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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

Steve Navarro

Island Indulgence

Lahaina, Maui, 3 Days

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Luxury and luaus do an lei-laced dance in three decadent days in Maui. The island paradise boasts everything you need to truly indulge: first-rate resorts, ahhh-inducing spas, gourmet gastronomy, idyllic beaches and tropical gardens galore. The natural lushness of Maui sets the stage for blissful abundance and lavish leisure. Let it be yours, even if only for a few days.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Maui, Lahaina

DAY NOTE: Maui boasts a plethora of luxury resorts, and you can't really go wrong with any of them. But the Four Seasons is definitely at the top of their game, seasoned (ahem) professionals at the art of pampering. You probably won't want to leave the stunning grounds or your exquisite suite, but more luxury awaits. Soak in some of Maui's natural abundance at famed Ka'anapali Beach, then proceed to tropical Garden of Eden, which might just be paradise on earth. Top of your island-flavored day at The Feast at Lele, luau and culinary experience wrapped in one.

Four Seasons Resort
Sophisticated Luxury

Ka'anapali Beach
Maui's most famous sunny white sand resort beach

Garden of Eden Arboretum & Botanical Garden
One of the best spots along the Hana highway for forests, fauna and flora of Maui

The Feast at Lele
Welcome Back to Lele

Day 2 - Maui

DAY NOTE: Get a good breakfast at Four Seasons' Pacific Grill restaurant before hitting the courses at well-regarded Wailea Golf Course. Get those subsequently sore muscles massaged at Spa Grande, one of the world's most lavish spas. Feast on the fresh fruits of Longhi's Restaurant, an award-winning local favorite, before getting cultured at a sophisticated show at Castle Theater.

Pacific Grill
Pacific Rim in the Four Seasons

Wailea Golf Club
Three gorgeous courses

Spa Grande
The biggest and best resort spa on Maui

Castle Theater
Performance venue for major productions

Day 3 - Maui, Lahaina

DAY NOTE: You've gotten up close and personal with some of Maui's most exquisite offerings; now it's time to take the long view. Fuel up on a big brunch at Bistro Wailea, located in the extraordinary Grand Wailea resort, giving yourself a little time to luxuriate in the atmosphere. Once you're sated, head up the coast and take a private above-it-all tour with Blue Hawaiian Helicopters. You'll want to linger in the skies, so book for a couple-hour flight. Once you land, head out to sea. The Maui Princess provides romantic sunset dinner cruises, and is the perfect way to seal your sumptuous trip in Maui.

Bistro Molokini
Grand dining

Blue Hawaiian Helicopters
Haleakala to Hana Helicopter Tours above Maui

Maui Princess
Snorkeling, dinner, whale-watching sunet or Molokai
Maui Princess does it all on Maui

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Day 1 - Maui, Lahaina

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: +1 808 874 8000 / +1 800 334 6284
fax: +1 808 874 2222
http://www.fourseasons.com/maui/index.html

location:
3900 Wailea Alanui
Wailea HI 96753

1 Four Seasons Resort

DESCRIPTION: Maui's Four Seasons Resort is often hailed as one of the top 100 resorts in the world. The attention to detail and superb service are what separate this resort from competitors. Knowledgeable staff will point you in the right direction with any questions you may have about dining, tourists attractions, or activity recommendations.
Each guest room (among the largest in Maui) features a private lanai with views of the mountains, gardens or the Pacific ocean. The resort is located on Wailea Beach, which is one of the nicest stretches of sand and coastline on Maui. It is not uncommon to see celebrities sunbathing on the beach or near the Four Seasons pool deck.
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citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 808 667 5900
http://www.hawaiiweb.com/maui/beaches/KaanapaliBeach.htm

location:
Kaanapali Pkwy
Lahaina HI 96761

2 Ka'anapali Beach

DESCRIPTION: Along with Wailea, this is the resort hotspot of the island. Ka'anapali is Maui's equivalent of Waikiki Beach, although it comes nowhere close to being that big or busy. The entire beach is open to the public. Access is available through resort grounds, as are public restrooms and showers. Plenty of shops and restaurants are located right along the strip. The sands are warm and gold; the water is clear and flat. A major Ka'anapali landmark is Black Rock. Once known as Soul's Leap, this rock is still a popular jumping point for locals and particularly brave visitors. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 808 572 9899
http://www.mauigardenofeden.com/

location:
Hana Highway Mile Marker 10
Keanae HI 96713

3 Garden of Eden Arboretum & Botanical Garden

DESCRIPTION: Located just past Mile Marker 10 on the road to Hana (Highway 36) are the verdant tropical gardens where the opening sequence of Jurassic Park was filmed. The 26-acre park, designed by Alan Bradbury with the aim of restoring the area's natural ecosystem, contains 500+ trees, plants and flowers native to the Pacific islands. Stroll along Maui's best nature trails and enjoy a leisurely lunch in a lush picnic

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area. This is a great activity for nature lovers and families with children. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 886/244-5353
www.feastatlele.com

location:
505 Front St
Lahaina HI 96767

hours:
Apr-Sept daily 6-9pm; Oct-Mar daily 5:30-8:30pm

4 The Feast at Lele

DESCRIPTION: The owners of the Old Lahaina Luau have recruited the culinary prowess of chef James McDonald (I'O and Pacific'O), found the perfect outdoor oceanfront setting, and added the exquisite dancers of the Old Lahaina Luau. The result: a culinary and cultural experience that sizzles. As if the sunset weren't heady enough, dances from Hawaii, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Samoa are presented, up close and personal, in full costumed splendor. Chanting, singing, drumming, dancing, the swish of ti-leaf skirts, the scent of plumeria -- it's a full adventure, even for the most jaded luau aficionado. Guests sit at white-clothed, candlelit tables set on the sand (unlike the luau, where seating is en masse) and dine on entrees from each island: imu-roasted kalua pig from Hawaii, Maori fishcake from New Zealand, poisson cru from Tahiti, and beef with breadfruit from Samoa. Particularly mesmerizing is the evening's opening: A softly lit canoe carries three people ashore to the sound of conch shells. © Frommer's

Photo courtesy of The Feast at Lele

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Day 2 - Maui

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: +1 808 874 8000
http://www.fourseasons.com/maui/index.html

location:
3900 Wailea Alanui
Kihei HI 96753

hours:
Breakfast: 6a-11a Mon-Sat, 6a-11:30a Sun; Dinner: 6p-9p nightly

1 Pacific Grill

DESCRIPTION: Located within the lovely, exclusive Four Seasons Resort, this restaurant serves an array of Asian-American fusion dishes. Dinner selections vary from the Wok Cashew Chicken, served in a red curry sauce, to the Prime New York Steak, prepared in a choice of sauces. A breakfast buffet is served daily, including Sundays. Guests enjoy a sophisticated, comfortable atmosphere infused with local charm. © wcities.com

