



Maui

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Best Places to Eat

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- NorthShore Cafe (p391)

Best Snorkel Spots

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Why Go?

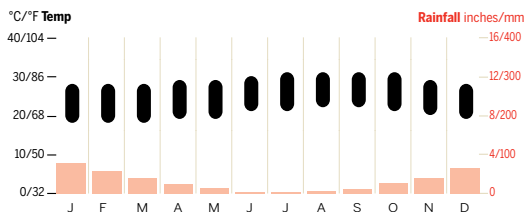
Maui is the postcard island. Where snorkelers pause for green turtles. Zipliners swoop over jungles. Couples exchange vows on the beach. And early risers watch the sun punch through morning clouds from the top of a lofty volcano.

The most visited of the Neighbor Islands, Maui lures travelers who are revitalized by outdoor adventure and gorgeous scenery. Nature watching is at its most glorious in winter when humpback whales return to mate and raise their young.

Maui's natural charms are enhanced by top-notch restaurants and lodging. From scrappy food trucks to white-linen dining rooms, eateries embrace local food and its traditions. Resorts wow guests with impeccable service and prime seaside locations, with B&Bs providing more personal alohas.

When to Go

Lahaina



Jan-Mar Humpback whales frolic along Maui's shores during the winter months.

July Maui celebrates July 4 with a big rodeo and *paniolo* (cowboy) parade.

Oct-Nov A quiet season with good weather and lower hotel prices.

History

Maui's early history mirrors the rest of Hawaii's, with warring chiefs, periods of peace, missionaries, whalers and sugarcane. At the time of statehood in 1959, Maui's population was a mere 35,000. In 1961 Maui retained such a backwater appearance that director Mervyn LeRoy filmed his classic *The Devil at 4 O'Clock* in Lahaina, where the dirt roads and untouristed waterfront doubled for the sleepy South Pacific isle depicted in his adventure movie. Spencer Tracy and Frank Sinatra not only shot many of their scenes at Lahaina's Pioneer Inn, but stayed there too.

Enter sugar giant Amfac in 1962, which sweetened its pot by transforming 600 acres of canefields in Ka'anapali into Hawaii's first resort destination outside Waikiki. Things really took off in 1974 with the first nonstop flight between mainland USA and Kahului. Maui soon blossomed into the darling of Hawaii's tourism industry.

Its growth spurt hasn't always been pretty. In the mid-1970s developers pounced on the beachside village of Kihei with such intensity it became a rallying call for anti-development forces throughout Hawaii. Recent years have been spent catching up with Kihei's rampant growth, mitigating traffic and creating plans intent on sparing the rest of Maui from willy-nilly building sprees.

In the 21st century Maui has been a leader in eco-activism. Parks, forest reserves and watersheds cover nearly half of the island. Maui was the first island to approve a ban on single-use plastic bags, which went into effect in 2011. Thirty-four wind turbines line the slopes above wind-whipped Ma'alaea Harbor, enough to power more than 18,000 homes annually. In 2012, eight more windmills went online in east Maui on land leased from 'Ulupalakua Ranch.

Climate

Maui's west coast typically boasts dry, sunny weather, with conditions improving as you approach Kihei and Makena in the south. Hana and the jungle-covered east Maui offer rainforests and gushing waterfalls. The Upcountry slopes, beneath Haleakalā, commonly have intermittent clouds, making for a cooler, greener respite and ideal conditions for land-based activities like hiking and horseback riding. For an islandwide recorded weather forecast, call ☎ 866-944-5025.

National, State & County Parks

Maui's marquee park is Haleakalā National Park, its lofty volcanic peaks giving rise to east Maui. The park has two distinct faces. The main section encompasses Haleakalā's volcanic summit with its breathtaking crater-rim lookouts and lunarlike hiking trails. In the park's rainforested Kipahulu section you're in the midst of towering waterfalls, swimming holes and ancient Hawaiian archaeological sites.

Top among Maui's state parks is 'Iao Valley State Park, whose towering emerald pinnacle rises picture-perfect from the valley floor. For the ultimate stretch of unspoiled beach, head to Makena State Park. On the east side of Maui, Wai'anapanapa State Park sits on a sparkling black-sand beach.

Maui's county parks center on beaches and include the windsurfing meccas of Kanaha Beach Park and Ho'okipa Beach Park. Details about county parks and beaches, including contact information and lifeguard availability, can be found on the Maui County government website: www.mauicounty.gov.

Camping

On Maui there's a clear pecking order in camping. At the top, offering the best and safest options, are the campgrounds at Haleakalā National Park. After that, the state parks – most notably Wai'anapanapa State Park – are a better option than the county parks.

National Parks Haleakalā National Park has excellent drive-up camping at the summit area and in the seaside Kipahulu

WIND RIDING WEBSITES

Maui is known for its consistent winds. Windsurfers can find action in any month, but as a general rule the best wind is from June to September and the flattest spells are from December to February.

Get the inside scoop on kiteboarding and windsurfing from the following:

- ➔ **Maui Kiteboarding Association** (www.mauikiteboardingassociation.com)
- ➔ **Maui Windsurfing** (www.mauiwindsurfing.net)
- ➔ **Maui Kitesurfing Community** (www.mauikitesurf.org)