule. In 1790, he landed along Kahului Bay with a large fleet of canoes. At Wailuku, Kamekameha's forces met the Maui forces under Kalanikupule. Kalanikupule was placed in charge while his father, ruling chief Kahekili, was living on O'ahu after defeating the Oahu forces in 1783.

This battle for Maui is said to be one of the bitterest ever fought on Hawaiian soil. As the warriors reached 'Iao, their shouts of defiance echoed throughout the valley.

Women and children on the mountainsides were witnesses to the clashing of wooden spears, the firing of muskets, and the roar of the cannon. There were so many slain from both armies that their bodies clogged the stream. Thus, the battle was named Kepaniwai or "Damming of the waters."

The guns and cannon were the winning advantage for Kamehameha. But he and Kalanikupule were destined to meet again in the battle of Nu'uuanu Pali on O'ahu. With Kamehameha's defeat of the forces on Maui and O'ahu and an agreement with Kaua'i, he became the first mo'i (king) of the Hawaiian Islands.

Ancient Hawaii Geologic History

Stage 1 - Eruption

A shield volcano forms the foundation of the West Maui Mountains. For a million years, molten rock (Liquid Magma) fountains into the air and runs down the sides of the growing volcano.

Stage 2 - Caldera

The loss of magma from the summit results in a collapse that forms a caldera. Erosion begins with the formation of gullies on the flanks of the volcano.

Stage 3 - Erosion

Hot, steamy gases continue to rise and soften the rock long after the lava flow ceases. Rain collects near the former summit and 'Iao Stream gradually cuts through the softened rock.

Stage 4 - Wailuku Plain

As erosion continues, an amphitheater valley is sculpted. Smaller streams erode side gulches and enlarge the valley. The deposited rock and soil at the mouth of the valley add to the Wailuku Plain.

Stage 5 - Stabilization

As plants carpet the surface, they stabilize the valley walls and floor. But what began as a native Hawaiian forest has become a landscape dominated by alien vegetation.

The Sites of 'Iao

The trails of the park are paved but may be slippery when wet. The trail is steep in places so take your time. Along the trail are several stops you may want to make but stay on the designated walkways.

Kahawai (stream)

Swimming in 'Iao Stream is not recommended. The rocks are very slippery and the water flows quickly. Caution: Flash floods can occur without warning.

Malama i keia wahi

Care for this sacred place and show respect as you visit this special area.

We'd like to thank Iao Valley State Park for all of the great information above.

Ma'alaea

Ma'alaea Harbor

Ma'alaea (Say: Ma ah lah ay ah) is located on the North West side of the isthmus between the West Maui Mountains and Haleakala. The closer you get to the giant windmills that hug the ridges of the West Maui Mountains the closer you get to Ma'alaea (If you trace the line of windmills from the top of the ridge down, that line points directly at Ma'alaea). See Map

Most newcomers to Maui experience Ma'alaea when they visit the Maui Ocean Center which is located just off Hwy 30 and sits between the highway and the harbor. With more than 350 residents Ma'alaea qualifies as a "census designated place" as is clearly marked on every Maui map. Many of these residents live in their boats in the marina and in condos that stretch down the beach from the harbor towards Kihei.

Recently celebrating their 45th anniversary, Buzz's Wharf has been a distinctive feature of Ma'alaea since 1967. This restaurant is known for seafood of course and especially for the Sweet Markea Prawns™ Cocktail. Ambiance is lacking, but the view is good and the food can be decent.

During whale season (Late Nov-Apr) Ma'alaea is the launching point for many whale watching cruises. Just out of the harbor dolphins sometimes ride the bow of vessels leaving the harbor on their way out to Molokini for snorkeling or whale watching.

It's difficult to know for sure where Ma'alaea ends and begins from the road. Several miles of windswept beaches call Ma'alaea home. If you explore these beaches you'll find seclusion, sandy haired surfers looking for that rare wave action and a few fishermen hoping to catch dinner from shore. There's plenty of free parking, restaurants and restrooms near the harbor and Ocean Center, and lots of boat related stuff to do; fishing tours, dinner cruises, whale watching and snorkel tours. Morning departures are recommended for any whale watching or snorkeling and that brings you back in to the harbor just in time to have pizza at Porto, the newest restaurant at Ma'alaea Harbor Shops.

Nearby you can find views of the Windmills crawling up the West Maui Mountains and Kealia National Wildlife Refuge (birdwatching) is just down the road towards Kihei. Up the road from Ma'alaea toward Lahaina there is a lookout point where visitors can see passing whales during the season.

Snorkeling Departure Point

Trilogy Excursions

Trilogy has a fleet of beautiful boats based all over the island (Ma'alaea, Lahaina, Ka'anapali.) Beautiful vessels, incredible service, and more fun than you can imagine on the water.

Learn more about trips with [Trilogy](#) to Molokini and Lana'i, call 888.225.6284

Maui Fun Charters

[Maui Fun Charters](#) offer great bottom and sport fishing tours aboard their 36' fishing boat, perfect for small groups and private charters. Personalized service and wonderful activity for the whole family!

Learn more about trips with Maui Fun Charters departing from Ma'alaea Harbor Slip #97, call (808) 572-2345.

Upcountry Maui (Haleakala, Makawao, Kula)

Haleakala

Haleakala National Park

Summit District

The landscape of [Haleakala National Park](#) rises from a lush valley beneath a waterfall at sea level to a red desert of cinder cones up at the volcanic summit of Haleakala. An astounding array of climates and life zones lies in between. Yet the park's many contrasting worlds are vitally linked. Rain that falls on the volcano's slopes and carves its valleys nourishes a multitude of life forms.

The land above the clouds, kua mauna, is a place where people never dwelled for long. Ka po'e kahiko, the people of old, only came to this sacred place for specific reasons requiring training and understanding. At the foot of the mountain lies kahakai, the coastal land, inhabited and cultivated for centuries. Haleakala National Park preserves and helps perpetuate the cultural richness of both kua mauna, kahakai, and the diverse features in between. It is all here for you to explore.

Kipahulu: Coastal District

Trails skirt dramatic coastline or follow pooling streams to Waimoku Falls at the head of a densely forested valley. At Kipahulu you can get a sense of how people lived in old Hawai'i. Foundations of old village sites, cultural demonstrations, and a living taro farm are preserved and perpetuated.

The Haleakala Landscape

East Maui is made of one volcano, Haleakala. Like all others in Hawaii, this is a shield volcano built from the ocean floor by countless lava flows. The summit once towered high above this elevation. But during a dormant period, wind, water, and ice eroded Haleakala, creating large valleys.

Two of these valleys cut into opposite sides of Haleakala and merged at the top. Later, lava flows partially filled the valley, forming the large basin below commonly known as Haleakala "Crater." However, a true crater is formed by volcanic activity, not erosion.

Pu'u, the hills within the valley, are cinder cones; each cone is the site of an eruption and each has its own crater. Even 600-foot Pu'u o Maui, the largest of these cinder cones, seems dwarfed within this 3,000-foot deep basin that stretches 7 1/2 miles (12 km) long and 2 1/2 miles (4 km) wide.

Perhaps more so than any other area, biking down the volcanic slopes of Haleakala is about as surreal as it gets in paradise. Skyline Hawaii offers a range of both exhilarating and informative tours around Maui, from their daily [Haleakala Sunrise Bike & Zip Tour](#) - including a visit to the summit of Haleakala for sunrise, a 21 switchback bike ride, breakfast and 5-line zipline tour through Upcountry - to their combo [Sunrise & Zipline Tour](#) that includes an Indiana Jones style swinging bridge and Hawaii's only pendulum line.

Life on Haleakala

Life Among the Lava

The seemingly barren landscape of Haleakala hosts many rare forms of life. To survive in this aeolian (windblown) environment, some insects have developed unique features such as an inability to fly or an unusual diet. Most of these insects eat the organic material carried up the mountain by the wind.

The harsh aeolian environment is fragile. Its uniquely adapted native insects are threatened by alien species: rodents, Argentine ants, yellow jacket wasps, and even human beings. When people wander off trails, they may unintentionally crush spiders, beetles, and flightless moths that are found only on this mountaintop.

Found Nowhere Else

Many plants and animals at Haleakala are endemic, which means they're found nowhere else in the world. Located near the center of the North Pacific Ocean, the Hawaiian Islands are more than 2,000 miles (3,200 km) from North America, the nearest continent. This isolation, combined with a wide variety of habitats, has resulted in a high incidence of endemic species.

Plants, birds, and insects came to these islands by wind, waves, or wings. Scientists estimate that, before humans arrived, one new species came to Hawaii about once every 10,000 years. Today, people bring about 20 new alien species to the islands each year. This onslaught of human-introduced species severely affects native plants and animals. Extinction is all too common in present-day Hawai'i.

'Ahinahina, the silversword, once near extinction due to human vandalism and browsing by goats and cattle, began to recover when Haleakala National Park provided strict protection. The introduction of the Argentine Ant locally threatens the insects that pollinate the 'ahinahina.

'Ua'u - Hawaiian Dark-Rumped Petrel

Within the cliffs and cinder cones, 'ua'u dig nesting burrows with their feet and wings. Each spring, a pair of birds may return to nest in the same high mountain burrow. Named for their haunting call, 'ua'u are rarely seen but can be heard at night returning to Haleakala after feeding at sea.

'Ua'u, once abundant throughout the Hawaiian Islands, are now endangered. Fewer than 2,000 of these seabirds remain, almost all nesting in Haleakala National Park. 'Ua'u usually dig their burrows about 3 to 6 feet deep and as long as 15 feet. The 'ua'u are vulnerable to mongooses, feral cats, and other introduced predators.

The female 'ua'u lays only one large egg each year, then feeds its chick regurgitated stomach oil, fish, and squid. Habitat destruction, alien predators, and introduced diseases are threatening this bird's survival.

Magnetic Peak

Magnetic Peak, a cinder cone that resembles a high mound of volcanic rock, is named for the mild magnetic field caused by its iron-rich cinders. The field is strong enough to deflect a compass needle. Oxidation of these cinders also gives Magnetic Peak its rusty color.

Cinder cones like Magnetic Peak form during lava fountaining eruptions. Gas Pressure drives tephra, or airborne material, high into the air. Cooled during flight, solid tephra pieces accumulate around the vent, forming a cone. Cinders, tephra pieces smaller than a fist, contain many gas bubbles. Bombs, the larger chunks of tephra, may weigh several hundred pounds or more.

Pu'u 'Ula'ula is a cinder cone like Magnetic Peak. At 10,023 feet (3,055m), Pu'u 'Ula'ula is the highest point on Maui. From sea level, you make the ascent in 38 miles (61 km), which is one of the steepest climbs of any road in the world. When driving back down, use a low gear to save your breaks.

While on the summit, beware of the effects of thin air. With less oxygen, you might develop "altitude sickness" causing nausea, fatigue, dizziness, and headaches. If you feel any of these symptoms, rest often or descend to a lower elevation. Pregnant woman should refrain from making the trip to the summit. The thin air can cause shortage of air to your unborn child. This is especially dangerous further along pregnancy. We've had pregnant guests come to the peak in their early stages (1st and beginning of 2nd trimester) without problems. But they didn't stay for long, and they didn't exert themselves. We still recommend that pregnant women wait until after birth to visit the crater.

Hawai'i - The Big Island

From the summit at Haleakala, you can often see [the Big Island of Hawaii](#). The island of Hawai'i, the largest of the Hawaiian Islands, is often visible in the distance. Its two dominant volcanic peaks (Mauna Kea 13,796 ft and Mauna Loa 13,667 ft) usually tower above the clouds. These peaks are about 80 and 100 miles southeast of Haleakala.

Often called "The Big Island", Hawaii is still growing. Long-lived eruptions on the east rift zone of Kilauea Volcano have added hundreds of acres of land to the shores of Hawai'i in recent decades. With more than 4,000 square miles (10,400 sq km), Hawaii is almost twice the size of all the other Hawaiian Islands combined. New land is created as a lava flow meets the sea on the south east flank of Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The last eruption to reach the sea here on Maui occurred about 1790.

We'd like to thank Haleakala National Park for all of the great information.

Makawao

Makawao Town

With its wooden storefronts, tin roofs, hitching posts from bye-gone days, and generations old family stores, [Makawao town](#), pronounced MAH-kah-WOW, is the definition of charming. Situated on the slopes of Haleakala, where Baldwin Avenue and Makawao Avenue meet, this quaint town of about 7000 inhabitants has maintained its rustic and unique atmosphere.

Makawao's roots are held in the paniolo, or Hawaiian cowboy. Paniolo first arrived here in 1838, by order of King Kamehameha III, with the intention of training Hawaiians how to manage wild cattle. His predecessor, King Kamehameha I, first brought cattle over to Maui in 1793, placing a "kapu" (taboo) on killing the animal, so they could propagate. As years progressed, many colorful Portuguese paniolo began to populate the area; and a visit to Makawao Town will still prompt a tip of the hat from one of these rustic gentlemen.

Through the years, Plantation workers and immigrants from Japan, Korea, and China opened storefronts selling their wares, which included groceries, horse tackle, kerosene, crack seed, and dried squid. In the 1940s, some 34,000 servicemen from the 4th Marine Division made camp nearby, flooding the town with commerce. When the marines were sent home, many stores closed; and, it wasn't until the early 1980s that new life started invigorating the town again, creating the eclectic mix that we know and love.

Komoda Store and Bakery is one establishment that has persevered through the changes. Opening their doors back in 1916, this bakery is a local tradition. Patrons get there early and form a line to pick up the infamous coco puffs, pies, or the kids favorite, doughnut on a stick.

But make no mistake, there is a touch of cosmopolitan here. Fine art galleries, cafes, and fine Italian cuisine are tucked back into all of the nooks and crannies of this little town. In fact, there are so many art galleries, with work from painters, glassblowers, wood sculptors, and jewelers, that Makawao has been dubbed the "Sedona of Maui". Shoppers can also find a plethora of locally made products like, Hawaiian quilts, soaps, mustards, and spice rubs to satisfy any craving. And, a number of high-end boutiques also reside, veiled in folksy ambiance. Meander through one afternoon and explore the many treasures of Makawao.

Points of Interest

Komoda Store and Bakery

M, T, R, F: 7am - 5pm

Sa: 7am - 2pm

W, Su: Closed

This is a Makawao Institution! It is a fourth generation owned store, known for their yummy baked treats, like macadamia nut cookies, coconut pie, coco puffs, and doughnuts. The original site was located where Polli's Mexican Restaurant sits today; and, its said, that the new site was bought in 1945 for only \$10.

Polli's Mexican Restaurant

11am - 10pm Daily

After a hard day, locals love the mango margarita. Quaint and fun atmosphere. You'll definitely spot a cowboy in here.

Cassanova Italian Restaurant and Deli

11:30am - 9:30pm Daily

Cassanova's offers a deli breakfast and lunch, and fine Italian for dinner. Menu items might include gourmet pizzas, creative salads, ahi Sicilian, and cioppino. This venue turns into a bar and nightclub in the evening with live music.

Hot Island Glass

11am - 10pm Daily

Watch the experts handcraft unique, island-inspired pieces.

Dragon's Den

3681 Baldwin Ave.

10am - 5:30pm Daily

Tucked away on the edge of the K. Matsui Store building, this unique Herb Shop can find a natural solution to heal your ailments. They also offer fresh teas, that patrons choose from large clear glass containers. The next best thing to an apothecary!

Seabury Hall and Campus

480 Olinda Rd.

Gorgeous campus, where the cream of the crop students attend a cutting edge high school with advanced curriculum. The grounds are stunning and worth a look around.

Hui Noeau Visual Arts Center

2841 Baldwin Ave.

Fine art studio, gallery, with a variety of art classes available.

Makawao Union Church

1445 Baldwin Ave.

Non-denominational church built in 1861. Beautiful stone church with lovely stained glass.

Parking

FREE - Limited street parking

FREE - Large public parking lot behind Stop Watch Bar & Grill on Makawao Avenue

Ongoing and Annual Events

Friday Town Party (3rd Friday)

Happening the 3rd Friday of every month from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.; As part of Maui's ongoing Friday town parties, Makawao is happening on 3rd Fridays! The streets are blocked off to allow for food trucks, craft vendors, and live music. Come be part of the fun and community!

Obon Dance and Festival

Annual event in late July at the Makawao Hongwanji Mission on Makawao Avenue. The event includes ceremonial clothing, dancing, and drums. There are food and baked items for sale.

The Makawao Rodeo

Annual Fourth of July celebration. The town has a modest parade to kick off the festivities, of this more than 50 year old paniolo tradition. The rodeo and bull bash take place on Olinda Road at the Oskie Rice Arena.

Seabury Craft Fair

Annual Event the day before Mothers Day, in which you will find an assortment of unique, hand made gifts, treats, and treasures. Live music and a kids zone.

Kula

Kula Town

Locals know to escape the heat, head to the rolling hills and expansive pasture land of Kula, and the quaint communities beyond of Ulupalakua and Keokea. Kula means “open country”, and this loosely designated area that sits between 1000 feet to 8000 feet elevation, is known as the breadbasket of Maui. The “farm to table” phenomenon has catapulted many gardens and farms into creating some outstanding farm tours and tasting opportunities of their locally made products. Relaxed and slow- paced, the region’s farming and ranching history and sheer isolation, as there is no direct public road connecting it to South Maui, have helped to maintain the “vibe” we know and love as Kula.

Heading along Hwy 37, make sure to pass the turnoff for Hwy 377 that takes you to Haleakala Summit, and continue on Hwy 37 through beautiful Kula to begin your journey. The area is known for its tropical gardens, lavender, protea, sweet Maui onions, goat cheese, coffee, carnations and orchid for leis, cattle, and plenty of generations old farms, cowboys, and artists. Stop in to one of the handful of eateries and cafes that dot the hillside. With amazing views of the ocean below and a cool breeze, this part of your Maui vacation will be a welcome reprieve from the busy tourism hubs of Kihei and Wailea below.

History

The area that makes up Kula, KeoKea and Ulupalakua is primarily comprised of three large ranches Haleakala Ranch, Kaonoulu Ranch, and Ulupalakua. In the mid to late 1800s, the Great Mahele occurred, which divided up Hawaiian lands for sale, and these influential families began acquiring the land for use. Many Chinese and Portuguese laborers, after fulfilling their contracts, moved into the area to farm the land. They were soon joined by a large number of Japanese and Korean immigrants who have maintained the agricultural character to this day.

Today the real estate values in Kula rank as one of the priciest in Hawaii. With its quaint communities, low traffic, cooler temperatures, and impeccable views, the property values have skyrocketed. And, a new type of residence now dot the area. The “gentleman’s farm”, comprised of a plot of land, and a large upscale home is becoming more frequent.

Points of Interest

Maui Alpaca

505 Aulii Drive
808-500-2577

Located Upcountry near Pukalani, Maui Alpaca is one of the most unique farms on Maui. The eight-acre farm boasts a herd of alpacas and several angora rabbits. Both angora and alpaca wool are highly prized, and Maui Alpaca has many alpaca and angora products for sale. However, Maui Alpaca also hosts a slew of farm visit experiences, from one-hour meet-and-greet tours to picnic lunches.

Farm visits are hosted daily from 10:00-11:00 am. This interactive tour allows guests to meet the alpacas, feed them, and (if they’re in the right mood) snap a couple of selfies. Friendly guides narrate the tour, offering a wealth of knowledge about the alpacas, from their personal quirks to their history as a species. Post-alpaca-feeding, guests visit the bunny village, home to a crew of angora bunnies. The rabbits love being cuddled— kids and animal lovers won’t want to let them go. Before the tour concludes, guests can participate in a hands-on yarn-making demonstration and practice making wool. This is an excellent activity for kids!

Ocean Vodka

4051 Omaopio Rd

Kula, Award winning vodka made on the slopes of Haleakala. Tours available.

Surfing Goat Dairy

3651 Omaopio Rd

Kula A favorite for families and foodies alike. This farm is known for their 18 national cheese awards. Favorites include Udderly Delicious, Ole, and the Men's Challenge made with horseradish. Try their line of goat cheese chocolate truffles or lilikoi (passion fruit) goat cheese cheesecake. Enjoy any of their platter or treats at the outdoor cafe. Petting and milking opportunities for the kids. Tours available.

La Provence

3158 Lower Kula Rd

7am - 9pm

Authentic French cuisine made by Chef, Thierry Michelier. Crepes, flaky croissants, and filet mignon, with the option to dine al fresco taking in the ocean views.

Church of the Holy Ghost

Lower Kula/ Alanui Place

Kula's most notable landmark, the brilliant white, octagonal structure can be seen from South Maui's shores. This gift from the king and queen of Portugal to the island's Portuguese plantation workers was built in 1894, and has been recently restored.

Kula Bistro

4566 Lower Kula Rd

7:30am - 10:30am & 11am - 8:15pm

Formerly Cafe 808, this restaurant has undergone a major renovation. Specializes in homestyle food with an Italian flair, you'll find pizzas, pastas, great breakfast food and homemade desserts. Located across from the Morihara Store, where purchasing alcohol for BYOB is an option.

Morihara Store

4581 Lower Kula Rd

Small Grocer and Convenience store.

Kula Lodge & Restaurant

15200 Haleakala Hwy

This rustic restaurant is a favorite breakfast spot for those coming down from catching sunrise atop Haleakala Crater. Warm up beside the fireplace, admire the art in the downstairs gallery, and enjoy a tasty loco moco while admiring the impeccable views. Be sure to stroll the garden in the back before you go.

Kula Marketplace

Next door to the Kula Lodge

7am - 7pm

Offering a wide variety of specialty gourmet foods and locally made products, including jewelry, pottery, heirloom quilts, and arts and crafts.

Kula Sandalwoods

15427 Haleakala Hwy

Mon-Fri: 7am - 3pm

Sun: 7am-11:30pm

Diners can expect French toast with home-made Portuguese sweet bread, and country omelets with fresh local veggies, and kalua-pork sandwiches for lunch. There is a gazebo and terrace, with ocean views.

Kula Botanical Gardens

638 Kekaulike Ave

Established in 1968, this 6 acre botanical garden has a wide variety of tropical plants. Gift shop with snacks for purchase.

Rice Park

Kula Hwy/ Waipoli Rd

Bathroom, Grills, and tables.

Kula Country Farm

375 Koheo Rd/Kula Hwy

This is a great farmers market run by a 4th generation of families. Fresh island sweet Kula Onion, sweet Kula corn, and strawberries. There are also fresh baked goodies, jams, jellies and fresh cut flowers.

Oo Farm

651 Waipoli Rd

Tours Available.

Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm

1100 Waipoli Rd

Lavender products, lavender infused biscuits and tea for dining on the grounds. Take a self-guided tour around the property or opt for the guided tour for more information about growing lavender in Maui.

St John's Episcopal Church

8992 Kula Hwy

The Kula Festival happens here in September.

Keokea Park

Across from St. John's Church

Public restroom available.

Shim Coffee Farm

625 Middle Road

This grower placed 5th Statewide in Cupping Competition and 2nd place Maui District, recently.

Henry Fong Store

9226 Kula Hwy, located next to Grandma's Coffee Shop.

Offers some convenience products, souvenirs, and locally made gifts.

Grandmas' Coffee Shop

9232 Kula Hwy

A local favorite with it's screen door, rustic one-room plantation-style cottage, and home made treats. A tradition for the past 50 years, offering breakfast and lunch. Seating very limited.

Kula Hospital

100 Keokea Pl., Kula

(808) 876-433

Clinic hours also available. Mon - Fri, 8am - 4:30am

This unique hospital, originally known as the Kula Sanitarium, was built in 1910 by Dr. W. F. McConkey to help battle the increase of tuberculosis.

Sun Yat Sen

Kula Hwy between mile marker 18 and 19

Small roadside park honoring the late Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. Yat-Sen (1866-1925) is often referred to as the father of modern China. This revolutionary political leader served as the first provisional president of China after the overthrow of the Qing dynasty in 1911. Ulupalakua Ranch donated land in 1989 for the park that now hosts a bronze statue of it's namesake.

Maui's Winery

Tasting Room: 10am - 5pm

Traveling on Hwy 37, the road changes names to 31, about a mile past is the winery on the left, you can't miss it.

In 1974, Tedeschi Vineyards was established here on Ulupalakua Ranch, and the name recently changed to Maui's Winery. In 1977, the winery experimented with pineapple wine and released their unique Maui Blanc Pineapple Wine. The top seller is the Maui Splash, made from pineapple and passion fruit. Make sure to stop by the tasting room, and then walk or picnic on the beautiful grounds.

Ulupalakua Ranch Store

Located directly across from the winery, this is a great place for lunch. The store opened in 1849, and now houses a small deli where patrons can find made to order deli sandwiches or hot off the grill specials made from the ranch's livestock, like beef or elk. Enjoy yours outside on the veranda.

Climate

Annual high temperature: 72.3°F

Annual low temperature: 55.6°F

Average temperature: 63.95°F

More on Haleakala Ranch...

Owned by the Baldwin family, it was incorporated in 1888 and has been run by five generations. H.P. Baldwin, the son of missionaries, is the original owner and was responsible for teaming up with Samuel Alexander (of Alexander & Baldwin) to help create the irrigation system that now waters the sugarcane seen across Central Maui. A total of 30,000 acres, rising from south Maui up to the leeward slopes of Mount Haleakala, this ranch now hosts approximately 1,100 breeding cows, 2,000 nanny goats and 350 ewes. Their natural grass-fed beef can be purchased in local grocers and restaurants through their partner, Maui Cattle Company.

Maui companies residing on the ranch include Maui Lavender & Botanicals, Skyline Eco-Adventures, Pony Express Tours, Maui Floral Protea, Tropical Flower Farm, Haleakala Distillers and Maui Nui Farm & Farmers Market are located on Haleakala Ranch land.

More on Kaonoulu Ranch...

Owned by Henry Rice, this ranch is comprised of 10,000 acres that stretch continuously from the beaches of South Maui to the top of Mount Haleakala, and is estimated to be worth close to \$50 million. The Department of Land and Natural

Resources say it is one of the very last intact ahupua'a left in Hawaii. An ahupua'a is a type of ancient Hawaiian land division that stretches from mountain to sea that sustainably supports the land's natural resources. The Rices have employed the same native Hawaiian cowboys for decades, and they refuse to sell and break up the ahupua'a. Henry Rice acquired the land from his grandfather, Maui senator Harold W. Rice, who is said to have bought it from a sugar magnate, who bought it from a Chinese potato farmer, who had received the original ahupua'a from a Hawaiian.

More on Ulupalakua Ranch...

Ulupalakua Ranch is Maui's second largest cattle ranch. The peak size was approximately 40,000 acres, 20,000 of those acres have been turned over to the State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and also to the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to be preserved as parkland. Known as Rose Ranch in the late 1800's, the ranch was a favorite of King Kalakaua, where a special cabin was built for the king and his royal party. The bare slopes were once covered with Sandalwood and Koa trees. Pardee Erdman purchased the ranch in 1956 and renamed it the Ulupalakua Ranch, he continues to maintain the land today. Visitors love strolling the grounds near the Winery and exploring the history and old structures there.

East Maui (Hana, Wailua, Keanae)

Hana

Road To Hana

Accessed primarily by the Road to Hana, Hana Highway (36 and 360), Hana Town is the most isolated town in the Hawaiian Islands. With a tiny population of less than 1,000 people, Hana is strongly "Hawaiian" having had less exposure to tourism and outside culture than any other area in Hawaii. The actual town of Hana is very small with few shops, including the Hasegawa General Store.

The East side of Maui is generally known as Hana. This area is home to the Oheo Gulch (Seven Sacred Pools), the Bailey Bridge (built by the Army Corps of Engineers), the Travaasa Resort (which is one of the nicest resorts in the State) and huge stretches of lush coastline, waterfalls, and vast rainforest. As winds from the Northeast sweep over the ocean, it pulls with it dense humidity. As this moisture rolls up Haleakala, it cools and precipitates on the Hana side making Hana one of the wettest places in the world.

About the Road to Hana

The drive to Hana is known as one of the most beautiful drives in the world. The Road to Hana runs approximately 52 miles from the beach town of Paia, over 59 bridges, and through 620 curves. Though the drive isn't for those with weak stomachs, it is generally safer than many people report. Much of the negative perception of the road to Hana as being dangerous comes from when the road was poorly paved 20 years ago. That doesn't mean it isn't dangerous due to tourists not paying attention or driving too quickly.

Take Caution

Some of the most dangerous places on the East side are waterfalls and streams during heavy rains. Flash floods claim lives every year arriving quickly with no warning. Lacking any previous indications, flash floods run swiftly down the mountainside due to rains further upstream. You can be sitting at a quiet stream in full sun, while the water builds upstream from unapparent heavy rains.

Before entering any stream or waterfall area, make sure to check with officials and see that water isn't gathering further upstream. Seven Sacred Pools at Oheo Gulch

is a great place to visit because Haleakala National Park officials are well aware of the dangers and will close off the area to swimming if there's any potential flooding.

We highly recommend taking a tour to Hana in order to have a trusted, knowledgeable guide show you the best spots without danger. Valley Isle Excursions offer excellent tours to Hana and beyond. They check everyday with local officials about water level safety so that if you're interested in swimming, you can rest easy.

The best way to do the Road to Hana:

The Road to Hana is more than just a great drive through a beautiful area of Maui. Most visitors tend to zip to and from Hana with a checklist of sights to photograph. This is the wrong way to do it. Do your due diligence beforehand, decide on a few locations that look the most intriguing, and take your time at each location.

In order to truly experience Hana, it helps to know more about the history and legends of the area. You may find out that there are legendary stories associated with each spot where Gods have left their mark and historic battles have been fought.

Transport yourself not only to Hana, but back in time to the historic moments and legendary tales that shape the islands.

Wailua

Not far past the town of Keanae along the Hana Highway, you'll come to the small, quaint town of Wailua. Also known for growing taro in beautiful, sprawling fields, get a better view of Wailua from higher up at the Wailua State Wayside Park right before mile marker 19 on the mountain side of the road. Take the stairs up for a memorable view of the mountains to one side and taro fields of Wailua Valley on the other.

Farther along your drive, past Hana and on your way to the Pools of 'Ohe'o on Honolewa Stream, you'll come to Wailua Falls, one of the most photographed

waterfalls on the whole island, due to its eighty foot drop located directly on the side of the road. Take a dip in the pool, relax and enjoy the view! If you find yourself at Wailua Stream instead, enjoy the much less crowded Kanahuali'i and Waihiimalu Falls.

Keanae

Just past the [Keanae Arboretum](#) along the Hana Highway, you'll find a road on the left past mile marker 16 down to the village of Keanae. Pay attention to the jagged, black lava rocks and note that there is no swimming here due to the dangerous and rocky shoreline.

A traditional Hawaiian village, Keanae is known for its taro fields, much like their ancestors. This area attracts fisherman and photographers from all over the world looking to catch Maui's famous North Shore waves against the beautiful Keanae peninsula.

On your drive down, you'll pass a stone church built in 1856, the only remaining building after the devastating [tsunami](#) of 1946, which killed twenty four people when waves topping 35 feet crashed into the village with no warning. Following this tragedy, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center was implemented, which still sits on Oahu's Ewa Beach.

While there is no swimming here, grab a smoothie and some coconut candy at the stand close to the Keanae Congregational Church and watch the waves roll in.

Weather (by Region, Cycle, Month)

The island of Maui is made up of numerous different sub-climates. Depending on where you are, the weather can act in a multitude of ways. For the most part, each area has a general weather pattern.

Below we've listed the weather that each part of the island typically holds.

Maui Weather by Region

Because of the warm ocean airflow, the West Maui Mountains get a lot of rain. The Iao Valley rarely sees a day without some kind of precipitation. Wailuku Town is located over here as well as some of Upper West Maui like Honolua Bay. All of these areas are lush and green due to the near-constant wet weather. If it is raining, check out things to do when it rains in Maui.

Leeward West

Similar to the South of Maui, most of the leeward side of West Maui is located on lower ground near the coast. This area is warmer, sunnier, and drier than the rest of the island. We do notice that Lahaina town tends to get a little more rain than Kihei area in comparison. The further up you go in West Maui, the more wet it will get. You'll find the landscape becomes more diverse and lush. In the summer, the west side of Maui is subject to wild brush fires from the dry heat.

Central Valley

The central valley of Maui encompasses Ma'alaea, part of North Kihei, and Kahului. This area is dry and windy. Maui is made up of two huge mountainous regions with a valley between it. The valley is home to mostly sugar cane fields, and is usually sunny between the cloudy mountains.

Leeward Haleakala

Leeward Haleakala consists of South Maui and most of Up Country Maui. South Maui is home to Kihei, Wailea, and Makena. These areas get the least amount of rain on the island. This isn't saying that it doesn't rain. Some parts of Makena and Wailea get more rain than others, and Kihei's Maui Meadows gets more rain and is cooler than the lower parts of Kihei. Generally, the higher in elevation, the cooler it gets, and Maui's elevation changes drastically within miles of itself. Certain portions

of Makena have a constant stream of clouds flowing in a strip from Kahoolawe to the crater summit. Southern parts of Big Beach (Makena Beach) are covered by this cloud formation frequently. Upcountry Maui is much cooler and wet than South Maui. The elevation is considerably higher here, which is conducive to more rain and colder air. The ancient Hawaiians who lived on this side of Maui would travel up the slopes to the upcountry during the summer and live in South Maui for the rest of the year.

Windward Haleakala

The windward side of Haleakala is home to Hana and everything on the Road to Hana. This area is the wettest because of Haleakala's tall slopes. Trade winds are responsible for blowing in moist air from the ocean, which Haleakala deflects up its slopes. Once the saturated air cools with altitude, it rains. This is the same for the windward side of the West Maui Mountains. The leeward sides of both these mountainous regions are blocked from the rain and get very little precipitation. The Windward side of Haleakala have rain over 3/4 of the year. When you drive the Road to Hana, you'll most likely get wet at one point or another.

Haleakala Summit

The Summit of Haleakala is a completely different world. With the look and feel of our moon's landscape, the crater of Haleakala is vast and high. Towering to over 10,000 ft, Haleakala Crater regularly reaches below zero in temperature and has on occasion even snowed. Dress warmly when visiting this area, and remember to do this especially when you go on a helicopter tour of the crater. If you're planning on catching the sunrise or sunset at the summit, keep in mind that it is cloudy more often than not. If it's clear, you'll have a view like no other. It feels as though you're on top of the world, and in reality, you are!

Maui Weather Cycle

From the crater at Haleakala's summit, you can watch Maui weather being made. On a typically warm day, trade winds carry moisture-laden air up the northeast

slopes of Haleakala. As the moisture rises, it cools and condenses into the cloud layer that frequently rings the mountain.

Rising warm air often pushes the clouds up through Ko'olau Gap and Kaupo Gap. As the evening air cools, the clouds drain out of the valley and the cycle begins again.

Haleakala influences weather all around the volcano. Average annual rainfall varies from about 400 inches (1,000m) in the high-elevation rain forest above Hana to 10 inches (25 cm) in Kihei, only about 15 minutes apart. Because temperatures drop about 3.2F (1.3C) every 1,000feet (305m), the summit of Haleakala is roughly 32F (13C) cooler than the beaches.

Average Maui Weather by the Month

December, January, February

These months have the lowest temperatures for the year. Keep in mind that it's still plenty warm in many areas. With regular showers, these winter months are home to the wettest Maui weather of the year. In January, trade winds only blow half as much as they do in the summer. Throughout the winter, generally from November to March, large North Swells create big surf on our North and Northwest facing beaches. The ocean temperature is approximately 75 F, and the air temperature averages between 65-80 degrees F depending on which area you're in, and closer to 64-79 degrees F in Hana.

March, April, May

We find this time of year to be much like a mix between September, October, November. Some days are warm and above 80, others are chilly in the low 70s. We get plenty of rain still, depending on when you're on island. Whales are still around a bit, though leaving the islands. Again, keep in mind that the weather is different across the island depending on your region. Anytime of year it can be dumping rain in Haiku and gorgeous on the beaches of Kihei. Hurricane-windy in Paia and calm

in Lahaina. We have almost every micro-climate, so if you're seeing an 85% chance of rain, consider driving for 10 minutes in any direction.

June, July

You'll find Maui summers to be the most crowded with visitors because it's hot and dry. By now Hana has caught up and is warmer at times than the rest of the island. June is extremely dry for Maui and trades blow almost always. With most of Maui at 69-87 degrees F, you'll find it sunny and warm most everywhere. One of the major pluses in the constant Trade winds is there tendency to cool things down. Be wary of the sun! With the wind comes a disillusionment of how hot the sun really is on your skin. Wear sunblock on exposed areas at all times. You can be out for just 5 minutes and turn into a lobster.

August, September

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October, November

These months are transitional months on Maui from summer to winter. With a little rain, a few degrees in temperature, and an occasional storm, Maui's winter begins to step in. Average temperatures are from 68-88 degrees F and 68-83 F in Hana. Ocean temperatures are between 77 F and 79 F in October and November. Keep in mind that the winter in Maui really isn't a traditional winter. The differences between seasons in Maui are not all that significant relatively. Weather differences

on Maui are more strongly noticed by location on the island than by what time of year it is.

Accommodations

Resorts

North Shore Lookout Maui

(808) 868-1651

Considering that most people head to Maui with visions of basking in the sun or sipping mai tais by the pool at their resort, Maui's chillier, albeit stunning mountainous region of Upcountry is often overlooked when it comes to booking accommodation. However, some of the most alluring, tranquil, and opulent accommodations can be found in this region.

Perched along the slopes of Haleakala, North Shore Lookout delivers all of the aforementioned qualities. Positioned on nine-acres of gorgeous land, North Shore Lookout's tropically appointed grounds have been manicured to encapsulate the heart and soul of Upcountry. Staying true to the strong Paniolo cowboy culture of the region, North Shore Lookout operates as a working farm growing fresh fruits and veggies, complete with horses and a sweet Kunekune pig. The property's sprawling acreage gives guests the feeling of peaceful seclusion, however, the nearby town of Makawao is only a short drive away and some of the island's best beaches, dining, and activities are in close proximity as well.

On-site, North Shore Lookout's five private suites have been carefully designed to capture the aesthetic, culture, and elegance of Upcountry. Each room has been recently remodeled and carefully appointed to represent a different Polynesian theme accented with modern twists, giving each suite a contemporary, artistic feel. Every suite comes with their own private lanai, private baths, kitchenette and eating areas, and access to the pool and jacuzzi.