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contact:
tel: +1 808 875 7450 / +1 888 328 7450
fax: +1 808 875 5114
http://www.waileagolf.com/

location:
100-120 Wailea Golf Club Dr
Wailea HI 96753

2 Wailea Golf Club

DESCRIPTION: Wailea is among the top golf destinations in the world. It boasts three separate and highly acclaimed courses: the Gold Course, Emerald Course and Blue Course. All three courses are gorgeous and challenging. They have been written up in all major golf and leisure travel publications, including Golf Digest and Conde Nast Traveler. Two pro shops and excellent practice facilities are also on the grounds.
It is recommended that you call as far in advance as possible; 30 days notice is suggested, but NOT required during peak season. Check out www.waileagolf.com for rates, special offers and information. © wcities.com

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contact:
tel: +1 808 875 1234 x4949 / +1 800 772 1933
fax: +1 808 875 1234 (Hotel)
http://www.grandwailea.com/spa/default.asp

location:
3850 Alanui Drive
Kihei HI 96753

3 Spa Grande

DESCRIPTION: The award-winning Spa Grande at the Grand Wailea Resort is the ultimate relaxation destination for the spa-savvy crowd. A blend of Thalassotherapy, Ancient Oriental and Hawaiian principles, and modern technology, the more than 100 treatments and signature therapies are aimed at complete rejuvenation of the body. Avail of body treatments, facials, massages, and Hawaiian baths in this 50,000-square-foot luxurious haven, where a friendly staff and the best products help you get rid of both mental and bodily stress. Reservations are recommended. © wcities.com

Photo courtesy Spa Grande

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contact:
tel: 808 242 7469
fax: +1 808 242 4665
http://www.mauiarts.org/

location:
One Cameron Way
Kahului HI 96732

hours:
Mo to Sa from 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM

4 Castle Theater

DESCRIPTION: Castle Theater is the largest indoor theater hall/auditorium on Maui. The 1200-seat facility features comfortable padded seats in three different levels that all overlook a sprawling stage.
The Castle Theater, inside Maui's Arts and Cultural Center, hosts all of Maui's biggest traveling shows, musicians, stage acts, and live performances. The theater also welcomes Maui Film Festival screenings on an annual basis. Because Maui does not have any theaters dedicated to independent films, the Castle Theater is your best bet at seeing a movie you can't find elsewhere on the island.
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Day 3 - Maui, Lahaina

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: +1 808 875 1234
http://www.grandwailea.com/dining/bistro.asp

location:
3850 Wailea Alanui Dr
Kihei HI 96753

hours:
Daily 11:30a-10p (Limited menu from 2:30p-5:30p)

1 Bistro Molokini

DESCRIPTION: Located in the opulent Grand Wailea, one of the top five luxury hotels on Maui, this restaurant offers a casually elegant setting and a tempting menu. The delicious scent wafting from the wood-burning oven hints of culinary delights to come. The menu is contemporary Continental, but most dishes feature local ingredients. From the Hawaiian Ahi Carpaccio appetizer to the Tartuffo Alla Maui (a dreamy, creamy vanilla/mango/chocolate/caramel blend), this is a Maui-style feast. © wcities.com

wcities

contact:
tel: 808-871-8844
fax: 808-877-5803
www.bluehawaiian.com

location:
1 Kahului Airport Rd.
Kahului HI 96732

2 Blue Hawaiian Helicopters

DESCRIPTION: Blue Hawaiian Helicopters is Hawaii's premiere helicopter tour company, with operations on Maui, Molokai, Kauai and the Big Island

Photo courtesy of Blue Hawaiian Helicopters

contact:
tel: 808-667-6165
www.mauiprincess.com

location:
1036 Limahana Pl
Lahaina HI 96761

3 Maui Princess

DESCRIPTION: Maui Princess has boat cruises to please everyone. The Original Maui Princess Dinner Cruise boasts amazing sunset views of the islands of Maui, Lanai and Molokai with dinner served on our open-air deck and dancing with live music below. Or, try Kaulana of Maui, she'll take you out on a sunset cruise you always remember or a short cruise out to see the whales. If you like to get in the water, take the Island Princess as she zips you to Molokini Crater or Turtle Reef for one of our Snorkel Cruises in Maui, Hawaii.

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Maui Snapshot

Local Info

The moment you step foot off your plane at the Kahului airport, you are greeted with a sign that reads"Welcome to the best island in the world." The sign couldn't be more true! Maui has been voted best island in the world countless times by numerous industry leading travel publications such as Conde Nast. From the beautiful white-sand beaches to the lush vegetation and waterfalls of Hana, its hard to leave Maui without already planning your next visit.

West Maui:

The jolly, busy resort town of Lahaina resembles Main Street Disneyland in many ways. Front Street, the main drag area, is wall-to-wall art galleries and fine restaurants. Dozens of pleasure cruisers and fishing boats set sail from the harbor daily, carrying vacationers to nearby coves and reefs. Lahaina is also the hot spot for shopping and nightlife.

About 10 minutes' driving distance from Lahaina is the resort community of Ka'anapali, famed for its golf courses, beaches and fantasy hotels. The golf courses are easy to spot; as you drive down the Honoapi'ilani Highway, the rolling greens stretch for acres along the landbound side. The coast side is bordered by the famous Ka'anapali Beach. While its golden glory has been much diminished by over-enthusiastic land developers who built hotels as near to the shorebreak as possible, the beach is still quite lovely. The water is warm and clear, and landmark Black Rock dominates the skyline.

Further down the coastal highway one will find the charming seaside towns of Kahana, Kapalua and Napili. The golf courses of Kapalua are also widely renowned; serious golfers may choose to fly into the Kapalua airport, stay at the Ritz Carlton Kapalua, and completely bypass the rest of the Maui experience.

South Maui:

Approximately 30 minutes from West Maui is the other main tourist area, known as South Maui even though it's actually further west than south. The uppermost segment of South Maui is Kihei, site of many mid-priced hotels and swimming beaches. This is a very popular spot with families; it's affordable, safe, and offers all kinds of diversions. Locals also frequent the South Kihei strip, particularly the Kamaole Beach Parks and the Azeka shopping centers.

South of Kihei is Wailea, one of the most breathtaking resort communities in the world. The air is perfumed with island blossoms, the beaches(all of them public-access) are white sand, and the resorts are architectural wonders. Marvel at the palatial Eastern-themed Fairmont Kea Lani Resort or the understated elegance at the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea. The last hotel on Alanui is the Maui Prince. After that, the road travels along through a few miles of dry underbrush and weeds that give some indication of what South Kihei looked like before it was developed. About five minutes down the road are the three turn-offs to Makena State Park, thought by many to be the world's best swimming beach.

