

# Maui



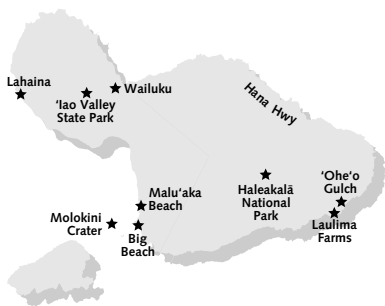
You'll notice it proudly displayed – from rusty bumpers of pickup trucks to glossy brochures: *Maui no ka 'oi*, meaning 'Maui is the best.' That's a big claim for an island with such pretty siblings. And yet, Maui's magnificent beaches could well make you giddy. The entire west coast is lined with golden sands, some backed by fancy resorts, some full of beach towels and boogie boards, some as naked as the day they were born. In midwinter, all you have to do is stare out to sea to spot humpback whales cavorting offshore. You can ride monster waves if you're a pro, learn to surf if you're not. Snorkel each day at a different site. Kayak with dolphins and sea turtles. Pin a sail to your board and fly with the wind.

A plethora of adventures await on land. Strap on a pair of boots and hike the crunchy lunarlike surface of the world's largest dormant volcano. Twist your way along the jungly cliff-hugging Hana Hwy, soaking up waterfalls and swimming holes. Explore the salt-sprayed whaling town of Lahaina. Foodies, take note. You could come to Maui to do nothing but eat, and not be disappointed. It doesn't hurt that the rich and famous favor Maui, which helps top-chef restaurants to thrive. But you don't need a fat wallet to treat your palate – just step into the tasty café-laden streets of Pa'ia, where everything's green, local and hip.

Add it all up and it's little wonder Maui draws more visitors than any other Neighbor Island.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Catch a soulful crater-rim sunrise at **Haleakalā National Park** (p413)
- Dive the crystal-clear waters of **Molokini Crater** (p379)
- Wind across 54 one-lane bridges on the **Hana Highway** (p392)
- Slurp mango shave ice at **Tom's Mini-Mart** (p370)
- Snorkel the turtle town waters of **Malu'aka Beach** (p385)
- Ogle Maui's favorite green landmark at **'Iao Valley State Park** (p371)
- Bask in the aloha at the **Old Lahaina Luau** (p347)
- Swim in the cascading pools at **'Ohe'o Gulch** (p400)
- Pedal-power your own smoothie at off-the-grid **Laulima Farms** (p402)
- Watch the sunset from glorious **Big Beach** (p386)



■ POPULATION: 120,000

■ AREA: 728 SQ MILES

■ NICKNAME: VALLEY ISLE

## 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 offered a perfect setting 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 slept there too, since the inn's two dozen rickety rooms represented the bulk of Maui's hotel options.

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 non-stop flight between the 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 the beachside village of Kihei was pounced on by developers with such intensity it became a rallying call for antidevelopment forces throughout Hawaii. Much of the last decade has 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. More recent development has taken a decidedly upscale approach, leaving Maui with some fancy resorts and the highest room rates in Hawaii.

## CLIMATE

Sun-worshippers will want to hightail it to Maui's west coast, which boasts dry, sunny conditions from Kapalua in the north to Makena in the south. Hana and the jungle-covered eastern side of the island pick up much more rain. Annual rainfall averages just 15in along the west coast but 69in in Hana. 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. Maui's rainiest months are between December and March.

Temperatures vary more with elevation and location than with season. Daytime highs on Maui vary only about 7°F between summer

and winter, and coastal waters are always warm. Average daily temperatures in August hover around 80°F in Lahaina, Kihei or Hana, but only 50°F at Haleakalā summit. The lowest temperature ever recorded on Maui was 14°F at the summit of Haleakalā, where overnight lows dip below freezing and the volcano even gets an occasional winter snowcap.

See p563 for more climate information and climate charts. For an islandwide recorded weather forecast, call ☎ 866-944-5025.

## NATIONAL, STATE & COUNTY PARKS

The crowning glory of Maui's parks, Haleakalā National Park embraces the lofty volcanic peaks that gave rise to east Maui. The park has two distinct faces. The main section (p413) encompasses Haleakalā's volcanic summit with its breathtaking crater-rim lookouts and lunar-like hiking trails. In the park's rainforested Kipahulu section (p400), you're in the midst of towering waterfalls, cascading pools and ancient Hawaiian archaeological sites.

A must-see among the Maui's state parks is 'Iao Valley State Park (p371), whose towering emerald pinnacle rises picture-perfect from the valley floor. For the ultimate stretch of unspoiled beach, head to Makena State Park (p386), the northern portion of which is a haunt for nude sunbathers. On the east side of the island, Wai'anapanapa State Park (p396) sits on a gem of a black-sand beach. To explore a dreamy cloud forest, head to Upcountry to Polipoli Spring State Recreation Area (p411), where a lightly trodden network of trails winds beneath lofty trees.

Maui's county parks center on beaches and include some hot places, like Kanaha Beach Park (p365) and Ho'okipa Beach Park (p388) for windsurfing and kitesurfing.

## Camping

### NATIONAL PARKS

For the best camping on Maui, head to Haleakalā National Park. Drive-up camping is available in both the summit (p420) and Kipahulu (p401) sections of the park, and no fees, reservations or permits are required. Haleakalā also offers free backcountry camping on the crater floor (with a permit), as well as high-demand \$75 cabin rentals (p421).

### STATE PARKS

Maui has two state parks with both campsites and cabins: Polipoli Spring State Recreation