The Duke's Cottage

With impressive ocean views, this spacious suite pays homage to Hawaii's ocean king: Duke Kahanamoku. The Duke's Cottage was tailored to embody the vintage Hawaiian theme while maintaining a chic, modern aesthetic. Livened with tropical plantings, this bright and airy room comes complete with a California king bed, kitchenette, and an adorable swing chair. Step out onto your private lanai and enjoy views of the ocean or watch the sunset from the hammock.

The Hoku Suite

Combined with the higher elevation and lack of light pollution, Upcountry proves to be one of the best places in the world to stargaze. Meaning 'star' in Hawaiian, the Hoku Suite features a private yard and two-person hammock, ideal for nights spent stargazing. When the Upcountry temperatures begin to drop, warm up by the personal fire-pit area. Delight in the suite's modern Plantation style features and spoil yourself in the spa-like bathroom. As one of the biggest rooms at North Shore Lookout, the Hoku Suite is perfect for those looking for a little more privacy. If you're traveling with family, the Hoku Suite can be connected to the Pele Suite as well.

The Paniolo Suite

Touching on Upcountry's iconic paniolo culture, this contemporary rustic suite creates a homey atmosphere. As North Shore Lookout's largest room, the suite comes with two private sleeping areas and separate dining, entertainment, and kitchenette areas, making it the perfect choice for families. Get a feel for true Hawaiian country style from the garden lanai, overlooking plumeria trees and a banana grove, or get cozy next to the lava rock indoor fireplace.

The Pele Suite

Accented with tropical designs and natural tones, this suite is named after the Hawaiian goddess Pele, keeper of volcanos and creator of all the islands. Swing in the hammock and bask in the sunshine from the comfort of your private lanai. The Pele Suite comes complete with a unique lava rock shower, kitchenette, and pull-out sofa.

The Makani Suite

The Makani Suite is North Shore Lookout's economy suite for travelers looking to experience the luxury of Upcountry on a budget. Named after the tradewinds that Maui is famous for, guests can enjoy these cool breezes from the rocking chairs on the lanai. Curl up with a good book in the reading nook and enjoy the suite's traditional Hawaiian style decor after a long day of exploring.

North Shore Lookout serves as the perfect home base to explore every side of the island, or to simply unwind in the temperate, gorgeous, and peaceful Upcountry region. For more information, call North Shore Lookout at **(808) 868-1651**.

Maui County Permit #BBMP20170003 HI TAT #TA-174-391-0912-01

Montage Kapalua Bay

(808) 662-6600

The Montage Kapalua Bay is home to a collection of luxury residences, constructed in 2009 on the previous site of the Kapalua Bay Hotel. The upscale resort sits on a sprawling 24-acre property adjacent to the world-famous Kapalua Bay. Located about 25 minutes north of Lahaina, the Montage serves as a deluxe getaway on Maui's northwest coast.

The accommodations at the Montage are expansive, ideal for traveling groups or families. The units vary from 1,900 to 4,200 square feet and range from one to four bedrooms. The inclusion of a full kitchen is a massive perk, as kitchens are not something typically found in luxury resorts. Oceanview units are available, but the accommodations themselves are set a ways back from the ocean to help preserve the area's natural beauty.

The Montage Kapalua Bay is outfitted with numerous amenities like restaurants, markets, a spa, a kids club, an on-site luau, and a sprawling pool. The main fine-dining restaurant in the hotel is **Cane & Canoe**. Every morning from 7 am to 11 am, Cane and Canoe serves as a casual breakfast restaurant, serving morning classics and healthy tropical items like fruit bowls and smoothies. Come evening, the restaurant transforms into a classy culinary affair, serving perfected seafood, fresh fish, and steak, complemented by fresh local produce.

Montage resorts worldwide are renowned for their spas, and this location is no different. The enormous **Spa Montage** provides an array of services for both guests and visitors. Outdoor treatment rooms, fitness centers, hydrotherapy centers, saunas, pools, and other amenities are scattered around the five-acre spa facility. In addition, the Spa Montage integrates the island's natural beauty and locally sourced ingredients into its many treatments.

The historic plantation era Cliff House is now under Montage management as well. This truly oceanfront venue has hosted countless weddings, cocktail parties, corporate events, and Montage food and beverage events. It's also a spectacular venue to rent just to spend a day in.

The Montage also hosts an on-site luau. Deviating from typical resort luaus, the **Beach Club Luau** only hosts 40 guests for an intimate show. In addition, the buffet dinner is replaced with individually plated courses that stick to Hawaiian cuisine. The menu was cultivated by executive chef Eric Faivre, making the Beach Club Luau an excellent culinary affair.

The northwestern part of Maui, where Kapalua is located, gets more wind, clouds, and rain than the main tourist areas of Kaanapali, Lahaina, Wailea, and Kihei. However, the Montage has the advantage of being in a more quiet and less crowded part of the island, away from the chief visitor destinations.

Sheraton Maui

(808) 922-4422

The [Sheraton Maui Resort](#) has an almost mythic quality about it, especially during their nightly torch lighting ceremony. The unique building is only rivaled by its outdoor water features, which include a lagoon, waterfalls, and much more.

Sheraton Maui Rooms

When we checked in, our room was upgraded to ocean view due to our being Starwood members. (There are plenty of perks to being a member, of which I've gone into more detail below.) Our room was in building 2, which was close to the entrance. Our concierge put us there to be helpful since we had a young baby. I personally believe we'd been put there in order to have less direct neighbors. Both made for good reasons, since our baby wailed the first night without stopping. I pity any neighbors within earshot (and am so sorry!!)

The room was plenty big enough for our little family with a king sized bed, nice bathroom, and lanai with partial ocean view. A big palm tree blocked most of our view of the ocean, but there's really not much that can be done about that. It was still beautiful. The king sized bed looked a little short, but we may just be spoiled with our big bed at home. It fit my wife and I (neither of us are over 6 feet tall, but anyone taller than that might find a toe hanging over the bed.)

Suggestions

We would've liked to have had a couch or seating area (we didn't pay for additional upgrades), the cable modem was hard to find, and their movies were a bit misleading. The modem was sitting on the floor tucked behind the side table next to the bed. Wouldn't it normally be on the desk? I didn't find it until a few hours before leaving and had to suffer with a very weak internet wifi signal (hence the late posting of this article.) As far as the movies, it advertised a bunch of movies you could buy, but they didn't offer them all. Hangover 2 among others were unavailable for purchase. It's just as well considering the cost of the movies. Some cost in excess of \$17! I guess this is also pretty standard for high-end resorts.

Sheraton Luau - Maui Nui Luau

Backed by the sprawling, golden sands of Ka'anapali Beach and famous cliff diving spot of Black Rock, Maui Nui Luau is located conveniently on the beachfront lawn of the Sheraton Maui Resort. Guests will be treated to lighthearted, entertaining commentary along with Hawaiian and Polynesian songs, dance performances and an impressive fire knife dance. Sunset views and tropical cocktails make this the perfect date night activity, or night out with friends and family. [Get tickets now](#) because [this one books up quickly](#).

The Sheraton Maui Pools

The pools were excellent. Plenty of winding river-like paths of water connecting different areas (not uncommon for resorts in Hawaii.) The kids love these features, and I do too. Makes for a pleasing, tropical feel to the property. We always managed to find shade, even during peak sunbathing times. The resort was obviously not

fully booked, and given that they have 508 rooms, I can't imagine there would be room around the pool at full capacity. Thankfully, the beach is right there.

My only gripe (other than the pool restaurant, which I discuss next) would be the small towels. They cover only half the deck chairs. They give you enough towel for any normal sized person to dry off with, but not enough to lay completely on a towel.

Sheraton Maui Restaurants

Black Rock Terrace

Our first experience was dinner at the Black Rock Terrace. This is the Sheraton Maui's version of in-house fine dining. We went into it rather wary due to past experiences at "fine dining restaurants" at resorts. Well, we came out very pleased! Everything was delicious and the staff were friendly and helpful. We both had the Maui onion soup, which didn't disappoint. Me also had the Filet Mignon and the Short Rib. The filet was cooked perfectly, and the short rib melted in your mouth. The short rib had a touch too much salt in the sauce, but it didn't ruin the dish. It was incredibly tasty, and we devoured everything in front of us. The Ambiance was warm and romantic with water features around the dining area. And the baby slept throughout the meal (PERFECT!)

Cliff Dive Bar

Our first encounter with The Cliff Dive Bar was while lounging by the pool. We ordered a massive portion of nachos (with the cheddar cheese option) and pulled pork. It was very good and above average for pool food. The cocktails and beers were overpriced, but that's to be expected at any resort pool.

We sat down for lunch for our second and final encounter at the Cliff Dive Bar. It was disappointing due to the quality of the food, drinks, and pricing. The view and location to the beach are unparalleled, which made it more of a shame that the food didn't match. The food was what you'd expect at a second-rate resort pool bar in Palm Springs. It could be such a great spot for lunch. The burger was ok, but not

for the \$17 price. My wife ordered orange juice, then iced tea, then realized that everything came out of a gun. Nothing seemed as fresh as we'd like. Again, we understand that when the resort is in full capacity, it would be harder to keep up high volumes of real juice and high quality food, but the price didn't reflect this. Unfortunately, I think this is another situation where a big resort takes advantage of the fact that many of their guests don't rent a car and are stuck with their options. I guess when you go to places like Ferraro's at the Four Seasons Wailea, and you get spoiled by out-of-this-world food for the same prices, it's hard to understand why they don't take advantage of their prime location. Whaler's Village is only a short walk from here, and Cane and Taro is a great restaurant if you're looking for something better.

Starwood Membership Benefits

I signed up for a Starwood American Express at the highly recommended suggestion of a friend, and I don't regret it. I put most of my business expenses on it, and the points add up fast. Originally I planned on using the points towards airfare, but the value in hotel/resort use is far better. I've stayed at 5 star resorts across the globe thanks to this card (and it cost me near to nothing.)

At the Sheraton, the Starwood benefits are good, but the best benefit was our 4pm checkout. That's the way all hotels and resorts should run. Obviously, this can't always be done since people need to check in after a good cleaning. But most hotels have the capacity to rotate the empty rooms and offer this privilege. We loved it, and it afforded us another day at the pool.

Sheraton Maui Resort Overview

Overall, the Sheraton Maui at Black Rock has the best location in Kaanapali, is immaculately maintained, has beautiful tennis courts and pools, is serviced by a great staff, and offers convenient shuttle services to boot. It's a top notch resort and worth the dough.

Four Seasons Maui

(808) 874-8000

If we had to pick one resort on Maui that had everything you could ever dream of in a five star experience, and maybe then some, we'd have to choose the Four Seasons Maui at Wailea. From its relaxed island atmosphere to top notch amenities, design and amazing location, we had to struggle to think of something that wasn't right at our fingertips. And that's a good thing.

Four Seasons Maui Restaurants & Bars

Ferraro's Bar E Ristorante

As soon as we walked into the resort, we were in search of not only an amazing experience, but an equally amazing welcome cocktail. Enter Ferraro's, one of three onsite, ocean-view restaurants that was just named one of Open Table's top choices for outdoor dining in the U.S. The rightfully-recommended Orchid Dream paired with the Seafood Cobb Salad and panoramic views of Wailea Beach, the West Maui Mountains and Molokini Crater was the perfect start to a day in paradise.

DUO Steak & Seafood

That night for dinner, we headed to DUO's Market Night, a relatively new event that sources the best in fresh, local ingredients, held Fridays from 5 to 9pm. We enjoyed a Maui Brewing Company Bikini Blonde Lager, salad bar with ingredients straight from the farm in Upcountry Maui and even picked out our own cut of meat for dinner. The food was fantastic, as was the scenery of the poolside waterfall and fading sunset. We especially enjoyed meeting and talking story with some of the island's best farmers. Check it out if you get the chance!

Lobby Lounge

The next evening, we headed to the beautiful Lobby Lounge to enjoy a pre-dinner live hula show and sunset tiki torch lighting ceremony, specialty Hana Haze Martini in hand. As someone who has been to several luaus, this was the perfect, low key (and free) alternative to an actual luau.

Spago

Our last night at the resort, we treated ourselves to dinner at Spago, Wolfgang Puck's Hawaiian and California fusion restaurant. Our courses were perfectly timed, beginning with the Spicy Ahi Tuna Poke and moving onto the Roasted Cantonese Duck and Grilled Mahimahi. The service was impeccable and the restaurant is designed so elegantly! While we did pay a pretty penny to eat here, it was worth every cent.

Four Seasons Maui Pools & Amenities

Fountain Pool

Holy pools, Batman. With three options to choose from, all with a specific purpose and specific perks, it's hard to imagine a much more ideal setting. We started with the Fountain Pool, the 80 foot option in the middle of the resort, complete with a picturesque fountain and whirlpools on either side. Not usually one for over-the-top fanciness, but also not one to pass up an opportunity almost too good to be true, we grabbed one of the open pool cabanas, which are complimentary for resort guests on a first come, first serve basis. Also, when pool attendants started passing out complimentary cooled cucumber slices for our eyes along with spritzes of Evian water, were we really supposed to say no?

Serenity Pool

The next day, we decided to switch it up and head to the Serenity Pool, the adults only option that serves to remind you of only the wonderful things that go along with being over 21. A swim up bar?! Yes please. Infinity pool overlooking the beach?! Yes again. Two jacuzzis, complimentary pool lounge chairs and a specially designed underwater music system?! Umm, yes again. While we didn't indulge in the luxury cabanas (not complimentary), we did marvel at their champagne-stocked mini fridges, flat screen TVs, wireless headphones and individual ceiling fans. Next time.

Keiki Pool

Should you travel to Maui with your kiddos, definitely check out the Keiki Pool, a special kids pool with a waterfall, slide, complimentary pool toys and covered lounge chairs for the parents. This brings kiddie pool to a whole new level. There's

also a complimentary onsite Kids Camp for parents who want to enjoy a little more private time.

Extras

The Four Seasons has an impressive list of complimentary resort extras, including 1 hour snorkel gear rentals, beach chairs, introductory pool scuba sessions, Oceanview Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Meditation, Tai Chi, Hula Fit and full gym access. While we did not personally partake in any of these activities, opting for the relax-a-lot vacation plan, it's pretty cool to see a resort aim to accommodate people with all kinds of interests.

We also spent an afternoon in the game room, where they have a pool table, shuffleboard, ping pong table, board games and a giant flat screen TV with the most popular gaming systems. Great option if you need a break from the sun!

We didn't spend much time shopping, but we did browse through beautiful artwork from local artists, on display daily in the lobby daily. We also thought about taking advantage of some of the exquisite sounding spa treatments, but never got around to it. Next time!

And lest you forget, the resort is directly backed by the gorgeous Wailea Beach, where we spent more than a few hours relaxing, swimming and snorkeling in the clear blue water.

Four Seasons Maui Rooms

Our room was wonderful, clean and spacious with amazing views overlooking the ocean. What we really enjoyed was the fact that every room comes with its own private lanai, giving us complete enclosed privacy on either side to sit and read a book, sip coffee and soak in the view. The bathrooms were by far the largest we've seen on the island and we enjoyed the fact that they offered evening turndown service. They even gave us a choice of down or hypoallergenic duvet covers and pillows! Overall, we loved the room and are eager to see their full remodel of all rooms in 2015.

Four Seasons Maui Overview

While it's definitely not the most budget-friendly choice on the island, we still consider it one of the best deals in all of Maui. With the huge number of complimentary amenities, entertainment and services offered, we're confident that we would have spent almost twice as much anywhere else to get the same level of comfort and luxury that was provided at the Four Seasons. It's a much calmer atmosphere than what you'd expect at a large resort, and with the high level of service offered throughout the property, from the bartenders at Ferraro's to the pool attendants, it's no wonder that people come here again and again. I know we sure will. Mahalo for a wonderful experience!

Hotel Wailea

(866) 970-4167

Beautiful views, spacious grounds, and excellent restaurants make this property something special. Just up the hill from Wailea Beach and the other resorts, [Hotel Wailea](#) was built with far fewer units than anyone would build these days on such a large piece of land, much to the delight of anyone visiting.

Modern Design

Each of the 72 rooms on property are designed as one bedroom suites, complete with the best in modern amenities and an added touch of Maui. The newly renovated pool area offers plush poolside cabanas, and the property is surrounded by fragrant gardens, waterfalls and Japanese inspired architecture.

Convenient Location

Located on 15 acres on a hill 300 feet above sea level, Hotel Wailea offers a much higher vantage point than most Wailea beachside resorts. Enjoy panoramic views of the West Maui Mountains, Molokini Crater and neighbor islands of Kahoolawe and Lanai while enjoying a sunset cocktail on your private lanai. Free shuttles are available to take you anywhere in Wailea, a five minute drive from all the best beaches, shops, restaurants and activities.

Amazing Food

Hotel Wailea is home to Capische?, a romantic restaurant featuring the best local, fresh ingredients straight from the property's organic garden. Serving up authentic Italian-American fare and craft cocktails, this is the perfect place for a unique, relaxing dinner.

Property Perks

Guests at Hotel Wailea can take advantage of complimentary Waterfall Yoga Classes in the Grand Anuhea Room, live music performances on the poolside stage, and massage treatments at the stream side gazebo.

Ultimate Privacy

The number of guests at Hotel Wailea, even during peak travel season on Maui, is much less than any of the surrounding resorts in Wailea. If you're searching for peace and quiet, this is one of the best places to find it on Maui.

The Beach

Wailea Beach is located directly down the hill from Hotel Wailea. Shuttles are provided for easy transportation, and guests are invited to enjoy the perks of Hotel Wailea Beach Club, which include complimentary water, lounge chairs and umbrellas.

The Pool

While the pool is not as large as other resort pools, it's also much less crowded. Grab a pool cabana, order lunch and a fresh cocktail from the pool bar and you'll feel right at home in paradise.

Ritz-Carlton Kapalua

(808) 669-6200

The gem of upper west Maui, The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua sits over the ocean with some of the best views on the island. Amenities are near endless at this top-notch resort in Kapalua. The Ritz also has an ocean club with units for sale. This Luxury Maui Property made into condo like parcels.

The Fairmont Kea Lani

(808) 875-4100

Sitting in front of one of Maui's best beaches, the Fairmont Kea Lani Maui enjoys the best access to polo beach and Makena. Set between world-class golf courses, and the natural beauty of Makena, The Kea Lani offers a pure luxury experience.

Grand Wailea Resort

(808) 875-1234

Home to the award-winning Spa Grande, the Grand Wailea Maui has some of the best amenities on the island. This resort has everything from a full water park to swim-up bars and whirlpools. The Grand's central Wailea location is also a plus.

The Westin Maui

(808) 667-2525

The Westin Maui Resort and Spa sits on the popular Ka'anapali Beach. It has one of the largest aquatic areas on the island. With the enormity of its pools, the Westin doesn't miss on capturing the exquisite feeling of Hawaii. This is an especially attractive property to families because of the water features.

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa

(808) 661-1234

Sitting on 40 acres of prime Ka'anapali oceanfront land, the Hyatt Regency Maui offers a wide range of activities as well as a large fitness center, large pools, and an oceanfront spa. The Hyatt has been recipient of numerous awards.

Condos Vacation Rentals

Kaleialoha

(808) 669-8197

This small condominium complex has 20 1-bedroom units that are all directly oceanfront. Kaleialoha is a quiet complex with a great location.

Castle Kamaole Sands

(808) 874-8700

Across from the beautiful Kamaole Beach Park III, the Castle Kamaole Sands is located on 15 acres of tropical garden property with swimming pools, tennis courts, and bbq areas. Get a great price for your Maui vacation condo at the beautiful Kamaole Sands.

Hotel Wailea

(866) 209-5432

Designed with Japanese landscaping, gardens, pools and waterfalls surround the Diamond Hawaii Resort and Spa. The Diamond Resort sits high above Wailea with great views, a spa, and pools that will relax you enough to want to stay forever.

Hale Kai O Kihei

(808) 879-2778

Hale Kai O Kihei has perfect views of the ocean from every unit and is walking distance from shopping and dining.

Hale Kamaole

(808) 879-1221

2 swimming pools, landscaped grounds, and tennis courts line the coast with ocean views across from Kamaole Beach Park III at the Hale Kamaole.

Hale Pau Hana

(808) 879-2715

This oceanfront condominium is located on Kamaole Beach Park II. Hale Pau Hana has great sunsets from 1-bedroom condos with private lanais. Swimming pool, BBQ's, and many other amenities await you at this great location.

Island Sands Resort

(808) 879-2715

Every unit at the Island Sands Resort offers premium ocean views of Maalaea bay and beyond. Ma'alaea is centrally located making access to the North, West, and South of Maui easy and quick. The pool is right on the water.

Ka'anapali Ali'i Hotel

(808) 667-1400

The Kaanapali Alii Hotel is situated on Kaanapali Beach with a swimming pool, tennis court, fitness room, and large units.

Ka'anapali Shores Resort

(808) 667-2211

Having a perfect Ka'anapali Beach location, the Ka'anapali Shores is great for families with kids as well as those who like activities.

Kahana Beach

(808) 669-8611

Kahana Beach is a much-overlooked area that has perfect sand and gorgeous oceanfront. This spot has a swimming pool, ocean views from your lanai, and is very close to Lahaina shopping and dining.

Kahana Reef Resort

(844)432-7730

Next to Kahana Beach is the Kahana Reef Condominiums. With a small oceanfront swimming pool and great views, this condominium complex has studios and 1-bedroom units available.

Kamaole Nalu Oceanfront Resort

(808) 879-1006

Located right on Kamaole Point in South Maui, Kamaole Nalu has units with kitchenettes, lanais, and are located with excellent beaches all around.

Kapalua Villas

(800) 367-2742

Located on the Kapalua Resort, guests have access to 3 of the world's best golf courses as well as incredible tennis facilities. The beaches around this area have been rated as some of the best in the world.

Kauhale Makai Resort

(800) 822-4409

In a great location for traveling around the island, this North Kihei complex has a great pool, and baby pool, with ocean views galore. Kauhale Makai has from small studios to large 2 bedrooms with full kitchens.

Keonekai Villages

(808) 870-4899

This is well-known on Maui as one of the best condominium complexes. It is only available for long-term rentals of 6 months or longer. This property is only a 4 minutes walk from the ocean.

Kihei Akahi

(808) 879-1881

All of the condo units at the Kihei Akahi have private lanais and fully equipped kitchens. Located across from Kamaole Beach Park II, the Kihei Akahi has a tennis court and two swimming pools.

Kihei Alii Kai

(808) 870-5512

Located in the Heart of South Kihei, this affordable small complex offers kitchenettes in each unit as well as a community hot tub.

Kihei Bay Vista

(808) 879-2700

Another Maui condominium complex with great access to the rest of the island is the Kihei Bay Vista. A great swimming pool and large lanais can be found here.

Kihei Beach Resort

(800) 367-6034

With a large swimming pool, oceanfront property, and large units, the Kihei Beach Resort Maui has excellent waterfront grounds with BBQ's and sun tanning.

Kihei Surfside Resort

(808) 874-3194

The Kihei Surfside has wonderfully landscaped oceanfront grounds located right on Keawakapu Beach, one of the best white sand beaches in Maui. The units all have ocean views, full kitchens, and easy access to the swimming pool.

Luana Kai

(808) 879-1268

This fun small oceanfront complex is located in North Kihei with tennis courts, swimming pool, putting green, sauna, and much more.

Mahana at Kaanapali Resort

(888) 722-6284

Every suite of Mahana at Kaanapali is oceanfront with views of both the island of Lanai and Molokai. This well situated hotel is placed on Kaanapali Beach and near world-class golf courses.

Mana Kai Maui

(808) 879-1561

The Mana Kai is ideally located on one of the best beaches in South Maui. On the border of Wailea and Kihei, you're in a great location due to its not being directly in the tourist zone. The Mana Kai is a great place to stay with a pool, oceanfront property, great rooms, the Five Palms Restaurant, and many amenities.

Maui Banyan Resort

(808) 875-0004

With great views of Kamaole Beach Park II, the Maui Banyan has swimming pools, a tennis court, and full kitchens.

Maui Hill Resort

(808) 879-6321

Large ocean view units await you at Maui Hill. You'll find many great amenities such as swimming pool, Jacuzzi, tennis court, and fitness center.

Maui Kaanapali Villas Resort

(808) 667-7791

Alongside of Kaanapali Beach, the Maui Kaanapali Villas are on 11 acres of garden landscaped area. Near Whalers Village, Lahaina, and the many gold courses in the area, the Kaanapali Villas are in a prime location.

Maui Kamaole Resort

(808) 879-2778

Across from the popular Kamaole Beach Park III, Maui Kamaole has 2 large swimming pools, tennis courts, hot tub, BBQ's, and full kitchens in the units.

Maui Parkshore

(808) 879-1600

The Maui Parkshore is located just across from Kamaole Beach Park III with swimming pool, gas barbecues, full kitchens and private lanais.

Maui Sunset

(800) 233-3310

Oceanfront with 1 and 2 bedroom units, the Maui Sunset has a swimming pool, jacuzzi, fitness room, tennis courts, putting green, sauna, and bbq area. Maui Sunset is widely accepted as one of Kihei's best condominium complexes.

Maui Vista Resort

(808) 874-5252

The affordable condo units at Maui Vista are situated in Kihei next to Kamaole Beach Park. It has pools, restaurants, and tennis courts.

Napili Sunset

(808) 874-5252

A simple smaller building on the oceanfront, the Napili Sunset is on the beach with great views and excellent location.

Noelani Condominium Resort

(808) 669-8374

Adjacent to the Beach, Noelani is made up of affordable oceanfront condominiums next to Kahana. Known for its serenity, the Noelani is removed from the more touristy areas of the West side of Maui.

Outrigger Aina Nalu Resort

(808) 667-9766

In the Heart of Lahaina Town, the Outrigger Aina Nalu is walking distance to Banyan Tree Park, Front Street dining and shopping, and the beach.

Outrigger Maui Eldorado

(808) 661-0021

Located at the 4th and 15th fairway of the Ka'anapali Beach Resort's Golf Courses, the Outrigger Maui Eldorado is only a short walk from Ka'anapali Beach. You'll have complimentary access to 19 tennis courts, 5 golf courses, 3 swimming pools, games and fun.

Outrigger Napili Shores

(808) 669-8061

On 6 acres of shoreline, the Outrigger Napili Shores enjoys the best ocean views from Napili Bay. The Gazebo Restaurant is on site along with many other amenities.

Outrigger Palms at Wailea

(808) 879-5800

Sitting on a Wailea Hillside, the Outrigger Palms at Wailea has 150 rooms on 2 floors with a swimming pool, jacuzzi, fitness center, and excellent views of the South Maui coastline.

Outrigger Royal Kahana Resort

(808) 669-5911

This fun property has programs for kids, excellent recreational facilities, a weekly complimentary Mai Tai party, swimming pool, and beachfront activities.

Paki Maui Resort

(888) 671-5308

Only minutes from Lahaina, the Paki Maui is one of the better-priced condominiums available. Whalers Village and Kaanapali golf courses are extremely close to this oceanfront accommodation.

Papakea Resort Resort

(808) 669-4848

Usually one of the least expensive oceanfront properties on Maui, Papakea Resort is located on 13 acres of landscaped oceanfront with a 12-hole putting green, 3 tennis courts, 2 swimming pools, and Jacuzzis. Papakea Resort has all sized units with plenty of amenities.

Polo Beach Club

(808) 891-6255

A premium Maui oceanfront condo complex, the Polo Beach Club is nestled between the best beaches on the island. With a swimming pool and hot tub, your unit comes with an oceanfront lanai and great views.

Sugar Beach Resort Maui

(808) 878-3122

Sugar Beach is known for its long beaches with very few visitors. You can walk for miles without seeing too many other beach goers. This North Kihei complex has a tennis court, swimming pool, and great views.

Valley Isle Resort

(808) 669-4841

On the beach at Ka'anapali, the Valley Isle Resort has a swimming pool, fitness center, and perfect beach access.

Wailea Beach Villas

(808) 891-4500

One of the nicest condominium complexes in all of Maui, the Wailea Beach Villas is located on Wailea Beach with an infinity pool, fitness center, hot tub, kitchens, and many comforting amenities. It's located directly next to the Grand Wailea and the Shops of Wailea for great shopping and dining.

Wailea Grand Champions Villas

(808) 874-3700

In the heart of beautiful Wailea, the Wailea Grand Champions Villas are perfect for the visiting golfer. With 2 pools, tennis court, restaurant, gardens, fitness center, golf, and much more, you'll have everything you need at your fingertips.

Whaler on Kaanapali Beach

(808) 661-6000

With one of the top rated beaches in the world, Whaler on Kaanapali Beach is ideally located near shopping, dining, and ocean activities.

Vacation Rentals

Find the most inexpensive Maui accommodations

In today's world, everyone looking for accommodations in Hawaii is in pursuit of the least expensive alternative to hotels and resorts. Everyone wants the same close proximity to the beach and best attractions, but we all want to pay less.

Well, we've figured it out, and so have many other thrifty visitors. Maui villas and other vacation rentals can save you hundreds to thousands of dollars.

Here's what to do:

1. Find the best suited rental.

Look through sites like VRBO, Craigslist, AirBnB or [Maui Accommodations](#) and find an inexpensive rental with reviews. Look for one with a kitchen preferably. It's worth the extra dough for a kitchen. Also, make sure you're near the ocean (if that's a priority.)

If you plan on staying in Paia Town on Maui's north shore, we highly recommend the Nalu Kai Lodge. Not only is it located a short 3 minute walk away from Paia Bay Beach, but it's extremely close to Paia's best attractions, including restaurants like Charley's Restaurant & Saloon, Cafe Des Amis and Flatbread Pizza as well as art galleries, shops, and Paia's only grocery store, Mana Foods. While all the rooms are charming and extremely tidy, we recommend the 1 Bedroom Apartment to take advantage of the full kitchen. Grab a welcome cocktail at the outdoor tiki bar and watch the waves roll in while relaxing on the 2nd floor sun deck.

If you want to be closer to nature, check out the Iao Valley Inn, which is less than 2 minutes away from downtown Wailuku yet nestled within a lush forest with great views.

2. Hit up Costco and Mana Foods.

This is where you save a ton of money in Hawaii. If you're staying for a week, go to Costco. If you plan on staying for less time, you may want to go to Mana Foods instead (super inexpensive healthy grocer in Paia Town.)

By not being forced to eat at the resort restaurant for every meal, you'll save hundreds of dollars! Save that money for some fun Maui activities like a helicopter ride or snorkel cruise. With the extra money you save, you can afford to go to some really nice restaurants in Maui and experience the best that Maui has to offer. All it takes is a little extra effort, making a sandwich or two.

3. Don't forget to rate your experience

After staying at your Maui beach home, go back to the site that you rented it from and rate your experience. This will help the next guy in the same way that it helped you to decide if a particular rental was right for you!

The Big Island is the least expensive, Kauai is the most expensive, but we believe Maui is the best (NO KA OI!) Oahu is great for those looking to surf and/or party. Kauai is way more laid back and has incredible hiking. The Big Island of Hawaii is excellent for exploring.

We highly recommend using Kamaole Sands for your next condo rental. Kihei offers just as much as the other resort areas, only it's a little closer to the many sights you'd want to see while in Maui, such as the waterfalls at Twin Falls, Lahaina's Front Street, The Iao Needle at the Iao Valley, and the huge surf on the North Shore.

Beaches

Best Maui Beaches

Are you looking for the best beach Maui has to offer? Look no further because we've described all of Maui's best beaches below. Our local knowledge will help find the perfect beach for you, your friends, and your family!

There are many other portions of coastline to visit on Maui that we are not listing here. Below we've only included traditional sandy beaches.

South Maui Beaches

Makena Beach-AKA Oneloa or Big Beach Maui

Located on the Southside of Maui, off of Makena Alanui Road, Big Beach claims our vote for the best beach Maui has to offer. You'll find approximately a mile of perfect orange and white sand, cliffy dramatic landscape, and water that's brilliant blue and green. There is little reef around here, which makes the sand bottom shine up through the water to give it that tropical brightness. There are three entrances to Makena Beach (Big Beach.) The first has the largest parking area and is the closest point to Little Beach, which is just around the corner. The second entrance has a smaller paved lot. The 3rd is dirt parking only. The beach over there is smaller than at the first 2 entrances.

Big Beach is famous for its inclined shoreline and large shore break. Skim boarding, body boarding, and body surfing are all very popular here for this reason. Caution is advised for those with children or inexperienced ocean swimmers when there's large swell. These waves are deceptively powerful and can dump you into the sand without notice. We don't recommend snorkeling in this area. Surfing also isn't usually done here because of the shore break conditions. Big Beach has Port-a-potties, picnic tables, and shady areas under large trees. Be careful when walking out on the sand at first. These trees have large thorns that can be found on the ground underneath and around them. We've seen these thorns go clear through a sandal while walking. Going barefoot can be dangerous near the trees. Wait to take off your sandals or shoes till you get out past the trees. Around the corner, to the North, is a path to Little Beach.

Little Beach

Maui has a couple nudist beaches, which Little Beach is the Mecca. The waves here are perfect for bodysurfing, and sometimes surfing, but depending on what day and the time of day it is, you may be dodging naked people. During a South or Southwest Swell, the surf can be fun here (though fickle). It offers a left hand reef

break off of the South side of the beach. This beach is beautiful and as perfect as can be. On Sundays, you'll find a different atmosphere than usual with crowds unusually large for Little Beach. For sunset, everyone celebrates by swimming and cheering as a large drum circle beats away. Once it gets dark, Little Beach becomes a real spectacle. All types of people, nude or clothed, begin to dance in the circle with fire. The fire dancers at little beach are incredible. You'll sometimes find professional fire twirlers with more than one ball of fire and fancy flaming outfits. The imagination is strong at Little Beach when it comes to new and entertaining ways to play with fire. We've seen everything from heated hula-hoops to burning bras. You'll enjoy this ceremony that occurs every Sunday night. You don't need to get undressed either. Bring a flashlight to get back over the cliff at night. Lately the police have limited the event to stop around 8-9pm, so get there before sunset to really experience Maui's Little Beach activities.

Mai Poina 'Oe Ia'u Beach-AKA Sunseeker Beach

This beautiful beach, in front of the Maui Sunseeker Resort, is worth mentioning because it's often completely empty. It's also a great spot to take a long walk, since the beach connects with beaches all the way to Maalaea. You can walk for miles without seeing many people, and enjoy incredible views. This is also the perfect shore location to view whale watching (in season.)

Kama'ole Beach Parks 1, 2, 3

The three Kam's are great beaches to enjoy with friends. The first, most Northern Kama'ole Beach, is the largest of the beaches. The second is small but can offer fun waves for body surfing if the swell cooperates. The third Kamaole Beach is the favorite for South Maui Locals with a large grass park. This area is usually filled with lawn games and bbq's. The Southern most Kamaole Beaches are smaller, but nice. In peak summer, these little beaches can become very crowded. All of the Kama'ole beaches have parking and facilities. With some lifeguards, showers, restrooms, and volleyball courts, the 3 kams can be a lot of fun.

Charley Young Beach

On the North end of Kamaole I Beach, you'll find a large beach known as Charley Young Beach. With great views and perfect sand, Charley Young Beach is a great spot to spend with family and/or friends. Charley Young Beach has port-a-potties, showers, but no lifeguards. The parking for this beach is limited to what you can find on the side of South Kihei Road. This is a swimming beach that offers visitors the best beach Kihei has to offer.

Cove Park

The cove is extremely popular for longboard surfing in Maui. Located off of South Kihei Road, a little south of the halfway mark in Kihei, The Cove has a little beach perfect for learning to surf. From this point Northward, the ocean becomes a bit murky throughout Kihei. The beaches are still nice, but the water is not ideal for snorkeling, diving, or swimming. There are no facilities or lifeguards here and you'll have to park on the side of the road. Though not an ideal spot to enjoy a Maui beach, you'll find the surfing here is often a lot of fun. They also offer Maui surf lessons here.

Kalama Beach Park

Possessing a large amount of land, but not much sandy beach, Kalama beach Park has great facilities and plenty of room for large gatherings. Kalama has areas for plenty of sports like basketball, baseball, soccer, and tennis. For those who like to play volleyball, Kalama is a dream come true. The volleyball courts are well lit well into the night. There's also a small skate park and a roller rink for hockey.

Keawakapu Beach

Keawakapu is the best beach available when it comes to Maui portrait photography with your family. Vacationers tend to get great pictures of the rocks and sunset here. It's a long beach that is in front of private residences. With some parking and a shower at the southern most entrance, this is also a local favorite. Five Palms Restaurant below the Mana Kai has the best view of the beach.

Maluaka Beach

In front of the Makena Beach & Golf Resort (formerly the Maui Prince), Maluaka is one of Makena's gems. This beach is beautiful and has great snorkeling and swimming. Areas around here are often referred to as Turtle Town Maui. With picnic areas, restrooms, and showers, Maluaka is the best beach Maui has close to the the Makena Beach and Golf Resort. It also has the only beach-entry cruise in south Maui aboard the Kai Kanani. This is the closest departure point if you're wanting to visit the famous Molokini Crater.

Polo Beach

Located in front of the Kea Iani Maui Resort, Polo Beach is world famous for it's beauty. The sand is gorgeous and the area around it is immaculately maintained. Because of its resort location, Polo Beach can often be crowded. Even with a crowd, this spot is pretty spectacular.

Ulua and Mokapu Beaches

Mokapu and Ulua are famous for the fun snorkeling and beginner scuba diving in Maui. This easy shore diving spot is well recognized by most of the South Maui scuba schools as being the easiest beginner dive in Maui waters. On the South side of Ulua, the water can stir up and makes for bad snorkeling. Both Mokapu and Ulua are great beaches for lying out and swimming too.

Paako Beach-AKA Secret Cove or Makena Cove

Mokapu and Ulua are famous for the fun snorkeling and beginner scuba diving in Maui. This easy shore diving spot is well recognized by most of the South Maui scuba schools as being the easiest beg

Wailea Beach

With a paved path to walk past the Wailea resorts, this is a fun area to visit. Wailea Beach is adjacent to restaurants and shops with restrooms and equipment rentals. Though it can be crowded with tourists, Wailea Beach is really beautiful. Often you'll find a local company offering stand up paddle boards for rent as well as access to a large trampoline over the water.

La Perouse Bay

La Perouse is not known for its beaches. The long walk to the bay from where you park is made by dodging sharp volcanic rock. The black and red rock looks as though it stretches on forever into the horizon. If you're adventurous and have enough drinking water, hiking through and past La Perouse can be exciting. There are very small beaches (patches of sand) tucked into corners of the rock. La Perouse is also known for its heavy and dangerous waves during large south swells. This left hand wave breaks on dry reef and is only rideable when it's head high or bigger. The rule here is that the smaller it is, the more dangerous it is. Evidence of reef fatalities speckle the area with makeshift crosses. The snorkeling and diving in this area are unparalleled. If you're patient, spinner dolphins can be seen here in large groups. This volcanic area is the most southern point on Maui. The vast expanse of lava rich landscape was thought to have been created by the last eruption of Haleakala in 1790.