Upcountry:

The tiny towns in Upcountry Maui are the opposite of Wailea and Lahaina in every way. Laid-back, local, simple and friendly, they are populated by an odd mix of islanders, white locals, eccentric recluses and passionate nature lovers. Protea farms, cattle ranches and botanical gardens thrive on most of the land, while the"towns" are usually comprised of a few streets with a handful of stores and a couple of restaurants. Makawao and Pukalani are the two largest upcountry towns. Nestled in the mountains is the town of Kula. Most Haleakala downhill bike rides begin or end in Kula, as do many roadtrips to Hana. Olinda and Haiku are'blink-and-you'll-miss-it' towns, worth visiting only if one prefers birdsong to human conversation.

(One thing to keep in mind when visiting Upcountry is that as the elevation rises, the temperature drops—so bring a sweater.)

Haleakala/Hana:

While Haleakala and Hana are two of Maui's major tourist attractions, almost no tourists stay in either of the areas. Hana has a couple of hotels, but it's impossible to lodge at Haleakala National Park; most of it is volcanic crater or scientific research zone. These regions are undeveloped and somewhat dangerous. It's fine to drive the main roads or to explore back roads with a guide, but venturing off alone into the Hana rain forest or the Haleakala crater is one of the silliest things a person can do.

Still, no trip to Maui is complete without a Hana or Haleakala experience. The twisty road to Hana is as famous as the epic waterfalls at journey's end. The sunrise over Haleakala is truly inspirational—as any fan of Jimi Hendrix's"Purple Haze" knows. People who can't get enough of Hana's beauty might opt to stay in the tiny jungle town. In that case the lodging options range from the inexpensive Aloha Rainbow Cottage to the world-class Hotel Hana-Maui and Honua Spa.

While the adorable seaside town of Paia is not in Hana—or anywhere near—it is probably the town that is most often passed through on the way to the rainforest. This town is a destination in itself. It is arguably the world's top windsurfing location. It's also home to some fabulous art galleries, clothing boutiques and restaurants. Anyone who wonders what ever happened to the'60s should visit Pa'ia—it seems to be stuck in them.

Central Maui:

While some travel writers rave about the untouched-by-tourists appeal of Hana, the truth is that Hana's main industry is tourism. Central Maui is the place that offers authentic local color. Compared with the rest of the island, it's decidedly un-lovely. Even semi-touristy Kahului is choked with asphalt and chain link, while Wailuku is, at first glance, a cluster of dilapidated buildings that seem to be under a constant black cloud. However, Kahului is the closest thing to a city that Maui has, and Wailuku is the county seat. Across the Mokulele Highway is Ma'alaea, an up-and-coming town known for its picturesque harbor and its near-constant winds.

Perhaps the main appeal of Maui is the way it manages to have a little bit of everything. It is simultaneously an undeveloped jungle and a bustling town. By offering the perfect combination of secluded natural beauty and sophisticated commercial appeal, this little island manages to touch a special place in everyone's heart.

North Shore: The North Shore of Maui offers a refreshing change from the ordinary vacation. Between exotic recreational opportunities, a peaceful and natural setting, and a

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diversified cultural environment, this is not your typical vacation spot. The North Shore(encompassing Paia, Kuau, Sprecklesville, Haiku and Huelo) has both pros and cons compared to the more popular west and south areas. On the positive side you will enjoy a relatively unspoiled tropical setting and be close to rainforest hiking trails, waterfalls, world class windsurfing, and uncrowded beaches. While there are plenty of shops and restaurants, there is a welcome absence of commercialization and high-rise development. Accommodations will be small-scale, privately-owned B&B or vacation rentals, where you can become acquainted with your hosts and have more access to an authentic experience of island culture. You will be conveniently situated for a day trip to the remote jungle village of Hana, or a visit to the crater of the dormant volcano. Unfortunately, few north shore properties offer direct beach access, so it will be a short drive to reach the white sand. For those of you who must have your creature comforts and round-the-clock service, North Shore will be roughing it. Imagine, no 24-hour room service, no night life within walking distance, and it will rain!(after all, it is a jungle). Maybe you'll find North Shore a hardship, but if you are tough enough then this is the ideal island getaway. Check out Maui Tradewinds Vacation Rental for accommodations on the North Shore.
©

History

In the Beginning

Approximately five million years ago, an undersea eruption created two volcanic mountains, Mauna Kahalawai and Haleakala. Mauna Kahalawai, now an extinct volcano, became the rugged West Maui Mountains. Majestic 10,023-foot Haleakala, meaning'house of the sun', last erupted in 1790 and is now considered a dormant volcano. Centuries of lava flows and erosion created an isthmus between the two mountains. This vale composed of rich volcanic soil gave Maui the nickname'Valley Isle'.

According to ancient legend, the Hawaiian islands were created by Maui, the'god of a thousand tricks', who pulled the islands from the ocean with his magic fishhook(be sure to listen to the famous local song"Hawaiian Super Man by Bruddah Iz for a in-depth summary of the legend). This mythical demigod also lassoed the sun god'La' from atop Haleakala, releasing it only after it promised to move slowly through the sky, thus providing abundant daylight and warmth for the islands.

Maui County, now four islands, was originally one land mass called'Maui-Nui'. During the polar ice age, the glaciers thawed and the oceans swelled to separate the mountain peaks into the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kaho'olawe.

The First Settlers

According to legend, Hawai'i-loa and eight navigating seafarers from the Marquesa islands, 2,000 miles to the south, discovered the Hawai'ian islands in the eighth century A.D. The first inhabitants developed a simple agrarian culture.

Around the twelfth century A.D., the Tahitians arrived in Maui. Their chiefs became the ali'i, the Hawaiian ruling class. The Tahitians established the'kapu' system, the rigid social order that became the foundation of ancient Hawaiian culture. Additionally, they introduced their religion with its many goddesses.

For several centuries, warfare raged among competing ali'i on Maui and between chieftains from the neighboring islands of O'ahu and Hawai'i. In 1550 AD the Ali'i Pi'ilani unified all the Maui districts, and after he died his two sons battled for control of the island. With the help of warriors from Hawai'i, Kiha-a-pi'ilani prevailed to become the supreme ruler of Maui.

Maui Becomes Part of the Monarchy

During the late 1700s, Kamehameha I, ruler of the big island Hawai'i, invaded the adjacent islands to establish the Hawaiian Kingdom. One of his armies, led by Kalani'opu'u, attacked Maui in 1776. He was soundly defeated by the warriors of King Kahekili, who surprised the invaders by hiding behind the sand dunes at Ma'alaea Bay. However, in 1790, Kamehameha I invaded Maui once again, this time with a fleet of war canoes so large it is alleged to have filled the bay from Hana to Kahului. Kamehameha finally conquered Maui in the brutal battle of Wailuku. This historic battle is now known as Kauwaupali('clawed off the cliff') and Kepaniwai('the damming of the waters'). In 1802 Kamehameha I built the"brick palace" in Lahaina, where he lived for a year.

