

Welcome to Maui

Maui lures travelers with an invigorating mix of natural beauty and outdoor fun, all shared with warm alohas.

Outdoor Adventure

When it comes to outdoor recreation, Maui wins best in show. Just look at that zipliner launching into a canopy of green. Or the mountain biker hurtling past eucalyptus and pine. Hiking trails wind through lava flows and bamboo forests. Along the coast, surfers barrel through waves and snorkelers glide among fish-filled reefs and coral.

And we haven't even mentioned the Valley Isle's most iconic adventures, like driving the Road to Hana. Watching the sunrise from the summit of Haleakalā. Paddling a kayak in Makena Bay. In sum? Amazing.

Natural Beauty

The golden sands of Keawakapu Beach. The rumpled green flanks of Haleakalā. The graceful beauty of Wailua Falls. These gorgeous sights have drawn admirers for generations. But it's funny, just when you think you have a handle on Maui's sublime scenery, an unexpected view catches you by surprise. It's these unplanned glimpses of beauty that linger. Maybe it's the *'ahinahina* (silversword) staking out a claim on a stark crater slope. Or the jagged lava along the Ke'anāe Peninsula, looking protective for a moment, not menacing. And the Waiakoa Loop Trail at Polipoli? Spookily pretty – until that baby boar snuffles into view.

Food & Drink

A top-notch dining scene enhances Maui's natural charms. And the best part? No matter the view or adventure, you're always a short drive from a delicious meal. Unless it's 8pm in Hana and you're looking for dinner... From scrappy food trucks to white-linen dining rooms, eateries are embracing locally sourced food, from Upcountry vegetables to grass-fed beef from the ranch down the road. And the local food? The names may be unfamiliar – *loco moco*, shave ice, *kalua* pork – but the flavors are rich and delicious, and the portions typically hearty.

History

As you hike over the uncomfortable lava rocks on the King's Hwy near La Perouse Bay, gazing out to sea and broiling under the sun, it's easy to connect with ancient travelers who surely felt the same mix of awe and discomfort. Maui is dotted with such spots, where natural formations and historic structures are direct portals to the past. Downtown Lahaina, with its old wooden storefronts and rowdy pubs, channels the whaling era. You'd hardly blink if Edward Bailey, an 1800s missionary, stepped from the stairwell at the Bailey House. And the 100-year-old Komoda Bakery? The past still makes tasty cream puffs.



Why I Love Maui

By Amy C Balfour, Writer

On my first visit to Maui I hiked the Waihe'e Ridge Trail and ziplined through the West Maui mountains. Thanks to those adventures, I'm hooked on the island's outdoor charms. Since then I've kayaked Makena Bay, hiked into a moonscape crater and snorkeled Molokini Crater. It's the mix of beautiful scenery and easy-to-access adventures that pulls me back. That and the genuine alohas from the residents, who have invited me to book-club meetings and a backyard party. I even had an inn manager, running late, send me to Monkeypod Kitchen with a fistful of cash and instructions to have fun. Aloha and *mahalo*!

For more about our writers, see p320