Waipuilani Park

With a large sand beach and a lawn, Waipuilani Park is a great spot to enjoy an event or watch a sunset. It has restroom facilities and some shaded areas too. This north Kihei location has murky water, so it isn't great for swimming or water activities other than kiting if Konas are blowing sharp volcanic rock. The black and red rock looks as though it stretches on fore

Mai Poina 'Oe La'u Beach Park

This long beach park is well known for its perfect kiteboarding conditions during Kona winds. Located in North Kihei, the beach is nice, but the swimming isn't ideal. With picnic tables, showers and restrooms, this is a great place to watch kiteboarding and whales while in season.

Makena Landing-AKA Five Caves or Five Graves

An excellent spot for snorkeling and scuba diving, Makena Landing is located off of Makena Road. The beaches here are not very big, but nestled in incredible spots

with great views. This area is well known for its underwater sea caves and abundance of reef sharks.

Chang's Beach

Located in Kihei, Chang's Beach is highly valued by Maui locals. A smaller beach tucked away near Kalama Park, Chang's Beach has showers and picnic tables but no lifeguards or restrooms. The waves here can be good for surfing if a South Swell hits it right. Summer is best for surfing in this area, although seasoned surfers find it to be fickle.

Oneuli Beach

South Maui's only red sand beach, Oneuli Beach is tucked away off of Wailea Alanui Drive. The sand here is not like Hana's Red Sand Beach in that the sand is finer and mixed with darker minerals. There's a trail that leads to the top of the cinder cone from which the sand was made from. These eruptions created red and black cinder that has eroded to become the sand. Oneuli has great fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving, and swimming but no lifeguards or restrooms. During South or West swells, this beach can be dangerous with large waves. Because the red sand is so dark, you may want to keep your shoes or sandals on. The sun can bake the sand till you get crispy so where a lot of sunblock and limit your exposure.

West Maui Beaches

D.T. Flemings Beach Park

Kapalua has many of the best beaches Maui offers. From Ironwoods to D.T. Flemings, you'll love the beautiful perfect beaches here. Flemings is located on the Upper West of Maui, and the North of Kapalua. It is a public beach park with lifeguards, facilities, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and great water. People swim, body surf, and surf here regularly. Flemings has a good-sized parking lot and plenty of beach to lounge on. Like most beaches in Maui, Flemings can get windy in the afternoon.

Ka'anapali Beach & Black Rock

Famous for its high volcanic ocean cliff which brave divers jump from, Black Rock is a wonderful place to snorkel and swim. The ocean is usually calm in this resort area inviting the masses to swim here. Off of the point, there are sometimes strong currents, so use caution. The beach is large and long with multiple hotels along it. Lifeguards are present, but you'll not find any restrooms unless you're staying at a hotel. Black Rock Maui can be found in the West in the middle of Ka'anapali Beach. Swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving at Black Rock are all amazing because of the abundant coral, bright tropical fish, and gentle sea turtles. Just watch out for cliff divers!

Kapalua Beach

One of the most beautiful beaches in Maui, Kapalua Beach is the kind of tropical perfection you expect from Maui. It has great swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving all around this area. Another Kapalua Beach is Ironwoods. This beach is often uncrowded, but the water here isn't great for swimming. The reef is shallow from the shore all the way out. It's dangerous to be in the water here especially during the winter swells. But, in saying this, the beach is breath-taking.

Napili Bay

Next to the Napili Kai Resort, Napili Bay is one of the most beautiful bays in Maui. It has a steep incline into the water with unblemished white sand. The water is beautiful and bright blue. A monk seal has made this beach his home. If you see him, leave him alone and stay at least 15 feet away. Snorkeling is good on both sides of the bay. Parking is difficult unless you're staying in the resorts in the area. Facilities are also reserved to residents and guests of the resorts.

Launiupoko Beach Park

Launiupoko Beach is fun for longboard surfers and picnics. With two parking areas, this park is easily accessed on the way to Lahaina right off of the road. This is a great park for families with small children because of a natural pool formed and

enhanced with a lava rock wall surrounding it. This great beach has picnic facilities and restrooms. You'll find Launiupoko is a local Maui favorite.

Puamana Beach County Park

Another great spot on the way to Lahaina is Puamana Beach. It has all the facilities you may need with picnic tables, bbq grills, and restrooms. A popular Maui surf spot for long boarding, Puamana Beach Park is a great place to swim and snorkel as well.

Wahikuli State Park

A great place to snorkel and swim is the Wahikuli State Park of Lahaina. Offering bbq grills, restroom facilities, and picnic tables, Wahikuli State Park is great for getting together with family and friends. Maui locals love to take advantage of this great location and ample facilities.

North (Central) Maui Beaches

Kanaha Beach Park

This is a great beach for kiteboarding and windsurfing. Kanaha's ample afternoon wind conditions make this an excellent spot for these exciting sports. The swimming and beach are nice as well. Holding volleyball areas, lifeguards, showers, picnic tables, and restroom facilities, Kanaha is a local favorite for enjoying time with friends.

Kite Beach

Famous for being the World's best kite surfing beach, kite beach is home to those who originated the sport. These beaches are behind the airport and a bit tricky to find. Once there, you'll find gorgeous beaches with many kites being launched into the air. These professionals are great to watch, but be careful where you sit your towel down. If your in the path of the kites, you could be in harms way.

H.A. Baldwin Beach Park

For a great park with a lot of beach, go to Baldwin Beach Park. This spot has flawless sand and gorgeous water. Though usually very windy, it can be a great place to swim and play beach games with friends and family. Baldwin even has a baby beach with a lagoon for lounging and playing with smaller children. The currents outside can be strong and hazardous so use caution when swimming.

H.A. Baldwin Beach Park

For a great park with a lot of beach, go to Baldwin Beach Park. This spot has flawless sand and gorgeous water. Though usually very windy, it can be a great place to swim and play beach g

Ho'okipa Beach Park

Along the Hana Highway towards Haiku, The most consistent Maui surf spot, Hookipa is world famous for it's afternoon windsurfing perfection. The beach is large with two narrow entrances to the water. Hookipa Beach Park has all the facilities you need. With bathrooms, lifeguards, picnic areas, showers, and plenty of parking, Ho'okipa is a great place to enjoy the beach while watching world-class surfers battle large powerful waves. Because the exits are so small and currents are persistent, Ho'okipa Beach Park can be a dangerous place to swim (and you'll rarely see anyone swimming). Surfing and windsurfing should be left to experts and not attempted by anyone who may question their skills.

Waihe'e Beach

With good surfing in the winter, Waihe'e Beach is a small and narrow beach with low capacity. This may be its reason for being uncrowded most of the time. Waihe'e is perfect for those who want a little privacy on the beach.

East Maui Beaches

Honomanu Beach

Honomanu is about half way to Hana from Paia area. This beach is a little difficult to get to with a regular Maui rental car. If you have a four-wheel-drive, you'll want to see this beautiful unblemished beach. Located in a nestled bay between towering cliffs of rainforest, Honomanu is a black sand beach with not many people around. Surfing here can be very good with the right swell. The left side of the bay has one of the heaviest most dangerous waves in the islands when it breaks. There are a few downers to this incredible location. Being remote on the way to Hana, car theft can be high in this area. If you get your car stolen, it will take you quite a long time to get up to the road and to finally stop someone to get a ride in order to get to a phone or cell reception. All this makes for an ideal place to steal a car. Also, Quite possibly one of the sharkiest spots on the island, Honomanu is also not a good place to swim because of the shallow sharp rocky bottom.

Hana Beach Park

Hana Bay is the focal point of Hana, Maui, with good surf off the North side of the bay. This whole area is dominated by Hawaiian culture and activities. With no lifeguards, Hana Bay has picnic, and restroom facilities. This is a great place to people watch and enjoy outrigger canoe races while enjoying something tasty at the snack bar or at your own picnic.

Hamoia Beach

Past Hana you can find a flawless beach to the South called Hamoia Beach just off of Haneo'o Road. With views of Alau Island and tropical foliage all around, Hamoia Beach is a favorite of anyone who visits it. Hamoia has been rated as one of the best bodysurfing beaches in Maui. The walk down to the beach from the parking can be steep past the Hotel Hana Maui. Hamoia has no lifeguards but ample picnic area and restrooms shared with the hotel. This beach can experience large surf in the winter and anytime that East swells are present.

Wai'anapanapa State Park

When it comes to Black Sand Beaches, Wai'anapanapa's Honokalani Beach is the best beach Maui has. You'll find the entire area is interesting. From the large sea

cave down by the water, to the legendary caverns deep below, you'll find this to be one of your favorite Maui beaches. The waves break on a shelf, so caution is recommended when swimming. The lush green flora and the black rock and beach fall in stark contrast to the bright blue ocean and white foam from crashing waves. Waianapanapa has the most picturesque of the beaches in Maui. On the way to Hana, stop at this beach and take a walk around.

They even offer camping here, though most people don't. You have to get a permit in Kahului before you go camping. It's a difficult thing to get and the people at the office at Wai'anapanapa State Park are far from friendly or helpful. Exploring this areas lava tubes, and great beaches is open to the public, so don't worry about camping unless you plan well ahead. The Oheo Gulch has camping that you can enjoy without a hassle or going anywhere than the campground for a permit. Wai'anapanapa State Park has large parking lots, hiking trails, restrooms, picnic areas, but no lifeguards.

Koki Beach

A desolate beautiful beach near Hana and Hamoa beach is Koki Beach. This incredible red cliff ridged beach is seldom visited. The main reason visitors tend to neglect this beach is because of the abundance of trash and washed up debris. We're not certain why this beach accumulates so much trash, but it's unfortunate.

Dining

Some of our Favorite Restaurants

Restaurant Marlow

30 Kupaoa St, A-104

Pukalani, HI 96768

(808) 868-3366

Order Online

When the first business opened in the string of new, empty storefronts at Kulamalu Town Center in Pukalani, we were elated to hear it was a new venture by renowned Maui chef Jeff Scheer and his wife, Kaili Scheer. Restaurant Marlow opened in mid-2021, and it has quickly become an Upcountry staple and is busy as can be. They don't take reservations, so be sure to get there early!

THE FOOD

First and foremost, Marlow is known for its Neapolitan-style sourdough pizza. The menu boasts a variety of red and white pies cooked in a kiawe wood-fired oven imported directly from Italy. Staying true to Neapolitan characteristics, the oven runs at a high temperature (a whopping 900 degrees), and pizzas cook in 90 seconds flat. We opted for the red Salsiccia pizza, made with pork sausage, caramelized onion, mozzarella, and a white pie with potato, basil, pesto, mozzarella, and parmigiano. Not only did the pizzas arrive at our table in record time, but they ticked all the boxes of Neapolitan style- slightly charred with an airy crust and wet in the middle. I preferred the white pie to the red, but there is just something about potatoes on pizza that I can't get enough of.

The menu at Marlow also boasts a short but diverse list of Italian-inspired appetizers, and we noticed the use of local ingredients from nearby farms. In addition, our server mentioned that some of the meat used in house is local, which

isn't a given at every restaurant. We went for the burrata for our first appetizer, a type of Italian cheese made from cream and mozzarella. The dish was piled high with perfectly ripe cherry tomatoes grown in Olinda, as well as shreds of basil and sherry vinaigrette. Although this was my first time trying burrata, I can confidently say that I have yet to taste a better cheese.

Secondly, we tried the meatball en sugo- two massive pork and beef meatballs smothered in pomodoro sauce and parmigiano with a slice of toasted house sourdough tucked in. Simply the presentation alone made it hard to wait as I snapped photos, and my eager fiance was practically drooling, albeit very patiently. When the time came to eat, we both agreed the dish tasted as good as it looked.

Despite being so full, we couldn't leave without trying some gelato. Marlow offers a variety of flavors from locally-owned Ono Gelato, and it was, without a doubt, ono.

The Drinks

Marlow boasts a variety of wines as well as non-alcoholic beverages like ginger beer and locally brewed kombucha. However, we particularly enjoyed that Marlow serves draft beers from Mahalo Aleworks, the brewery next door. After all, can you name a better duo than local craft beer and handmade, wood-fired pizza? I'll wait.

The Service

Marlow doesn't take reservations, and the dining room is a little on the smaller side, so we arrived at opening in hopes of getting seated right away. There was already a small line forming at 4:30, and everyone was promptly seated. Our server was sweet and attentive. The food came out in record time- we waited no more than

five minutes after ordering each dish. This could be because they had just opened for the night, but we were nevertheless impressed.

The Ambiance

The space at Marlow is chic and clean yet casual. The interior is stylish and simple, and the open layout allows guests to get a view of the pizza oven and pizza-making station. We took note of the bar seating, which adds at least another 10 seats into the slightly small space. Marlow also offers a few outside tables, so you can enjoy the cool Upcountry air. Marlow's space on the corner also provides mountain views of Haleakala Crater.

Cafe Des Amis Restaurant

42 Baldwin Ave.

Paia, HI 96779

(808) 579-6323

Cafe Des Amis is a must do while visiting Maui. They're located right on Baldwin Avenue in Paia with a great outdoor area and cozy ambiance. The service is friendly and quick, the prices low in comparison to other Maui restaurants, and the food delicious.

THE FOOD

Cafe Des Amis specializes in crepes, both savory and sweet. They also have curry dishes and fantastic hummus. If you want something to drink, they can whip up all kinds of smoothies made with fresh tropical fruits.

A couple of our favorite dishes are the chicken, avocado, pesto, and mozzarella cheese crepe as well as the brea, apple, and avocado crepe. All crepes come with a small side salad with homemade dressing as well as sour cream.

For the sweet toothed they have a Nutella crepe as well as a delicious sugar cane and lemon crepe. These are great for sharing after your meal.

THE ART

Cafe Des Amis has some very interesting art too. Paper mache 3D paintings line the walls inside. They add to the funky, colorful ambiance of the cafe.

They are open for both Lunch and Dinner. Inside they have a couple long benches that work well for larger parties, though the place is pretty small. Outside has a more Hawaii feel to it with bamboo and tropical plants lining the building.

Whenever we make a trip to Paia, Cafe Des Amis is an important stop. Located across the street from Mana Foods, we often hit it for some food before shopping at Mana. Mana Foods is one of the best supermarkets on the island. It's our equivalent of the Mainland Trader Joes.

Coconut's Fish Cafe

1279 South Kihei Rd. #304

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 875-9979

Coconut's Fish Cafe is a fun, casual fish place to stop and grab something for lunch. It has a simple menu where you order/pay at the counter.

The restaurant is located on the southeast side of the Azeka Shopping center in the heart of Kihei. The ambiance is relaxed with tables shaped like wooden surfboards.

THE FOOD

We enjoyed a blackened fish burger and a caesar salad with blackened fish. The salad was good, but the fish was a little over done. The fish on the burger, however, was cooked perfectly.

Similar to Jaws Tacos and some other casual fish joints in Kihei, we like Coconuts for a quick lunch, or to takeout and enjoy while on the beach.

Havens Maui

30 Manao Kala St. Suite 102 at Shell Station

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 868-2600

Owned and operated by Chef Zach Sato and his team, Havens Maui is all about a quality eating experience without the fuss.

Sourcing from many local farms and suppliers, Havens goal is to provide fresh food in a timely manner. Chef Sato was the executive chef at the Restaurant at the Hotel Wailea and has been a name in the Hawaii culinary world for quite some time. His attention to quality ingredients and making delicious food is evident with the transition into running his own business. Delivering fan favorites along side local grinds has made them very popular in almost no time at all.

Made to order, nothing on **their epic menu** is kept warm or reheated ensuring the best in flavor. With a range of local comfort foods, Havens menu provides a great selection for every friend and family member.

Sprout Vegan Cafe

10 Wailea Gateway Place B102

Kihei, HI 96753

Regardless of your dietary preferences, **Sprout Vegan Cafe** has something for everyone. While Sprout features the hallmarks of any vegan establishment, like salads and smoothies, their innovative plant-based dishes are what sets them apart from the rest. Here you'll find "lox" bagels with house-made vegan cream cheese, spicy tofu sushi rolls, and local comfort food favorites like spicy kimchi fries topped generously with furikake.

Sprout Vegan Cafe is the brainchild of two young Maui locals, Lily Freeman and Seagar MacDougall. Fueled by a passion for plant-based food, locally sourced ingredients, and culinary expertise, Lily and Seagar opened Sprout in early 2020 in the form of a food truck. Instantly a hit, Sprout quickly outgrew the truck and found its new home at a brick and mortar location in the Wailea Gateway Center. Sprout Vegan Cafe is open from 10 am to 8 pm daily.

Cuatro Restaurant

1881 South Kihei Rd. #111

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 875-9979

Cuatro Restaurant is just a few steps away from Sansei in the Foodland Shopping Center of Kihei, Maui.

THE FOOD

We were very impressed with the food at Cuatro. They serve a fusion of Asian and Mexican food that surprisingly enough works REALLY well.

The photo below is of their Ahi Nachos. The nachos consist of crispy fried wantons with Ahi poki and guacamole. It is amazing! Their chefs are true artists.

THE AMBIANCE

The restaurant is very small, but they've managed to make it feel bigger and cozier than it should be. The feeling you get when at Cuatro is of comfortable fine dining.

THE SERVICE

The service at Cuatro was very warm and personable. Being such a small restaurant gives it that mom and pop feel, especially when the owner comes over to say hello.

This restaurant is something special. If you're thinking about going to Sansei, but there's a wait, give Cuatro a try. You won't be disappointed.

Duo Steak and Seafood Restaurant

Four Seasons Wailea

3900 Wailea Alanui

(808) 874-8000

DUO is one of our favorite restaurants on the island. As you can see from the photos, each time we go, we always forget to take pictures until it's too late. Once the food is there, we dive in! So, the photos you see are of the dessert. They offer a fantastic Chocolate Soufflé with vanilla ice cream and every table is brought fresh cotton candy to cleanse the palette.

The restaurant offers fine dining for dinner only. They're located on the pool level at the Four Seasons Resort in Wailea, South Maui, just below Spago.

THE FOOD

We're convinced that you can't get a better steak on Maui. They offer all kinds of cuts, including Kobe Beef filets by the ounce. With your steak, they will bring you your choice of sauces, of which they have many to compliment your meal.

All entrees are ordered separately from the sides. Duo isn't cheap, but you wouldn't want it to be. They offer a truly divine dining experience, one that is unparalleled on Maui.

Five Palms Restaurant

2960 South Kihei Rd.

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 879-2607

Five Palms Restaurant in South Maui has one of the best locations on the island. Tucked away under the Mana Kai, many visitors don't know about this spot. Sarento's next door tends to get the hype, but we're happy to let everyone in on this little secret.

Five Palms does a great breakfast, lunch and dinner, all for prices you usually don't find on the water. They have a great patio that faces Keawakapu Beach. The inside of the restaurant is in need of renovation and reminds us a bit of a retirement home. But the outdoor area is unparalleled in style and ocean view.

Breakfast is inexpensive and high quality. Lunch is great too. Although the view is almost gone when dark, the dinner is worth having there. Their fish entrees never disappoint (see the crab-crusting Mahi below.) Service is excellent and if you're looking for just a cocktail and pupus, check out the bar with a built in Sushi bar next to it.

Flatbread Pizzeria Restaurant

89 Hana Hwy

Paia, HI 96779

(808) 579-8989

Flatbread Pizzeria is located in the heart of Paia Town in North Maui. As far as pizza goes, Flatbread is in the top 3 for best pizza on Maui.

THE PIZZA

They make their pizzas in an open-line kitchen with a wood fired oven. The pizza comes on hot and delicious with a variety of available toppings.

THE RESTAURANT

Inside, they've built Flatbread in a funky, Paia style with colorful art and island decor. Its warm, casual environment is inviting and comfortable. Everything is built open and makes it feel more communal than most restaurants.

Mala Ocean Tavern

1307 Front Street

Lahaina, HI 96761

(808) 667-9394

Mala Ocean Tavern has 2 locations in Maui: 1 in Lahaina and the other in Wailea. The Lahaina Location is on the North end of Front Street, away from the main tourist area. The restaurant sits on the water, literally. If there's any sign of swell in the water, you may want to forgo the upfront seating unless you like getting a little wet. We love this location because of the view and its not being right in tourist central.

THE FOOD

Mala makes, HANDS DOWN, the best burger in Maui, Hawaii. They do a Kobe Beef burger with bacon, roasted onions, and melted chunks of bleu cheese. It's heaven on Earth. It's also not a cheap burger, but it's worth every penny.

THE OWNERS

Mark and Judy Ellman own this restaurant as well as the slightly less impressive Penne Pasta and Maui Tacos.

Open for both lunch and dinner, Mala Ocean Tavern is one of the best spots to eat in Lahaina. Try the burger, but also try the calamari, fish salads, or pretty much anything on their menu.

They're available for weddings, full buyouts for private parties and can accommodate up to 78 people.

Mama's Fish House Restaurant

799 Poho Pl.

Paia, HI 96779

(808) 579-8488

Mamas Fish House is on the water in North Maui, just East of Paia and West of the famous windsurfing spot Hookipa. In our opinion, even with the high-prices, this is one of the best restaurants in Hawaii.

THE FOOD

We're certain that you've heard it from many different people before going to Maui as well as when in Maui that "You've gotta eat at Mama's!" Well they're right. It's one of the more expensive spots on the island, and it's not close to where most people stay while visiting Maui, but it's worth the drive and the money.

All of the fish are SUPER FRESH and caught LOCALLY. It doesn't get better than that. In fact, to further personalize your local fish experience, on the menu next to each dish, the name of the fisherman that caught that fish is written along with where they caught it.

The chefs at Mama's Fish House are masters. They know how to cook a piece of fish to perfection. This is something that can be incredibly difficult given the degree of error in cooking fish properly and the difficulty in having all the plates for one table going out at the same time hot.

Other than some great fish dishes, Mama's offers Pork, Chicken, Beef and Poultry, but the menu is rarely the same. If you have a chance, try their Lau Lau. This is a dish deeply rooted in the Polynesian culture, and the chefs at Mama's do it wonderfully. Lau Lau is either fish or chicken baked with pork in a Ti Leaf Package. It's cooked with coconut milk and tropical spices. It's really incredibly tender and delicious.

THE AMBIANCE

Mama's Restaurant is quite unique. It is by far the most authentic Hawaiian experience you'll have while dining in Maui... and anywhere in Hawaii. Everything is beautifully crafted. There's even a banyan tree that has been grown and shaped into a path way arch.

The restaurant sits on a large piece of land right on the ocean with a nice little beach. Always plan to spend a little time checking out the area in front of Mama's before or after dinner or lunch. Mama's Beach is well known for great wind surfing and kite surfing.

They also have a few rooms for rent their at the Inn At Mama's. The cottages available are pretty nice with many enjoying ocean views.

THE SERVICE

The service is exceptional at Mamas. They really know how to take care of you there. Some of the niceties that come with your meal are small portions of the soup of the day with freshly baked bread.

THE DRINKS

Just like the chefs in the kitchen, the bartenders at Mama are well versed in making their specialties authentic and traditionally Hawaiian/Polynesian. They make a mean Mai Tai as well as other tropical concoctions. Jade is a great bartender and makes some delicious cocktails.

Overall, Mama's Fish House Restaurant is a class act. Make sure to make reservations ahead of time. This place gets packed for lunch and dinner.

Monkeypod Kitchen Restaurant

Wailea Gateway Place B-201

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 891-2322

Our first experience at the new Monkeypod Restaurant in Wailea's new Gateway Center was opening night, and we had a good and bad experience, though we always expect a few hiccups when going on opening night. Since then, we've had some great meals.

THE FOOD

We chose the Calabash Slider Trio for our appetizer, which had delicious crab cake, kalua pig, and Maui burger. Our entrees came around an hour later (something that would normally upset us, but we let it go since it was opening night and they were slammed.) I had the Chicken Adobo, which was incredible! We were told that the recipe was handed down from generation to generation in one of the families of a chef at Monkeypod. It was fantastic. We also had the Pumpkin Ravioli and Beet salad. Both were very good. The only downer came with the burger. It came later than the other meals after being overcooked. Despite this revelation in the kitchen, when the new one did finally come out, it was beyond well-done (originally requested as Medium.)

Everyone on the staff from the waitress to the manager handled the situation with true professionalism, and they invited us back for another chance at the burger. Though it was disappointing that it took a long time, and one of our entrees was inedible, we don't want to mark them down too much. This was opening night, and we've heard that they went through some serious last-minute set backs. Everything else was great. You can expect a follow up review shortly.

THE RESTAURANT

Located at the new Wailea Gateway Center, they have a view of the ocean on one end at the patio. The restaurant ambiance is bright and warm. It has an upscale surf theme with a great bar. The line is partly open, which we always like to see. They also had some live music, which was piped through the restaurant in a pleasing manner.

THE BEER

They have around 30 beers on tap, which is something you don't see on Maui. The selection was pretty impressive with some excellent local and imported beers.

THE SERVICE

We were thoroughly impressed with all of the staff. Many of them (we later found out) had been working for over 10 hours to get ready for the opening. Despite the long hours, they came through spectacularly. Our server, Shelley, handled our burger situation as well as anyone could. She made us all feel comfortable and was really sweet. We also appreciated our runner's assistance. His name is Matt, and he also went beyond his duties to make sure we were taken care of.

Sansei Sushi Restaurant

1881 South Kihei Rd. #KT-116

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 879-0004

You've probably already heard about Sansei Sushi. They're pretty well known because they offer fresh sushi in a fun atmosphere at a great price.

THE FOOD

If you like Sushi, Maui is the right place to be, and Sansei is the place to be on Maui. They serve traditional sushi as well as creative versions of the classics. Often the

recipient of culinary awards, Sansei comes up with fantastic original dishes like their Panko Crusted Ahi Roll. They also serve steak, chicken, and veggie dishes if you don't like raw food. Everything they make is really good and relatively inexpensive.

As you can see from the photos, we have a lot of trouble not eating when the dishes hit the table. After hundreds of visits, we still have yet to remember photos before digging in. Oh well. The photo below is of their Macadamia Nut Tempura Ice Cream.

THE ATMOSPHERE

With 2 locations in Maui, Sansei has a lively and always busy atmosphere. Stick around for Karaoke while eating late night half-priced sushi. If you do this, keep in mind that gratuity will be added regardless. Even though they're typically super busy at all times, the service is usually good.

KAPALUA LOCATION

Sansei is also located at the Kapalua Resort, 600 Office Road, Lahaina, HI 96761.
(808) 669-6286

Seascope Ma`alaea Restaurant

192 Maalaea Rd.

Wailuku, HI 96793

(808) 270-7000

When you think of the Maui Ocean Center, most have visions of tiger sharks and sting rays over head in a glass tunnel. Dining with a view is rarely a thought. After hundreds of visits to this amazing aquarium, we finally tried the Seascope Ma`alaea Restaurant, and were we ever impressed! See their menu and info online.

THE FOOD

We tried the coconut shrimp and calamari strips, macadamia nut crusted mahi mahi, and the mango-hoisin baby back ribs. The shrimp and calamari were freshly battered, light, fluffy, and just what you'd want for a fried starter. Mac nut crusted mahi is pretty much a staple at most restaurants on Maui, so it's a good item to set the bar. The fish was expertly cooked, light and flaky with a perfect crunch. Our favorite were the slow cooked, home made baby back ribs. The meat fell off the bones and was incredibly tender. The sauce was a little sweeter than we like, but that's to be expected with a mango-hoisin sauce. We enjoyed it, but we may order it on the side next time for dipping.

THE RESTAURANT

The open air restaurant sits above Maalaea Harbor allowing for some unobstructed views of the ocean and south Maui across the way. On a clear day, you can see Haleakala Crater as well. The restaurant is clean, open, and a bit of a hidden gem.

They do lunch every day, and they offer private engagements at night. Some years back, we were invited to the launch party for Ocean Vodka. It was a spectacular event with bottles of Ocean Vodka sitting in many of the exhibits and tanks. They served martinis at 2 bars, plenty of delicious pupus, and they even had an underwater bartending demonstration in the shark tank. That's right, a scuba diver walked us through making a cocktail (shaker and all) while in the tank with sharks and sting rays swimming around him. So much fun.

SERVICE

Service was spot on. Every time we've walked by the Seascape Ma`alaea Restaurant in the past, we rarely saw many people dining. There was no exception on our recent visit, which is surprising. The food is great, view excellent, and prices very reasonable. Maybe the service was perfect because it's slow? Regardless, we got all the attention we needed from a friendly staff.

Tommy Bahama's Restaurant

3750 Wailea Alanui

Kihei, HI 96753

(808) 875-9983

Tommy Bahama's Tropical Cafe is one of the best restaurants in Maui, Hawaii. They have one of the most fun staffs out of any restaurant, incredible food, a warm tropical atmosphere, and cocktails that are difficult to beat.

THE FOOD

If you've never eaten at a Tommy Bahama's, you're missing out. They use fresh ingredients to make large portions of inspired food. We can't tell you how many times we've eaten at Tommy's. 100's? Thousands is more likely. We keep going back because we're never disappointed.

THE DRINKS

If you can hit up happy hour, you're in luck. Though the drinks and food are expensive, at happy hour, they give great deals. Even so, prices are pretty average compared to restaurants in the area.

The cocktails at Tommy Bahamas are wonderful. They put in the time and energy to make their sour mix from scratch as well as many of their other ingredients. Nothing beats their Baja Margarita or their Baileys Banana Colada.

And if you have time waiting for a table, they have a shop attached selling their clothing!

Activities

Land Activities (Bike, Zipline, Road Tours, etc...)

Bike The Volcano

Out of the numerous activities on the island, Maui bike tours have become the most popular. Enjoying a Haleakala sunrise before a leisurely Maui bike ride down 30-38 miles of winding road is an experience few forget. The dormant volcano reaches just over 10,000 feet at its summit where you'll watch sunrise. You'll then be taken to the base of Haleakala National Park to begin your bike ride. There are many bike companies that take part in this daily ritual.

The following companies are well known Haleakala bike tours for you to pick from.

- [Haleakala Bike Company](#)
- [Cruiser Phils](#)

Your Bike Tour Down Haleakala

Your bike tour will begin at the Haleakala National Park for sunrise. Most of the companies running these tours also have a later option for those who'd like to save some sleep and money. We suggest spending the extra money and getting an early night of sleep so that you may take part in the Haleakala sunrise over the crater. Most Bike companies will pick you up at your hotel and shuttle you to their base yard for some refreshments and light breakfast. Once everyone is gathered, you'll be shuttled up to the top of the volcano for sunrise over Haleakala. During your shuttle, you'll be given plenty of time to snooze as well as explained the safety rules and general way things work. This ride takes anywhere from 1 to 2 hours, after which you'll be escorted to restrooms to change into your waterproof outfits. At first you may think that these outfits are silly and unnecessary, but once you hit the

cold air, you'll change your tune. Temperatures at the summit of Haleakala often drop below 0 °F. You may also experience heavy moist air or rain due to the thick cloud cover.

The sun rises from the east over Hana, under the craters peaks, and breaks through the clouds with an explosion of light. There is no better sunrise than from the peak of Haleakala's summit. It's the kind of view you'll only ever see again from an airplane, if you're lucky. More often than not, you'll be given the precious view of the Big Island of Hawaii in the distance. Having a perfect view is not guaranteed because of the cloud cover. Also, your bike tour crew may rush you to find a spot to watch the sunrise. This is not for their own purpose, but for your better placement when viewing the sunrise. Haleakala's summit can get crowded for sunrise. You want the best viewing position next to the railing, otherwise you'll be watching from behind dozens of heads.

After you enjoy this incredible experience, you'll be set up with a bike, helmet, and briefed on safety hand signals. Due to Haleakala Park regulations, you'll need to start your biking from the base of the park. The first portion of the ride can be a bit uncomfortable because of the low temperatures. They give you ski gloves, but you may still find your fingers frozen at first. Most tours operate where you ride in single file with a tour leader in front and your tour van following the riders. The van driver and the tour leader remain in constant radio contact in order to keep apprised of any traffic that may want to pass.

Activity Authority runs a bit differently than the others. Instead of riding with the pack, you go at your own pace on your own. At first you may think this to be less safe, but they have the best safety record on the island because no one feels rushed to keep up with the group. We recommend you take their tour over the others. To learn more about Activity Authority, go to [Bike Maui](#).

Once you've punctured the clouds, you'll ride on the edge of Maui's best views. You'll be high above the rolling green hills of Haleakalas Upcountry, the patchwork sugarcane fields of the Central Valley, the South and North coast of Maui, the lush

West Maui Mountains, the sparkling Pacific Ocean, and the neighboring islands of Lanai, Molokai, Kahoolawe, and Molokini crater.

Every once in a while you'll be given breaks to take photos, stretch your legs, and access the van. Maui bike tours would seem as though they'd exhaust the average person, but with the way your bike is set up and the very little you actually peddle, it's an easy ride. The miles zip past making you want the ride to last even longer. Throughout the leisurely ride you'll cruise through forests of eucalyptus trees, lavender farms, huge pine trees and fresh green pastures. All of these areas have their own wonderfully distinct smells. Most riders normally wouldn't expect any other smell than that of clean Maui air.

After having ridden through most of Maui's upcountry area, and having watched the multiple angles of the islands, you'll have a much better understanding of Maui. At the bottom, you'll be shuttled to breakfast where discussion of all the incredible moments commences. The best part of these bike tours, if you were able to get to bed early the night before, is that you're home before noon. This allows you to enjoy the island for the rest of the day, though we recommend taking it easy and making it a beach day.

Some tours take you from the base of the park straight down through Paia. Others stop short about 8 miles up from Paia town. Local residents have urged the bike companies to do this so that the traffic in Paia isn't quite as congested as it once was. The shorter tour cuts your bike ride to less than 30 miles from 38 and keeps the locals happier. The few companies that don't observe their requests are making it harder for all the companies to run operations peacefully. With upset neighbors come stricter guidelines and enforced insurance requirements. This brings up the cost of your ticket to ride. Looking back, each of our rides has been completely satisfactory without the extra miles. This last stretch is closer to sea level and affords fewer views. Ask your company if they do 30 or 38 miles and choose the lesser in order to decrease traffic, increase safety, and alleviate local frustration.

Maui Trampoline Park

Visiting [Ultimate Air Maui](#) is a no-brainer for those with kids especially. There's plenty of room to jump, shoot hoops, play dodgeball, balance over foam pits, sit down and have snacks, or just relax in a massage chair. We love this spot and frequent it at least a few times per month, rain or shine.

Road to Hana

Travel Tips for Heavenly Hana

The [Road to Hana](#) is world famous for the natural beauty of its unblemished landscapes and towering waterfalls.

Maui is understandably proud of Heavenly Hana's successful fight against overdevelopment and the destruction of their Hawaiian culture. When you make the trip over to Hana Maui, you'll see why it's referred to as The Land That Time Forgot.

Road to Hana Travel Tips

1. Take a van or coach tour

Having an air-conditioned vehicle with a driver/guide is really the best way to see Hana. There's no stress involved when a knowledgeable driver points out and stops at the most beautiful spots. Leave the driving to someone else and enjoy the ride with your family.

2. Follow a guided CD tour

There are a few different guided CD's for Hana, but only one of them delivers the full experience. When using [R2H's](#) Experiencing The Road to Hana and Beyond, you're getting an adventure through Hana. You're brought to the Hawaii you've always envisioned existed beyond the hotels and luaus.

With R2H, you're on a journey of romance and adventure along one of the most famous and memorable trips in the World. You're given driving tips, a wonderfully mastered CD guide, and a detailed map showing specific locations to stop. You get it all, but you get it on your own schedule.

3. Stay overnight!

Without a doubt, the best way to enjoy Hana is by staying for at least a few days. With an overnight stay, you'll miss the masses and have plenty of time to appreciate the beauty around you. Most drivers leave early in the morning and drive back a few hours before dark, which means you have 2 large windows of time each day with very few people around.

4. Bring or rent a camera with plenty of memory card space (or film.)

You'll definitely get some incredible pictures along the way. It's the worst getting to a great spot and running out of disc space, having to delete other good images, or realize your battery is too low.

We highly suggest renting your photo equipment while visiting Maui. You can get much nicer equipment than you currently have, plus you don't have to carry it on the flights. Call them beforehand and reserve your photo gear for when you arrive.

5. Don't try and pack everything into one day.

One thing we often see tourist do is rush from one site to the next. I guess this is a common characteristic of the average tourist: Conquer all the sights possible! Get on island-time and choose a few things to see ahead of time, or just wing it, and stay where you like. You'll have a much more pleasant time by soaking in a couple falls and doing some swimming with a picnic lunch than you would by rushing to every waterfall. If you follow our advice, you'll notice other Maui visitors stopping for a couple peaks then rushing off to the next. For many visitors, visiting the first waterfall at Twin Falls is enough to get their fill without driving around the entire island.

If you stay at one place for long enough, you may find yourself completely alone with your own piece of heaven. Besides all of this, getting to Hana should not be

your main objective. There's a reason they call this incredible experience "The Road to Hana." We recommend you drive and see things until you feel you've had half of what you want, and then turn back. It's all about the journey, not so much about the destination. Shake off the mainland, and learn how to relax. Your friends back home will notice that you've gained more than just a Tan while in Maui.

6. Grab Breakfast and/or Lunch To-Go from Jaws Country Store

Keep in mind that once you leave the Paia/Haiku area, there aren't many places to stop for food. This is why we recommend making a pit stop Jaws Country Store located at 4320 Hana Hwy in Haiku. Grab the best breakfast on Maui plus a to go lunch with all of your favorite goodies. If you plan on spending the night in Hana, this is also a great place to grab snacks and drinks for your journey back.

7. Rent a convertible car.

Maui is great for convertibles, but the Road to Hana is the best part. If you drive with the top down, be prepared for a better viewing experience, a few more bugs, and a 99% chance of having to pull over at one point or another for rain. When you do pull over, get off of the road completely. Also, do it slowly and safely. Getting a little wet is worth your not going off a cliff or hitting another car around a bend. Wait till it's safe to pull over. If you don't think you are willing to get a little wet, keep the top up.

Most rental car companies offer convertibles, but what sets Maui Roadsters apart are their iconic, fun to drive 1957 Porsche Speedster reproduction rentals available for 4 and 12 hour adventures.