The Influx of Westerners

The British explorer Captain James Cook landed in Kahului Bay on November 26, 1778, an event that began the influx of Western influence. French explorer Captain Jean-Francois La Pérouse, the first Westerner to settle on Maui, established a village in 1786. Probably the most significant influence was that of the Christian missionaries, who founded the first mission under Reverend Richards in Lahaina in 1823. However, whaling had begun to boom in Lahaina, and it swiftly introduced some of the more unsavory Western elements to the port town. A riot broke out in 1825 when a law was passed prohibiting the sale of alcohol, but it did not squelch the Christian presence. Meanwhile, the missionaries established their instrumental role in educating the local population. Since the Hawaiians had no written language, the missionaries developed a written language based on a twelve-letter alphabet. In 1835, the governor of Maui ordered all children over four to attend school. Missionaries taught reading, writing and Bible studies in Hawaiian, and by 1850, Hawaii had the world's highest literacy rate!

Unfortunately, the Westerners also brought diseases that over the next century would obliterate the native Hawaiian population. Viruses such as measles that were endemic in Westerners had a devastating effect on the previously unexposed Hawaiians. Soon the ratio of Hawaiians to immigrants began to drastically decrease.

Commercial Growth and the Advent of Tourism

As Western traders and seafarers flocked to Maui, commercial growth expanded. Lahaina became a major port during the whaling era, and by the 1840s, hundreds of ships anchored there. Merchants, prostitutes, saloons, and gambling establishments prospered, although tensions between the whalers and missionaries created social unrest. The discovery of oil in 1850 signified the decline of whaling.

George Wilfong, an entrepreneurial whaler, established Maui's first sugar plantation in Hana. During 1853-1854, a smallpox epidemic killed many native

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Hawaiians, resulting in a depleted work force. Immigrants from China, Japan, the Philippines, and even Europe flocked to Maui to work in the sugar cane fields. American businessmen began to invest in pineapple and sugar plantations, and in 1875 negotiated a reciprocity treaty with the governor of Maui to protect their investments.

The expansion of foreign power and influence ultimately led to the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893. In 1894, American pineapple tycoon Dole became the governor of the Republic of Hawaii, which was annexed to the United States in 1898 and made a U.S. territory in 1890. During the early 1900s, Japanese immigration swelled; Maui's population was 40 percent Japanese by 1925.

The opening of the Best Western Pioneer Inn in 1901 signaled the beginning of tourism in Lahaina. Visitors Mark Twain and Robert Lewis Stevenson praised Maui, and Lahaina became a vacation hot spot for the rich and famous. After World War II, sugar production declined and tourism experienced phenomenal growth. Maui's first resort hotel, Hotel Hana-Maui and Honua Spa, was opened in 1946. After Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959, investment capitol poured in for development of vacation resorts. Ka'anapali, dubbed the world's first"master planned resort," and site of such mega-resorts as the Ka'anapali Beach Hotel and the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort& Spa, was built in 1961. In the 1970s, sunny South Maui, with its great snorkeling beaches and constant sunshine, was discovered. Over the next few years, several plush resorts and championship golf courses were developed in Wailea. Maui continues to grow as more and more people discover the allure of the island.
©

Hotel Insights

As one of the top vacation destinations in the world, Maui can boast more than its fair share of lodging choices—large and small, inexpensive and princely. The'Valley Isle', as it's known, is sprinkled liberally with hotels, especially on the coast, while inns and B&Bs can seemingly be found around every corner.

WEST MAUI:

Ka'anapali Beach: There's an ongoing debate about whether Wailea or Ka'anapali is the be-all and-end-all of Maui tourism. Of course, residents of the West insist it's Ka'anapali, while South Maui locals believe that grandeur begins and ends at Wailea. However, since Ka'anapali Beach was a legend while Wailea was just bleak desert, it seems only fair to give it first mention.

Staying in Ka'anapali is pricy; there's no way around it. The first"fantasy hotels" were built here, around famous Black Rock, and with each passing decade they continue to get more and more opulent. Resorts such as the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort& Spa and the Sheraton Maui boast every service and amenity that a vacationer could desire and a few that no one ever imagined! Not to be outdone, the Marriott's Maui Ocean Club has just completed a$100 million exterior renovation.

Often rated as the'best value on Maui', the Ka'anapali Beach Hotel also offers one of the most authentic Hawaiian vacations. Other median-range lodgings can be found at any of the ResortQuest(formerly Aston) or Outrigger properties.

Kahana, Kapalua, Napili: West of Ka'anapali, the vacation scene becomes a bit less hectic. While hotels and condominium resorts are still numerous, they are spread out a bit more along the coastline, and cater toward a more sedate clientele.

Kahana is located in between Ka'anapali and Kapalua. It offers lots of condominium lodgings, from Hale Mahina to the Kahana Sunset, located just on the border of Napili.

Napili is a serene, lovely town located on a protected bay. Hotels such as the Outrigger Napili Shores, the Napili Kai Beach Resort and the Napili Village cater to long-term visitors who prize peace and quiet above all things. The beach here is largely unspoiled, offering powder-fine gold sand and foam-tipped blue water.

Kapalua is a golfer's paradise. Its hotels cater to wealthy, mature travelers and to convention groups. The Ritz Carlton Kapalua is a stunning property located on secluded Honokahua Bay, further west than any hotel. Its restaurant, The Anuenue Room, is one of the finest in all Hawai'i. The Kapalua Villas, located on the jutting tip known as Hawea Point, also offer first-class accommodations.

Lahaina While it's not nearly as hectic as Oahu's Waikiki Beach, Lahaina is definitely the most hectic district on Maui. Many people opt for hotels in Ka'anapali or Kahana, preferring to sleep somewhere outside of Action Central. However, a few hotels in town, while not quiet, are certainly plenty of fun. The Lahaina Shores Beach Resort claims the distinction of being the only beachfront Lahaina hotel. With the beach just outside and the charming 505 Front Street shopping center a stone's throw away, this hotel offers the best of all worlds—at a price, of course. Another option in Lahaina is the Ohana Maui Islander. The Best Western Pioneer Inn offers modern convenience in a charming historic building.

Sprinkled around Lahaina are a number of upscale, serene, pretty guest homes and bed and breakfasts. Visitors to places such as The Guesthouse and House of Fountains can enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of a quaint village inn, while making the most of the shopping, dining and ocean activities located just blocks away.

