



Moloka'i

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Best Beaches

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Best Adventures

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Why Go?

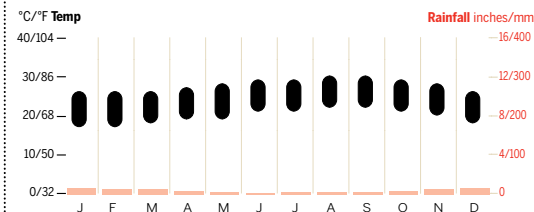
The popular local T-shirt proclaiming 'Moloka'i time is when I want to show up' sums up this idiosyncratic island perfectly: feisty and independent, while not taking life too seriously. The moniker 'Friendly Isle' means slowing waaay down and taking your sense of rhythm from the locals.

Moloka'i is often cited as the 'most Hawaiian' of the islands, and in terms of bloodlines this is true – more than 50% of the residents are at least part Native Hawaiian. But whether the island fits your idea of 'most Hawaiian' depends on your definition. If your idea of Hawaii includes great tourist facilities, forget it.

But if you're after a place that best celebrates the islands' geography and indigenous culture, then Moloka'i is for you. Ancient Hawaiian sites in the island's beautiful, tropical east are jealously protected and restored, and island-wide consensus eschews development of the often-sacred west.

When to Go

Kaunakaka



Nov–Mar Rain gear is needed in Kaunakakai and any place east; it's possibly chilly in the hills.

Apr–Aug Winter rains have stopped and the entire island enjoys breezy tropical comfort.

Sep–Oct Moloka'i enjoys lovely low 80s (°F) daytime temperatures; conditions are a little cooler up high.

Moloka'i Highlights

- 1 Explore the culture and beauty of **East Moloka'i** (p449).
- 2 Hear echoes of Hawaii's past while hiking in the pristine and deeply spiritual **Halawa Valley** (p455).
- 3 Discover underwater delights, or just laze the day away, at **Twenty Mile Beach** (p454).
- 4 Kick back at a picnic table with a superb plate lunch
- 5 Follow in the footsteps of America's first saint on the **Kalaupapa Peninsula** (p461).
- 6 Make friends bust a nut by sending a **Post-a-Nut** (p460) from Ho'olehua.
- 7 Get your skin blasted clean on windswept and untrammeled **Kaunakakai** (p445).
- 8 Relive plantation Hawaii wandering unrefined **Kaunakakai** (p445).