8. Don't leave valuables in the car.

This goes for anywhere in Maui. You may notice when you park in the dirt at certain sights that there's broken glass on the ground. The vast deep vegetation of your surroundings is the perfect place for Maui thieves to sit and wait for unsuspecting tourists to pull up. Leave your valuables at home. Even the trunk of your car is not safe from a determined thief. Remember that Maui rental cars are easy to spot, and make for obvious prey. Don't take any risk of being a victim, and instead leave your

valuables at home or take them with you from the car. It's not as bad as we make it sound, but it's also better to be safe than sorry.

9. Grab lunch, supplies, and water.

Your dining choices in Hana are limited. Stopping at the Twin Falls farm stand is a good idea at the beginning of the trip to stock up on snacks. Otherwise, you'll be starving by the time you get to restaurants in Hana. Paia is the last stop to grab full meals and supplies so make sure to stock up on water too. You'd be surprised how much water is pulled from your body in humid climates.

10. Bring bug spray!

Hana is packed with mosquitoes and other unfriendly buggers. They tend to congregate near streams and still water as well as near fruit trees. If you see fruit rotting on the ground, you can be assured that hundreds of mosquitoes are having a good old time on them.

11. Stay on paths.

If you're hiking, remain on the regular paths. Follow them for your own safety and to keep away from the bugs. You'll get more bites walking through grass and shrubs than you would on a flat dirt path. You also are less likely to trespass or run into a spider web. Even though we don't have snakes in Hawaii, the spiders are all over the place.

12. Bring hiking shoes.

All of the hiking is superb in and around Hana. Bring hiking shoes that you don't care much about. You may find yourself traversing streams or walking through thick mud. If you're prone to bug bites, wear high socks and bug repellent. Decide ahead of time where the best places are to go and pick one of the hikes. The best way to find a hiking trail that you'll never forget is to ask a Maui local to recommend one to you.

13. Drive slowly and take turns at the wheel.

The road to Hana is dangerous. With approximately 600 curves and 54 bridges, the Road to Hana can bring you closer to heaven in more ways than one. With winding roads, blind turns, constant traffic, distracting views, narrow one-lane roads, cliffs, and wet conditions, Hana Highway has proven its worth as a danger with many fatalities. Take your time, and make sure the driver is focusing on the road. The road is long and offers many chances to pull over and take a break or switch drivers. Remember: Getting to Hana is not the gem of this trip; everything along the way is your reward.

14. Research a Road To Hana Map and pick your stops before.

Buy a map, print on from the web, get a book, or pick up some free maps and guides at the magazine and pamphlet stands. Read up on the spots that interest you the most and write down the mile marker. If you know where you'd like to go before hand, you won't miss anything important to you. Just because the Road to Hana is FREE, don't use this as an excuse to see everything. It's in your best interest to absorb a few of your favorite stops along the way instead of rushing through the journey.

15. Don't Trespass!

See our Road to Hana etiquette below. This is an important tip. An angry Hana local can ruin your trip really quickly.

16. Get the banana bread.

Some of the roadside stands are better than others, but all of them are good. They bake their breads fresh everyday, and sell so much of it, that they often bake through out the day. Fresh Hana Banana Bread isn't cheap, but is a delicacy while on the road.

17. Leave early.

The earlier the better. The Road to Hana is full of tourists throughout the day, but if you leave before them, you can beat the crowds. We suggest that you get up early and drive to some of the last sights along the way and work your way backwards.

Another way to do it is drive the backside of Haleakala first (if the road is open) and go in the opposite direction.

18. Get back before it gets dark.

Driving the Road to Hana isn't fun in the dark. The whole point of making this journey is for the sightseeing, so give yourself a couple hours to leave before darkness falls.

19. Bring rain slicks or at least a towel.

Hana is lush and tropical for good reason. Hana is one of the most rained on places on Earth, so be prepared with something to dry off with and some protection if you plan on walking around a lot.

20. Don't swim at the top of a waterfall.

You've seen pictures of people basking on the rocks and swimming in a pool above a waterfall. Some of these spots have been closed to the public because of fatalities. Others are still open, but dangerous. This warning is not reserved for just the big waterfalls. One of our editors knows from experience how dangerous some of the smaller ones are. He was swept over and almost killed by a seemingly harmless fall.

21. Check the weather service.

If it's been raining a lot lately, there could be flash floods. These floods come without warning and are extremely dangerous. They originate high in the hills and mountains, so you could be sitting in the sun one moment and swept away the next. This is very important!

22. Check for road closures.

Due to landslides and too much rain, certain parts of the road could be closed. If you check ahead of time, you can avoid a wasted trip.

Call (808)986-1200.

21. Check the weather service.

If it's been raining a lot lately, there could be flash floods. These floods come without warning and are extremely dangerous. They originate high in the hills and mountains, so you could be sitting in the sun one moment and swept away the next. This is very important!

23. Bring good music.

It's a long drive, and some fun tunes are necessary. You can also purchase a Hana CD that will guide you and narrate the cultural and historical points along the way to Hana.

24. Fill your gas tank to the top.

Gas is even more expensive in Hana, if you can believe it. Plus there are no gas stations along the way from Paia to Hana.

25. Don't plan any other activities for the same day.

You may want to limit your next day's activities as well. It will take you a full day to enjoy the Road to Hana. We suggest that if you plan on relaxing and having a mellow beach day, you make it for the day after Hana. Even though you'll be sitting still and driving most of the time, the Road to Hana has a tendency to overwhelm the senses and exhaust everyone involved.

Hana Etiquette

1. Don't trespass.

We know you probably have the book Maui Revealed. This book is a best seller because it exposes the many different hidden spots that the local Hawaiians hold close to their hearts. The one thing that this book disregards is the local people's privacy. Many of the best spots to visit in Hana are on privately owned land.

Imagine having a best seller published about how there's gold in your backyard. The next day you'd find hundreds of gold hungry people digging holes in your flower beds. It's a similar and sad situation with Hana. Even if you're not one of the many disrespectful visitors that trample and trash these areas, you are not welcome on private property. The locals take protecting their land very seriously. You don't want to run across an angry Hawaiian when you're trespassing.

2. Treat everyone with respect, period.

3. Drive safely and pay attention to other drivers.

When you stop to one of the many beautiful things along the Road to Hana, Make certain to pull off entirely as to not hinder traffic. Along the same lines, pull over if someone behind you looks like they might be just driving and not sightseeing. Rule #2 is really what it's all about.

3. Drive safely and pay attention to other drivers.

When you stop to one of the many beautiful things along the Road to Hana, Make certain to pull off entirely as to not hinder traffic. Along the same lines, pull over if someone behind you looks like they might be just driving and not sightseeing. Rule #2 is really what it's all about

4. Offer to take other tourists' photos in front of waterfalls or scenic cliffy coastline.

You'll appreciate it when someone does it for you.

5. Drive safely and slowly.

The roads are winding and often slick from recent rain. Avoid accidents and possible fatalities by using your head. Switch off driving so that the driver can enjoy the views as well.

6. Pay attention to yield signs.

Most of the 54 bridges are all one lane. Almost all of them have yield signs on both sides. Take your appropriate turn.

7. Do not litter.

Treat the land as if it was your backyard. In all likelihood, it's some else's back yard.

8. Spread the Aloha with big smiles and waving the shaka.

Everyone on the island understands this physical language and appreciates it.

Maui Tropical Plantation

Maui has something for everyone, but it's not often all in the same place. If you're in a group that can't decide on what to do and where to go, Maui Tropical Plantation is the solution that will thrill everyone!

History Buffs

Some people love to connect to the history of a place, and there is plenty of that at Maui Tropical Plantation. On location is the beloved locomotive, "Claus", named after the sugar baron Claus Spreckels. After a \$200,000 facelift, this beauty is worth taking a peek at! Maui Tropical Plantation is also the temporary home to Kalakaua Coach, also known as the Kings Car. This first class railroad coach carried King David Kalakaua to the unveiling of the statue of King Kamehameha in Kapaau.

Tram Tour

Some people prefer to sit back and enjoy the view without exerting too much effort (you are on vacation after all!). If this suits someone in your group, throw them on the Tropical Tram Tour! This 40-minute ride takes them through the banana and coffee fields. There is even a coconut husking demonstration at the end! A narrated ride through this stunning property for all ages!

Maui Zipline Co.

If someone in your group is craving an adrenaline rush, flying from a tower over the plantation will suit them just fine. Maui Zip Lines offers a zipline tour, going from tower to tower around the property. You'll get a birds-eye view of the tropical paradise that surrounds this ultra-fun sport! And even kids can be a part of the fun if they feel like trying out their ziplining wings!

Shopping

No need to go to the local mall or tourist strip to fill your souvenir quota. The Country Store offers everything Maui, from local lilikoi jams to handcrafted wooden

koa bowls. If art is up your alley, then head over to Rebecca Lowell Art Gallery. These paintings will remind you of Maui long after you've left! There is also a handmade jewelry booth and locally made soap. You'll fill your bags with authentically Hawaiian goodies!

More for the kids

Kids, young and old, get a kick out of feeding the flock of ducks that live on the property. Their food can be bought in the Country Store for \$2, and that will buy you the duck's everlasting love! And those that aren't keen on feeding these fellows can take a seat under the palm trees and gaze across the beautiful tropical grounds and mountainside views.

Waikapu Zipline

With millions of annual visitors each year, Maui offers a variety of fun, family-friendly activities of all varieties, whether in the ocean, on the slopes of the world's largest dormant volcano, in the sky, or on land. One of our favorites, however, is with [Maui Zipline Company](#) at the gorgeous Maui Tropical Plantation property.

Centrally located and only a short drive from most visitor destinations on Maui, Maui Zipline Company is a convenient option for families, couples or groups of friends seeking an exciting daytime activity, minus the hassle of lengthy drives or hiking. With a great safety record and an amazingly friendly staff, this beautiful tropical activity and added opportunity for a variety of other activities on the same property make it ideal for a scenic midday Maui stop.

The Maui Zipline tour includes 5 side-by-side ziplines, perfect for racing other members of your group, over the lush grounds of the Valley Isle's plantation

grounds. Zip over swaying palm trees, Kumu Farms, and finally, a sparkling lagoon to end your tour in a tree house. From the observation deck and ziplines, you can easily spot Haleakala Volcano, the scenic Maui coastline and nearby West Maui Mountains.

After the tour, guests are free to explore the remaining areas of the Maui Tropical Plantation grounds, including the amazing Mill House Restaurant, tropical tram tour, Maui grown coffee, Kumu Farms stand, shops and more. It's not difficult to spend an entire afternoon and evening here, and we highly recommend it if you're looking for a perfect activity, food and shopping combo in central Maui.

For booking, please visit [Maui Zipline](#) or call 808.633.2464.

Haleakala Zipline

If you're coming to Maui and you want some excitement, ziplining is the best thing to do in Maui, Hawaii.

For best price, call Piiholo Directly: (808) 572-1717

We've been on most of the ziplines on the island, and there are many different styles of companies offering ziplines. [Piiholo Zipline](#) has many positive traits as follows:

Piiholo Ziplines

- **Safety**

We feel really safe with their gear. Piiholo could zip the weight of a car over the line safely, so we know they can handle us. Also, you don't have to use your hands to stop yourself. (See Technology below)

- **Side-By-Side**

Some of Piiholo's ziplines accommodate 4 people at once zipping next to each other. This makes for some fun photos and entertaining zipping.

- **Length of Ziplines**

The 5th zipline they offer is the longest side by side zipline in Hawaii. It's fantastic! You get going fast and high for a long time. I know this sounds scary to some, but we had a friend that was terrified of heights do it with us. The 1st one was really hard for her to get the courage up. But after that, she was eager to try the next one.

- **Technology**

Piiholo Zipline uses 4 point trolleys, unlike most of their competitors. This keeps you from having to use your hands to guide and stop yourself. It's safe and easy. You're always leaving and arriving while facing straight ahead. Other zipline courses need you to steer and you can come in backwards (we've seen and done it.) We like not having to think about what to do. At Piiholo, we can just enjoy the ride.

- **Hiking**

Not only do you hike through aromatic Eucalyptus forests, but you enter the zipline area over a suspension bridge that's over 300 feet long.

- **Views**

The views from the slopes of Haleakala are amazing. While you're zipping, you can see forests and pastures below you as well as the ocean in the distance.

- **Ropes Course**

Piiholo also offers team building exercises and fun rope and wall climbs at the Tango Tower. If you plan right, you can do the rope course, ziplines, and go horseback riding all at Piiholo Ranch in the same day.

Ka'anapali Zipline

With 8 zipline crossings, seasonal waterfalls, and incredible mountain and ocean views, Skyline Eco-Adventures' [Kaanapali zipline course](#) offers a trip of a lifetime! Their location is incredibly convenient for anyone on the west side of Maui.

"It's just amazing! We got to see the outer-islands and it was beautiful."

"Every line you do, it just get's better and better!"

For best price, call Skyline Directly: (808) 878-8400

We've been on most of the ziplines on the island, and there are many different styles of companies offering ziplines. Piiholo Zipline has many positive traits as follows:

Skyline Eco-Adventures Kaanapali Course is special for the following reasons:

- **Safety**

Safety is always Skyline's priority. It's nice to know that your guides are watching out for you, so you can concentrate on the scenery and on having fun. Your guides will hook you up and disconnect you to the line on each run, which keeps you safe.

- **Great Ocean and Island Views**

From these lines you can see 4 outer-islands as well as the mountains and west Maui resorts

- **Exciting Controlled Zipping**

While ziplining, you are in control of your body rotation. It's very easy to do, and as you get more comfortable, you can challenge yourself by zipping backwards or sideways. Pretty much everyone on the tour will end up doing this at one point or another. It usually takes a few lines for us to feel comfortable experiencing different directions and different views. Tons of fun!

- **1000-foot Overlook**

While you munch on delicious complimentary grub, you'll enjoy views of west Maui and Kaanapali from the valley of Kahalawai Mountain.

- **Excellent Food**

We keep saying it, because we're impressed. Skyline provides some of the best food you'll get on an activity on Maui. Everything is fresh and delicious. Every time, we're a little surprised on how good it is. It's especially nice having a little break to eat after hiking for a while.

Make sure to wear closed-toed shoes and to not go scuba diving within 24 hours of your ziplining.

Maui Photography

Weddings, Portraits, Excursions & Rentals

In the following pages, you'll find information on wedding photography, portrait photography, camera rentals and photo safari trips. Please let us know if we're missing anything important.

Maui Portrait Photography

You've been wanting to take a professional portrait shoot for sometime, and there's no better place to do it than in Maui, Hawaii.

Have a professional photographer photograph your family, friends, you and your significant other, or your own headshots with beautiful, natural Maui backgrounds. Grins 2 Go offers affordable professional photography and they're conveniently located in Kaanapali.

GRINS 2 GO - BEACH PORTRAITS MAUI

Photographing both morning and sunset sessions, [Grins 2 Go](#) captures long lasting memories of families, groups and couples in both Ka'anapali and Wailea areas.

Call (808) 242-1424

Maui Wedding Photography

Above all, photography is the most important thing at your wedding. Maui, being the wedding capital of the World, has many talented photographers to choose from.

We suggest using [Natalie Brown Photography](#) for your Maui wedding. Natalie brings her professional training, talent, and great personality to every photo shoot.

NATALIE BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

[Natalie Brown](#) has photographed hundreds of weddings in Maui and it shows in her professionalism, reliability, and outstanding wedding photographs. She is also available for Maui portrait photography.

Call (808) 344-3843

KARMA HILL

The Photography by [Karma Hill](#) team is fun and approachable. We pride ourselves in creating images as unique and special as our clients while incorporating Maui's breathtaking scenery. All packages include high resolution digital images and custom proofing website you can share with friends and family.

Call (808) 873-0789

ANNA KIM PHOTOGRAPHY

[Anna Kim](#) strives to create meaningful and lovely photographs, paying close attention to every detail of your day. Your wedding will be expertly documented with timeless, thoughtful and exquisite style.

Call (808) 214-7550

Maui Ocean Center

Ma'alaea Harbor's Maui Ocean Center is a must do for Maui visitors and Hawaii residents alike.

Located at 192 Maalaea Road, The [Maui Ocean Center](#) has something for everyone. This editor has been to many aquarium/ocean experiences, and I can honestly say that this is my favorite. Long Beach, California has a great aquarium as well as La Jolla and Seattle, Washington. Maui Ocean Center is special. Put aside the fact that they have a 750,000 gallon shark tank with over 20 lively sharks, and you still have one of the best aquarium experiences on the globe. One of the many exhibits they have here is a 360 degree tank with glowing jellyfish. Outside you'll find multiple pools for touching and interacting with the sea life including local sea turtles. During season, you can be touching a starfish and watching a humpback whale in the near distance outside of the harbor. Everything swimming around and in the Maui Ocean Center is from Hawaiian waters.

Children get as much of a kick out of going here as do adults. They even offer overnight sleep overs for groups interested in watching the nocturnal behavior of the sharks and other ocean life. The shark tank holds over 20 sharks including a Tiger shark! The tank also has a long glass tunnel which you can walk through and watch the enormous sting rays, huge tropical fish, and graceful sharks swim over head. For the adventurous, you can even dive in the tank for a price.

Tiger Sharks are common in Hawaiian waters, but are rarely seen and seldom attack humans. Seeing one among other sealife is really exhilarating. The tank also holds many other sharks like reef sharks. These Maui sharks are smaller than tigers. All of these sharks are nocturnal, so if you get a chance to see them at night, you're in for a treat. The giant sting rays are also nocturnal and usually only feed at night. These graceful giants are a wonderful addition to the tank and great to watch glide over you from inside the water tunnel.

Other tanks at the Maui Ocean Center hold octopus, all kinds of tropical fish, sea horses, jellyfish, hammerhead sharks, green sea turtles, and much more marine life.

The Maui Ocean Center is regularly open from 9am to 5pm, and until 6pm from July to August. They are open everyday of the year!

Reservations are not necessary, but if you have a large group, it is advised.

Maalaea Harbor

Ma'alaea was once a prominent fishing village and a place of rest for weary travelers. This area is well known for its 'alaea (rich, red dirt.) 'Alaea is used to dye and added to pa'akai (sea salt) for its mineral and healing properties. Ma'alaea Harbor was constructed in 1952 and is used today by commercial and recreational boaters.

The funneling of tradewinds between Haleakala and Mauna Kahalawai (West Maui Mountains) creates some of the strongest winds on Maui. Maalaea Bay is home to several surfing spots including the world famous Ma'alaea Pipeline called Freight Trains, one of the fastest breaking surfable waves in the world. This wave breaks on very shallow reef and only breaks a few times per year.

The above information about Maalaea Harbor us used courtesy of the Maui Ocean Center.

Maui Ocean Center Located at 192 Maalaea Rd., Wailuku, HI Phone: 808-270-7000

Porsche Speedster Day Adventures

Always dreamed of driving a 1957 Porsche Speedster convertible? Join the club! However, this dream can now be a reality on your next trip to Maui. There's a better way of exploring Maui with a day rental from [Maui Roadsters](#).

(808) 339-6204

Take your pick!

With a fleet of six sporty 1957 Porsche Speedster reproduction convertibles, with a selection of colors and meticulously maintained, this is the ultimate way to celebrate a trip to paradise. While almost any drive on Maui is memorable as is, imagine exploring it in one of these stunning vehicles, feeling the warm ocean breezes as you glide amongst dramatic mountain landscapes.

Truly Explore Maui!

These cars are extremely well maintained, allowing them to travel to even the most remote areas on Maui, including the amazing sights along the Road to Hana, Maui's last lava flow at La Perouse Bay and even the 10,023 foot summit of Haleakala Volcano.

Whether you're traveling to Maui for a romantic beach wedding in tropical paradise, celebrating a loved one's birthday or simply came to see what all the Maui hype is about, Porsche Speedster rentals are a great way to explore, celebrate and treat yourself to a fun and stylish day in Hawaii! What better place to feel like a true James (or Jane) Bond than overlooking gorgeous ocean cliffs, discovering waterfalls and enjoying the lush beauty of Maui in a convertible.

Great Service

We find that renting a Porsche in order to explore Maui is a must-do activity on Maui. The owners of Maui Roadsters offer great insight, suggestions and service with a smile and are there to make sure your day goes as smooth as the Porsche you'll be driving.

Maui Roadsters are becoming increasingly popular for weddings, special occasions, group outings, and corporate events, so booking your ride sooner than later is recommended.

Rentals are for 4 or 12 hours and include unlimited miles. All cars are manual transmission and seat two people. For more information or to book your rental, please call (808) 339-6204

Maui Horseback Tours

Weddings, Portraits, Excursions & Rentals

Much of Maui was built for Horseback riding. From the high rolling hills of Upcountry, to the rugged volcanic coastline trails of Makena, Maui offers unparalleled horseback experience along with unlimited views of the islands natural beauty.

Below we have reviewed Maui's horseback experiences for you. for tickets.

Ironwood Ranch

Located on the West side of Maui, Ironwood Ranch offers excursions along the coast with views of the West Maui Mountains and our neighboring islands of Lanai, and Molokai. Their horseback rides vary from brilliant sunset rides, to tropical journeys through lush valleys and rolling hills.

Lahaina Stables

Also offering sunset horseback rides, Lahaina Stables is located on the West Side inland from Lahaina Town. Lahaina Stables specializes in Historical trips with knowledgeable guides that take you above Lahaina Town on a trail nestled against the foothills of the West Maui Mountains. These trails give you incredible views of Lahaina Harbor and town, as well as of Lanai and Molokai. They also have a horseback ride that's unique to Maui catering to Newlyweds or anyone interested in island romance. Lahaina Stables Full Moon Ride is a 2-hour ride beginning at sunset.

Mendes Ranch and Trail Rides

The horseback rides at Mendes Ranch are spectacular. Beginning at the Mendes Ranch Corral, you will be led through green rolling pastures up into the West Maui Mountains and along the Waihe'e Valley. You'll be given the opportunity to see

Maui's largest waterfalls as well as stunning views of the West Maui Mountains, the central valley, Haleakala, and the islands of Maui County.

Piholo Ranch

Located in Maui's Upcountry, Piholo Ranch's views range from the North and South shores, to the West Maui Mountains. Horseback at this elevation is incredible. The view of the sugar cane fields of the central valley is spectacular. You'll ride through a working cattle ranch, strong scented Eucalyptus forests and Pangola pastures. Piholo Ranch offers more intimate private rides as well as BBQ picnic horseback rides.

Pony Express Tours

One of the best ways to experience Haleakala Crater is by taking a horseback ride down into it. Pony Express Tours offers these tours with a picnic lunch served inside the crater. Pony Express also offers trips across Haleakala Ranch.

Maui Golf Courses

South Maui Golf Courses

Elleair Maui Golf Club

Elleair is a new favorite among golfers, as it has undergone some great renovations, including widening of fairways and new designs on several odd holes. Affordable and conveniently located in the heart of Kihei, it offers fantastic ocean and mountain views of both Haleakala and the West Maui Mountains. Trade winds add to the challenge at this course, perfect for beginners and avid golfers. Reserve your game and cart by calling (808) 874-0777.

The Gold, Blue & Emerald Wailea Golf Club Courses (800) 981-5512

Wailea Gold Golf Course

Wailea Gold Course has been honored numerous times for its 1,078 yard course, designed by Robert Trent Jones; and has been dubbed a “thinking player’s course,” as it demands a strategic and conditioned golfer. The course has also been honored for its preservation efforts of the centuries-old Hawaiian structural lava rock walls. It is the more challenging of the three Wailea courses and was home to The Champions Skins Game from 2001 to 2007.

Wailea Emerald Golf Course

With carpet-like fairways, ocean views and stunning natural Hawaiian foliage, this course has been called “Maui eye candy” by some. The course has also been dubbed as one of the “most friendly for ladies” by Golf Digest and was granted a “Top Fairways Award” by Golf for Women Magazine. Architect Robert Trent Jones II created this 6,825 yard course to be fun for all skill levels. The clubhouse offers Gannon’s Restaurant by the famed Maui chef, Bev Gannon.

Wailea Blue Golf Course

Situated on the leeward side of Mt. Haleakala, this classic golf course offers some of the best golf weather on the planet. The slightly higher elevation on some holes offer undeniably beautiful views of surrounding islands of Kaho’olawe, Lanai, Molokai, and the snorkel spot Molokini. It is the oldest of Wailea Golf Club's trio of courses, and is actually the very first thing ever built in Wailea Resort. The “Grand Lady of Wailea” has been a favorite of Maui visitors for years. Mulligans on the Blue is a lively restaurant and bar located alongside the course.

West Maui Golf Courses

Ka'anapali Royal Golf Course

This is a favorite for West Maui golfers and it is one of only two courses in Hawaii designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. The course stretches 6,700 yards and is typical of a Jones course in that it challenges players' club selection and putting skills. Often called the 'Tournament Course', the Royal once hosted the LPGA events and the original Seniors Tour. Arnold Palmer once called the 18th hole one of the best and most challenging finishing holes he had ever played.

Ka'anapali Kai Golf Course

Kaanapali Kai is a relatively short, par-70 course, that plays only 6,388 yards. It is considered much easier than its West Maui counterpart, the Kaanapali Royal Golf Course. And, some golfers use it as a warm up course to adjust to Maui trade winds. Originally designed in 1976 by Jack Snyder, it was later re-designed by Robin Nelson to allow for more expansive views and interesting shots. Some of these features include natural gulches, canals, Norfolk Pines, gorgeous plumeria and lava rock boundaries.

Kapalua Bay Course

The older of the two Kapalua courses, this impressive spread offers everything that typifies a Hawaii Golf Course. There are two gorgeous seaside holes. One of which, No. 5, was created by lava pumping into the sea creating what appears to be 'arms embracing the sea', which in Hawaiian translates to Kapalua. The tee is positioned on one side of Oneloa Bay, and using the trade winds, golfers launch the ball across the glistening ocean to the awaiting green. Arnold Palmer and Francis Duane did a superb job with this layout, bringing golfers back again and again.

Kapalua Plantation Golf Club

The Plantation Course at Kapalua is spread out across a former pineapple plantation and is spectacular in vistas and play. Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore designed this course, and created arguably the most challenging on Maui. It is home to the PGA Tour's Hyundai Tournament of Champions each January. (formerly the Mercedes Championship) Previous competitors and fans of the course include

Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, Vijay Singh, Jim Furyk, Steve Stricker, and more. The well-known Plantation Restaurant is located at the club house.

Kapalua Golf Club Village Course

This complex golf course designed by Arnold Palmer is set on the West Maui foothills in Upper West Maui. Kapalua's Village Course is par 70 with great views of the ocean, Molokai Island, and the bordering pineapple fields. With huge pines lining the course, you'll be playing a diverse landscape that is far from an ordinary Hawaiian layout. This is one of the most beautiful of the courses in Maui.

Central Maui Golf Courses

Kahili Golf Course

Nestled in the foothills of the West Maui Mountains, this centrally located golf course was designed by Robin Nelson and Rodney Wright. It is very similar to its next door neighbor, the King Kamehameha Golf Club course. Upgrades include TifEagle greens, white sand bunkers, and golf carts equipped with GPS. The course hosts numerous local tournaments each year, and is a popular choice for both visitors and locals. Be advised, the par 4s are designed to make you work!

King Kamehameha Golf Club

Named in honor of one of Hawaii's greatest kings, King Kamehameha Golf Club is Maui's only private 18-hole golf course. But, visitors should take advantage of their "Member for a Day" option to enjoy this course. Ted Robinson Sr designed the course, which was later redone by his son 14 years later. It can be challenging, and average golfers are advised to play the white tees. The club's claim to fame, besides sweeping bi-coastal views, is their 74,000 sq. ft. clubhouse that was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The Dunes at Maui Lani Golf Course

The Dunes at Maui Lani Golf Course is designed much like the courses in the British Isles or Scotland, as its holes take full advantage of Maui's natural topography with

rolling sand dune terrain. Located in the gusty central valley of Maui, near the main business district, some of the course is exposed to mischievous 15-25 mph trade winds, which make for a playful and interesting day on the green. Cafe O Lei at the Dunes is the current onsite restaurant, and is a huge favorite among local Maui residents.

Waiehu Municipal Golf Course

Waiehu Golf Course is probably the most affordable of all of Maui's courses and is great for riding or walking. The famous Waihe'e Reef and the gorgeous white sand beach of Waiehu Beach Park are all visible from the course, and 3 holes play oceanside. Players meander through a series of bluffs on the back nine which makes for a nice finish.

Upcountry Golf Courses

Pukalani Country Club

The Pukalani Country Club has the unique distinction of being Maui's only course located "Upcountry". This charming course offers cooler temperatures, unique views, and a more local experience as it is set outside of the classic tourist areas. The course is positioned at 1,100 feet above sea level, on the side of 10,000 ft Mt. Haleakala (house of the sun), the world largest dormant volcano. The course also offers a unique double green option on the par-3 at hole No. 3. Here golfers are required to launch the ball over a large gulch. Playing this course it worth the drive!

Lana'i Golf Courses

Experience at Koele

The Experience is the second of two incredible courses on the 140 square foot mile island of Lanai. The course is set inland and is praised for its mountain views and wooded slopes; and due to its slight elevation, guests are treated to views of Kalohi

Channel and the nearby island of Molokai. Golfers thrill at the unique water features and hazards, such as streams and numerous cascading waterfalls. The end of the course brings golfers to the signature hole No. 17 that plays from a 250 ft elevated tee to a nearby fairway surrounded by a lake and foliage to one side. The course creates a stark difference from its counterpart, The Challenge at Manele.

Challenge at Manele

One of only two impeccable courses on the quaint and luxurious island of Lanai, The Challenge at Manele is a bit more forgiving than its counterpart, The Experience at Koele. The Challenge is situated on the cliffs overlooking Hulopo'e Bay and has three holes at the cliffs edge, forcing players to use the crashing waves below as a natural hazard. Trade winds can pick up, but multiple tee boxes ensure a fun play for all. Jack Nicklaus unveiled his creation on Christmas Day, and during such winter months, whales can be seen frolicking in the waters below.

Moloka'i Golf Courses

Kaluakoi Golf Course

Since 1977, Kaluakoi Golf Course has attracted golfers to the island of Molokai. Built by Ted Robinson, this par 72 course has all around ocean views and you rarely have to wait for anyone. This uncrowded course is set at a low price and sits on 160 acres of perfectly manicured Bermuda grass.

Hiking in Maui

There are a million different hikes you can do all around Maui. Be careful to pick ones that don't get you in trouble (dangerous areas or private property.) Here are a

few that we highly suggest that are public and safe. [Hike Maui](#) has some of the best guided tours and will take you to private waterfalls. Call (808) 879-5270

'Iao Valley

Difficulty Level: 2/10

Location: Central Maui

Though this is barely a hike, the area is great to walk around. Park in the lot and walk towards the Iao Needle. Steps reach to a viewing area up top. You can also walk around the Iao Stream below the lookout.

Twin Falls

Difficulty Level: 4/10

Location: North Maui

Twin Falls are some of the most popular falls. They're one of the first stops along the Road to Hana and easy to find and the closest falls to both the west and south side of Maui (where most visitors stay.) Twin Falls can be found off of Hana Highway (360). You can't miss it. It's on the right side if you're driving East towards Hana. Follow the path and stay to the left. Once at the falls, stay clear of the overhanging embankment. The rocks are not stable there.

Ohe'o Gulch (Seven Sacred Pools)

Difficulty Level: 6/10

Location: East Maui

The Pipiwai Trail is one of the best on the island. It takes around 3 hours and begins near the Ohe'o Bridge near the 42 mile marker and next to the parking lot for Seven Sacred Pools. Along the path, you'll pass multiple incredible waterfalls, a banyan

tree, and you'll traverse through a bamboo forest. At the end, you'll come up to Waimoku Falls, which towers 400 feet high.

Watch Pipiwai Trail Video

There are many other hikes that you can find with the help of a local guide. Ask a friend to take you around, or look for a paid guide. Some companies run hiking tours daily on Maui.

HeleWai Eco-Tours' Honolua Ridgeline Hike: A Conservation Experience

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Location: West Maui

Length: 2 miles, roundtrip

Time: 3.5 hours

HeleWai Eco-Tours provides one of the most distinctive hikes on the island on their Honolua Ridgeline Hike: A Conservation Experience. This roughly three-and-a-half-hour journey takes small groups—as in no more than four people—through private land that abounds with endemic flora and fauna. Knowledgeable and passionate naturalists provide an in-depth lesson on the region's cultural and environmental importance and highlight the need to protect West Maui's watershed and native forests. Both educational and exciting, this is an unparalleled glimpse into Maui's natural beauty.

CAUTION: Hike at your own risk! Some areas have unstable rock. Also, be wary of swimming under a waterfall. Debris can be swept over the top. Lastly, many creek beds are dangerous due to possible flash flooding. We suggest doing one of the hikes above, which are more controlled than random hikes. Bring hiking shoes, water, sunblock, a camera and something to munch on.

Camping in Maui

Maui Campgrounds & Information on Camping in Hawaii.

Federal Campgrounds

Hosmer Grove Campground

Located in the cool and windy climate of Haleakala's cloud belt, Hosmer Grove Campground is just below the 7,000 ft level of the summit area. Because of the elevation, you will most likely experience temperatures of at night in the 30's or below. During the day, highs are from 50-65°F. Chance of rain here are good. You'll be camping on a grass area next to the shrub land and forest of Hosmer Grove. It has a few picnic tables, pit toilets, some barbeque grills, and drinkable water available.

No permit is needed at Hosmer Grove for camping, and it has a 50-person maximum. With the abundance of habitation, mornings here are active with animal and bird noises. Hosmer is a great place to get up for an early hike of the self-guided nature trail that begin and end at the campground.

Kipahulu Campground

Kipahulu is one of the favorite Maui Campgrounds by locals. Sitting on a grassy area just above the ocean, warm breezes bring the sounds of crashing waves to your campsite. This area is often wet with regular rains, which causes this site to be a favorite for local mosquitoes as well. Kipahulu Campground is only a short walk to Oheo Gulch and the Seven Sacred Pools just north. With no water available, this camping area does have a few amenities, though you'll have to bring most

everything you need. It has some picnic tables at select sites, a grill at every site, and some communal chemical toilets. A maximum of 100 people are allowed to camp here. Seek out your spot, and then take a walk to the Kipahulu Visitor Center only 1/8 of a mile away for your permit. The park officials here are quite friendly, and lax about what time you need to pay them, so long as you do.

For those of you that really like to hike and get away from the crowds, Maui is home to some isolated wilderness camping. The Wilderness Campgrounds at Paliku and Holua are a challenge to get to and camp at even for the most experienced outdoorsmen. Each of the grounds offers a maximum of 24 people to camp, though you'll rarely see this many. The group limit is 12 people. Campers can get the required free permit at any visitor center where they will have to do a 10-minute orientation. These campground permits are given on a first come, first serve basis from 8am to 3pm, though special accommodations can be made up to 6 months ahead of time for educational groups. There are some time restrictions. The maximum anyone can camp is 3 nights in a 30-day period, of which only two of the nights can be spent at one of the two sites. The campsites have pit toilets, non-potable water, and wild Hawaiian goose. There are no open fires allowed at either camp spot.

Holua Campsite

For the shortest hike to a wilderness campsite, Holua is a great option at 6,940 feet, near Koolau Gap. Located 3.7 miles down the Halemauu Trail, Holua is set in shrub land around lava flows. It is 7.4 miles from the Sliding Sand Trail, needed to get to Paliku.

Paliku Campsite

9.3 miles along the Sliding Sands Trail, and 10.4 miles on the Halemauu Trail, you'll find Paliku Campsite on the east end of the wilderness valley. Located 6,830 feet from sea level, Paliku is at the base of the rainforest cliffs. The hike is advised for the expert hiker, as it is very difficult and long. Paliku is lush and cool due to the frequent rains that come in with clouds and fog from over the cliff tops. This is one of the more beautiful spots on Maui.

State Parks and Campgrounds

Polipoli Spring State Recreation Area

Polipoli is located 6200 feet elevation in Kula Forest Reserve. With trails weaving through the forest reserve, Polipoli camping is an incredible experience. Located 9.7 miles up from Kula, you'll find the views encompass all of Maui from the central valley, to the west Maui Mountains. You also get views of both the North and South coast and the neighboring islands of Lanai, Kaho'olawe, and Molokai. There is one cabin and plenty of camping area. It is recommended to have a 4-wheel and plenty of clothing. In the winter, temperatures can reach below freezing. There are no showers and some hunting in season for pigs and birds.

Wai'anapanapa State Park

Located in Hana off of the Hana Highway, Wai'anapanapa camping is found at the end of Wai'anapanapa road. This campground and park is a much sought after area by visitors to Maui. With the perfect black sand beach, natural blow holes, lava tube caves, native hala forest, natural ocean arches, and dramatic sea stacks, Wai'anapanapa is legendary. Its legend is everywhere, but especially in one of the caves where a powerful story of ancient Hawaiian Ali'i echoes. Around 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 hours from the Kahului airport, depending on how much traffic you hit and how many times you stop for waterfalls, this is an ideal camping spot with great shore fishing, some lodging, picnics, and hiking. One ancient Hawaiian coastal trail leads all the way to Hana. Wai'anapanapa is a tough one to get a permit for though. You need to get one in Kahului before you leave on your trip. The lady in charge is elusive. Also, be prepared for the most unfriendly State Park staff you'll ever encounter.

Maui County Camping

Kanaha Beach Park

Next to the Kahului airport, Kanaha Beach Park is one of the last Maui County Parks that offer camping. Amenities include drinking water, chemical toilets, picnic tables, bbq pits, outdoor showers, 3 volleyball courts, lifeguards, pay phones, and a great beach. It allows for 15-20 people at one time, and a 3-day maximum is enforced.

Private Maui Campground

Camp Olowalu

Camp Olowalu Located at 800 Olowalu Village Road, Lahaina, HI

Located just 6 miles southeast from Lahaina Town, the location is good for those looking nearby to:

- Go Surfing
 - Hike to Olowalu Petroglyphs
 - Camp on the Ocean
 - Go Snorkeling
 - Go Kayaking
 - Check out Lahaina's Front Street

Accommodations

Camp Olowalu is set up to accommodate everyone from solo tent campers up to large group retreats. There are 6 A-frame plantation style cabins equipped with storage loft, outlets, cots, fans, and screened windows. If you're the kind of camper that likes it a little less rough, there's wireless Internet available, washer and dryer, picnic tables, a fully equipped kitchen, outdoor shower, and BBQ grill among other amenities. You can also leave all your gear at home and rent when you arrive.

Ocean Activities (Snorkel, Kayak, Surf, etc...)

Maui Snorkeling

Along with the snorkel maps, we've listed helpful information on the best snorkeling spots in Maui. You'll find 3 snorkel/dive maps covering West Maui, South Maui, and Molokini Crater.