Kihei: A verbal description of Kihei can make it sound somewhat unappealing. Strip malls, shopping centers, condominum complexes and moderately priced hotels take up most of the road, while three or four beaches in the center attract hundreds of sunbathers from the hotels across the way. But give Kihei the benefit of the doubt. It's a real town, with plenty of locals(unlike Lahaina) and some very good lodging and dining value(unlike Ka'anapali or Wailea). While the hotels are not deluxe, they are pleasant and comfortable, and many feature private balconies with beach views.

Hotels and condos on South Kihei are mostly interchangeable. Whether you're staying at Menehune Shores on the north end, the Royal Mauian in the middle or the Hale Pau Hana on the South end, you're guaranteed a comfortable room in an unglamorous highrise, with easy access to beaches and restaurants. Many of the ResortQuest/Aston properties are located on this strip; they are known to offer consistent quality and value. Among them are the Aston at the Maui Banyan, Aston Maui Lu and ResortQuest Maui Hill.

Wailea: Sometimes, when driving in Wailea at sunset, the view is so extraordinarily beautiful that cars pull over

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all along the highway just to look. The most amazing thing is that, unlike many vacation destinations where the locals regard such actions as slightly laughable, in Maui the locals are usually the first to pull over.

It's hard to believe, but 15 years ago this verdant, perfectly maintained tropical paradise was an untouched desert. Several foreign developers decided to turn it into a luxury golf resort—with astoundingly successful results. Now, resorts such as the Grand Wailea Resort Hotel& Spa, the Renaissance Wailea Beach Resort and the vaguely eastern-themed Fairmont Kea Lani Resort are rated among the top luxury hotels in the entire world. More intimate, but equally elegant--accommodations can be found at the Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea or the Diamond Hawaii Resort& Spa, which caters to Japanese golfers.

To say that it is easy to find bargain accommodations in Maui is a gross exaggeration, if not an outright lie. However, anyone seeking comfortable accommodations in a world-class setting is likely to be satisfied by the island of Maui. Discerning travelers with the advantage of a decent budget will agree that, as far as hotels in tropical paradise go, there's nowhere better on earth.

North Shore: Perhaps you—like a growing number of travelers who usually stay in hotels, condos or resorts—have'been there, done that', and wish to experience something a little less ordinary on your next vacation. The North Shore of Maui offers a refreshing change, including different recreational opportunities, a more peaceful and natural setting, and a diversified cultural environment.

The North Shore(encompassing Paia, Kuau, Sprecklesville, Haiku and Huelo) has plusses and minuses compared to the more-frequented west and south areas. Plusses: you will enjoy a relatively unspoiled tropical setting and be close to rainforest hiking trails, waterfalls, world class windsurfing, and uncrowded beaches. While there are plenty of shops and restaurants, there is a welcome absence of commercialization and high-rise development. Accommodations will be small-scale, privately-owned B&B or vacation rentals, where you can become acquainted with your hosts and have more access to an authentic experience of island culture.

For an example of luxurious and private vacation homes in Haiku, visit Maui Tradewinds Vacation Rental. For comfortable, very affordable cottages in a"local" setting try Nona Lani Cottages.

You will be conveniently situated for a day trip to the remote jungle village of Hana, or a visit to the crater of the dormant volcano. Negatives: few north shore properties offer direct beach access, so it will be a short drive to reach the white sand. No 24-hour room service, and no night life within walking distance. There will be some rain(after all, it is a jungle out there!)

Fortunately, the island is small enough that you are never far removed from all points of interest, regardless of where you stay. It boils down to a basic choice: would you rather stay in a highly-populated and developed area, enjoy certain conveniences and have the beach within walking distance, or would you prefer a quieter, more private and natural setting, removed from crowds and commercial activity?
©

Restaurants Insights

Dining in Maui is overwhelming. Culinary styles hail from around the world, and some styles are unique to Maui alone. In one week—and in one town—a visitor can feast on Thai and French cuisine, fresh game and fresh fish, sandwiches, burritos and, of course, a few scoops of ridiculously decadent ice cream.

Ka'anapali:

Amidst the five-star hotels and designer boutiques of this famous resort, one can find any number of fabulous restaurants. Most of them fall a bit short of world-class gastronomically, choosing to offer ambiance and affordable prices in lieu of top-tier culinary masterpieces. Old favorites such as Leilani's on the Beach and Reilley's Steaks& Seafood feature live music, drink specials and amazing views. The lovely Hula Grill can't be beat for ambiance—and the fresh seafood wins local awards, if not international ones.

WEST MAUI:

Kahana, Kapalua, Napili: Further along the coast the emphasis shifts from pleasing hungry crowds to pleasing educated palates. The area's gourmet restaurants include Roy's Kahana Bar& Grill, the Maui Brewing Company Fish& Game Rotisserie and Erik's Seafood Grotto. Make a trip to one of the finest restaurants in the state of Hawai'i, the Plantation House located in isolated Kapalua.

Lahaina: Lahaina Town is Maui's undisputed dining and drinking hot spot. All the best places are within a mile of each other, meaning if one place isn't working, it's easy to walk to another. Upscale restaurants range from first-class French, served at Gerards Restaurant, to the cutting-edge Pacific Rim creations found at David Paul's Lahaina Grill or I'o. The Feast At Lele, presented on the beach outside Pacific'O, wins awards for the best cuisine and entertainment in Maui. For exotic Asian cuisine, try Bamboo Cafe. Ruth's Chris Steakhouse serves a great steak every time, while Longhi's Restaurant lobster is simply to die for.

While not advertised as much, inexpensive options abound. At least once, it is absolutely crucial to try an authentic local-style plate lunch at Aloha Mixed Plate. Lahaina Coolers, a block down from Front Street, is popular with locals because of its food and its atmosphere. Cheeseburger in Paradise is a boisterous Front Street experience, as is Moose McGillycuddy's. Each one of these places features live music most nights, and turns from a daytime restaurant to an after-hours bar.

SOUTH MAUI

Kihei: Dining options in Kihei range from five-star to five-dollar. Roy Yamaguchi's Roy's- Kihei is causing people to head over to Pi'ilani Villages in droves. Mid-range restaurants abound on South Kihei, ranging from Spices at the Maui Coast Hotel to Margarita's Beach Cantina, which is actually in North Kihei. People who are trying to eat cheap on Maui won't find a better place than Kihei. Tasty and inexpensive meals can be enjoyed at Kihei Caffe, Maui Tacos and Alexander's Fish, Chicken& Ribs. The Coffee Store—Azeka Place is a great place for a chilly espresso drink any time of day.

In terms of nightlife, the local vote goes to Hapa's Brew Haus, where each night brings a different theme. Kai Ku Ono has a very pleasant bar scene that caters to a slightly more sophisticated crowd.

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Wailea: The South Side equivalent of Ka'anapali boasts a wealth of fine dining options—and very little else. All of the hotels have at least two gourmet restaurants; some have more. Standouts include Humuhumunukunukuapua'a at the Grand Wailea, Nick's Fishmarket Maui in the Kea Lani, and for buffet dining, the Palm Court at the Renaissance Wailea. For Sunday Brunch, the Maui Prince puts on a fabulous spread.