North and East Maui have some good snorkeling locations as well, though with the near constant swell activity, these areas usually have low visibility and can be dangerous with currents and waves. Check out some popular snorkel trips in Maui.

IMPORTANT: Remember safety should always be your first priority. Always snorkel with a partner and let someone on land know where you are. ALSO, get reef-safe sunscreen so you don't contribute to destroying our beautiful reefs!

South Maui Snorkeling

Kihei, Wailea, Makena, Molokini

North Kihei usually has poor visibility and less marine life than South Kihei. To the South, rocky points covered in coral border all Kamaole I, II, and III. The beaches here all are great for enjoying with friends and family. Kamaole I is the largest and a great location for beach activities. Kamaole is the most popular with locals.

Ulua & Mokapu

Located between the Renaissance and the Wailea Marriott, both Ulua and Mokapu are popular places to snorkel and shore dive. This is Maui's South shore training area for many scuba school's beginner dives. There are two reefs found stringed between the two beaches. The first one is great for snorkeling, and scuba divers best access the second one. The second reef is deeper and has a turtle cleaning station.

Polo Beach

Polo Beach is a beautiful spot next to the Kea Lani Resort. This is an excellent location for snorkeling. Go to the right to find perfect coral and large groups of fish. Like Ulua and Mokapu, this area has showers and restrooms.

Makena Landing

Makena Landing, aka Five Caves aka Five Graves, is a wonderful spot to snorkel or dive. The topography here is diverse and sea caves plenty. This area is home to many small harmless reef sharks. Make sure to only snorkel here if there have been no rains or large surf due to the impairment of visibility. This area has plenty of parking and many entrance points.

Ahihi Keanau Reserve

Ahihi Keanau Reserve is located in Makena and one of the more serene and beautiful spots on the island. Parking is a challenge in this area though. The road is narrow which has only a few openings for a car. The reef is shallow and perfect for snorkeling. This isn't the best Maui scuba diving location because it's so shallow; you'd rather be snorkeling, unless you travel far out. The coral here is plentiful and comes in many brilliant colors. Keep in mind that this is reserve, which is why there are so many fish here. The fish are protected! If you want to do some Wailea fishing, charter a boat and stay out of this area.

La Perouse

La Perouse is where you'll get your best chance of seeing pods of spinner dolphins in Maui. Snorkeling all around this area is good. If you go early, you may find yourself in the midst of the pod. The rock around here is volcanic and very sharp, so be cautious where you step. If you snorkel here, do it early before the wind picks up. Park where the road ends and snorkel closer to the car for the best spots.

Molokini Crater

Maui's Molokini Crater is an ancient volcanic cinder cone atoll that has served well as a marine life conservation district and seabird sanctuary. The inside of the crater acts as a protective wall from currents, creating a hub of sea life. Molokini is renowned as one of the worlds best scuba diving locations. Diving off of the

backside is incredible but only reserved for expert divers. The wall drops off to depths of over 300 feet. The snorkeling is good here too because of the clear visibility that usually exceeds 100 feet inside the crater. Once outside of the crater, the currents are swift and dangerous, so stay away from the edges. Snuba is also popular among the many boats that visit Molokini everyday. Snuba is a way to experience scuba diving without too much training. The tank floats above you as you swim below with an extra long air tube. With over 250 species of tropical fish, Maui makes for a great snorkeling, snuba, and scuba diving destination. Molokini crater is a perfect boat trip destination and only a 15-25 minute boat ride from the South side of Maui. It can get crowded during high season, but thankfully the crater is large enough to hold many boats and a lot of visitors.

Snorkeling Molokini Crater

Subzone A

The inner portion of the crater is considered Subzone A, which means there are special restrictions of potentially harmful activities. Some examples include feeding the fish, fishing for or capturing fish, alter sand or coral in any way, to moor or anchor where not permitted. This keeps the inner area protected from excessive harm. You'll see that the ocean life is thriving due to the marine conservation efforts. Subzone B allows for some permitted fishing.

This zone is especially popular for snorkeling, because the protective walls of the crater usually offer a much higher visibility in the water. You can often see as far as 100 feet in front of you. The more popular spots are Middle Reef, Tako Flats, Shark Condos and En'e Nu'e.

From the inner wall of Molokini, the crater floor slopes down ward, which allows for opportunities to snorkel as close as you want to the reef.

Scuba Diving Molokini Crater

Backwall (south side)

The backwall of Molokini Crater is world-famous for its drift-wall diving. It's incredibly deep (the wall drops straight down to over 350 feet deep.) It's more for advanced divers because buoyancy control, good air consumption, and experience are important for safety. This is not a good place to snorkel.

In the Cove

Inside of Molokini Crater is also great for diving. There are less currents, though near the edges it can be strong. When scuba diving, you can go deeper and past the snorkeling areas and get to deeper, magnificent reefs.

Make sure you're certified and are current on your diving knowledge.

Snuba Diving Molokini Crater

The In-Between Sport

There's a lot of controversy around snuba diving. Some feel that it's a great way to enjoy scuba diving without all the training, others feel that sometimes the training isn't enough and can be dangerous for those that are careless.

We feel that it's a great thing to do for those that take the time to learn what they're doing and are very careful. BUT you need to be careful.

Caution: When in the ocean anywhere in Maui County, there are many dangers you should be aware of. We are not liable for any loss or damage that many occur when entering the ocean. Our suggestions come with many red flags! Be careful of waves, sharp coral reef, sharp rocks, dangerous ocean life, vessels, other people, your own ability, aliens, Loch Ness Monsters, and any and all things that could be dangerous.

West Maui Snorkeling Map

Lahaina, Kaanapali, Kapalua, Napili, Honolua

Honolua Bay:

Honolua Bay

Honolua Bay has great snorkeling that you can access from the shore. The easiest way to get down to the water is walking through the jungle at the apex of the bay. This land is private property, so you need to get permission. If you can't get permission, you'll have to take a boat. A boat trip to Honolua is our preferred way of snorkeling because they take you directly to the safest and best spots. Trilogy leaves from Lahaina Harbor, which is our favorite west side snorkeling vessel.

Trilogy (808) 874-5649

Once through the short trail to the shore, you can snorkel anywhere around. The best snorkeling is on the right side of the bay, the North side. Make certain that it hasn't rained recently because this is also an outlet. Being an outlet is good and bad. It attracts fish, but after heavy rain, it turns the water to a thick muddy brown. If large swells are present, don't snorkel here. Though it usually doesn't break inside, the water will be mixed up and difficult to see through. You'll most likely run into sea turtles here any day of the week.

Makulei'a Bay

Makulei'a Bay is located just South of Honolua Bay. This is a marine reserve and has a great beach. The snorkeling is good on each side of the bay with coral formations. You'll probably see turtles and a lot of tropical fish.

Kapalua Bay

Kapalua Bay is one of the most beautiful beaches in Maui. Just before the Napili Kai Beach Club, you'll find a parking lot and a tunnel. The best snorkeling is on the right towards the North side of the bay.

Black Rock

Black Rock in Ka'anapali is famous for its cliff diving and torch lighting ceremony. The snorkeling around the rock wall is good too. Follow the wall to see plenty of coral, fish and turtles. Be careful of people jumping off the rocks. This is especially a concern for those who are scuba diving and are not seen by the cliff divers.

Wahikuli Park

Wahikuli Park has showers, restrooms, parking, and is really easy access right on Highway 30. This is a good spot to snorkel and is really close to Lahaina.

Keep in mind when snorkeling on the west side that there's more surf potential on this side. Waves and snorkeling don't mix. In the summer, the south side of Maui can get some swells, but all year round the west side can get swell too.

Maui Bottom Fishing

Maui Fun Charters

Without a doubt, our favorite Maui fishing charter is with [Maui Fun Charters](#). They offer small group trips with a maximum of 6 guests on their fishing boat the Marjorie Ann. Watch the video

There are a few reasons why we recommend Maui Fun Charters:

- New Equipment and best electronics
- Fun and Helpful Crew
- Small Groups (plenty of room for all)
- Knowledgeable Captains
- Extremely low price for charters

Another thing we like about Maui Fun Charters is the ability to charter them for trips other than for fishing. You can get a super low price to go whale watching (in season), dolphin watching, sunset cruises, snorkeling, and just about anything where you want privacy on the water.

Call (808) 572-2345

Maui Sailing

Kai Kanani Sailing Charters

Sailing in Maui is really something everyone must do. The warm winds of Maui are perfect for speeding across the water, and the **Kai Kanani**'s stable catamaran will keep you from spilling your Mai Tai. There are a lot of options when deciding to take a leisurely boat cruise in Maui, and we recommend the Kai Kanani for your sailing experience for many reasons.

Why Sail?

There are dozens of boat charters in Maui waters and only a few offer sailing. When the sail is up and powering you through the water, you experience pure peace. No loud engine or fumes will ruin your relaxation. Not only is sailing relaxing, it also allows visitors to share a deep cultural connection with the Hawaiian and Polynesian people.

The Kai Kanani

Only one boat has a Makena Beach Entry. The Kai Kanani offers incredibly easy access to those staying on the South Side of the island. You walk directly from the sand in front of the Maui Prince onto the boat.

Another thing we like about Maui Fun Charters is the ability to charter them for trips other than for fishing. You can get a super low price to go whale watching (in season), dolphin watching, sunset cruises, snorkeling, and just about anything where you want privacy on the water.

The Crew is outstanding to say the least. From the captain to the crew, you'll feel the Aloha and enjoy nothing but good vibes. Everyone works very hard to make sure you're experience is nothing but sensational. They're friendly and professional from beginning to end.

Kai Kanani tours range from snorkel trips to Molokini Crater, sunset cocktail cruises, and even to go whale watching in season. The Kai Kanani is one of the newest boats on the island and its noticeable. Everything is clean and top of the line. The sailing technology aboard the Kai Kanani is unparalleled.

Reservations are easy to make for the Kai Kanani. Call 808.879.7218 to book your seats.

Cocktails and Pupus

We have to take a moment to discuss the quality of the bar and food for the cocktail cruise. We've been on most boats on Maui and have to agree that the Kai Kanani offers some of the best Pupus (appetizers) out of any of them. This is the real deal. Often food on boats becomes a second thought, but with the Kai Kanani, you experience the higher end of everything.

Makena Web Camera

Want to see the Kai Kanani and South Maui live right now? Go to the Makena Web Cam and check out 10 different views of the island.

The camera has been set up to shoot from the top of the Makena Beach Golf Resort in South Maui. You'll see the beach, Kai Kanani mooring, and views of both West Maui and South Maui.

Other Sailing Vessels

Another great Molokini snorkel and sail tour is on the Island Star. They can take you to Molokini Crater, Lanai, or around Maui. You can see more tours at Maui Sailing.

Kaho'olawe and Navigation

Kaho'olawe is situated at the piko (navel) of the Hawaiian chain; this central location made the island ideally positioned to observe, teach and learn the winds, ocean currents and trajectories of the sun and stars - the essential tools of non-instrument navigation.

For more than a thousand years, guided by their intimacy with nature, na ho'okele kahiko (ancient navigators) embarked upon the historic months-long voyages between Hawai'i and Tahiti from a traditional launching site - the westernmost point of Kaho'olawe - known as Lae'o Kealaikahiki (Point of the Pathway to Tahiti).

By knowing where the sun rises and sets on the horizon, plus the direction and characteristics of winds and currents, the navigator determines the canoe's position during the day. At night, guided by na hoku pa'a (the fixed stars), which also follow seasonal sky routes, the navigator holds course relative to those trajectories until the sun rises again.

Today

Kaho'olawe is still recognized as an ideal classroom for new generations of non-instrument navigators.

In October of 2004, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, together with the Project Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, Grand Master Navigator Mau Piailug of Satawal, and the captains and crew members of the eight voyaging canoes of Hawai'i, dedicated an observation platform at Lae'o Kealaikahiki for use as a centerpiece for the education and training of novice and future way finders from the voyaging 'ohana (family) of Hawaii.

Like their ancestors before them, today's navigators sail into the vastness of the seas guided solely by the winds, the ocean currents, the sun, and stars.

The kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission manages the island of kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters. Support of KIRC's cultural, environmental and marine resources restoration programs may be made by tax-deductible donations to the Kaho'olawe Island Rehabilitation Trust Fund. For more information please contact

the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve commission at (808) 243-5020 or visit www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo to Polynesian Voyaging Society and Na'alehu Anthony/Paliku Documentary Films for the use of the voyaging canoe image. Mahalo to Hoaloha 'Aina, Ho'olawa Farms and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority for their support.

Aloha!

Redline Rafting

Hawaii Rafting Adventures

When rafting, you're closer to the water, which makes for a much more exciting ride. The proximity to the water is also a big plus when whale or dolphin watching. It's been known to happen where Humpbacks will come right up to the boat (it's called a "Mugging".) Though this is rare, it wouldn't be possible on a larger boat where you sit higher up.

Another benefit is being able to get to your desired snorkel location quickly and with no crowd.

Why we love rafting:

- Exciting! Adrenaline driven ride!
- Inexpensive
- Closer to whales
- Great location at Kihei Boat Ramp
- Incredibly fun captain and crew

These rafting trips are available for private charter or shared. Sharing the boat with other passengers makes the trips extremely inexpensive.

Redline Rafting is a family-owned and operated business. The captain and crew are some of the best people on island. Their love for the ocean is contagious. you'll quickly find out why they've been in business for so many happy years.

Redline Rafting

Hawaii Rafting Adventures

Humble Tours has formed a unique niche in the Molokini snorkel tour market, offering two-hour snorkeling expeditions to Molokini without any of the frills. Humble Tour's home base at Kihei Boat Ramp is only a 15-minute ride from Molokini Crater, allowing you plenty of time in the water during the two-hour adventure. While some snorkel tours opt to visit a different location if conditions aren't ideal, Humble Tours proudly guarantees you a trip to Molokini or your money back. Humble Tours is the perfect choice for travelers with their hearts set on visiting Molokini, or those who only have a short time on Maui. Learn more about this special place from your passionate crew, and know that one percent of your purchase with Humble Tours goes to local environmental non-profits.

Daily from Kihei Boat Ramp

Call (808) 281-7450

Maui Surfing

The Good & Bad of Surfing Maui

Hawaii is the Mecca of surfing. Although Maui is not known as the center of the sport, our island has some incredible breaks. Oahu's North Shore is the best spot for more experienced riders surfing good-sized waves with good shape. Learn more about **Maui surfing**.

The following will explain the good and the bad of Maui surfing and how you can get the best out of your surfing experience in Hawaii. **IMPORTANT:** *Remember safety should always be your first priority. If you doubt, don't paddle out!*

The Good Points

You're surfing in Maui! The water is warm year round. It can get a little chilly in the winter with the wind factor, but a vest or springsuit can cure this. The ocean water here is also crystal clear. Maui water is really clean and free from pollutants. The clarity offers you a chance to even enjoy the flats between sets by watching tropical fish and vibrant reef below you. During whale season, you can see the humpbacks breaching the water and playing nearby. Many good surf spots are choke full of sea turtles, which can also be fun to see. If the right swells hit them, our reefs can produce the perfect waves. Maui is also great for surfing because it's small enough to get to any shore in less than 3 hours. The Big Island is not so fortunate in this aspect. Having Oahu and Kauai so close by is also a major plus. Getting waves on these islands is worthwhile and not a long trip away.

Maui Surf Lessons

Tens of thousands of surfers will tell you that they learned to surf on Maui because the conditions are ideal. Some of the factors include size of surf, shape and speed of waves, warm water, easy access, and experienced instructors with great equipment. Now, that doesn't mean that every Maui surf spot is good to learn at. On the contrary, there are a select few that make for the most ideal environments to learn. Learn more about [**Maui Surf Lessons**](#).

Action Sports Maui

Big Kahuna Adventures HI

Blue Soul Maui

Goofy Foot Surf School
Hawaiian Paddle Sports
Hawaiian Ultimate Adventure
Hi-Performance Surf
Island Scuba
Island Style Adventures Surf School
Kihei Surf Lessons
Lahaina Surf Lessons
Maui Beach Boys
Maui Eco Tours
Maui Surf Clinics
Maui Surfer Girls
Maui Wave Riders
Opelu Surf School
Surf Shack
Rivers to the Sea
Royal Hawaiian Surf School
Waves Hawaii
Zach Howard Surf

TYPES OF SURFING IN MAUI, HAWAII

For those that like to Longboard or stand up surf, you can surf in Maui pretty much anytime year-round. If you love windsurfing or kitesurfing, Maui is just about the best place in the world for your sport. If you shortboard, you may find Maui a little

less pleasing than Kaua'i or O'ahu, but you'll still get some fun waves depending on the time of year and spot.

Maui Surf Locations

Though there are far fewer spots to surf on Maui than there are on Oahu or Kauai, Maui does have a few gems. Unfortunately, Maui faces many challenges when it comes to perfect surf.

Challenges

Island blocking from Kaho'olawe, Moloka'i and Lana'i Islands cause a problem for some incoming swells. Historically, summers on Maui are usually pretty weak as far as surf. This is why you see a lot of professional surfers in Hawaii take to Indonesia or other spots on the planet that have more active summer surf.

Another major obstacle to getting good surf is owed to the high winds Maui is afflicted with on a nearly daily basis. Maui is by far the windiest island, which makes it Mecca for those that Kite surf or Wind surf. But for board surfing, it makes for chopping, difficult conditions and contributes to currents.

Lack of quality and variety of surf spots makes this little island very crowded when there is a good swell. We don't have beach breaks where waves break everywhere, so when we get a good swell, the lineup is usually sitting in the same spot. It can be incredibly frustrating.

MAUI SURF SPOTS

The Cove in Kihei is a fun long boarding wave (and very occasionally a good short boarding wave.) This is where most surf schools take beginners, which is smart due to wave size and shape. It breaks all along the cove and has a sand entry. The majority of the ocean bottom has reef and rock, so wearing booties is a good idea.

Breakwall is literally up against the Lahaina Harbor and can have some fun waves. Another popular spot to learn how to surf, these waves are very similar to those at the cove. A gentle wave that is usually small and forgiving rolls towards and sand entrance. It is very shallow here though, so protect your feet.

Of course, **Honolua Bay** is a world class wave. It breaks a handful of times during the winter season, and can barrel like a machine. It has multiple breaks that occasionally connect, making for a lot of variety. The high cliffs can shield it from wind (to a degree), but when it works, it's really crowded. I mean, REALLY CROWDED. This is a problem in itself, but the fact that the wave is so good that people don't often fall and almost everyone can surf very well, there's not a lot of waves to go around.

Ho'okipa is the go to spot on Maui because the access is easy and it's pretty consistent. Again, this spot gets really crowded too. The wave can get good, but it's usually sub par. It's consistent because it's wide open to any north swell that comes down. This can cause problems too because freak sets can suddenly come in that are twice the size of the normal sets leaving you on the inside getting hammered by wave after wave. The entrance and exit points are very specific too. You can't just go in anywhere. This poses problems when you're caught in currents and large sets are rolling in. It's best to get out of the water at least 3 waves before when you think you'd normally go in. Exhaustion is something you don't want to suffer from out there.

Maui does have a few secret spots to surf, but there's usually a reason for it. This island gets A LOT of surfing visitors and has quite a lot of residents of whom mostly surf. You'd think every spot would be widely known and surfed regularly. There's usually a reason why these spots are secret, and it's best to keep them this way. The last thing you want is for your last whereabouts to be a secret as well (which is why we're shutting up right now.) If you find a spot that looks good, but no one is out,

think twice. Even if it isn't protected by those living nearby, it may be empty because of some unforeseen danger (Sharks, extremely shallow reef, dangerous currents, impossible exit points, etc...)

Judging Wave Heights

Keep in mind that everyone's wave scale differs a bit. Depending on who you ask, the same wave can be anywhere from 1 foot to 12 foot. Hawaiian wave scale is usually measured from the back of the wave and then cut down a little more. So a chest high wave is said to be 1-2 feet. It varies by area, but most people from the west coast of the US mainland measure waves by the face.

So, with this scale (wave face), you'll get 3-5 feet for a chest high wave. If you ask someone from the east coast or anywhere that doesn't traditionally have consistent swell, they'll say a chest high wave is anywhere from 6 foot to 15 foot.

We've put together an equation to better help understand how a person will judge the size of a wave:

$$1/[(\text{Level or Experience of Surfer}) + (\text{distance from the East Coast}) + (\text{Personal sense of machismo})] = \text{Perceived Size of Wave}$$

Should've Been Here Yesterday

Another equation that lends understanding to the psychology of a surfer is the "You Should've Been There Yesterday" scale. With this scale, the wave conditions and size move in the other direction in order to make the receiver jealous. Our equation:

$$(\text{Actual quality of surf}) \times (\text{days until surfer is able to surf again}) \times (\text{distance of next swell window}) \times (\text{days since last good swell}) \times (\text{level of dislike of receiver} + \text{amount of times surfer has had receive make surf feel jealous in the past}) = \text{Quality of Size and Condition of Waves}$$

(Includes crowd factor, water temp, and attractive people on the beach afterwards with beers and fresh seafood being BBQ'd)

Stand Up Surfing

Stand Up Surfing, which originated in the Pacific islands, has become the retro sport that came and didn't leave. It came with celebration due to the resurgence of an important cultural element of the sport and opportunity to explore the roots of surfing, and it has since been transformed into something unique to itself. When once it was used to surf waves so small you couldn't ride them on any other board, Stand Up Paddle surfing has seen guys surfing massive waves like Peahi (Jaws) and even chucking mean airs. There are inter-island races going on each year, many use them to get exercise while exploring the reef from above, and some people even use them as a base for spearfishing and diving.

Warning!

On the other hand, there is an ugly side to stand up. Inexperienced surfers regularly paddle out to heavier spots than they can handle and end up injuring themselves and others. Some more experienced stand up surfers also tend to hog waves outside of the line up. By no means are we saying this applies to all stand up surfers. On the contrary, it's only a very few of experienced surfers that do this, but it only takes a few to ruin a surf session for many. Please be considerate and share waves when using your advantage of stand up.

Maui Longboarding

Some spots on Maui lend themselves perfectly to long boarding specifically. Long, mellow, forgiving waves can be found all around the south and west shores of Maui. Advanced longboarders surf pretty much all spots around Maui. The level of difficulty depends on the wave location, but you'd be surprised what some of the pros can do.

Learning to surf on Maui is best done on a longboard. The length, width and thickness allows for optimal buoyancy and more stable rides.

Maui Wind Surfing

Of any board sport done on Maui, windsurfing was the first to really bring crowds due to the consistent, strong winds and fun waves. People travel from all over the world to windsurf around Maui. We find that many Europeans come, and often settle, on Maui because of wind and kite surfing. Many wind surfing professionals have come out of Maui.

Maui Kitesurfing

The newest of surf board sports, kitesurfing, has evolved incredibly fast as far as abilities of its surfers and the gear they use. Kite boarding offers surfers the opportunity to harness the wind in a way that wind surfers can't always do. Because the kite is so high in the air, kite surfers are able to use wind power well out of range of wind surfers, especially when waves are blocking the wind.

Maui has some of the best wind in the world for kilters and windsurfers. The powerful, consistent winds create year round opportunities to enjoy this sport.

Big Wave Surfing

The main wave to surf on Maui for big waves is at Peahi, regularly called Jaws. This wave is on the north shore of Maui and can only be viewed from private property along the cliffs, from a jet ski out on the water, or from some kind of aircraft (preferably helicopter.) If you get permission to watch from the cliffs, it's best to park at the top and walk down. The road is incredibly muddy and difficult to drive down even with 4x4. Also, make sure to wear shoes you don't mind getting messed up, some kind of hat, water and sunblock. It's a long walk and the sun can crush you.

THE BAD

Wind

Maui is known as the windy island. The wind usually kicks up by 9 or 10 in the morning, sometimes earlier. Maui wind can really mess up some good waves. Most of the time, the wind is blowing side-onshore on the North side of Maui. This is great for the windsurfers and kite boarding on Maui. But for surfing, this poses another problem. If you paddle out in windy surf, you could easily get run over.

Remedy: Get up early and get out before the wind picks up. You can also try kiteboarding or windsurfing. Keep an eye on the forecast for swells hitting areas with offshore winds.

Fickleness & Island Blocking

For a Hawaiian Island, Maui get's a small share of the waves. Maui County is composed of Maui, Koho'olawe, Lanai, Molokai, and little Molokini Crater. All of these islands contribute in blocking West, South and some angled North swells. Then there's the Big Island. The Big Island of Hawaii is the closest island to Maui and blocks all East swell leaving our huge southeast shoreline flat. Hawaii gets good waves, but the summer on Maui is a long period of practically no swell. Some South swells manage to squeeze by and light up our shores. This is rare, and when it happens, you can be sure that everyone on the island knows.

Remedy: Pay attention to the buoys and do your research. The more knowledge you have of the different breaks and their corresponding swells, the more times you'll score good Maui waves. The North Shore is best in the winter, and South shore is best sometimes in the summer.

Local Tension

For visitors to Maui, localism possesses a major threat to a fun surf session. If you're inexperienced or have a tendency to drop in on other surfers, don't paddle out. If you get in the way of others, or keep paddling around people to the peak, don't paddle out. If you are threatening and disrespectful, don't paddle out. The local surfers are not happy about the last 10-15 years of surfing invasion on Maui. There aren't enough waves on Maui for everyone to be happy. Most of the times you'll find that everyone out in the water knows each other. This can be a problem for a new face trying to get in on the lineup.

Remedy: Bring plenty of Aloha into the water. Wait your turn, and don't bark when someone drops in on you. Be respectful and treat people the way you'd like to be treated. Some Maui surf spots are known for antagonistic local vibes. Stay clear of these spots. There are a lot of surfing locations on Maui, which means you can usually find a break that's less crowded and less perfect. At the more popular surf spots, bring your patience and extra time to sit and get your fill.

Mush Factor

Maui waves can be great with the correct conditions. One of the big problems with our island is that most spots are mushy when small. They're great for long boarding, but shortboards gather dust. Most spots don't have enough power until there's a quality swell in the water. Once the power is there, the wave is big and really only set up for advanced surfers.

Remedy: Know your limitations and surf accordingly. Pick the breaks that suit your skill level, and have the right board. All the waves on Maui act differently so be prepared for a learning factor. Drawn out turns and bigger surfing is the name of the game. Shallower spots deserve extra attention because of their speed and level of danger.

Crowds

If you've come to Maui to get away from crowds, think again. Almost all Maui residents surf in some shape or form. Some only go out once a year, others are out 3 times a day. Like anywhere, the better spots are the most congested. Honolua Bay, when it's working, is the busiest surf break on the island. Even the smaller and lesser-known spots are known by enough people to make it cramped.

Remedy: Find the less perfect breaks and you'll get more waves. You should plan to have time to sit for a while and wait your turn. If you're long boarding, there are plenty of waves that can work away from crowds.

Reef Breaks

The best waves on Maui are all reef breaks. Though this is great for snorkeling and diving, it makes for some downers when surfing. There's the obvious problem of being cut and becoming infected. Also, the reef surrounds rocks and caves that can

be difficult to get out of if caught under. The other major issue, which is also a plus, is the perfection of the waves. Why would perfect reef waves be a downer? The local surfers on Maui can all surf well. With predictable perfect waves, you're less likely to have someone fall or miss a section. This can be particularly frustrating when you're out at Honolua Bay and are watching perfect rides without being able to share in them.

Remedy: Know where spots are shallower and don't take unnecessary risks. The reefs are really more of a blessing than a curse. Be patient and don't expect to catch every good wave.

Sharks, Urchins, and Jellyfish

Though shark attacks are rare, the tiger shark's presence is constant. Some spots are sharkier than others. Urchins are everywhere. When you get in and out, and when you eat it. Jellyfish are often spotted in Hawaii waters. You don't want to get caught in between these stinging sea creatures.

Remedy: When you get cut on the reef, get out right away. Sharks can smell blood from a mile away, and most likely there's a tiger closer than that. Stay away from outlets, and don't go out after heavy rains. Most attacks also occur at dawn or dusk. Be extra careful when entering and exiting the water that you don't touch an urchin or the reef with your bare skin. If cut, or punctured, treat the wound immediately and make sure no debris is left in your skin. Make sure to check the reports and see that there are no jellyfish warnings.

Maui Parasailing Tours

Maui Parasailing

Parasailing has a season (May 16th through December 15th) because this is when our migrating Humpback Whales are no longer in Maui waters. There's a danger of collision when dealing with high-speed watercraft around the whales. This works out well because it gives us yet another thing to do when the whales are gone!

Our trip began with some nervousness. My wife and I opted to do the tandem parasail in order to offer each other moral support. We got strapped in and launched effortlessly. It turns out that we were worried for nothing. Yes, I have some issues with heights, but the parasail was so smooth and our flight so calm, being hundreds of feet above the water didn't bother me at all. That, and the fact that our parasail company has a perfect safety record eased our minds.

We knew we'd have some good views once up there, but it was way beyond our expectations. We could see the neighbor islands as well as the West Maui Mountains perfectly. Having the ability to stay still at that height afforded us photo opportunities that you couldn't hold steady long enough on a plane. It was amazing!

As we made our descent, we had some butterflies. AND again, it turned out to be a very smooth and mellow lowering. We landed with grace. It was an amazing experience we'll never forget!

Maui Parasail Season May 16th to December 15th

Maui Scuba Diving

Maui's Best Scuba Diving Locations

The different islands that make up Maui County offer many excellent dive locations. Maui Scuba Diving is known to be some of the best diving in the world. Maui Information Guide has gathered information from multiple dive masters on Maui for the best Maui Scuba Diving Locations.

South Maui Scuba Diving is known to be full of incredible opportunities such as Diving Molokini Crater. West Maui Diving also holds some scuba gems.

The North and East of Maui are less regularly explored due to swell activity, though in the summer it's usually calm. Maui's Neighbor islands are great for diving as well. Scuba Diving Lanai and Molokai Diving hold some incredible areas to explore. The Cathedrals are some of the most popular dives on Lanai.

For beginning, intermediate and advanced scuba divers on Maui, we recommend Scuba Mike! Offering an assortment of Scuba Diving Lessons, PADI Certifications, Scooter Dives, Night Dives and Specialty Dives, Mike ensures a great time discovering life beneath the surface in one of the world's best diving locations.

South Maui Scuba Diving Locations

Kihei, Wailea, Makena Spots

Hidden Pinnacle

From a depth of 120 feet, a single pinnacle covered in coral reaches all the way to the surface above. Hidden Pinnacle is located on the Southwest of Maui and can only be accessed when conditions are optimal. The currents are strong so this dive should only be made by advanced divers. You'll most likely see octo coral, sponges, and pyramid butterfly fish. It also has some great shallow lava formations nearby. The valleys, canyons and arches are wonderful for beginner divers.

Turtle Caves

60 foot lava pinnacles rise from the 70 foot depths at Turtle Caves. With around 6 pinnacles of varying sorts scattered around the area, Turtle Caves is a remarkable dive site. Some of these pinnacles form canyons, some have caves, and others are hollow. Turtle Caves have plenty of sealife with hard and soft coral as well as turtles.

Hellcat

Off the coast of Kihei, a World War II F-6-F Hellcat sits at the bottom of the ocean. 32 feet deep in South Maui waters, you'll find this fighter plane on its back with the engine around 20 yards away from its body.

Ulua/Mokapu

The point at Ulua and Mokapu beach is an excellent introductory dive. This is often where you'll find scuba diving schools taking their new comers due to the mellow waters and gradual incline. There's a great turtle cleaning station on the second reef.

Wailea Point

A beautiful shallow water dive that's good for snorkeling too. The dive ranges from 25-50 feet and is filled with sea turtles and tropical fish. The reef is very lively here with sea creatures. Wailea Point is an excellent spot for beginners to dive.

Haloa Point

A shallow dive at only 30 feet, Halo Point is located inshore along Makena Coast in South Maui. Between channels of sand, divers will find lava ridges encrusted in coral.

Five Caves

Five Caves, Five Graves, or Makena Landing is a wonderful spot to scuba dive as well as snorkel. Shore diving becomes a bit of a long swim to get to the good stuff, making a boat dive convenient. The bottom ranges from 30 to 45 feet and is full of lava ridges, sea pinnacles, and caves. You'll find scores of tropical fish, turtles, eels, and white tipped reef sharks. Five Caves is one of the best spots to see a shark while diving. Another great spot is the backside of Molokini Crater.

Jody's Backyard

A small area at a depth of 55 feet, Jody's backyard is filled with lava ridges and coral mounds. There are also antler coral trees with fish living in and around them. This is a great place to focus on underwater photography

Tank and Landing Craft

A quarter mile off of the Makena coast, you'll find two water borne landing craft from World War II. They are both amtracs, amphibious tractors, one of which was set up as an armored personnel carrier. They are at a depth of 60 feet and attract fish and other underwater sealife. Because they are the only landmarks within a

large area of sand, they tend to act as the only refuge for many sea creatures. It's quite a sight!

Red Hill

Pu'u Ola'i is a cinder cone off of the South Coast of Maui formed out of red lava rock. The scuba site is situated at 30 to 40 feet and is a great spot to explore the unique sealife that inhabits this area. You may find green sea turtles, zebra eels, and angler fish here.

Taape Reef

Composed of coral reef, lava formations and sand, this area was a popular fishing ground for the Ancient Hawaiians. The reef is named after the blue-lined snapper that collect in a school here. Just outside of this reef is another reef that reaches depths of 85 feet. Divers will find helmet shells and large antler coral along the lava formations of this reef. Taape Reef is a great spot to see some beautiful sealife.

Apartments and Battleship Rock

Many divers mistake the name for a wreck dive, but Battleship Rock is named after a rock formation that looks similar to a battleship. It is a deep water dive for experienced divers at 110 feet. Large lava ridges make this area a great dive. Because of it's depth, Battleship Rock is seldom visited making this dive site pristine. You'll find a variety of sea life such as red sponges, pelagic fish, and black coral.

Third Tank

Yet another World War II tank dots the ocean floor in Maui. This is a mortar mounted amtrak that acts as an artificial reef to the sealife around it. It sits off of Makena Beach at a depth of 80 feet. Being the only land mass within a large area of sand, the tank attracts huge amounts of sealife looking for a safe haven. You'll readily find schools of snapper and goatfish swarming around the underwater tank.

Ahihi Cove

Ahihi Cove is a marine reserve with plentiful sealife. The sheltered area inside of the cove is mostly shallow, rarely exceeding 25 feet. Once outside, the ocean floor drops to around 55 feet. You can find moray eels, urchins, tropical fish and plenty of corals in Ahihi Cove. It's protected waters are better suited for snorkelers than those who'd like to dive deeper. Enter the water from the North side of the cove next to the houses.

La Perouse Pinnacle

La Perouse Pinnacle is a 50 foot tall sea pinnacle with a base at a depth of 60 feet in the middle of La Perouse Bay. The pinnacle is covered in sealife. Scuba divers will most likely see goat fish, finger coral, trigger fish, porcupine puffers, bird wrasse, and damsel fish. This area was mostly formed from Maui's most recent lava flow from the side of Haleakala. On occasion, divers may come upon a curious group of spinner dolphins.

Split Reef

A beautiful shallow water dive that's good for snorkeling too. The dive ranges from 25-50 feet and

Waste Lands

Off the coast of South Maui, Waste Land lies at a depth of 85 to 110 feet. This is a fun dive to do when the current is strong. Divers regularly see schools of snapper, goat fish, surgeon as well as large antler coral heads. The area is a mix of lava formations. Between the many ridges, you'll find all kinds of sealife.

Pinnacle Point

A wonderful Maui dive spot to explore, Pinnacle Point is diverse in its lava formations with arches, canyons, and valleys. At a depth of 60 feet, this is a powerful and intriguing dive for all levels of experience.

Golden Arches

Underwater Photographers are in for a treat at Golden Arches. The underside of the three arches are carpeted with gold and orange tube coral and bright orange and red sponges. At a depth of 70 feet, you'll find lobster living in the cracks.

Dragon Reef

Dragon Reef is shaped like the arching back of a dragon with white leather coral for scales. This incredible dive location is accented with a rock formation that resembles an open-mouthed dragon head. There are many interesting sea creatures found between the depths of 20 and 70 feet.

PB4-Y Navy Bomber

Located at a depth of 190 feet, this old bomber was ditched in 1944. Its mangled and turned around body has made for a good home for deep water sea creatures. Divers rarely visit the bomber because of the depth.

Molokini Crater Scuba Diving

Molokini Dive Locations

Just off the South shore of Maui sits a volcanic crater world-renowned for its snorkeling and scuba diving.

Reef's End

Molokini Crater continues to run underwater for around 200 yards, just at the surface. On the outside of the crater drop off, there are terraces that continue to remarkable depths. On this side, the deeper ledges are home to a variety of sharks and eels. The inside of Reef's End is more hospitable to beginner divers and snorkelers. The reef here is covered in Cauliflower coral which makes for dramatic photography.

Tako Flats

Famous for the elusive octopus that live here, Tako Flats is a sand channel with coral heads and rock that make for excellent octopus hideouts. Manta Ray come to

Tako Flats to feed on fish larva. With the abundance of fish that live in this area, Manta Ray eat well when they spawn.

Middle Reef

Alive with hard coral, Middle reef makes up the center of the Molokini Crater. This protected reef is home to trumpet fish, butterfly fish and many other beautiful Hawaiian fish. The reef here is vibrant and healthy, making this one of Molokini's treasures. This is a great spot for Molokini Crater snorkeling.

Eneue

The Eneue side of Molokini Crater is composed of a gentle slope that continues to a depth of 60 feet where it falls to much deeper waters. Butterfly fish are in abundance in the shallower areas.

Shark Condos

At further depths, you'll find boar fish and shark condos at 130 feet. There is a series of terraces that hide Maui sharks and lobster in caves. White-tip reef sharks live in the shallower caves. On clear days, the vantage point is remarkable from this area as you can see the shelves cascade into the distance.

Flying Sea Cliffs

At a depth of 50 feet, divers can expect to see many shelves along the backside of Molokini Crater. Underneath the main shelf is another 80 feet of water before the bottom. On the bottom side of the ledges are red sponge and tube coral only seen with powerful lights.

Edge of the World

This is a unique dive to do and unlike any other in the world, and only remotely similar to Flying Sea Cliffs. This shelf sticks out of the side of the crater wall and the drop from here is another 200 feet to the bottom. The bottom depth here is 250 feet and the deepest along the backside of Molokini Crater. This area is in constant shadow from sunlight, some of the bigger and more unusual fish live here as well as sharks.

The Back Side

Molokini Crater's back side is a drift and wall dive for the experienced. This advanced dive is a great opportunity for those interested in diving with white, grey, or black tip reef sharks. Scuba divers may also see spinner dolphins, manta rays, and large schools of tropical fish. The wall dive at Molokini Crater is a vertical drop and usually enjoyed around 80 feet. The wall drops to the ocean floor at 360 feet at the bottom. The backside of Molokini Crater is world renowned for its wall dive.

In general, Molokini Crater is an excellent spot to Scuba Dive in Maui as well as go snorkeling at because of the protection from currents and excellent visibility on the inside as well as the diverse topography on the backside.

West Maui Scuba Diving Locations

Olowalu, Lahaina, Ka'anapali, Kapalua, Napili, Honolua

Honolua Bay

Honolua bay is a wonderful dive and snorkel spot. The best way to enter Honolua Bay for a scuba dive is through the jungle. This is private property so you may need to get permission. Don't leave anything of value in your car, especially if it's a rental. You'll notice broken glass where you park due to the many break ins. The best snorkeling is on the North side of the bay. For Scuba diving, divers will enjoy both sides of the bay. Be careful when North, Northwest, or West Swells are present. These waves can sneak up on you if you go further out.

Kapalua Bay

The lava outcroppings at each end of Kapalua Bay protect divers from adverse conditions and have some great sea life. The ledges serve as home for many different varieties of fish. Kapalua is usually less dived and bit more difficult to access with gear from shore.

Napili Bay

This protected shallow area has some lively reef on both sides of the bay. The North side is more interesting, but going all the way around the South side of the bay allows for some wonderful diving too. Napili Bay is mostly sandy inside with a few protruding rocks. Scuba divers are likely to see butterfly fish and large green sea turtles. There is also a large Monk Seal that sleeps on this beach. You may see him swimming to and from his napping area.

Kahekili Park

Often referred to as Old Airport, Kahekili has excellent facilities for a Maui shore dive. This shallow dive will expose you to a really phenomenal reef with plenty of sealife.

Black Rock Point

The wall along Black Rock extends from the beach to a point with coral and tropical fish. Moray eels, turtles, and eagle rays have been seen at this 35 foot shallow dive spot. The area is heavily snorkeled and dived, so it's a more crowded and less of a pristine dive. The scuba diving is still good, but shallow and currants are common off of the point. Be careful of the middle portion of the wall where cliff divers plunge into shallow water. This is the biggest danger of diving here. It can be a good drift dive around the point if you anticipate the current.

Marriott Reef

Tall coral formations make this dive remarkably unique. Divers can expect to see plenty of fish and turtles that live here. The reef runs from 30 to 45 feet and is accessed easily from shore.

Canoe Beach

This shallow reef dive is located outside of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Divers can expect to see tropical fish and green sea turtles. This site is off of Kaanapali Beach which is a great place to relax after your dive.

Mala Wharf

Mala Wharf is an abandoned pier used for inter-island sugarcane transportation and then later for fishing. It is now only being used by the fish that live there and the scuba divers that visit them. With plenty of protected holes and caves for fish and other sea life to hide, this is real gem for Maui divers. It extends to a depth of around 35 feet making it great for beginner divers.

Jodo Reef

Just North of Lahaina town is a 3 leveled temple on the ocean. The Jodo Temple is an easy to spot landmark with a beautiful shallow reef just in front of it. Just past the surf break lies a tropical reef at a depth of 35 feet. Scuba diving this Maui site is best accessed by boat and offers some great tropical fish and turtle viewing.

Olowalu

Olowalu is the perfect beginners dive at a depth of 35 feet. On the outside, through a channel in the reef, the diving is superb with eels, eagle rays, shy octopus, and plenty of turtles. Olowalu's coral garden extends over 50 acres of ocean floor with large green sea turtles in abundance. This is a very popular Maui snorkeling destination, though most don't know quite how sharky the waters are at Olowalu. The run off from local streams and the silty inshore water brings in smaller fish. Bigger fish often follow. Though sharks pose little threat to scuba divers, it's best to be cautious while snorkeling in this area.

Atlantis Submarine

If you've never scuba dived but would like to know what it's like at 100-150 feet deep in Maui waters, you must do the Atlantis Submarine out of Lahaina Harbor. This is a lot of fun for all ages, and is quick, comfortable, and easy to do. They have many departures everyday to see schools of tropical fish as well as the sunken Carthaginian shipwreck.

Expert Narration

Though some of the "Submarine Sandwich" jokes come with a side of Ham, the narration is incredibly insightful and welcomes questions. Your guide will give you knowledge on the reef, Maui history, sea life, and much more.

Large Viewing Portal

It's really nice that each passenger gets his or her own large portal window. You can see everything very clearly, and the bottom of the craft has lights that help illuminate areas below.

Quick and Easy Descent/Ascent

Unlike scuba diving, with the Maui submarine, you come up and go down very quickly without a need for decompression. This makes it easy for you to get quickly to the best part of the trip.

Tropical Reef Fish

The reefs you visit are filled with different schools of fish. Along the sunken ship, the Carthaginian, there are small and large fish hovering around it. In season, though rare, you can come upon whales and watch them swim and sing. More likely, you'll come upon eels, manta rays, and maybe a turtle or two.

The Carthaginian

This sunken ship is now a sanctuary for many various fish life. Coral has begun growing on some areas of the boat. It's really a sight to see, and it will only get more interesting as the years go by.

Maui Whale Watch Tours

Maui County is world famous as the destination for the Pacific Northwest humpback whales. Their migration crosses 3,100 miles of ocean each season. The humpback whale season in Maui lasts from November to May of every year. These

huge mammals travel between 3 and 9 mph at over 1,000 miles per month without stopping. Humpbacks make this journey in groups called pods that congregate for a couple days at a time. The pods stay together loosely and break apart, with the exception of the calves and mothers.

If you're interested in whale watching in Maui, choose from this Maui Whale Watching Directory. When whale watching in Kauai, use Hawaii Whale Watching Tours.

The exciting surface behaviors of Humpback whales draw scores of whale watchers every year to Maui. From lobtailing, head slapping, spy-hopping, and pectoral slaps, Humpbacks are well known for giving us all a show. The most spectacular of whale activity in the winter months around Maui is the whale breach.

A whale breach is when the Humpback launches 3/4 of the way out of the water and comes back down with an enormous crash. Some believe that they do this to knock off surface skin parasites, and others believe it's a social behavior.

The most common belief is that they breach for fun. This is obviously the best answer when you see how often the newborn Humpback calves partake in the activity. If you plan on going on a whale watch tour in Maui, you most likely will see a breaching whale. At the very least you'll witness some other exciting surface activity. See our recommended tour for whale watching in Maui.

Best Whale Watch Tours

Choose from the following whale watching tours. (Dec. 15th - May.15)

Kai Kanani

Keep crowds down and enjoy an intimate whale watch on the Kai Kanani out of South Maui.

Call **(808) 879-7218** to reserve your seats.

Redline Rafting

Enjoy whale watching with Redline Rafting, which provides an exciting, up close and personal experience on a one-of-a-kind boat that will get you close to the water and whales!

Call **(808) 757-9211** for an intimate, thrilling whale watch.

Four Winds II

Enjoy a vessel specifically designed for Maui waters. Not only will their experienced crew & captain find you whales from the deck, but if you're lucky enough to have them swim to you, there's glass-bottom viewing!

Call 1-800-736-5740 for a great snorkel sail!

Maui Magic

Maui Magic will take you to the whales, but why stop there? Why not enjoy a fantastic trip to snorkel at Molokini Crater or Coral Gardens.

Call (800) 736-5740 for a great power catamaran.

Trilogy Excursions

Trilogy has been hosting Maui visitors for nearly 40 years, and the knowledgeable crew and spacious catamarans make for an informative and comfortable day on the water.

Call (808) 874-5649 for unbeatable customer service.

Malolo Charters

Malolo offers excellent budget whale watching from Maalaea Harbor. Hop aboard the 55 foot catamaran and see Maui's humpback whales up close!

Call **1-808-856-4274** for experienced whale watch tours.

Hawaii Ocean Project

With three large boats, you can go either snorkeling, dinner cruising or visiting Lanai while whale watching off the west coast of Maui.

Call **1-808-667-6165** for Lahaina Harbor departures.

Humpback Whale Information

Dr. Adam Pack recently proved that Humpback whales can dive depths of 1,000 feet, depths that they reach even in Maui. The longest down time was clocked at 55 minutes in Southeast Alaska. Competitive groups have been observed at 21 knots in 2007 for more than 20 minutes. The North Pacific humpback whale population is estimated at more than 20,000. Globally, the estimate was around 100,000 until whalers dramatically lowered the numbers. They reside in the North Pacific, Southern Hemisphere and North Atlantic. With such small numbers, the humpback is endangered and has special laws to protect its species from extinction. You'll notice these laws in effect when on whale watching tours in Maui. Boats are not allowed within 100 yards of any humpback whales. The only exception is if the boats engine is turned off, and the whale comes to the boat. Some vessels have been known to be stuck for hours in one spot due to a curious humpback whale. This can be an incredible experience, unless you're in a hurry. But if you're in a hurry, you came to the wrong island.

Humpback Whales are known as some of the most fascinating of all the whales worldwide. They live on average 45-50 years and can give birth every 1-3 years. The gestation period lasts from 11-12 months long, making the annual migration to Maui, Hawaii perfectly timed. They travel to Maui County to give birth or mate. The newborn calf can swim in the first 30 minutes after being born. The calves are the length of their mother's head when born. Big mom, big calf. Big Momma, on Lahaina side is nearly 60 feet long. Her calf would be 20 feet (length of her head, also long as her tail is wide) at birth and would weigh 2 tons (the same as her

tongue). Calves are seen as small as just over 10 feet with a young mother. Those babies would weight approximately 1 ton. After it's birth, the calf will stay with its mother sometimes for around a year while drinking over 100-130 gallons of thick whale milk per day gaining about 100 pounds daily. Weaning from the mother begins around 6 months after birth. Humpback Whale Calves reach fluke maturity at around 1 year of age, sexual maturity around 5 years if female and 7 years if male. The birthing process is somewhat of a mystery to us because no human has ever witnessed it. Whale life span is really unknown, though a new study on Bowhead whales proved that they can live more than 200 years. (That is of course if whalers and fast boats don't get them first.)

These highly developed creatures have elaborate songs that evolve from year to year. Each year, the male whales will sing the songs all over the world. Each population sings their own song. North Pacific, Southern Hemisphere, and Eastern seaboard humpback whales all sing their OWN songs. But all whales within their group sing the same song.

See: Dr. Jim Darling, Maui studies.

When the next year comes, the humpbacks will have created a new song. Humpback whales are the most imaginative, loudest and hold the largest range of frequencies with their music than any other whale species, even topping Mariah Carey.

Maui Humpback whales hunt together with different strategies of rounding up plankton. They eat around 5000 lbs of krill, plankton, and small fish per day. According to Dr. Fred Sharpe, the large whales in the North consume about 1-2 tons daily of capelin, sandlance, herring, scad, sardines, small salmon. The smaller animals eat krill (Euphausiid shrimp). When in cold waters, humpbacks eat seasonally for approximately 120 days of each year. In Maui, the warm waters do not allow for this type of prey to live. This being said, with Maui's shallow warm waters, it's a possibility that humpback whales would be permanent residents if it weren't for the lack of food. Can you blame them?

Special thanks to Katie Grove-Velasquez for her research and educated insight.

What Camera should I use?

We suggest shooting with something that has a fast shutter speed. Make sure your settings allow for multiple photos at once. Using a camera that is slow to take a picture will leave you with a whole lot of photos of plain ocean. A zoom lens can be nice on a flat day, but when things are bumpy, you might want something else.

Whales come out of nowhere and are sporadic with their surface activity. Find a steady spot near a railing and be ready at all times. We find that they breach when we're least ready for them.

If you're shooting from the shore, we recommend being higher up. There are plenty of cliff views along the Pali (winding cliff road between Lahaina and Maalaea.) If you're on the Garden Isle of Kauai, they also have a similar area great for watching whales called Na Pali (though some say the scenery is far more dramatic and beautiful.)

Give Hawaii Photo Rental a call and ask them what gear you should use. They have pretty much everything you'd want. Learn more at [Hawaii Camera Rental](#) or call (808) 735-3838.

Maui Whale Watching Tips

- If you have small children, choose a larger boat with railings.
- Bring a jacket. Winds over the water can sometimes be chilly, especially if ocean spray is coming up.
- Bring a camera with a long lens and fast shutter speed. See [Whale Photography Tips](#).
- Arrive early to make sure the boat leaves on time in order to get the most time on the water.
- Keep your eye out for other marine life, such as dolphins and manta ray.

- Choose the best Maui Whale Watch Tour for you and your friends and family. It's important to take a boat that meets all of your needs. Review the tours above to get an idea.
- Listen to where your captain or naturalist points out whales by observing the navigation in the image below. (Direction is directed like the numbers of a clock. 12 o'clock is straight in front of the boat.)

-

Ways to Whale Watch

If you plan on visiting Maui during Whale Season, usually from mid December to May, don't miss the opportunity to see one of the few thousand humpback whales that come to the island each year to enjoy the warm, tropical water. It's truly an experience you won't forget and there are more than a couple ways to experience these majestic animals on your next Hawaiian vacation.

From a Boat

One of the best and most popular ways to experience whale season is of course by boat. There are many local companies that offer guided group whale watching tours, often with a guaranteed whale sighting. This is a great option for those who are looking to get up close and personal for a once in a lifetime photo-op while enjoying the picturesque West Maui Mountains in the background. You can choose from double decker large boats to small, personal rafting trips. For the best whale watching boat tours on Maui, visit our list of local tour operators.

From Shore

By no means is a boat tour the only way to see whales in Hawaii. Since the majority of humpback whales that migrate from Alaska end up in the waters around Maui, they can often just as easily be spotted from the shore. For the best whale watching spots, head to Kaanapali Beach in West Maui, where you may get lucky enough to

see mom and baby humpbacks breaching not far from shore. You may also want to head a little North to the cliffs surrounding the Ritz Carlton in Kapalua, or if you're on the South side of the island, Kihei Beaches near Maalaea Bay and spots in Wailea and Makena beaches offer more distant views. The most immersive experience is at the Maui Ocean Center. Not only can you often see them from the restaurant and outside exhibits, but you can also learn about them inside. This incredible aquarium has interactive experiences where you'll enjoy learning more about Humpback whales, along with other Hawaiian marine life.

Some views from above are found on the cliffs along the Pali (the section of road between Lahaina and Maalaea.) There are some good turn outs where you can park and enjoy the view. Remember to keep your eyes on the road and pull over if you want to watch the whales!

From a Kayak, SUP or Canoe

For a surely memorable and more private whale watching experience, consider taking a kayak tour to see these animals up close without the crowd, the noise, or the motor. There are some kayak guides on Maui that offer guided whale watching tours, which maintain a safe distance while still getting you close enough to enjoy spectacular eye level views from the water.

You can also see them intimately on a Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe or Stand Up Surf Board. Sit back, relax, enjoy the ride and let the whales come to you. You may even get to see dolphins and turtles if you're lucky!

Scuba Diving

If you go underwater during whale season, and you're far enough from the surface and breaking waves, you can actually hear whales singing. It's rare that you'll see them, but you can hear them perfectly. WILD!

If you're looking for a unique experience with Humpback whales, listening to their song from underwater is other-worldly.

From a Stand Up Paddle Board

If you've ever done stand up paddle boarding, you know how much fun it can be. While limited in speed and distance, imagine the view of a breaching whale while standing on the surface of the water! This option is best for people with previous experience and a perfect option for whale watching due to the high vantage point, allowing you to see whales from a farther distance. If you're up for a challenge and a view, definitely check it out!

From a Helicopter

For those of you who want to combine your sightseeing, consider one of the many extraordinary Maui helicopter tours, which offer views of Haleakala crater, Hana, Molokai, and West Maui, where you can watch whales as they cross the Pailolo channel. Enjoy the bird's eye view of these huge creatures as well as the rest of the beautiful island of Maui. This isn't guaranteed, but can be a fun way to get a view of them.

From an Outrigger Canoe

If you've never taken a trip on an outrigger canoe, now's your chance! A perfect option for small groups, families and children, outrigger canoes provide stability and cut through the water quickly and easily. You'll be higher up than in a normal kayak, but from here, you can enjoy the perfect view of the humpback whales from a slightly farther distance while still enjoying the peace and quiet of the ocean without the crowd. Blue Soul Maui goes out on their outriggers on a regular basis, whether whale season or not.

Kokua

(The act of taking care of others and one's surroundings without expecting personal benefit.)• If you have small children, choose a larger boat with railings.

Kokua is often used by the Hawaiians to describe respectfully taking care of one's surroundings and each other. An environment of mutual courtesy and consciousness embodies kokua. Hawaiians teach their children, as well as outsiders, the importance of living a lifestyle filled with kokua and aloha. Sadly, both visitors and locals alike are losing this sense of awareness, which is present in all aspects of our lives. Each and every one of us needs to strive towards respecting the environment and each other while leaving the least obtrusive negative impact on our surroundings.

The following are just a few of the detrimental problems that our humpback whales face. We've paired each issue with a possible solution.

1. Ocean Pollution

The ocean is being polluted by cruise ships, cargo ships, as well as some passenger boats that dump their sewage offshore. The polluted waters make for an unsavory place to mate and give birth for our humpback whales, as well as destroy our reefs and other sea life. Ocean vessels aren't the only things polluting our waters. Run off from highways, and drains from land sweep pollutants into our ocean. The effects have been widely noticed on Maui, especially by those that have been in the water 10-15 years ago and again today. The difference is staggering. If we want our visitors from the North to continue to enjoy our waters, we need to do quite a bit of clean up and regular maintenance of our ocean.

Pollution Solutions

- a. Restrict all offshore dumping. This would mandate that all boats and ships have their sewage extracted by professionals in the harbor for adequate disposal.
- b. Stop all dumping of toxic items in our storm drains. This is something that most people know, though we still see it being done.
- c. Use more environmentally friendly transportation. This can be done in many ways. Using public transportation, car-pooling, hybrid vehicles, biking, etc. Another way to cut down on the impact of your vehicle is to regularly check your fluids and eliminate all leaks. After each rain, leaking car fluids are swept from our roads into our oceans. This is evident by the brown run-off line visible from shore after each rain.
- d. Recycle. The less trash we produce, the less of it will be found in the ocean.
- e. Put on sunscreen AFTER going in the water. Every time you apply oils before entering the water, you leave a mini oil spill. Multiply this by 8 million visitors per year, and you have a significant amount of unnatural oils in the water. For those worried about skin-cancer (of whom everyone should be) use natural reef-safe sunblocks, and limit your exposure.

2. Boating Collisions

Every year in Maui waters, at least a few whales are struck by vessels. Boats are very hard to stop once a whale is sighted and collisions can be fatal. On larger vessels, sometimes these whale collisions go without notice.

- a. Slow down! Laws need to be passed and enforced to keep all vessels at a much slower pace. Many boats are allowed to travel at speeds that are not appropriate for avoiding humpback whales. The high-speed Hawaii Super ferry maintains that they have someone watching for whales, even though many of their routes during season are along whale migration routes. If a whale is just below the surface, it can still be struck while remaining invisible to the eye. In the last few years, the Pacific Whale Foundation has taught other boats how to safely navigate around the whales, though they're responsible for having struck whales twice in the last couple years. They may want to take some of their own medicine.

b. Recreational water vehicles should be restricted for a longer period of time. Right now whale season runs from December 15th to May 15th. Whales are often seen before and after this period. Parasailing and jet skis run from around May 15th to December 15th.

3. Military Sonar Testing

The military tests sonar in our waters that can deafen and permanently harm our whales. This affects everything from their advanced communication to their navigational skills.

Sonar Solution

a. Only test in waters void of any whale life. They can run tests out of season, or not at all. Sonar testing could possibly harm other types of life as well. Learn more about the harmful effects of Sonar on Whales and recent Protests in Hawaii.

4. Whaling

Though it doesn't happen in our waters, just outside of American territories, whales are killed for their oils and meat. This is a common way of life for many of our nearby Asian countries. Humpback whales, like all whales, are at risk of becoming extinct and need to be protected in all waters.

Whaling Solutions

a. The United States needs to put pressure on other countries to stop whaling or to restrict the whaling to conservative numbers. Whales are a pivotal part of our ecosystem. Learn more about the Whale Slaying, Green Peace's Stand, and read an Open Letter to the Youth of Japan.

How You Can Help Right NOW!

It's up to each and every person to make the changes necessary for Humpback Whales to survive. In doing so, we'll ensure our own survival by making steps towards less human impact on our delicate environment. You can support one or all of the following organizations with a modest donation or by signing a petition.

Ocean Alliance - Donate for research and educational programs

National Wildlife Federation - Sign the Endangered Species Act Legacy Pledge m

Lanai Dolphin Adventure

The only thing better than watching spinner dolphins spin through the air next to your boat is snorkeling and having a school of dolphins find you! Redline Rafting offers a great trip to the island of Lana'i on their private charters where schools of spinners are known to spend much of their time.

Call **1-808-757-9211** to book your trip.

Maui Wakeboarding

Wake Maui

Kaanapali Beach (On beach in front of Whalers Village)

(808) 269-5645

info@wakemaui.com

Wake Maui is equipped to help beginners as well as seasoned professional wakeboarders have a great time on the water. With professional equipment and a convenient location, Wake Maui offers inexpensive trips to snorkel, wakeboard and/or water ski in West Maui, Hawaii.

Enjoy a private charter with just your family and friends as experienced Captain Ryan takes you out for a great day of fun.

Wake Maui will take you out on a brand new 23 foot Ski Supreme Boat straight from Kaanapali Beach for a dawn session, or afternoon session. Enjoy pristine waters for incredible snorkeling only with the fun of wakeboarding as well.

Wake Maui takes pride in their patient, friendly customer care. Enjoy a unique activity in the water without dealing with crowds and pushy crew members. Aloha!

Air Activities (Helicopter, Planes, Parasail, etc...)

Maui Helicopters

Maui helicopters let you experience countless hidden secrets of Maui and Molokai, which can only be seen from the air. Waterfalls, sea cliffs, lush valleys, rainforest, and tropical coastlines await you.

Go Fly Maui Review

When asked if I needed to bring anything specific along with me for our photography flight, Nick Moran responded, "Wear a pair of closed-toe shoes, and just be ready for adventure." With those being the only two requirements, along with an eagerness to snap some awesome aerial photos, I was more than ready for my flight.

Here on Maui, helicopter tours are all the buzz (literally) and remain one of the most popular activities for visitors. Thanks to the island's precipitous terrain, helicopter companies have made a killing taking photo-snapping tourists to some of Maui's most inaccessible sites. In a region where there are dozens of helicopter tours in operation day in and day out, how does one company stand out?

Founded on Maui just over a year ago, Nick and Magen Moran have crafted Maui's most unique helicopter flight experience to date. As both a passionate pilot and photographer, Nick discovered Maui's contrasting hues, dramatic landscape, and ever-changing moods create the ideal formula for aerial photography. And after all, what visitors aren't snapping photos left and right on their helicopter tour?

Yet rather than offering 'tours', Go Fly Maui boasts a unique photography experience. Instead of presenting a basic tour package with scheduled times and a designated flight itinerary, Go Fly Maui allows you the freedom to customize your flight plan, hit all the sights you want to see, and even select the best time of day to fly based on where you want to go. Beyond allowing you to pick your adventure, Go Fly Maui raises the bar by operating all photography flights doors off.

I'm not a professional photographer- any photo I've ever taken hasn't made it much farther than my Instagram feed. And when it comes to my knowledge of operating cameras, my experience falls somewhere in between Kodak disposables and my iPhone. Luckily, past photography experience isn't necessary with Go Fly Maui. They can even provide you with camera equipment if you don't want to lug your camera across the Pacific, or if you're like me and want to shoot with something better than your iPhone 7.

For my flight, we decided to circumnavigate Haleakala Crater. This flight would take us east along the white-capped north shore, curving around over the rainforested valleys of Hana, back across the sheer desert slopes of Kaupo, before rounding La Perouse Bay and following the Kihei coast back towards Kahului Airport. I grew up on the slopes of Haleakala, spurring my choice to circle it. But when it comes to deciding on an itinerary, the choice is completely yours. Whether you want to survey the steep forested walls of the West Maui Mountains in search of waterfalls, watch gargantuan shadows grow from Molokai's towering sea cliffs, or even hunt

for whales in the shallow waters between Maui and Kaho'olawe, the freedom is in your hands.

In addition to being a pilot, Nick Moran is also a kitesurfing instructor- fitting for someone who likes to fly. Departing Kahului Airport, we rose above Kanaha Beach Park. Below us, colorful kites from dozens of kitesurfers danced in the milky blue seas. Heading east towards Hana, Maui's central grasslands, brown from an ultra-dry summer, began to give way to the verdant, dense rainforest of East Maui. I swung my feet out over my favorite north shore beach and snapped my first photo. Disclaimer: I was completely strapped in, and yes, that photo did go directly to my Instagram feed. As we followed the rocky coastline, the terrain became more and more rugged, exposing deep valleys and the massive Ko'olau Gap, which on clear days can open to reveal the heart of Haleakala Crater. Waterfalls poured down from the nearby peaks that were enclosed by clouds, snaking their way down through the uninhabited rainforest before finally running over the edge of steep cliffs and into the sea.

Lush vegetation completely dominated the land until we rounded the island's eastern edge near Kipahulu. Now heading west, we continued to follow the coastline. The dense rainforest began to morph into a rocky, craggy, desert. We were now above Kaupo, one of Maui's most inhospitable and isolated yet stunning regions. Haleakala's southern flank towered next to us, rising almost vertically out of the ocean. This side of Haleakala is far steeper than it's opposite side. For reference, the summit of Haleakala to the coast of Kaupo is only about 7 miles as the crow flies. Rolling green fields on the mountain's upper flank gave way to deep canyons that stretched down to the coast, carved by years of rain and wind. Here in the late afternoon, the bottoms of these canyons were made invisible by their dark shadows.

I would argue that any area of Maui is equally as beautiful, but the descending slopes of Haleakala in the golden late afternoon light is something else. And when shooting from a doorless helicopter, even the most inexperienced photographers (ahem, me) can capture stunning photos. That being said, Nick is a photography

enthusiast himself, and after logging countless hours and snapping hundreds of photos from the sky above Maui, he's there to offer a pointer a two.

Finally rounding Maui's southern edge and passing over the island's most recent lava flow, we traveled in between Molokini Crater and the resort-studded coastline of Wailea. In the winter months, this channel would be flooded with Maui's largest part-time residents, humpback whales. The golden sands of Makena State Park (Big Beach) sat to my right, blazing in the orange sunset. We circled the calm waters off Kihei, capturing photos of the shimmering water below. As the sunset faded to deep pink, we aimed for the blinking lights of the windmills that dot the West Maui Mountains before touching back down at Kahului Airport.

In addition to returning to the ground with a camera and phone full of mesmerizing aerial shots, I landed at Kahului Airport in awe of Maui, it's many different landscapes and moods, and the dramatic forces that came together to form this island.

Maui Scenic Discovery Flights

No Maui vacation is complete without taking to the skies. Viewing the Valley Isle from above is the best way to truly get a feel for the island's dramatic landscape, discover secret waterfalls, and peer into untouched valleys. While most people opt for a helicopter tour, Fly Maui is now offering an exciting, hands-on opportunity for both visitors and locals alike to learn how to fly a plane with their Discovery Flight experience.

Owners John and Leslie Cauble are both seasoned and passionate private pilots who wanted to offer the thrill of flying to just about anyone. Thus, Fly Maui was born. With Fly Maui's Discovery Flight, students will receive their first lesson of flight

school and take a 50-60 minute flight around the island, complete with a local flight instructor.

After a short FAA safety briefing, the lesson begins. Not only are Fly Maui's flight instructors FAA certified, but they are excellent, knowledgeable teachers who set their students up for success. On the ground, students will learn the ins and outs of air traffic control lingo, little known facts about Kahului Airport, and they will even get to practice steering the plane as they make their way to the runway!

Then the real fun begins- takeoff. Although it may seem a little daunting, with the help of the flight instructor students will actually get to take off the plane! Once in the sky, students will begin to relax a little as they get the feel for steering and adjusting altitude, although, the view of Maui below may be a little distracting...

After getting the feel for things, it's all about taking in the sights and of course, snapping lots of photos! The island's untouched terrain is what makes air activities so enticing on Maui. With towering mountains revealing cavernous valleys, misty waterfalls pouring into the sea, and miles of dense, unexplored rainforest, experiencing Maui from above is the only way to discover the island's otherwise hidden gems- and fill your phone with enough photos to last a lifetime. During whale season, you may even be able to catch a glimpse of humpback whales playing in the ocean below!

There are several smaller airports in Maui County. Here, students will observe a touch and go, before heading back to OGG. For the remainder of the flight, students can practice turning and getting the feel for being in control of the plane. Nearing Kahului Airport, the flight instructor will take control and bring the Cessna in for a landing at what is known as the windiest airport in the United States.

What makes Fly Maui so unique is that they take what is an already unbelievable experience of seeing Maui from above, and turn it into an unforgettable accomplishment! Whether you're thinking about becoming a pilot or not, Fly Maui's Discovery Flight is a great way to see the island and take part in a remarkable experience. In addition to the Discovery Flight, Fly Maui also offers up a handful of other services, such as flight school and plane rental for seasoned pilots.

As passionate pilots, owners John and Leslie are lovers of all things aviation. They run a [podcast](#) that features all sorts of interesting aviation stories, such as how to survive a plane crash, or what it's like to be a female hurricane hunter for NOAA, as well as tips for student pilots or those interested in flight school.

In true entrepreneur fashion, John and Leslie also own several other successful Maui businesses. If flying doesn't really seem like you're thing, you can still take to the air at the [Ultimate Air Trampoline Park](#) in Maui Lani. If you're considering driving the road to Hana, check out John and Leslie's informative road to Hana guide: [R2H](#).

Ultimately, soaring above the Valley Isle is unforgettable- learning to fly a plane while you're at it is a different experience entirely. If you're interested in Fly Maui's Discovery Flight or any other services they provide, visit their website <https://www.flymauihi.com/>. See you in the sky!

Shows & More (Nightlife, Events, Shows, etc...)

[Maui Luau Guide](#)

Hawaii is known for its exotic and entertaining luaus. Maui leads all of the islands in its number and quality of luau festivities. A luau is a traditional Hawaiian/Polynesian feast accompanied by a live performance of dancing, music, and spectacles.

The luau feast usually involves the unearthing of the Emu. Traditionally, a whole pig is prepared and buried in the earth with banana leaves and hot coals. After slow roasting the pig, they unbury it and serve the pork with many other authentic Hawaiian foods. Poi, a Hawaii staple made from taro, is often part of the Hawaiian feast as well as beef, and chicken. If you're looking for a vegetarian luau in Hawaii, don't worry. All of Maui's luaus offer a wide choice of vegetarian dishes.

Maui Luau Shows

The Luau show encompasses a variety of acts with cultural narratives to guide you through the history of Polynesian travels to our islands. Along with hula dancing and great music, the shows all feature their own twist to entertain you. Some have Cirque du Soleil style acrobatics in the trees, others offer multiple fire dancers. You'll find most of the luaus on Maui have fire dancing. This is something not to be missed as professionals dazzle the crowd with fire knife twirling exhibitions.

Generally, a Maui luau is something you don't want to miss out on when visiting the island. The prices vary but are reasonable for what you get. On the South side of Maui, we suggest the Wailea Marriott Luau. On the West side of Maui, we suggest the Old Lahaina Luau, which is regarded as the most authentic Hawaiian of the Luaus. If you're on a budget, check out the Kaanapali Beach Luau. This luau is especially designed for families and kids. The Feast at Lele is hailed as being the most romantic of the Maui luaus making it great for newlyweds or any couple looking for romance.

A Maui vacation isn't complete without some culture from the Hawaiian Islands. And what better way to receive it than with a large meal, open bar, awe-inspiring sunset, and a great show?

Grand Wailea Luau Honua'ula

Another of our favorite Maui luaus, the **Honua'ula Luau** at the Grand Wailea offers one of the most "Maui Style" luaus on the island. With a focus on local history, legends and culture, you can be sure you're getting a taste of Maui, Hawaii. This is one of the best shows, in our opinion. The music was beautiful, dancing authentic, and fire dancing impressive! These guys aren't afraid to take chances on the stage, which makes for a very entertaining spectacle. AND, you can't really beat the location in front of Wailea Beach.

Wailea Marriott Luau Te Au Moana

We've done this Maui luau more than most because we love it so much and the location is so convenient. Their show is fantastic and is set against a backdrop of ocean and sunset. Their luau feast is incredible, and their crafts impressive. We love the grounds at the **Marriott Luau** and the friendly service.

Sheraton Luau Maui Nui Luau at Black Rock

Of all the luau grounds, the Sheraton has one of the best kept and most intimate. With views of the ocean and Black Rock during sunset, we love this spot. The luau feast is epic and the show entertaining. The Maui Nui Luau offers a great fire dancing show too. If you're staying in Ka'anapali, The **Sheraton luau** or the Hyatt are the best (in our opinion.)

Andaz Luau

One of Maui's newest luau additions, **Feast at Mokapu** is one of our favorites! There are a few things that make this luau experience stand out, including meals served to the table (no buffet), delicious drinks, unique lei greeting, and a smaller group of tables with an impressive sunset view over the ocean (see the photos.

Yah, they're real!) The Andaz tends to offer a singular experience, whether it be pool area to their award winning on-site restaurants. You pay a little extra for this Maui luau, but it's worth every penny! That being said, they only offer the luau twice a week, so it books up quick!

Hyatt Luau Drums of the Pacific

Having experienced most all the luaus on Maui, this is one of our top two. The Hyatt Luau (Drums of the Pacific) incorporates Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, Tahiti, Tonga, New Zealand, and Rarotonga in its dance, music and food. We love their fire-knife dancing and quality drinks. For those that are here for the food, experience an authentic imu ceremony where succulent pig is unearthed after having slowly cooked under ground. They also have an incredible location with just a few steps to Kaanapali beach where the sunset views are stunning!

Feast at Lele Luau

Deemed the most romantic luau in Maui, the Feast at Lele Luau has everything you could want. Located in the heart of Lahaina Town, this feast is one of the only luaus being served at your table. Where other luaus send you to the buffet line, table service allows you more time to enjoy the show and sunset over the water. 5 courses include roasted Kalua pork from the Imu. Their show is a ton of fun and the atmosphere has been known to inspire engagements!

Royal Lahaina Luau The Myths of Maui Luau

"In 2009 we attended the Royal Lahaina Luau. We arrived for the show and it started to rain pretty hard so they handed out ponchos. We felt that since we had paid \$90.00 each for the dinner and show we didn't want to sit in the rain. We asked if we could reschedule for a different night and they allowed it. We enjoyed ourselves but the food wasn't very good. The show was excellent and the mc was very funny and kept the show going. We didn't like that we were all crammed into

long tables coming straight out from the stage and had to look left or right for the whole show as we couldn't look directly at the stage. The staff weren't very friendly or helpful and it really felt like we were being herded. Once we were seated there was very little interaction between the staff and guests. Overall enjoyable but not our first choice for luau's."

Old Lahaina Luau

"I went to the [Old Lahaina Luau](#) 2 years ago and it was a ton of fun, I learned to hula, and the food was fun and the entertainers were great too! Would definitely recommend however that is the only luau i've been to, and li hear Feast at Lele is amazing...."

Island Art Party

Besides bar hopping and the occasional concert, nighttime activities for adults can be hard to come by on Maui. At [Island Art Party](#), located conveniently in The Azeka Shopping Center at 1279 S. Kihei Rd #109 Kihei, Maui, HI 96753, adults are invited to attend an evening of laid-back painting, drinking, music and mingling. You can reach them by phone at **(808) 419-6020**.

No matter what your level of artistic ability, the goal is to have fun, create and engage in a unique activity with friends or family.

Upon arrival, each guest is given an apron, blank canvas, and specific painting instruction from a resident 'partista' in order to recreate that evening's chosen painting, typically island-themed and befitting of your paradise surroundings.

A selection of cocktails, beer, wine and Prosecco are available for purchase throughout the evening, and lively music combined with popcorn snacks and painting make for a low-key and enjoyable experience.

While the goal is to recreate the chosen painting, guests are free to create as they please, with emphasis on fun over form. This is a great activity for individuals, couples and groups, and a great way to meet people on Maui.

At the end of the evening, each guest has a special souvenir to take home, and maybe even a new skill!

Island Art Party offers Kama'aina discounts and special rates for Kihei's monthly Fourth Friday celebration. Guests ages 8 and older are invited to attend the daytime 10am and 2pm classes, while guests ages 16 and up are invited to attend the nightly 7pm classes (when accompanied by someone 21 and older).

Mahalo Aleworks

Move over, Mai Tais; it's beer's time to shine. For far too long, when vacationers to Maui wanted to celebrate their arrival with a tropical drink, they were met with the same tired, fruity cocktail options. This is no longer the case, as the craft beer scene is on the rise in the islands. It's been discovered that Maui's bounty of tropical fruit can be used to make a dang good beer. And, there's no greater evidence of this fact than what flows through the taps at Upcountry's one and only brewery: [Mahalo Aleworks](#).

Mahalo Aleworks was founded by beer enthusiast and brewer Ben Kopf and his wife, Jacquelyn. Together they have assembled a world-class brewing squad, with a member of their team even boasting a bachelor's degree in brewing science from UC Davis.

While most small breweries tout "locally brewed beer," it's hard to beat Mahalo Aleworks on the local front. Not only is their beer brewed at their Upcountry taphouse, but Mahalo Aleworks also utilizes "hyper-local" seasonal and native fruits in their beer, grown in their very own nearby orchard. Yes, Mahalo Aleworks has its own orchard, and there are about 20 different varieties of fruit growing in it. What's more, Mahalo Aleworks has also been foraging around the slopes of Haleakala to collect a variety of wild yeast and bacteria to use in their brewing process. It's hard to get more local than using wild Haleakala yeast.

Due to their efforts to keep things local, the taps at Mahalo Aleworks are consistently rotating depending on what's in season. So some days, you'll find a Kula lime gose, while on others, you might be sippin' a lilikoi sour. But if you're worried that Mahalo Aleworks strictly serves brews that err on the light and fruity side, don't fret. Porters, IPA's, hazys, blondes, and browns also grace their ever-changing tap list. The brewers at Mahalo Aleworks are fans of the classics, as well as imagining creative new styles. Both the millennial craft beer connoisseur and grandpa who has been religiously drinking Miller Light for the last 30 years will find something they enjoy at Upcountry's only brewery.