CENTRAL MAUI

Kahului: It's not always easy to figure out where to eat in Kahului. The town is spread out, and except for the two major malls, restaurants aren't in any one location. Probably the best known restaurant in Kahului is Marco's Grill& Deli, followed by Koho—the quintessential family restaurant.

Wailuku: Surprisingly, though Wailuku is as local and un-beautiful of a town as Kahului, it has a number of excellent restaurants, mostly ethnic. If you can find your way to either A Taste of Saigon or Saigon Cafe, you won't be disappointed. Saeng's Thai Cuisine is delicious and inexpensive, not to mention central.

Ma'alaea: The restaurants of Ma'alaea are developing a reputation among savvy tourists and affluent locals. Buzz's Wharf is famous for its enormous, sweet Tahitian prawns and award-winning crème brulee. The Waterfront is harder to find, but has earned rave reviews for its fresh fish, which are caught fresh daily and prepared nine different ways.

Pa'ia: Health food nuts should make Pa'ia their first, last and only stop for dining. Whether you're enjoying enormous breakfasts at Charley's or perhaps packing a picnic lunch at—where else? Picnic's —you're sure to get something delicious, fresh and healthful.

Just outside of Pa'ia one will find a true Maui legend, and a must-visit for any self-respecting gourmand. This is Mama's Fish House. The cuisine, ambiance and service are legendary, and deservedly so.

UPCOUNTRY:

Makawao, Kula, Pukalani: There are only a few destination restaurants in rural Upcountry Maui. En route to Haleakala you'll find the Hali'imaile General Store and the Kula Lodge Restaurant. In Makawao Town, there's only one place to go for night time entertainment: the famous Casanova Italian Restaurant& Deli. If it's more of a peaceful occasion, make reservations at the Makawao Steak House. And anyone who makes the two-hour journey to Hana and wants a fine meal should definitely try the Hana Ranch Restaurant.

Dining in Maui is only as much of a science as you make it. If you're just looking for a good time, a quick bite, or a pretty meal, trust your own judgment.
©

Nightlife Insights

Maui doesn't have a quarter of Oahu's population, but it seems to have almost as many activity choices. Whether hiking, biking, snorkeling or windsurfing is your passion, there are a dozen places to go and a dozen companies to act as guide.

Beaches

The first thing to do on Maui(aside from checking into the hotel, of course) is to hit the beach. Ka'anapali Beach on West Maui is one of the top sunning spots, while Makena State Park Big Beach is probably the most popular swimming and bodyboarding beach. There are dozens of other beach parks, and since all of Hawaii's beaches are public-access, you're free to plop down in any spot that appeals to you.

Cruises

Whether it is an early morning whale watch complete with breakfast, a full-day cruise to neighboring Lanai or a sunset cocktail cruise, Maui's boats are built for pleasure. The America II is a high-speed adventure; it was a former contender for the America's Cup. For something a bit different, climb aboard one of the Atlantis Submarines vessels.

Snorkeling/Diving

The best time to snorkel or dive in the waters off Maui is the early morning. Tradewinds begin to pick up in the late morning, and usually by noon the water is a bit murky. Around 8 am dozens of tourists emerge from vans and busses onto Ulua/ Mokapu Beach, South Maui's favorite snorkeling spot. Rainbow Chaser offers day excursions to neighboring islands. For equipment or excursion booking, Snorkel Bob's and Boss Frog's Dive& Surf Shop-Napili are two standby companies.

Scuba companies are also numerous. Mike Severns Diving and Maui Sun Divers will work with any level diver, even the most nervous beginners. Makena Coast Charters offers a variety of underwater excursions to offshore wrecks, reefs and caverns.

Golf

As a world-class golf destination, the Valley Isle boasts over a dozen courses, spread across the island and ranging from inexpensive municipal courses to internationally famous resorts. The three Wailea Golf Clubs and the Makena Golf Courses cater to South Maui visitors, while on the West side lie the famed Kapalua Golf Club and Ka'anapali Golf Course.

Shopping

While it doesn't have as much shopping as Honolulu, which seems to have a Louis Vuitton on every block, Maui certainly has its fair share of shopping areas. The largest is Kahului's Queen Ka'ahumanu Center. On the West side there are about a half-dozen smaller shopping centers, including the Lahaina Cannery Mall, Wharf Cinema Center and Whalers Village. Major shopping strips are located along South Kihei Road in South Maui. The latest shopping centers to open on the South Side are The Shops at Wailea and the Ma'alaea Harbor Village.

Galleries

Maui boasts more galleries than any other city on the West Coast. Most of them are located in two blocks on Front Street. Don't forget to make a trip to the famous Wyland Galleries. Among the countless other Maui galleries are Artlines, Maui Hands, the Dolphin Galleries and, hidden in the jungles of Hana, the Hana Coast Gallery, critically acclaimed as the top cultural art gallery in the state.

Performing Arts: Music and Theater

The newest show to hit Maui is wowing the crowds and winning the hearts of critics and locals. Called'Ulalena, it is performed nightly in the grandiose Maui Myth& Magic Theater. It uses dance, music, theater and a multi-million dollar lighting system to tell the story of Maui's creation.

When major acts come to Maui(which actually happens more often than one might

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think), there is really only one place for them to perform: the Maui Art& Cultural Center. The outdoor amphitheater has a maximum capacity of 5,000—most of the seating being on the lawn. It has hosted acts such as Santana and Ziggy Marley.

Smaller acts can perform practically anywhere in Maui. Every major hotel has thousands of square feet of conference space, and the three major malls(Whaler's Village, Lahaina Cannery and Ka'ahumanu Center) all have main stages which regularly host all kinds of entertainers.

Luaus

Maybe it's the weather, maybe it's the music on the radio or maybe it's just the infectious Aloha spirit. Whatever the cause, it's a fact that anyone who visits Maui feels compelled to get to a luau. Visitors to South Maui have only a few choices: the Renaissance's Wailea Sunset Luau is a standby. West Maui offers several spectacular luaus. The Old Lahaina Luau and the Marriott Luau are two of the favorites, but everyone agrees that the Feast At Lele, held at Pacific'O, is hands-down the best. Other than the'Feast', which won't lower its USD85 admission rate for anyone, most of the luaus offer discounted prices through activity brokers.

Nightlife

Everybody knows, if it's raging nightlife you're after, you should go...to Honolulu. That said, Maui does its best to rabble-rouse once the sun goes down. There are no full-scale nightclubs on the islands, but Casanova Italian Restaurant& Deli offers decent club nights. Brewpub Hapa's Brew Haus in Kihei always has something going on, and on the right night it can be a lot of fun. Live Hawaiian music is presented everywhere, and recently there's been a surge in the popularity of live jazz, swing and ballroom. Among the best places for dinner and dancing are Longhi's Restaurant and BJ's Chicago Pizzeria.

Had enough yet? If not, don't worry; there's more where that came from. Just when you think you've seen all of Maui, you realize that—no pun intended—you haven't even got your feet wet.
©

Things to Do Insights

Maui is an island of such stunning natural beauty that the journey from one town to the next is a scenic tour within itself. Blue water, white sand and miles of sugarcane fields dominate the south end of the island, while the majestic West Maui Mountains are the Lahaina-side landmark.

The Road To Hana

No stay in Maui is complete without a visit to Heavenly Hana. You'll want to be up with the sun in order to get the most out of this day trip. Coming from the South or West side of Maui(Kihei or Lahaina), the total drive time to Hana Town is about three hours. The Hana Highway begins in Kahului, where first-timers would be well advised to pick up a Hana Cassette Guide. The highway then runs through the charming old plantation town of Pa'ia. Take a little time to cruise around downtown before you get back on the road.

Once you've got a suitable lunch packed and plenty of gas in the tank, hop back on the highway and head into the jungle. Most of the drive runs along the coastline, with towering cliffs, tropical foliage and a multitude of waterfalls creating a breathtaking feast for the senses.

You can make any number of stops before reaching Hana. Ten miles past Hana Town is one of Maui's must-sees: Oheo Gulch(also known as the"Seven Sacred Pools"). Once in Kipahulu(location of the Pools), you have the option to continue driving around the southern side of the island. This road is equally as rugged as Hana Highway(if not more so) and conditions are not always safe for driving. While the back road route is lovely, you'll need to use your discretion regarding its safety at the time of your trip.

Haleakala: House of the Sun

Maui isn't the kind of place where you want to sleep late, but if you decide to see a Haleakala sunrise, get ready to set your alarm clock unusually early—even by Maui standards. The driving time from Kahului to the Crater's summit is about two hours, which means you'll need to get on the road by about 3a.

The road to Haleakala National Park travels from sea level to 10,023 feet—in just 38 miles! The Visitor's Center is located at 9,745 feet; a campground and picnic area is at 7,030 feet. Even when the coastlands are hot and humid, the Crater tends to be very cold and windy. Bring warm clothes.

Biking down Haleakala can be an invigorating way to spend a few hours. Bicycle tour companies provide all gear and can facilitate guided or self-guided tours.

Snorkeling Molokini

Molokini is a tiny, crescent-shaped island located just off of the southern tip of Maui. Waters surrounding the island are sheltered by a sunken crater rim, which makes for calm snorkeling conditions. Dolphins, sea turtles and a staggering variety of tropical fish make their homes here. Tours generally last five or six hours, with breakfast, lunch, drinks and all equipment included in the excursion cost. Most Molokini tours depart in the morning from either Ma'alaea Harbor or Lahaina Harbor. Contact Snorkel Bob's, Seafire Molokini Cruises or any other reputable excursion company for information.

South-Side Beaches

The best way to spend a day in South Maui is to drive the coastline and stop at a few of the innumerable white-sand beaches. While many of these beaches are adjacent to hotels, all beaches in Hawaii are open to the public. As long as you don't use hotel chairs or water toys, you're free to relax on the perfectly maintained beaches—and afterward, to purchase a cocktail from a hotel bar.

Beginning at the busier end of South Kihei Road, you'll find the popular Kamaole Beach Parks. These three centrally located parks offer great barbecue facilities and are popular amongst locals. Further along the road is Keawakapu Beach, a small but lovely swimming beach. Just a bit further down(right where Kihei becomes Wailea) is Ulua/ Mokapu Beach. It is one of the South Side's most popular snorkeling beaches. Follow Wailea Alanui all the way down and, at the tail end of a rather desolate stretch of road, you'll find the jewel of Maui: Makena State Park. Home of Big Beach and Little Beach, this is one of the island's best surfing and body-boarding spots.

If you want to outfit yourself for a day at these beaches, there are several different places to go. The best known snorkel outfitters are Boss Frog's Dive& Surf Shop and Snorkel Bob's, while Maui Diving offers

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low-cost scuba equipment rental. Rent surf equipment at Second Wind Sail& Surf.

The West-Side Tour

Lahaina offers a full complement of daytime and nighttime activities. Even if you aren't staying on the West Side, you'll want to take a day and see the sights.

Every visit to Lahaina tends to start on Front Street. There's plenty of shopping, as well as a variety of historic highlights. Visit the Old Lahaina Courthouse, the Banyan Tree Park and the former prison. For West Side shopping, stop by Lahaina Cannery Mall or Wharf Cinema Center. It's wise to get your walking tour done in the early hours of the morning, leaving your afternoon free. This side of the island gets oppressively hot by mid-day, at which point you should head down to Ka'anapali Beach for swimming and sunbathing. If you're still in town by dinnertime, head back to Front Street for dinner. After dark, there are a few bars featuring live entertainment and tropical cocktails.

Head to Lahaina on a Friday night, as the art galleries host snacks, wine parties, and talks with the artists.

©

Travel Tips

Getting There:

By Air:

Maui is serviced by the Maui Kahului Airport(OGG)(http://www.state.hi.us/dot/airports/maui/ogg/) which provides domestic, international and inter-island commercial service. Visitors to Maui can also fly into Honolulu International Airport(http://www.state.hi.us/dot/airports/oahu/hnl/) and travel to Honolulu via an inter-island carrier.

Maui Kahului Airport houses the following airlines:

Air Canada(+1 888 247 2262;http://www.aircanada.com/)

American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300;http://www.aa.com)

Alaska Airlines(+1 800 252 7522;http://alaskaair.com)

American Trans Air(+1 800 225 2955;http://www.ata.com/home.html)

Delta Airlines(+1 800 221 1212;http://www.delta.com/)

Hawaiian Airlines(+1 800 882 8811;http://www.hawaiianair.com/)

United Airlines(+1 800-241-6522;http://www.united.com/)

Honolulu International Airport houses the following airlines:

Air Canada(+1 888 247 2262;http://www.aircanada.com/)

Air New Zealand(+1 800 262 1234;http://www.airnz.co.nz/)

Air Pacific(+1 800-227-4446;http://www.airpacific.com/)

All Nippon Airways/Air Japan(+1 800-235-9262;http://www.ana.co.jp/asw/index.jsp)

American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300;http://www.aa.com)

Continental Airlines(+1 800 523 3273;http://www.continental/com)

Delta Airlines(+1 800 221 1212;http://www.delta.com/)

United Airlines(+1 800 241 6522;http://www.united.com/)

Northwest(+1 800 225 2525;http://www.nwa.com)