The brewery itself doesn't serve food, but there are some excellent dining options to choose from. On the patio of the brewery is the Upcountry Sausage Co cart, which serves up freshly grilled sausage hot dogs that you can stack with toppings of your choice. Alternatively, you can order hand-tossed sourdough pizza from the restaurant next door, Marlow. Gourmet sausage, pizza, and beer- it's a match made in heaven.

30 Kupaoa Street, Unit 101 in Pukalani, Upcountry Maui

Lahaina Halloween

Lahaina is famous for having the biggest Halloween celebration in Hawaii, & though a few years back were not as good due to vehicle traffic, Since 2011, Front Street has been blocked again allowing free flowing pedestrian traffic only!

That's right: no cars! Instead you'll find plenty of happy costumed foot traffic on Front Street.

Every year over 25,000 people come to Lahaina's Front Street in Maui. The festivities are often compared to New Orleans during Mardi Gras. The jovial atmosphere along with incredible costumes make this Hawaii's most celebrated holiday!

Each year Lahaina's Front Street festivities become bigger and more involved. You'll find that it's a real task trying to find anyone without a costume on. These Halloween costumes range from fun store bought outfits to completely homemade masterpieces. Some of the contestants in the various Lahaina Costume Contests have spent all year building their creative Halloween outfits. Make sure you're prepared with a little more than an old sheet with holes cut for eyes. Check out some of the great Halloween Costumes we have in stock.

Hawaii Halloween FAQ

The following are Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Halloween in Hawaii. **Keep in mind this is answering questions pre-covid. We don't know how things will lay out over the next few years.**

Where do we park?

There will be dozens of parking lots to park at for a fee. Finding parking where you don't have to pay is unrealistic unless you get there early in the morning. If you are driving, please be wary of drunk drivers. Maui Police are not fond of them, and rightly so. If you want to beat traffic and parking, take the Halloween cruise discussed next.

Are there alternatives to driving from the south side of Maui?

The Pride of Maui may once again offer a Halloween cruise up to Lahaina from Maalaea Harbor. This saves you a lot of driving and headache in traffic and parking. Ask your resort/hotel if they will supply you with a shuttle to Maalaea. Learn more at Lahaina Halloween Cruise.

Does anyone go without a Halloween costume?

Yes, some tourists don't dress up, which is a shame. But most everyone has something on. That's what makes Halloween in Lahaina so great!

Is there food and drinks available?

If you want a sit down meal, you'll want to get to Lahaina very early. Otherwise you'll wait for hours. Alcohol is not permitted on the street, but the bars all up and down Front St are open and bumping. You'll find that they have cover charges and can be difficult to get into in the later hours due to capacity. The second story bars are the best because of the great views.

Does it cost anything to get into the Halloween carnival on Front Street?

There is no admission to the festivities, though bars and some restaurants will have cover charges.

Is it safe in Lahaina on Halloween?

This year, Lahaina will have 80 police officers patrolling on October 31st. Lahaina is probably the safest place to be at on Halloween because of the overwhelming caution of the police force. After it gets dark, you may want to take the kids home. People can tend to get over-zealous and some people wear revealing outfits. There will be check points to stop drunk drivers as well as random stops.

Are there any big Halloween contests and what are the prizes?

Many of the bars and restaurants have costume contests with various prizes.

I have a great outfit for my dog. Can pets enter the competition?

Pets will not be allowed on Front Street for Halloween this year. If you'd still like to dress up your pets, check out these great PET COSTUMES.

What other locations are there for Halloween in Maui and Hawaii?

You can always go to Mulligan's on the Blue in Wailea for a good time on the south side of Maui. If you plan on doing Halloween on your Kauai vacation, you'll find it a little slower paced, though still a lot of fun.

Maui Shows

Warren and Annabelle's Magic Show

OK, so we were very skeptical about this show before seeing it. A magic show for adults? Hmmm. It actually took us 5 years to go see it. Why all the hype? Well, the hype is right. This show is fantastic!

Our very skeptical group was led into a room without doors. They gave us a key and a riddle and told us to go in. We found our way in, and enjoyed the unusual entrance. Then we walked into a lavish parlor with a full bar and many cocktail tables and chairs all facing Annabelle. Annabelle is a ghost that plays the piano and takes requests. My first thought at this point was, "These drinks better be strong."

Annabelle was pretty versatile and took most requests. The cocktail waitresses had loads of personality and made it a lot of fun. We then went into the small theatre to see the show. It was nice to see that the show was set in a relatively small room. This way you can really see the magician working.

Enter Warren. All we can say is WOW! This guy is full of energy and pretty darned funny. Our skepticism melted away as he made everyone in the room howl with laughter. The magic was pretty amazing. I think I only figured out 2 of his tricks, but all the others could very well be magic. We didn't expect the show to be so funny.

Warning: If you are asked to sit in the front row, be ready for serious ridicule. If you don't like being on the spot, don't do it. Also, keep in mind that no matter where you sit, fun will be poked at you. He messes with everyone in the crowd.

It's obvious that Warren has been doing this for years. The show is great, he's able to think lightening fast, and the room is always full. This show is definitely worth

seeing when visiting Lahaina. Get your tickets early because they sell out pretty much every night.

Best Maui Sunset & Dinner Cruises

There are many reasons to take a boat cruise before dusk. Below we discuss what types of cruises are available, describe each cruise to help you decide which is best for you, and list some of the better boats on the island.

Trilogy Sunset Cruise

Offering trips from both Lahaina Harbor as well as Ma'alaea Harbor, **Trilogy** catamarans are family owned and operated offering Pacific Rim appetizers, excellent cocktails, and a fun crew. They're an eco-friendly business and have great prices.

Kai Kanani Cocktail Cruise

Conveniently departing from the Maluaka Beach, the **Kai Kanani** is one of the most beautiful sailing catamarans in Hawaii. Their food is always delicious, cocktails tasty, and crew superb. They limit the amount of passengers so you're sure to have a roomy sunset trip.

Maui Princess Dinner Cruise

Enjoy dinner and dancing on Maui's **largest and most stable vessel** at 120 feet. Prime rib, roasted chicken, mac nut encrusted mahi mahi, and many sides await you. For those of you staying on the west side, Lahaina Harbor is the most convenient location to leave from.

Maui Sunset & Cocktail Cruises

Most sunset cruises are cocktail cruises. You'll find these are similar to the Maui sunset dinner cruises, but often on smaller boats. They usually offer pupus and a bar of tropical cocktails like mai tais and pina colodas as well as beer and wine. These boat trips are wonderful for couples as well as families with kids. The sailing

cruises are fun too. You'll usually find wind in the afternoon on Maui. This is great for sailing and the warm breezes feel great after a couple drinks. Sunset and Maui cocktail cruises are usually cheaper than the dinner cruise because of the food cost and the smaller boats. But the difference in price is really insignificant.

Maui Dinner Cruise

This is the best kind of cruise you can take for sunset. Most Maui cruises offer the dinner package for only around 10 dollars more than the others, and it's worth every penny. With most dinner cruises, you'll be treated to the island sounds of a live musician. You'll find a bar with tropical drinks, beer and wine as well as a delicious buffet. You can't get a closer oceanfront table for dinner than being on a dinner cruise in Maui, Hawaii. The best part of one of these boat trips is the incredible Maui sunset you'll be enjoying. Sunsets over Maui's Pacific waters are breathtaking. Another wonderful bonus comes during the winter months. Humpback whales can be found breaching and slapping all along the South and West coast of Maui.

Maui Whale Watch Cruises

Whale season lasts from approximately December 15th to April 15th every year. These massive humpbacks travel down the globe from Alaska to give birth and to mate with other whales. Some believe that if it weren't for the lack of food for them, the whales would live around Maui year round. Watching them interact on the surface is an unforgettable experience and much easier than you'd think. Every boat out for a joy cruise will be looking for whales, though they must stay at a safe distance. If the whales come within 100 yards of your boat, the engine must be stopped in order to keep from harming the humpbacks. The chances of having whales right up to the boat or even underneath it are very good. This makes for an exciting Maui whale watch. Some of the rafting excursions are great for this because you'll be lower to the water and right next to them. Some boats have glass bottoms, and others also have microphones that can pick up the sounds of these massive leviathans as they sing.

The best priced boat trip to go whale watching is on the Frogman II. This Maui catamaran is captained by knowledgeable whale experts of whom will guarantee you see whales. To book the best priced catamaran to go whale watching, book the Frogman II.

Free Activities

Top Ten Free Maui Activities

The following are opinions from a poll taken by Maui Information Guide of Maui visitors and what they felt was their favorite free Maui activities. Most of the listed activities require some gear/items, which technically doesn't make them free. But, this is as close as we could get to listing the most popular activities for those on a budget in Maui. Enjoy!

#1 - Going to the Beach

Of course, hitting the beach with friends/family is really the best thing to do in Maui. It's relatively free, and almost always perfect. The south and west of Maui have the best weather year-round. Kaanapali Beach on the upper west side is a favorite for visitors and is regularly voted one of the best beaches in the world. Makena Beach is also world class on the south side. Make sure to bring plenty of sunblock! You might want to splurge and rent/buy an umbrella too (but go earlier in the day to avoid wind.)

#2 - Watching Sunset

Grab something to drink and kick up your heels with a folding chair on the south or west side of Maui. Sunsets can be good on the North side too, but you get the mountains blocking a large chunk of it. This is a local pastime which is an event in

itself. Find a good spot near the water about an hour beforehand and enjoy good company and beautiful colors.

#3 - Snorkeling from the Shore

If you don't have snorkeling gear, you can rent it for pretty cheap at a local snorkel shop. Many companies offer snorkeling gear at dirt cheap prices for mediocre equipment. It works, but the silicone stuff is much better and worth a few extra bucks. Most people do boat trips, but you'll find great snorkeling off the shore if there's no swell in the water. Make sure to always have a buddy with you, and know how far you're going out. Currents can be dangerously deceiving!

#4 - Visit Art Galleries

The art galleries of course would rather you buy a piece, but there's no harm in just looking. A crowded art gallery is good for business, and it gives salesmen people to talk to. Lahaina's Front Street has a myriad of art galleries along with Upcountry's Makawao Town.

#5 - BBQ and/or Picnic

There are parks with BBQ's all over Maui, many of which are on the water. Pick up some grub, get some charcoal and lighter fluid, and make some delicious grinds with an ocean view! Make sure to clean up after yourselves, and clean the old charcoal out of the grill.

#6 - Hiking

There are hundreds of great hikes to do all over Maui. The more popular ones are the safest and easiest to find. Ex. Twin Falls, Seven Sacred Pools, etc... These Maui hikes are over excellent trails and no chance of trespassing.

#7 - Sunrise (Haleakala Crater)

Watching the sunrise is best done at the peak of Haleakala Crater. Unless you're staying overnight in Hana, you'll have trouble finding a good sunrise over the ocean. The crater isn't always clear of weather, but when it is, you'll get a view that can only be described as heavenly. There are plenty of ways to get to the top. Taking a van

tour, bike tour, or driving yourself. Keep in mind that it can get below 0 at the peak, so bring plenty of clothes. Also, leave VERY early because the drive up will take hours. You'll need to pay a fee to enter the park, but it's minimal.

#8 - Road to Hana

The Road to Hana is famous for majestic waterfalls, wild coastline, and lush jungle. Make the drive and you'll never forget the experiences you have along the way. You can do van tours, but you can also rent a car and do a GPS tour, CD tour, or wing it.

#9 - Whale Watching from Shore

Of course, whale watching in Maui is always better from a boat, but you can see them pretty well from the shore (depending on where you're at.) The cliffs along the Pali (the winding road between Lahaina and Wailea) has a few pull offs with great views from high up. Bring binoculars and a chair. You can watch them from the beach too. Make sure you come in the winter time. They come to Maui every year from December to around April, but February is usually the best month.

#10 - Surfing

You can rent a surfboard or go bodysurfing. Board rentals are pretty cheap, but make sure you know what you're doing. Surfing in Maui can be more dangerous than they look, and almost every spot good enough to surf is breaking over sharp reef. If you decide to Stand Up Paddle Surf, go to a spot that has a lot of other SUP's. Surf small to tiny waves and stay away from regular surfers. There's a lot of tension in the water these days about stand-up.

Activities for Kids

Below are a few things you can do with your kids when having fun visiting Maui.

#1 Snorkeling

There are plenty of calm areas to snorkel in Maui with your kids. It's a fun activity that most ages can enjoy from the shallows of sandy shore. For older kids, you can take them to some great spots along the reef. Turtles pop up all over the place, so there's a good chance your keiki will snorkel next to one. Something that will MAKE their vacation!

#2 Maui Ocean Center

We visit the Maui Ocean Center with our kids almost weekly. It's easy, fun, and gives the kids a real rush. It's a great activity to do when the weather isn't favorable too. We like to go during the feeding time at the shark tank. Scuba Divers will dive in the tank and feed manta rays and sharks while talking to you from their water microphones. It's a lot of fun and educational too!

#3 Submarine

Atlantis submarine is something that most kids get a real kick out of. At first thought, it sounds kind of cheesy and not fun. BUT, this is not Disneyland. Our submarines will take you to well below 100 feet from the surface in complete comfort. You'll see schools of fish, tropical reef, and even a REAL sunken ship. This is something that you won't forget and neither will your little ones.

#4 Magic Show

There are a few different magic shows on Maui. We love Warren & Annabelle because it's fun for adults. As you walk in, you have to solve a mystery on how to open the door in a doorless room. Once entering, a ghost plays the piano. They may also enjoy Ulalena which shares the magic and lore of Hawaiian Legend through dance and music. Great fun, but both are for older kids.

#5 Beach Portraits

Though it might not be the first thing your kids want to do, it's something you owe your family. Having great family portraits is important at each stage of your kids growth, but having some taken at a gorgeous beach location at sunset just makes it

that much better. You can also take photos during mid day to get those green ocean colors or take a trip to a waterfall or bamboo forest!

#6 Pool & Beach Time

Most people would make this #1, but we figure you already know it. Some resorts are built for keiki (kids.) The Grand Wailea has a pretty amazing pool with many slides and even a water elevator. Spending time at one of Maui's best beaches is almost always a good idea, but remember lots of sunblock, shade and drinking water. Avoid peak sun when you can too. We prefer to take our kids to the beach very early in the morning or a few hours before sunset.

#7 Whale Watching

During our winter season, **whale watching** is one of the most exciting things for children. Seeing a massive humpback launch out of the water next to the boat is impressive for anyone, but the kids get a real kick out of it as well as learn about nature. Each boat has a naturalist onboard that can share fascinating facts about whales while you follow them around. Some vessels put microphones in the water so you can hear them sing!

#8 Iao Valley

As much as the Road to Hana is impressive (and often live-changing), some kids can't handle the long ride. So, as a wonderful alternative, Iao Valley is a conveniently located spot to take your kids. If you've ever wanted to quickly get to Jurassic Park, this is your best chance. Iao Valley is one of the wettest places on Earth, which makes for beautiful sheer cliffs. The area is home to some powerful Hawaiian history. Some of the fiercest and bloodiest battles happened here.

#9 Luau Shows

Going to a **Maui luau** is a no brainer if you've got kids. Watch a great sunset, listen to beautiful Hawaiian music, share in the legend and history of the Hawaiian culture, eat delicious tropical food, and watch hula and fire dancing all while sipping a cold cocktail? Sign us up! The kids love all the excitement and often there are

traditional Hawaiian crafts being demonstrated and shared, which add to the keiki entrancement.

#10 Hike to a Waterfall

We've visited waterfalls with kids from 1 years old to 18 years old. They all love it! There are plenty of falls that aren't far away from your resort/hotel. Twin Falls is the closest location to get to waterfalls unless you're staying Hana Town. You can park your car and be in the cold waters of a waterfall in less than 10 minutes. Twin Falls is only 15 minutes from Paia Town (so only about 45 minutes to an hour from Wailea.)

Rainy Day Fun

We've listed 10 things to do & 4 things NOT to do when it rains.

We've rarely had to ponder this because we live in south Maui where it barely ever rains. Whenever it DOES rain, we usually just work. But recently, we had some friends staying with us from the mainland during a serious downpour. They we're really not happy about the lack of options when it rains here in Maui.

#1 Dine

It's always a safe bet to get some grinds. Many restaurants can be found on the water and/or with great views that are sheltered from the rain. Up north, you'll find Mama's Fish House on the oceanfront. Down south, you'll find Five Palms in Kihei and Ferraro's in Wailea. In Maalaea, you'll enjoy views of the harbor at Buzz's Wharf. And on the West side you'll find Mala Restaurant as well as many other restaurants

along the water in Lahaina. Finally, Upcountry you can try the Kula Lodge which has views of the entire island.

#2. Trampoline Park

Visiting [Ultimate Air Maui](#) is a no-brainer for those with kids especially. There's plenty of room to jump, shoot hoops, play dodgeball, balance over foam pits, sit down and have snacks, or just relax in a massage chair. We love this spot and frequent it at least a few times per month, rain or shine.

#3. Aquarium

The Maui Ocean Center in Maalaea Harbor has a huge shark tank with a glass tunnel through it. There are also many other smaller tanks with all types of sea life that can only be found in Hawaiian waters. Almost all parts of the exhibits are under cover. The petting tanks are outside.

#4. Escape Room

We have a number of escape rooms popping up around Maui. This is where your small group enters a series of rooms with tricky ways to get to each new room. You have to solve riddles and work together as a team. It's a ton of fun, and it'll keep you dry!

#5. Shopping

Lahaina has some awnings along Front Street, and the Shops at Wailea are all covered. Get some gifts and souvenirs for your friends and family back home. This is the best time to do this.

#6. Movies

Yeah, you've got the same movies back home, but sometimes it's nice to have an excuse to go see the latest ones.

#7. See a Show (indoors)

There are plenty of indoor shows like Warren & Annabelles Magic Show. They're a lot of fun and unique to Maui.

#8. Find a pool with a hot tub

The pools feel the same whether it's raining or not. Take a swim and enjoy the hot tub afterwards. When it rains, people tend to stay away from the pool so you may have it all to yourself.

#9. Explore Resort Amenities

Most resorts have plenty of leisure options for when it rains. Take advantage of your expensive accommodations by using what you're paying for. (example: game room, bar, spa, massage.)

#10. Stay in Bed

If it's your honeymoon or you're getting married, it's your responsibility to spend a portion of your stay in bed. If it's raining, you have even more reason to.

Extra: Walk in the Rain

When do you ever get a chance to enjoy the rain back home? It's almost undoubtedly warmer in Hawaii than where you're from, so take advantage! Beaches will be empty, and you can enjoy the rain without freezing. (Caution: in the winter, you may find that even in Hawaii rain can make you feel really cold. Make sure you don't stay out too long.)

Things NOT to do when it rains

#1. Hiking

When there are heavy rains, streams turn into rivers and dry creek beds become torrential floods. Flash floods are dangerous because it's very difficult to predict them. The weather might be sunny and dry at the bottom, but the top may be raining heavily. This makes for a sudden volume of water being pushed your way. Be careful!!

#2. Go Surfing or Snorkeling

The ocean does some strange things when it rains. The surface can get rough, the water clarity will diminish, and all the little fish will come towards shore to feed on things being washed in from the land. The problem with this last part is that little fish attract BIG fish. Sharks are much more likely to confuse you for lunch when it's raining.

#3. Luau

The best Maui luaus are held outdoors, so if it's raining, you'll likely be cancelled. Watching anything for a long period of time in a down-pour can be a downer.

#4. Drive Excessively

Driving in the rain is dangerous anywhere. On Maui, it can be particularly dangerous because many of the roads are 1 lane, thin and winding. The Road to Hana is a good example of this. If rain is coming down excessively, you'll find that many roads will be flooded and impassible. Besides road conditions, there are a lot of idiots that don't know how to drive in the rain too. Staying home will keep you from sharing the road with these schmucks.

Road to Hana

Preparing for the Journey

The best way to do the Road to Hana:

The Road to Hana is more than just a great drive through a beautiful area of Maui. Most visitors tend to zip to and from Hana with a checklist of sights to photograph.

This is the wrong way to do it. Do your due diligence beforehand, decide on a few locations that look the most intriguing, and take your time at each location.

In order to truly experience Hana, it helps to know more about the history and legends of the area. You may find out that there are legendary stories associated with each spot where Gods have left their mark and historic battles have been fought.

Transport yourself not only to Hana, but back in time to the historic moments and legendary tales that shape the islands.

Hana Driving Checklist

1. Decide on doing a day-trip or staying overnight

Hana is best experienced over at least a few days. This being said, you can still do it in a day. You need to decide just how much you'd like to see and do and whether you can handle a full day of driving. If you decide to stay overnight, make reservations at a hotel now. **2. Rent a car**

Jeeps are readily available and so are convertibles. This is the best way to go, but keep in mind that it may rain at any moment. So, if (read: when) it does rain, prepare to be a little wet before finding a safe place to pull over and pop the top. Rent something reliable that gets decent gas mileage. We sometimes see massive SUV's driving the road to Hana, which is weird to us. Unless you have a big family, choose a mid-sized car. Here are some good prices for car rentals in Maui. In our opinion, the best way to drive the Road to Hana is in a sporty 356 Porsche Speedster convertible from Maui Roadsters. Their classic 1957 Speedster reproductions come in many different colors, so you can travel in your own style.

3. Get The R2H Guide

We love this Road to Hana guide. It's inexpensive and walks you through every cool spot along the journey. It's like having an experienced guide sitting next to you. Another great thing about this guide is that it offers both 1 and 2 day itineraries and

comes with a folding map. You can order a physical copy on their website, download it from the website, or visit one of many shops on Maui that sell it.

4. Do some research

Even with the CD, it's good to decide on which spots to checkout beforehand. Do yourself a favor, and DON'T do everything possible along the Road to Hana. It's too much. You'll be exhausted and you won't enjoy the trip. Choose a handful of fun places that catch your eye, then spend a little extra time at each one. You'll thank us for it.

5. Pack a bag

- Some things you'll want to bring include:
 - Food - (see #6 below)
 - Water - Bring plenty, though you can buy it along the way.
 - Cash - Most of the banana bread and smoothie places only take cash.
 - Towels - It's most likely going to rain. Be prepared.
 - Hiking Shoes - If you want to hike. Bring shoes you don't mind getting muddy.
 - Bug Spray - Mosquitos love Hana tourists.
 - Charged Cameras - Many photo opps await you! Don't have a good camera? You can rent everything you need and have it delivered to your hotel with Hawaii Camera.
 - Full Gas Tank - You most likely won't need a whole tank, but just in case.
 - Respect for the land & people - A crucial component to everyone's happiness.
 - Music - It's nice to have your own selection of tunes.
 - DON'T BRING - any unnecessary valuables. Maui is pretty cool, but there are still some bad apples.

6. Leave early and grab a picnic lunch

Keep in mind that once you leave the Paia/Haiku area, there aren't many places to stop for food. This is why we recommend making a pit stop Jaws Country Store located at 4320 Hana Hwy in Haiku. Grab the best breakfast on Maui plus a to go lunch with all of your favorite goodies. If you plan on spending the night in Hana, this is also a great place to grab snacks and drinks for your journey back.

7. Pay attention to time

The last thing you want to do is drive the winding road to Hana in the dark. Make sure to leave Hana area at least a few hours before sunset. If the roads are open, and your rental car agreement allows, consider driving the backside of Haleakala. You'll watch sunset either from the back of the island or Upcountry near Kula and Makawao, which is pretty amazing.

Hana Tour Tips

1. Wear something comfortable

The large, luxury vans at Valley Isle Excursions are spacious with A/C, large individual reclining captain chairs and big panoramic windows. You'll be spending much of the day driving, so be comfortable. Also, bring a swim suit. Swimming at 'Ohe'o Gulch's waterfalls is something you don't want to miss.

2. Bring a fully-charged camera

When driving, your seat is elevated to give you a great view for photographs while traveling the Road to Hana. You'll have opportunities to shoot great photos all day. As you stop at each scenic area, you'll want a camera to take photos. Make sure it's charged and has extra space on the cards or extra film.

3. Book Direct and Online for a discount

We find the best prices are online from the tour provider directly. You can book directly to go on a **[Road to Hana Guided Tour](#)**.

Hana Town

The town of Hana has more to offer than most would think. There are some great spots to eat (tucked into corners), a few spectacular beaches, excellent snorkeling, and much more. We love staying in Hana Town for a few days to really soak up the culture and enjoy the beauty around it.

Just a few of the sights, Mile by Mile

NOTE: Mile Markers are screwy.

They start over after #16. Also, after Hana Town, they jump to #51 then go backwards.

Paia Town

Paia is the last town before you make your journey clockwise to Hana Town. Here, you can have a great breakfast, grab some coffee, and pick up a Hana picnic lunch for the road and a Hana CD Guide. There's also some excellent shopping and fun people watching.

Mile Marker #9: Ho'okipa lookout

Paia is the last town before you make your journey clockwise to Hana Town. Here, you can have a great breakfast, grab some coffee, and pick up a Hana picnic lunch for the road and a

Mile Marker #2: Twin Falls

The hike to see Twin Falls is unique and beautiful. These picturesque waterfalls offer a large area to swim at. Consider sticking to the closest falls along the path (lower falls) in order to save time on your trip. You'll always see cars parked here due to it being the first waterfalls along the Road to Hana with easy access. There's a farm stand selling delicious smoothies and goodies at the entrance.

Mile Marker #9.5: Waikamoi Ridge Trail

This is a nice hike with a picnic area. It has 2 loops. One takes about 10 minutes and the other takes about half an hour. Waikamoi Trail can sometimes be muddy, but it's a pretty hike through the trees.

Mile Marker#10: Garden Of Eden Arboretum

It's worth paying to enjoy walking the grounds, which are immaculately kept up and offer all kinds of photo opportunities. Here you can see an 100 year-old mango tree, bamboo, ocean views and Puohokamoa Falls.

Mile Marker #13: Kaumahina State Wayside Park

This is a great spot to stop for a picnic and to use the bathrooms. If you walk up the trail to the left of the parking lot, you can get a pretty good view of the Ke'anae Peninsula.

Mile Marker #14: Honomanu Bay

There are a few turnouts where you can get a good photo of the bay, but not many. You can also drive down to the bay, but we don't suggest it. You should have 4x4 and be prepared for muddy conditions. This is not a spot you want to get stuck at. The rocky beach is pretty but not good for swimming or sunbathing.

Mile Marker #16: Ke'anae Arboretum

Ke'anae has an interesting history, some beautiful views, and an excellent arboretum. The coastline is rocky and exposed to the elements, so you won't find any swimming opportunities here. The people of Ke'anae grow taro, bananas, yams, and other crops much like their Hawaiian ancestors.

Mile Marker #17: Halfway to Hana Stand

You have many options for fresh baked banana bread along the Road to Hana. I think we've tried them all. And though we've never been disappointed by any of the breads sold, we think the bread here is the best. They sell other food and drinks as well.

Mile Marker #18: Wailua Valley/State Wayside

Another historically rich community can be seen from the Wailua Overlook. This is a great spot to have a picnic and watch the views of both Wailua on the ocean and also the Ko'olau Gap in the mountains. It's easy to miss this little turnout, and there's only room for 3-4 cars.

Mile Marker #19: Upper Waikani Falls

AKA 3 Bears, there's enough room for 2-3 cars, but it's a no parking zone. Once a few cars park, 6-7 more park behind it and take up most of the road becoming a hazard. There is, however, a turnout further up the road where you can park and walk down. The walk is a little hairy because there isn't a path.

Mile Marker #23: Pua'a Ka'a Park & Falls

This is an excellent spot to stop for a picnic. Tables and restrooms are available next to a small waterfall. We've never really seen the fall very big, but when rains pick up, it can roar.

Mile Marker #24: Hanawi Falls

Some beautiful falls along a bridge can be found at Hanawai Falls. Most of the time, only the right side flows, but when the flow is heavy, you'll find more falls to the left. Make sure to park in safe areas off the road.

Mile Marker #29: Nahiku MarketPlace

This is a fun spot to pick up some gifts and have a great meal. They have some of the better kalua pork tacos we've ever had.

Some guidebooks will have you travel down Nahiku Road. We feel it's just as beautiful as Hana Hwy and frankly a waste of time. Also, much of it is private land, so it's best to respectfully move on.

Mile Marker #31: Hana Lava Tube

At around the 31 mile marker, you'll need to turn left on 'Ula'ino Road and drive for less than 1/2 a mile. On the left, you'll see where you can get your flashlights for this massive lava tube. Also, they have a garden maze that's fun to cruise through.

Mile Marker #31: Kahanu Garden

Also off of 'Ula'ino Road, drive a bit further and on the right you'll see the National Tropical Botanical Gardens. They have the only accessible view of Pi'ilanihale Heiau, which is the largest Temple in Hawaii. This ancient temple took hundreds of years to complete and sprawls over 3 acres. This is a MUST SEE!

Mile Marker #32: Wai'anapanapa State Park

The area at Wai'anapanapa is filled with history, legend, and gorgeous views. The black sand/pebbles at Pa'iloa Beach is as picturesque as can be. The loop trail will take you down to the fresh water caves where some powerful legends live. Also, there are caves on the beach for exploring and camping for those that plan way ahead (you need a permit.)

Mile Marker #34: Hana Town

Some see Hana as a very small sleepy town on the water. A place known as not having changed much for centuries. Others know Hana as a place of deep roots, historic battles, legendary locations, and a place for the Gods. The area is so rich in history and culture, it can't be explained in a few sentences and it shouldn't be driven through without knowing more about it.

Mile Marker #50: Hamoia Beach

A beautiful beach with perfect water, Hamoia Beach is a great spot to do some swimming and sunbathing. You'll need to park on the street above the beach and walk down a very steep hill to get here.

Mile Marker #45: Wailua Falls

Wailua Falls are what we consider the perfect falls. Literally on the road and along a bridge, these falls are tall, and beautiful. Just past the bridge are spots to park. You'll also find locals selling handmade artwork and sometimes food.

Mile Marker #42: Kipahulu, Haleakala National Park

Well worth the drive, and definitely worth spending hours at, this portion of Haleakala National Park holds 'Ohe'o Gulch (Seven Sacred Pools), the Pipiwai Trail, and Waimoku Falls. There's camping, a visitor center, bathrooms, waterfalls, and ancient Hawaiian ruins.

Mile Marker #41: Palapala Ho'omau Church

This sleepy little area has one of the prettiest, simplest churches you'll go to. The Church is nestled among some beautiful foliage, and has a nice little park as well as

Charles Lindbergh's grave. It's easy to miss this spot, so look for the Stables. Be respectful when you enter the area.

Molokini Crater

Molokini Crater is a volcanic atoll just off the south coast of Maui, which is great for snorkeling and diving due to its role as a State Marine Life and Bird Conservation District.

Molokini History

CREATION - Scientific

The sunken volcanic cinder cone of Molokini Crater was formed as the land mass of Maui moved over hot spots in the Earth's tectonic plates. At this time, the volcanic eruptions occurred in many spots on the southwest side of Maui.

Though previously thought to have erupted in the last 50,000 years, more recent studies find that it was more likely an older eruption that created Molokini Crater some 230,000 years ago. A graduate student at Kyoto University in Japan, Yoshitomo Nishimitsu, along with scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory concluded through potassium-argon dating that it indeed erupted at the earlier date. Molokini likely erupted along with other relatively concurrent eruptions along Haleakala's southwest rift zone.

CREATION - Hawaiian

Though the stories vary, we find the general theme is the same. The fire goddess, Pele, was in love with a prince (whom also happened to be a gecko or Mo'o.) The prince fell in love with another woman, and in her fury, Pele took her revenge. Depending on the source, she cut either the Mo'o or the woman in half. The head of the body became Pu'u Olai, which is the cinder cone mound on the north end of Makena Beach (Big Beach.) His/her body became Molokini Crater. The stories differ, but the fact remains: You don't mess around with Pele's emotions.

FISHING GROUNDS

Due to the protected nature of the reef at Molokini Crater, this area attracts a number of fish. Proof has been found (in remnants of ancient Hawaiian fishing gear) that the Hawaiians had been visiting Molokini for many years to fish the abundant waters as well as harvest eggs from the many birds living on the island atoll. It's unsure exactly how long they had been visiting Molokini. Polynesians are thought to have first arrived within the Hawaiian island around 500 AD. We assume they visited from around this time all the way up to the bombing from the US military (which obviously made it much less attractive to risk fishing.)

DESTRUCTION

Once the United States entered into World War II, the military allowed Molokini Crater to suffer the same fate as it's neighbor island Kahoolawe by thoroughly bombing the area for practice. The unique shape of Molokini was found useful due to it's long shape and similar slender target area of a submarine or battleship. After bombing had stopped, the area was pilfered of its black coral by collectors. Since then, both in 1975 and 1984, unexploded ordinance was detonated by the US Navy at Molokini Crater. In doing so, the US Navy destroyed large amounts of fragile corals on the reef.

CONSERVATION

Finally, the public was heard, and the US government deemed Molokini Crater and the surrounding 77 acres a Marine Life Conservation District and Bird Sanctuary. The reef has restored its health (to a degree of what it once was), and the fish have come back in droves. Now the island is used primarily as a tourist destination for snorkeling, scuba diving, and snuba diving. Access for boats has been restricted to a certain amount of moorings. There is still some controversy as to whether the abundance of snorkelers is damaging the reef, and whether the constant visits of swimmers is affecting the marine life's natural response to human contact.

Weddings

Whether it's an intimate Maui beach wedding or an elaborate large estate wedding, Maui is the best place to get married in the world.

Catering and Venue

The Mill House Restaurant at the Maui Tropical Plantation

Another integral part of a wedding is the catering. Though finding a Maui caterer is easy, quality food along with good service can be hard to find. For small or large weddings, we suggest The Mill House Restaurant at the Maui Tropical Plantation. A group of fearlessly creative chefs that will stimulate all of your senses with the style and sophistication that your wedding deserves. They've yet to fail in making every person at their events sing praises and applaud their creations. Can we speak any more highly of these guys? It's possible, but it's difficult to explain the handle they have on their craft without actually tasting their food. We've always enjoyed their dishes when fortunate enough to be at their events or restaurant.

Transportation

Porsche Speedsters

Make a dramatic entrance on your wedding day! [Maui Roadsters](#) offers a fleet of beautiful 1957 Porsche Speedster reproduction convertibles, perfect for pre-wedding transportation and post-wedding celebration! These cars are sporty, beautiful and the ultimate addition to ensure your paradise wedding is fun and unique. You'll quickly find that photo opportunities are endless. The service by Maui Roadsters is top notch and so is the driving!

Using these iconic cars for post wedding photo shoots is becoming increasingly popular too. Have another chance to wear your wedding dress while shooting at your leisure with the car of your dreams. Call (808) 339-6204

Limousines

Shaun at Coastline Limousine is the best on the island. He is professional, prompt and courteous. Coastline Limousine has offered limousine service on Maui since 1997 for weddings. You can request your driver to be in formal or semi-formal attire. They also have the #1 safety record for Maui Limo drivers. They have Rolls Royce and Lincoln stretched limousines.

Call him at 877-817-5466.

Maui Wedding Photography

Your wedding photography is probably the single most important thing to get right. Though the mistakes that happen with other things (incorrect flower arrangement, officiant blunder, late bartenders, etc...) will haunt you forever, they'll be largely overlooked by your guests. Your photos, however, will last for generations!

Natalie Brown Photography

There are hundreds of photographers on Maui, and many of them are phenomenal. We suggest Natalie because we've heard first hand from dozens of brides how incredible she is. Read her Maui Wedding Tips on this guide. Then give her a call at **(808) 344-3843** and see if she's available for your wedding. Keep in mind that she's incredibly in demand, so you might not get her.

Officiants & Ministers

Maui Officiant

Our favorite wedding officiant is perhaps the most versatile as well. Brad Salter is known for helping wedding couples shed the stress of planning and be at ease during the ceremony.

Call Brad at **808-298-7873**.

More Officiants

Another great officiant is Pia Aluli. He is Hawaiian and balances his ceremonies between island style and traditional. He can blow the conch shell like the best of them!

Call Pia at **808-760-2344**.

Wedding Coordinators

We definitely recommend hiring a wedding planner for your Maui wedding. They will coordinate all the little details for you. By the time you arrive on the island everything will be ready. Most of them have been doing this for years and know all the best vendors. (Or, the best vendors that fit in your budget.)

You need to interview your coordinator like your photographer. Call them, ask questions, and ask for references. There are a lot of coordinators on the island and some are better than others. Of the thousands of weddings they've performed,

we've never heard anything but praises for Karma and her team. Call (808) 873-0789 or visit [**Simple Maui Wedding**](#).

Massage

Weddings can take a toll on everyone, and that stress can leave someone feeling less than sunny. With Maui's Best Massage, you can find your aloha and get back on the paradise train! With expert massage therapists that cater to your every need, you will float down the aisle. And their massage outcall service will meet you anywhere you're staying, so you don't have to lift a finger!

For more information, please visit [**Maui's Best Massage**](#) or call (808) 426-7418.

Videography

Through our experience, some videographers come off loud and obtrusive, and others blend into the party and are hardly noticeable at all. It is a good idea to think about what is more important to you, your wedding photos or the wedding video. The nature of both requires the photographer and videographer to want to be at the same place at the same time. So you need to tell both the photographer and the videographer who you'd like to be more of the conductor. If you let them know that the photos are more important to you, then they can work together and coordinate better. If no precedent is set, sometimes they will be nudging each other for the best shot. It is confusing and frustrating for both. For example, some videographers will set up multiple cameras at your ceremony, sometimes right in the middle of the aisle. You can imagine what that does for your ceremony photos. A big tripod in the middle of the aisle is not too pretty. If you don't want that to happen, tell your videographer so and make it apparent so they don't forget.

During the romantic photo/video session each will be calling out instructions to you, which is confusing and frustrating to you. Sometimes a photographer and

videographer can work together perfectly, but it is nice to let each one know what is important to you so they can work around each other smoothly.

Tuxedos & Suits

Your choices are limited on Maui because most grooms go with a white Tommy Bahama shirt and khaki pants. If you want a suit that's anything other than black, you'll probably have to special order it and not see it till it's too late. Though not perfect, L'Amour Bridal in Lahaina seem to be the best-run operation.

Ellie's Formal Wear in Kihei is also an option for tuxedos and suits. They have dresses and accessories also. There are more options, but we haven't been impressed yet.

Bar Services

Maui Cocktail Catering has the best bar setup on the island.

Not only are all of these young bartenders professional and affordable, but they also manage to hire the most beautiful people. You kind of get the whole package with these enthusiastic and experienced bartenders. Their classy bamboo bars really make you feel like you're on the islands.

Their bars are so much better than the regular table with linen over it like most of the other bar companies use on the island. They give you the full service experience. Traditional drinks to island specialties. Call Melissa at **808-357-5097**.

Butterfly & Dove Release

Butterflies can be beautiful, fun and friendly. They are the perfect addition to any wedding. Butterflies also have a deep spiritual meaning. They are often seen as a representation of new life hence their popularity at weddings. There is a Native American Legend which states that if you whisper a wish to a butterfly, the butterfly

will fly up to the Heavens and the Great Spirit will grant your wish in return for the butterfly's freedom. Call the Maui Butterfly Farm at **808-280-0506**.

Doves are a traditional and exciting addition to your Maui wedding. Since ancient times doves and pigeons have been symbols of love and purity. Dove releases can range in number from just 2 to almost 100 doves. A favorite release method is the 2 dove "hand release" by the Bride and Groom. The release of white doves can add a beautiful touch of elegance to your wedding. Doves can be released anywhere on Maui, Molokai and Lanai. Due to their keen homing instincts they return swiftly to their Maui home. It is a good idea to release them by sunset at the very latest, so they can find their way home.

Flowers

Flowers make up a huge part of your wedding. The bouquet, boutonniere, and any other floral décor you decide to have enhances the look of your wedding dramatically. Choose the colors for your wedding, then decide on the flowers you'll have. Orchids, especially cymbidium orchids, are plentiful here. Some flowers however are very hard and expensive to get to Maui.

Talk to your Maui florist and decide on your best plan of action. Make sure you get some references from other weddings before choosing your florist. We've had some experiences in the past.

Cakes

The tradition of cutting the wedding cake is the symbolic first act of a couple cooperating in a task together. It has survived many centuries and continues today. Your cake is important. Whether you are getting married in a large ballroom or a sandy beach, you can have your cake and eat it too! (Sorry for the pun.) Just because you're getting married on a beach doesn't mean you have to skip the cake. You can bring a little blanket and even cut it picnic style!

If you are getting married at one of the large resorts on Maui, they usually have an in-house bakery capable of making a small, cute wedding cake. Talk to your concierge or your wedding coordinator and ask them about their favorite cake designer.

Locations

Maui Private Wedding Locations

Why rent a private location for your wedding?

Most Maui weddings are beach weddings, which have their set backs. Other people may be on the beach (and also getting married), covered area can be limited if rain hits, and many things are prohibited on public beaches (no booze, no chairs, etc...)

The following are some excellent estates to rent for your wedding ceremony and/or reception.

Trilogy Catamaran Ocean Weddings

For a unique experience on Maui, consider having your wedding aboard one of Trilogy's five custom sailing catamarans, which accommodate anywhere from 36 to 65 passengers. With departure locations in Ma'alaea Harbor, Lahaina Harbor or Ka'anapali Beach, Trilogy and their team of experienced personal wedding coordinators take care of all the details on your big day, including full bar, live music, photography, videography, officiant services, custom decor and decadent cuisine. For a more exclusive option, sail to the neighbor island of Lana'i for an on or off-shore private ceremony and post wedding celebration at the Hale O Manele Pavilion. Make your Maui wedding a memorable and unique occasion by enjoying

sweeping views of Maui's coast and neighbor islands while you sit back and enjoy the party. Call **(808) 874-5649**.

Sugarman's Estate Honua Kai Lani

keep in mind that there are more than one Sugarman Estate. Sugarman was the guy who invented Blue Blockers in the 80's. He also pretty much began the infomercial craze. Thus, he's got a lot of money and a lot of property. The estate that we're referring to is in Makena, next to Ahihi Cove, which is one of the best snorkeling spots on the island. This is a manicured estate with huge lawns right on the ocean. It is perfect for bocce ball. There is no beach in front, only lava rock. Going South on the island, it's the last house on the ocean to your right, just before the lava fields and the surf spot "Dumps". There's a 5-bedroom house on the North side of the property with a jacuzzi and barbecue area. The house is nice but needs to be updated, and has a large lanai that faces the ocean. The lawn isn't golf course perfect and it has some soil spots interspersed, but it does the trick anyway. The oceanfront lawn has a gazebo and the most perfect point for a ceremony. This property can hold around 500 guests for a great party in a beautiful place.

Olowalu Plantation

The Olowalu Plantation is a beautiful spot on the way up to Lahaina. It has huge sprawling lawns, big beautiful trees and a great house to get ready in. It is on a 3 acre lot with a romantic, old Hawaii style to it. There is not an option to stay there, but the bride can get ready there. There are bathrooms built for wedding guests, which is really nice because you don't have to rent porto-potties! You might have to rent them for over a certain amount of guests though. The lawns are right on the water but does not have a sandy beach. The beach there is rocky, but you can still get some great photos right next to the water. There is a pier that the couple can take nice photos on also. There is a concrete slab for a dance floor under the huge beautiful trees. The Olowalu Plantation accommodates up to 500 guests.

Haiku Mill

The Haiku Mill is a beautiful place to get married in Maui also. It is at the Pua Le'a Ruins and has amazing botanical gardens on the property. This Hawaiian historical

landmark is one of Maui's first sugar mills built in 1853. It has a romantic ambiance and is very different than any other Maui wedding location. It does not have the traditional ocean beach view, but makes up for it with the amazing tropical feel. The restored ruins provide the perfect stage for beautiful gatherings and weddings. The Haiku Mill's brick flooring, chic chandelier, walls of moss, and unique fountains adorn the amazing wedding site. This wedding location is enclosed, yet open to the sky. There is a cottage that's available for a changing room. It accommodates up to 100 guests.

Maui Beach Wedding Locations

The majority of weddings on Maui are small beach weddings on the South and West shores. They have the best view of the sunset. Putting together a Maui beach wedding can be effortless with the right talent around you.

You can choose any beach on the South side of Maui that is to your liking.

The same goes for the West side of Maui excluding Kaanapali Beach for permitting reasons. The only thing we do suggest is finding a beach that's a little further away from crowds. The most crowded beach to get married on is Makena Cove, also called Secret Beach, in South Maui. It is a gorgeous place with very blue water when the sun is out in the morning. But many times the common Makena cloud covers the beach, and therefore hides the blue water. It is possible to get the beach to yourself with the sun out, but I wouldn't count on it. The beach is incredible and hidden away from the road, but every wedding vendor knows about it and recommends it to their brides. Sometimes you'll find 2 to 3 weddings at the same time on this tiny beach. Our suggestion is to find a different spot, and if you need to have photos there, make the trip after the ceremony for pictures. The island is bigger than you'd think with some beaches that are more private.

Some other beautiful beaches to get married on in South Maui are Poolenelena Beach in Makena, Keawakapu Beach in Wailea, and Palauea Beach in Wailea. They are all beautiful with a view of Molokini in the distance.

Some beautiful beaches to get married on in West Maui (which is the Lahaina side of the island) are Baby Beach in Lahaina, Napili Bay in Napili, Kapalua Bay in Kapalua and Ironwoods Beach in Kapalua.

Permits are required to get married on any of these South and West beaches. Your Wedding Planner will take care of getting the permit for you. The beach permit is a layer of protection for anyone getting married in Maui. You can rest assured that only licensed, fully insured wedding professionals will be conducting your romantic beach weddings or vow renewal.

Maui Wedding Photo Tips

Here are some wedding photo tips by Natalie Brown to prepare you for the best Maui wedding photography.

#1 - Tan Lines

If your dress is strapless or shows your chest at all, think about what style bathing suit you will be wearing the week before your wedding. If you are planning on tanning at all, wear a strapless bathing suit top to prevent stark tan lines. It will be VERY evident in your wedding photos if you have bright tan lines.

#2 - Invitation

Bring your wedding invitation so the photographer can get some pretty shots of it with the rings or flowers. Make sure you or a bridesmaid lets the photographer know you have it for photos.

#3 - Ring Exchange

During the ring exchange in the ceremony, slip on your partners ring from underneath. Keep in mind that your photographer will be trying to capture this great moment. To capture this, it is good to hold the ring from underneath and slightly open up to the camera. Not to much like you are posing for it, but just a bit so you'll get a good memory of it for your wedding album.

#4 - Smile!

Keep in mind that your photographer will be taking candid style photos throughout our time together. Keeping a smile on your face will give you many more happy pictures of your special day.

#5 - Attractive Angles

By lifting your chin a little bit you banish the double chin. Holding your elbows away from your body reduces the apparent width of your torso and helps with any upper arm width. Shifting your weight to your rear foot cocks your hips into a position that gives you a sexy curviness. There are many other little tricks your photographer may teach you. Just listen and he or she may have some good ideas.

#6 - Makeup & Hair

Your wedding day is not the day to experiment with new makeup or hairstyles. Be sure to plan a day prior to the wedding to have a hair and makeup "dress rehearsal". If you plan to wear a headpiece, use this time to make sure that it will fit with your hairstyle. If you hire a professional for makeup and hair, try to do a test run. If that is not possible supply an example photo. Be very descriptive in what you want, or else you might end up with a look you don't like at all.

#7 - Wind!

Maui is a very windy place. Be sure to test out your hairstyle in the wind. If you can't do that, use extra hairspray. Some brides end up having their hair in their face for all the photos. That's not very good for the wedding album. A good rule is to opt for an up-do instead of having your hair fly around all day. Usually up-dos are set in place by pins and hairspray so you won't have to worry about it. You might end up with a calm beautiful day, but I wouldn't count on it.

#8 - Aisle-Way

If you will not be having chairs on the beach and having your guests stand around you for the ceremony, it is a good idea to keep an "aisle-way" between the group. It makes for much better photos of the ceremony, of both the two of you and the entire group.

#9 - Time of Day

When choosing your venue and time of day, keep lighting in mind. If your wedding is outdoors, the best light happens 1-2 hours before sunset or at about 8:30 or 9 AM in the morning. Sunset time will give you the hopefully nice sunset colors in your photos. Morning time gives you the blue water and blue sky in your photos. If you hold your wedding too late in the morning or in the early afternoon, you will probably get photos of you squinting and sweating. If your wedding is indoors, which is uncommon in Maui, try to avoid buildings with high dark ceilings and few windows.

#10 - Designate Organizer

Your photographer will be ushering people to take photos with you two, but if you'd like certain photos with certain friends and family it is a good idea to have someone who knows who is who tell people it is their turn. Since your photographer does not know who is who, they cannot easily do this. I suggest making a basic list of variations you'd like and designating the duty to a groomsman or bridesmaid who knows everyone. It goes much smoother if someone other than the bride and groom can take charge so you two don't have to worry about it.

#11 - The Kiss

This is the moment of all moments at a wedding. Many couples talk about what kind of kiss they will do for their "First Kiss". Many couples agree that it should be classic and clean. With that in mind, they usually cut it short, making it very hard for the photographer to capture the quick kiss. Most photographers prepare for this moment in the right position, but sometimes a guest might stand up right in front of them to get their own shot, or the couple might turn to a weird angle suddenly.

To help your photographer capture this shot no matter what, try to linger for at least a few seconds. Not to make your grandparents uncomfortable or anything, but just enough to make sure you've got a great romantic image for your kids to see in the future.

#12 - Your Photographer

You want to choose a photographer that's right for you. Some only do traditional posing, others focus too much on candid. Your best bet is to go with someone that does it all. After all, you probably want a variety of photos to choose from. Call around and ask questions. Ask if the featured photographer will actually be your photographer at your wedding. Sometimes they send another photographer trained by the main photographer. Ask what kind of camera they use, and their experience in photography. Anyone can throw a website together and call themselves a photographer. Really look at the variety in their sample photos and choose a photographer that you like.

#13 - Photographer's Personality

Get an idea of the photographer's personality. We've all heard stories of the rude wedding photographer. Try to go with someone who doesn't turn your wedding into their own personal photo shoot. The photographer needs to be everywhere at once, but staying as unobtrusive as possible.

Our favorite Maui wedding photographer is Natalie Brown. "But she advertises on this website," you may say. True, but the reason we recommend her is because of all the positive feedback we've gotten from her brides (she is not paying for this.) From personal experience, we know that her work is some of the best quality photography on the island. She also manages to remain a pleasure to have at your wedding, even under pressure. Natalie Brown has an eye for detail. She seems to capture all of the often-overlooked things of which you spent so much time working on. That's her gift: taking photos that a bride wants, and making them gorgeous.

Your Maui wedding photography is something you don't want to take a chance with. Make sure that the memories captured for your wedding are taken by a professional like Natalie. Call her for more information at **808-344-3843**.

Buying/Selling Real Estate

Where & How to Buy or sell Real Estate on Maui.

Buying real estate on Maui is easier and safer than any other tropical location in the world. Since Hawaii is part of the United States, we have the same regulations and laws to protect both the buyers and sellers of property.

If integrity, consistent open communication and excellent local real estate knowledge are on your list of must-have qualities in your next real estate agent and broker, The Maui Real Estate Team Inc. provides everything you need and more to buy or sell your next home, condo, vacation property and more on Maui. Led by the highly respected Billy Jalbert, Principal Broker and Owner, clients can expect nothing less than excellence from his team of talented, seasoned local agents who are committed to providing you with the best in quality service.

Focusing on properties in the desirable north shore and Upcountry Maui regions, clients can expect detailed results that are specially tailored to their list of real estate desires, as well as committed, dynamic service during every step of the process. For more information, please contact The **Maui Real Estate Team Inc.** at **(800) 579-1525**.

Affordable Maui Homes

The most affordable locations to buy Maui real estate are in Kihei, Kahului and Wailuku. Kihei is on the South side of Maui bordering Wailea. Wailuku is the cultural center of Maui on the North side. Kahului is the commercial center of the island on the North. Kihei is the best area to buy due to its location and relative low cost. Wailea and Makena are some the most expensive areas on the island. Ka'anapali, Kapalua, and Napili, on the upper west side of the island, are all just as expensive. Upcountry's Kula has sprawling views of Maui and also holds a hefty price tag.

The most affordable beachfront property in Maui County can be found on the islands of Lanai and Molokai. These islands hold very small populations of mostly Hawaiian farmers. Real estate here is best suited for people looking for quiet and for those that can handle their slow acceptance from locals. Lack of jobs, full-service healthcare, and many other amenities account for the low prices.

Buying Maui

Construction for new complexes in Maui are at an all time high, despite protests from Maui local residents. Many new locations are composed of large luxury homes of which only wealthy out-of-towners can afford. Maui condos manage to give hope to those who want a piece of the rock, but don't have exorbitant salaries and inexhaustible savings. A young couple can still buy a condo only a few blocks from the beach without losing their shirts.

Hawaiian Island Guide

Moloka'i

The Friendly Isle

The island of Moloka'i is known as the "Friendly Isle". Visiting Molokai is a unique experience capable of slowing down anyone accustomed to a fast paced life. Lack of traffic is a major factor. Automobiles are so few on Molokai that you won't find a single traffic light. This doesn't mean that Molokai is boring. There are plenty of things to do on this incredibly beautiful island. And, of course, you can still relax and enjoy the serenity of Molokai's vast natural landscapes.

Things to do on Moloka'i

- Scuba dive the barrier reef
- From Maui, take a Helicopter tour across Moloka'i
- Visit a coffee plantation or macadamia nut farm
- Mountain bike along the numerous trails and roads
- Golf at a world-class golf course
- Go to the Molokai Museum and Cultural Center
- Catch some local fresh fish on a sport fishing boat
- Go surfing, boogie boarding, body surf or swimming
- Go kayaking over the beautiful reefs
- Hike through a rain forest at the Kamakou Preserve
- Go snorkeling with friends
- Ride a Mule down the Kalaupapa Sea Cliffs
- Ride horseback across open expanses
- Visit the sugar mill in Kala'e

- Go shopping in Kaunakakai
- Visit one of Molokai's many cultural sites like a Heiau.

Moloka'i History

It is believed that Molokai was first settled in 650 A.D. by migrating Tahitians. For centuries, Molokai was known throughout the islands as a religious sanctuary, often visited for the sole purpose of meeting with some of the more revered holy men. In the 16th Century, the prophet Lanikaula was seen as one of the most respected for his great wisdom. When Captain Cook first came to Hawaii, he did not visit Molokai. Captain George Dixon made the first European debut in 1786 to Molokai.

In 1864, Father Damien de Veuster landed at Honolulu. After receiving priesthood, Father Damien moved to Molokai on May 10th, 1873 in order to care for those in the leper colony. King Kamehameha V forcefully quarantined those with leprosy, now called Hansen's disease, to the North of Moloka'i Island. Up to 1,200 people at one time were exiled to live at Kalaupapa. It wasn't until 1969 that the isolation law was repealed. In 2008, the United States Government made an official apology to the remaining victims of Hansen's disease of who lived in exile.

Today, Molokai is home to over 8,000 inhabitants. Around 40% of these people have Hawaiian blood making it the "Most Hawaiian" Island in the chain.

Oahu

The Gathering Place

O`ahu is where most people live and work in Hawai`i. Roughly 75% of all Hawai`i residents have gathered here on O`ahu, the third largest Hawaiian island, because

of its relatively successful economy, including more jobs, business opportunities, and access to goods and services than the other islands combined.

In January, 1778, a member of Captain James Cook's crew, on the HMS Resolution, sighted the island of O`ahu. At that time the Hawaiian islands were unknown to all but Polynesians. O`ahu was not actually visited by Europeans until February, 1779, when Captain Charles Clerke stepped ashore at Waimea Bay. Captain Clerke assumed command of the Resolution after Captain Cook was killed on the Big Island.

Only 162 years later...“Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” — Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Imperial Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor, O`ahu early on December 7, 1941. The surprise attack killed many US servicemen and destroyed numerous military aircraft and several naval ships.

Today, O`ahu is a shopping and tourism mecca with more than 5 million visitors a year seeking the diverse vacation offerings in this travelers paradise. It's a daunting task to catalog the many beaches, towns, attractions and historical points of interest on O`ahu, so we're going to introduce you to just a few.

If you want more, check out [Oahu Activities](#).

Top 5 Oahu Beaches

Waikiki Beach

This is one of the most popular beaches in the world with more than 4 million sunblock-laden beach-goers every year. The postcard-famous views of Diamond Head from Waikiki Beach are synonymous with a Hawai`i vacation. This 2-mile long beach is well known for its long-lasting wave break, which is ideal for learning to surf. Of course, this beach gets crowded and people watching is a daily activity. It's

also a great place to watch Hawaiian watermen surf in Canoes. There are an endless supply of nearby facilities, resorts, restaurants and activities.

Sunset Beach

Another 2-mile stretch of beach awesomeness starts at Sunset Point and goes all the way to the Banzai Pipeline (Ehukai Beach). During the summer it's a family friendly, swimming and snorkeling beach, and in the winter it's a surfer's heaven. Sunset Beach is considered by many to be the longest stretch of rideable surf in the world, which is just one reason the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing event (Nov. - Dec.) pops up here every year.

Lanikai Beach

With white sand and calm waters, it's no wonder why Conde Nast ranked Lanikai as the world's No. 1 beach in 1996. Lanikai is hidden adjacent to the residential neighborhood of Kailua and features two small islands called Moks (Mokulas). This picturesque beach is the perfect setting for sunbathing and ideal for swimming, snorkeling, kayaking and sailing, but parking is limited.

Kailua Beach Park

Not far from Lanikai, Kailua beach is popular with families, windsurfers and sailboards. There are plenty of things to do here including 35-acres of light-colored beach sand, park setting, picnic areas, and a volleyball court. This beach park and boat ramp has facilities to rent water sports equipment and plenty of public parking.

Waimanalo Bay Beach Park

With nearly 5 miles of soft sand, it's no mystery why so many people love Waimanalo Beach. This Windward Coast beach park has plenty of parking and it's picnic friendly! Waimanalo is one of the longest beaches on the island of O`ahu, and is ideal for long walks on the beach, fishing, and boogie-boarding, according to locals.

Top 4 Oahu Attractions

Pearl Harbor

Most notably, Pearl Harbor is known as the place where a devastating aerial attack resulted in 2,390 dead and compelled the United States to enter World War II. Pearl Harbor is the largest natural harbor in the Hawaiian islands, and was named for the pearl oysters once harvested there. Now, you can do day tours of Pearl Harbor from Maui.

Don't miss these must-see points of interest:

- USS Arizona Memorial
- Battleship Missouri Memorial
- Pacific Aviation Museum
- USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park

The North Shore

About an hour drive from Waikiki, you'll find yourself immersed in the thick of surf haven USA! It's all about big, glassy waves in the winter, and smaller, gentle waves in the summer; however, this surf mecca is distinctly legendary. If you explore this area you're bound to see veterans as well as beginner surfers venturing in and out of the water, in just about every place you go.

More than 7 miles of beach, surfing and legendary wave action can be found here at the North Shore. As mentioned in the beach section above, the Superbowl of wave riding is the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing which happens here in November-December. Wave faces often reach in excess of 30 feet in the winter, so pay close attention to warnings and local conditions before going into the ocean. If you're a beginner to moderate surfer, stick to Waikiki when swell is small.

Some Beaches of the North Shore:

- Waimea Bay

- Ehukai Beach (Bonzai Pipeline)
- Sunset Beach

Iolani Palace

In the National Register of Historic Places this former home of King Kalākaua and Queen Lili'uokalani was the only place in the United States to ever be used as the official residence of a reigning monarch. After the overthrow of the monarchy in 1893, the building was used as the capitol for the Territory and later State of Hawai`i until 1969. It was restored and opened as a museum in 1978, where it continues to accept visitors,9-5 PST, Monday through Saturday.

Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve

Just a short 30 minute drive from Waikiki is the flooded volcanic crater we call Hanauma Bay. It is teeming with life of all sorts and the crystal-clear blue waters make this place a snorkeler's paradise! There is a fee to enter the preserve and a parking fee as well, but it's a small price to pay to experience one of O`ahu's most amazing places. Check out the visitor center for details and a fish identification chart.

A Tale of Two Towns

Honolulu

This internationally famous town is the most populated city in all of the Hawaiian islands. Honolulu is also the capital of Hawai`i and has a population of more than 395,000 people. On the south shore of Honolulu, you'll find the world-famous neighborhood of Waikiki, a mega-shopping metropolis. Adjacent to Waikiki, one of the worlds most famous beaches awaits visitors from all over the world—Waikiki Beach. Honolulu is a cosmopolitan town with an amazingly diverse selection of world-class entertainment, unique cultural events and fabulous performing arts.

Haleiwa

In contrast to Honolulu, is the charming little town of Haleiwa. It's only about an hour drive from Honolulu, but it's worlds apart. Far from the skyscrapers and busy highways, Haleiwa has remained a laid-back surfer town in appearance, but it also has a remarkable country ambiance and local style. Here, in this easy-going, artistic hub of the North Shore, you'll find the little art galleries and unique boutiques you were looking for in paradise.

Shopping Superpowers, ACTIVATE!

If shopping is on your Hawai`i bucket list, then O`ahu is your own personal paradise! There's simply no way we could NOT mention the incredible shopping experience on O`ahu. There are numerous open-air malls such as Ala Moana Center, which is one of America's largest outdoor malls. You will also find plenty of high-end retailers, large department stores, charming little boutiques and local specialty stores in and around the main shopping areas in Waikiki and Honolulu. The endless shopping options in O`ahu are sure to make your visit a shopping adventure.

written by Erik Blair

Kauai

The Garden Isle

Truly an island of discovery, Kaua`i is a lush, bright green, temple of rainbows and waterfalls. From the depths of Waimea Canyon to the cliffs of the Na Pali Coast, this Garden Isle is an incredible tropical paradise.

Home to about 68,000 residents, Kaua`i is geologically the oldest, and Northernmost of the main Hawaiian Islands. The early ruler of Kaua`i and Ni`ihau,

was Kaumuali`i, who resisted King Kamehameha's attempts to unite all the islands under his rule for many years. In 1810, Kaumuali`i decided to join the Kingdom of Hawai`i rather than face further invasion attempts, and became Kamehameha's vassal. This made Kaua`i and Ni`ihau the last two islands to join the kingdom of Hawai`i.

Today Kaua`i is a traveler's dream with breathtaking views, epic cliffs, majestic canyons and lush green mountains and valleys. You must remember to bring your camera because there is no shortage of dramatic vistas and remarkable scenery. Captain Charles Clerke stepped ashore at Waimea Bay. Captain Clerke assumed command of the Resolution after Captain Cook was killed on the Big Island.

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Getting to Know Kauai

Lihue

The busiest town on the island, Lihue is the commercial hub and Capitol of Kaua`i. The Lihue Airport is also located here, making it the first place most visitors

experience. Also in Lihue, Nawiliwili Harbor is the commercial shipping and cruise ship port for Kaua`i.

Hungry in Lihue? Try Hamura's Saimin Stand for a local treat (behind the Salvation Army, open 10am to 10pm most days).

South Shore

Here you'll find the resort area of Poipu and the historic Old Koloa Town. Golf courses and sunshine aren't the only thing bringing visitors to the South Shore of Kaua`i; there are plenty of activities and history to be found here. While you're enjoying the South Shore, be sure to check out Poipu Beach, once voted America's best beach!

West Side

Visiting the West Side of Kaua`i is like stepping back in time. This is where you can experience Waimea Canyon, also known as, "the Grand Canyon" of the Pacific. The West Side is filled with natural and scenic wonders, as well as historic places. Don't miss Kokee State Park for a chance to see rare Hawaiian forest birds, such as the moa, iwi and apapane.

East Side

This part of the island is known as the Coconut Coast for the many clusters of coconut groves that dot the landscape. Here you'll find Wailua River State Park, Opaeka`a Falls, and two of Kaua`i's most populated towns, Wailua and Kapa`a. In the mood for shopping? Kinipopo Shopping Village is located in Kapa`a and offers a variety of interesting shops and restaurants.

North Shore

With rugged shoreline, taro fields, huge sea cliffs and incredible beaches, the North Shore is sure to please those seeking natural beauty. The North Shore is famous for the majestic emerald green cliffs that grace the 17-mile shoreline of the Napali Coast. During summer months, you can take a boat tour of the Napali Coast; or adventure on a Kayak tour, available from Napali Makai on the West Side. But, **the**

most thrilling way to experience the world-renowned Napali Coast is via a helicopter tour.

Top 5 Scenic Spots

Hanalei Valley Overlook (North Shore)

This amazing vista provides dramatic views of Hanalei River which snakes through Taro fields and lush mountain spires. A "must not forget camera" spot!

Hanalei Valley Overlook (North Shore)

This am

Ke'e Beach (North Shore)

This is as close as you can get to the twin green cliffs once called, "Bali Hai" in the 1958 movie, "South Pacific". The actual name is Makana (meaning "Gift" in Hawaiian). You'll find plenty of palm trees, white-sand beach and views of the Napali cliffs from Ke'e Beach.

Opaeka`a Falls (East Side)

One of the most consistently flowing waterfalls on Kaua`i. Opaeka`a is 100 feet tall and surrounded by emerald greenery.

Waimea Canyon (West Side)

Mark Twain once called Waimea Canyon the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific".

14-miles long, 3,600 feet deep and a mile wide, Waimea Canyon offers breathtaking vistas, deep gorges and all the splendor of this majestic canyon. Along the winding road (Route 550) there are numerous lookout points, and vantage points for snapping pictures of the panoramic views.

Lawai Valley (South Shore)

Lawai Valley is well-known as a healing sanctuary, because of the rich archaeological and cultural treasures found there. In 1904, early Japanese immigrants constructed 88 shrines to replicate the 88 temples in Shikoku, Japan, making it one of the oldest Buddhist temple sites in the United States. Also located in Lawai Valley is the National Tropical Botanical Garden, which is home to the largest collection of native Hawaiian plants on the planet, and more than 259 acres of lush gardens.

Top 5 Beaches

Ha`ena Beach Park (North Shore)

Ha`ena Beach Park (also known as Tunnels Beach) is regarded as the best place to swim or snorkel on the entire island during the summer months. It's a wonderfully scenic 5-acre beach, nestled between the jagged emerald mountains and the turquoise ocean. In the winter, it's a surfers paradise on the outside break, but swimming is not recommended.

Hanalei Bay Beach Park (North Shore)

Now THIS is paradise! Imagine a huge bay circled by a beautiful beach with waterfalls and distant jagged cliffs steeped in rich tropical plant life. Calm in the summer and big waves in the winter, this North Shore beach is a favorite for water-sport enthusiasts, families and is rarely crowded.

Maha`ulepu Beach (South Shore)

This beach is off the beaten path and although the beach is public, the road to it is private. It's worth the trek to this somewhat remote, 2-mile stretch of beach where sand dunes, caves and limestone cliffs dot the area. Plenty of space to wander on this beach, but swimming can be sketchy even for experienced swimmers. Be sure to depart before beach access closes at 6pm sharp.

Po`ipu Beach Park (South Shore)

The Travel Channel once touted this as “America's Best Beach” . Po`ipu Beach has all the elements of a great family-friendly beach park including a protected “baby beach” on one side of an enticing sandbar. It is also nearly perfect for swimming, snorkeling, surfing, and boogie-boarding.

Polihale State Park (West Side)

This is the perfect spot for a sunset! To get here you have to travel the 5-mile very bumpy road to the beach. The other draw-back to this beach is that swimming is not advised unless you are an experienced swimmer. It's private, great for sunbathing, and camping is allowed with a permit.

Here you'll find all the dramatic scenery, majestic vistas and epic Hawaiian landscapes that even the most seasoned explorers can handle. Kaua`i is definitely the place to find the adventurer inside of you!

written by Erik Blair

Big Island

Here in the Hawai`ian Islands many people refer to the actual island of Hawai`i simply as the “Big Island”. And for good reason, the Big Island is the largest of the Hawaiian islands at 4,028 square miles, which is more real estate than all the other Hawaiian islands combined. It's also the youngest, geologically speaking, as the Kīlauea volcano has been erupting continuously since 1983, making the Big Island bigger every day. It is the southern-most island and the current home of Pele, the Hawaiian Goddess of fire, lightning, wind, and volcanoes.

Conquest & Unification

Hawai`i was the original home of Pai`ea Kamehameha, later known as King Kamehameha. Kamehameha united most of the Hawaiian islands by 1795, after

many years of fierce battles and war. He ultimately named the chain of islands, now under his rule, after his home island; and called it, Hawai`i.

In 1779, the European explorer who called the Hawaiian Islands the "Sandwich Islands", Captain James Cook, was killed at Kealahou Bay on the Big Island.

Abundant Natural Wonders

The Big Island is filled with amazing natural wonders, the most active volcanoes in the world, lush rainforests, snow capped mountains and incredible beaches all spread out and uncrowded. Here are just a few of Hawai`i's most prominent features and finds: Kamehameha united most of the Hawaiian islands by 1795, after many years of fierce

Hawaii Volcanoes

(volcanic activity last updated in September of 2013)

Mauna Kea (dormant volcano)

Mauna Kea is the world's tallest mountain from the sea floor to its peak at 33,100 ft (13,803 ft. above sea level).

Kohala (extinct volcano)

Kohala is the oldest of the 5 volcanoes on the Big Island (estimated at a million years old).

Hualālai (active volcano, but not currently erupting)

Compared with the other volcanoes on the island of Hawai`i, Hualalai is the 3rd tallest, 3rd oldest and 3rd most active. Due to the low amount of volcanic activity on Hualālai throughout the years there is a relative state of unpreparedness as evidenced from the hiking trails, tours and vacation resorts built nearby.

Kīlauea (very active volcano)

Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Kilauea is one of the most active volcanoes on Earth. The current eruption has been going on for 20 years and shows no sign of stopping.

Loihi (active)

Off the southern coast of the Big Island, still underwater, Loihi has been erupting since 1996. In 250,000 years, we may be writing about the 9th island created from this volcano.

Big Island Beaches

Ka Lae Green Sand Beach or South Point

The green sand beach shown in the top picture on this page is something of a natural wonder. The minerals eroding from the high cliffs make a green hue on the beach. It's at the most southern point on the Big Island, and it's a long walk, unless you're a local. So, prepare to take some time hiking and bring a lot of water. When you leave, DON'T TAKE THE SAND! We know it's tempting, but don't do it. Bad juju.

Kolekole Beach Park

Kolekole means "raw or scarred" in Hawaiian. It's located just north of Hilo on the Hamakua Coast, a little jungle hideaway near the ocean. Kolekole Stream is nearby, as well as a small waterfall. Camping is allowed with a permit.

Onekahakaha Beach Park

Onekahakaha is popular with locals because it is shallow and has a sandy bottom. In other words, great for families, snorkeling and swimming.

Lelewi Beach Park or Richardson Ocean Center

This shallow bay is a very popular snorkeling site. There are picnic pavilions, restrooms, parking and showers at the Ocean Center (not far from Onekahakaha Beach Park if crowded).

Punaluu Black Sand Beach

Famous for black sand and Honu (turtles), this beach has nearby camping and is popular with fishermen and families. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is less than 30 miles away, in case you want to explore the area.

Anaehoomalu Beach

Adjacent to the Waikoloa Beach Marriott (where you can rent watersports equipment) Anaehoomalu beach has plenty of parking, picnic facilities and restrooms.

Hapuna Beach

Next to the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel, Hapuna Beach is the largest white sand beach on the Big Island. You'll find plenty of parking with a restroom and picnic facilities.

Holoholokai Beach

Adjacent to the Fairmont Orchid Hawaii, this small beach park has facilities, but isn't a sandy beach. There are tide pools to explore and great snorkeling. Ancient Hawaiian petroglyphs can be found nearby at the Puako Petroglyph Archaeological Preserve.

Kaunaoa Beach

Voted among the Top 10 beaches in the U.S. by Conde Nast's Traveler magazine, this is a unique half-moon shaped beach next to the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. Parking is limited, so arrive early.

Kahaluu Beach

Near the Historic Kailua Village (Kailua-Kona), Kahaluu Beach is known for frequent Honu (turtles) sightings and great snorkeling.

Laalao Beach

Also known as "Disappearing Sands" or "Magic Sands" because tidal shifts and strong surf occasionally removes the sand from this beach temporarily. Near Kahaluu Beach and Historic Kailua Village, this popular beach is known for body-

surfing and body-boarding. Facilities include restrooms, showers and a lifeguard, but parking is limited.

Samuel Spencer Beach Park

This North Kohala beach is located about 30 minutes North of Historic Kailua Village; and is favored by families, because it is protected by an outer reef that produces calm swimming and snorkeling conditions on most days. Facilities include parking, picnic tables and barbecue grills. This beach is close to the Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site.

Main Hawaii Cities/Towns

Hilo

Located on the east coast (wet side), Hilo is the capital and largest city on the Big Island. Most enter via the Kona International Airport (KOA). You can find Botanical Gardens and impressive waterfalls in and around Hilo.

Kailua-Kona

Kailua-Kona is the main town on the west coast (dry side), and is often referred to as simple, "Kona". It has its own airport (ITO) and is known to be more visitor-oriented than Hilo, and features mostly eateries, fancy shops and hotels that cater to tourism.

Naalehu

Naalehu town is significant in that it is the southernmost town in the United States, further south than Key West by about 91 miles.

Waimea

Basically a ranch town on the northern part of the Island, Waimea is the center for ranching and paniolo culture. The Parker Ranch is the largest privately owned cattle ranch in the US, and hosts the annual 4th of July rodeo.

Insider's Secret Spot

Hawi

If you find your way to the North Kohala coast, you must check out the little town of Hawi which is "choke" full of Art galleries, boutiques and tiny restaurants in quaint little buildings. Your welcome!

written by Erik Blair

Niihau Island The Forbidden Isle

The island of Ni`ihau, despite being known as "The Forbidden Isle", which hints of tribal drums and tikis, it's really not that mysterious. It's called the forbidden isle because it has been privately owned since 1864 and only those invited are welcome.

Real Hawaiian

Ni`ihau is one of the most untouched of all the inhabited Hawaiian islands. At 17.5 miles from Kaua`i, Ni`ihau is the 7th largest of the inhabited Hawaiian islands. Today, there are only about 130 or so people living on the island where they still speak their own dialect of the Hawaiian language. In fact, the Hawaiian language is spoken almost exclusively on Ni`ihau.

One of the unique features of Ni`ihau is Lake Halali`i, Hawai`i's largest lake. Lake Halali`i is considered an intermittent lake or "playa" and is about 841 acres. There are no streams on the island so the water in the lake comes from rainfall.

Ni'ihau is also famous for the shell leis they have been handcrafting for generations. The leis are made of very small shells found all around the island in a time-consuming process that involves hours of collection by hand just to make a single lei. The unique style, tradition and rarity of these leis makes them highly sought after and expensive.

History & Culture

Many traditional Hawaiian chants mention Ni'ihau. As the story goes, Pele (the volcano goddess) called Ni'ihau home before she continued to move down the chain of islands to her current home on the island of Hawai'i.

Cultural tradition has been celebrated on Ni'ihau since the time when the islands were inhabited by the early Polynesians. Early on, Kahelelani became the first great ali'i (chief) of Ni'ihau, and his name is also the name of the shells used to make the Ni'ihau shell lei--"kahelelani shells".

An interesting historical note is that President Franklin D. Roosevelt once considered Ni'ihau as a possible location for the United Nations headquarters (1944).

Life on Ni 'ihau

Most of the residents of Ni`ihau live in or around the main settlement of Pu`uwai. There are no cars, no roads, no hotels, no power lines, no running water, no telephones and typically people there use bicycles or horses to get around.

I don't know about you, but this sure sounds like paradise to me! But before you decide to visit there's one important thing to remember: you can't. No visitors are allowed on the island without specific permission of the private owner and apparently many people have asked and been denied entry including Mick Jagger and a few other very wealthy people.

written by Erik Blair

Maui Social Media

If you want to keep up to date with what's going on in Maui, Hawaii, follow us on one of our many social accounts.

Facebook

Join over 472,000 Maui fans and see photos, videos and live feeds from our home.

Twitter

Everyday we share photos, news, videos, and articles about our favorite island in the world. Join over 28,800 Maui followers in keeping up to date with Maui.

Instagram

We share photos and videos from wherever we are at that time on Maui with over 148,000 followers.

Youtube

Join over 1,980 subscribers and watch new and previous Maui videos with over to 2.4 million views.

Maui Newsletter

Find out what's happening on Maui each month as well as new articles written each month on our newsletter. We have over 25,000 subscribers loving it!

Pinterest

Join thousands of our followers and check out new and old pins of beautiful Maui.

Reddit

Sharing regular articles and news from Maui.

Maui Guide

Tips, Custom Maps, and Favorites

MauiGuide.com

This is a continually evolving project, so if you think anything is missing, please email us with your suggestions. Mahalo!