Harmony(+1 866 868 6789;http://www.harmonyairways.com/index.shtml)

North American Air(+1 800 786 8747;http://www.northamericanair.com/)

Korean Air(+1 800 438 5000;http://www.koreanair.com/)

Philippines Airlines(+1 800 435 9725;http://www.philippineairlines.com/)

Polynesian Airlines(+1 866 765 9247;http://www.polynesianairlines.com/)

Japan Airlines/Jalways(+1 808 521 1441;http://www.jal.co.jp/)

ATA/Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays(+1 800 435 9282;http://www.pleasantislandholidays.com/)

China Airlines(+1 800 227 5118;http://www.china-airlines.com/)

Suntrips(+1 800 786 8747;http://www.suntrips.com/)

Inter-island Carriers include:

Island Air(+1 808 484 2222;http://www.visitmaui.com/aloha.html)

Paragon Airlines(+1 866 946 4744;http://www.paragon-air.com/)

Pacific Wings(+1 888 575 4546;https://www.radixx.cc/pacificwings/booking/reststt.asp)

Hawaiian Airlines(+1 800 882 8811;http://www.hawaiianair.com/)

Aloha Airlines(+1 808 244 9071;http://www.alohaairlines.com/fly/)

Taxi companies include:

Maui Airport Taxi Maui Airport Taxi

Surf Taxi Maui

Airport Shuttle Services include:

Call at least 48 hours in advance for service.

Speedi Shuttle(+1 800 977 2605) provides 24 hour service and has ADA accessible vehicles available.

Kapalua Executive Transportation Services(+1 808 669 2300) provides service from 6a-10p daily.

Limousine companies include:

Carey Limousines of Hawaii(+1 888 563 2888;http://www.hawaiilimo.com/)

Provides deluxe limousine and airport transportation services in Maui.

Rental Car companies include:

Alamo(+1 800 327 9633;http://www.alamo.com/)

Avis(+1 808 871 7575;http://www.avis.com)

Budget(+1 877 283 2468;http://www.budget.com)

Hertz(+1 800 654 3131;http://www.hertz.com)

National(+1 800 227 7368;http://www.nationalcar.com)

Enterprise(+1 800 736 8222;http://www.enterprise.com)

Dollar(+1 800 342 7398;http://www.dollar.com/)

Thrifty(+1 877 283 0898;http://www.thrifty.com/)

Getting Around:

By Bus/Shuttle/Limousine Service:

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Akina Aloha Tours, Inc.(+1 808 879 2828;http://www.akinatours.com) provides transportation services including sedans, limousines, vans, minibuses, Van Hool Motorcoaches, Executive Van Hool Limousine Coaches, Unique Tours and Support Services for the island of Maui.

Maui Tours& Transportation(+1 877 874 5561;http://www.mttours.com/)

Polynesian Adventure Tours(+1 800 622 3011;http://www.polyad.com/maui.htm)

Roberts Hawaii(+1 800 831 5541;http://www.robertshawaii.com/)

Travel Plaza Transportation(+1 808 534 3300;http://www.tpthawaii.com/)

By Public transit:

Maui Public Transit System(+1 808 270 7511;http://www.co.maui.hi.us/bus/) consists of 3 public routes operated by Roberts Hawaii and 2 public routes operated by Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc, each subsidized by the County of Maui. The public transit system provides service in and between Central, South and West Maui M-Sa. No services are offered on Su.

Roberts Hawaii(+1 800 831 5541;http://www.robertshawaii.com/) provides 3 routes: Route A(Ma'alaea-Kihei-Wailea); Route B(Kahului-Ma'alaea-Lahaina); and Route C(Kahului-Kihei-Wailea).

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Public Shuttle(+1 808 877 7651;http://www.meoinc.org/) provides 2 routes on a donation basis: Route 1& 2:(Wailuku-Kahului).

Holo Ka'a Public Transportation(+1 808 879 2828;http://www.akinatours.com/maui_shuttle.htm)

By Cruise Ship/Ferry:

Expeditions(+1 800 695 2624;http://www.go-lanai.com/) offers inter-island ferry service from Lahaina Harbor, Maui to Manele Harbor, Lanai.

Moloka'i Princess Interisland Ferry(+1 866 307 6524;http://www.molokaiferry.com/) offers inter-island ferry service between Maui and Molokai.

Bicycle rental companies include:

Island Biker Maui(+1 808 877 7744;http://www.islandbikermaui.com)

Mountain Riders Bike Tours(+1 800 706 7700;http://www.mountainriders.com)

Maui Downhill Bicycle Safaris(+1 800 535 BIKE;http://www.mauidownhill.com)

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/
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Fun Facts

1.Haleakala, Maui's most famous volcano, is the largest dormant volcano in the world. The crater is 21 miles across and 4,000 feet deep. A fun fact…that's large enough to hold the island of Manhattan!

2. Maui has been voted the"Best Island in the World" 16 times by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine.

3. Interesting fact: There are 8 main islands that make up Hawaii(Oahu, Maui, the Big Island, Molokai, Lanai, Kaho'olawe, Kauai, and Ni'ihau) but in all, there are about 130 islands and atolls that make up the entire Hawaiian island archipelago.

4. The island of Ka'aholawe, which you can see from Maui was used by the Navy during WWII for target practice. There are still many areas on the island that are off limits, as undetonated bombs litter the landscape. Another fun fact… If you go on a snorkeling trip to Maui's small crescent moon island ofMolokini, you can see missile indentations in the backside slopes as well.

5. Before Honolulu became the capital of the Hawaiian Islands in 1850, Maui's whaling town of Lahaina held the honor.

6.Lahainaluna High School, founded in 1831, is the oldest school west of the Rocky Mountains. The school also possessed thefirst printing press used in the western United States. In the early days it was used by the missionaries to print religious passages, and later used printing Hawaiian currency and even producing a Maui newspaper.

7. The Hawaii State bird is the Nene goose. It is an adaptation of the Canadian goose, and is believed to have migrated to the Hawaiian Islands over 500,000 years ago from Canada. They can only be found in Hawaii, and at one point their population dwindled to as low as 30 birds.

8. Random fact: A tiny bird called the Kolea, or golden plover, flies roundtrip to Alaska and back annually each summer to mate and nurse young.

9. Happy Face Spiders are only found in Hawaii. They have distinct colorful formations on their backs which often times resemble a yellow smiley face. Pretty interesting fact!

10. Thelargest Banyan tree in the world is found in Lahaina, Maui. It was originally planted as an 8 foot tree in 1873 and has grown to inhabit an entire acre.

11. Surprisingly the Maui Gold Brand of pineapples possess three times the amount of vitamin C as other brands of pineapple. Who knew?

12.Honokohau Falls is Maui's largest waterfall, which is over 1100 feet high. It is located in the West Maui Mountains and best seen by helicopter.

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