



REPORTS FROM THE ROAD

maui

INTRODUCTION

When you say “tropical paradise,” the first word that comes to many minds is **MAUI**. Sugar-white beaches, dramatic volcanoes, and lush green valleys are all part of the island's mystique. Surfing, windsurfing, and snorkeling here are a tough act to follow, and there's championship golf aplenty. Excessive development has caused crowded conditions in certain areas, and congested roads can be a problem. But away from the packed beaches, secluded waterfalls and quiet temples can be found by the adventurous spirit willing to venture off the beaten path—and these rewards are well worth the effort.

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY



Member: smmarti guide

Journal: WOW! Maui for everyone

“How would you describe your heaven on earth? I might begin with the way it simultaneously soothes and stimulates my five senses, puts me at ease, releases my tensions, and eradicates the unnecessary noise in an overanxious psyche. These are the reasons I travel to Maui four to eight times a year.”



Member: saunter.

Journal: Maui No Ka Oi

“Maui is the best! That's what 'Maui No Ka Oi' means. There is so much to do, you'll be wet all the time—from jumping in the water to sweating from heat and exertion. Highlights for the back-door adventurer include getting to know the many waterfalls, cliff-diving into the ocean, hiking the crater and then staying in one of the cabins, and witnessing the phenomena of the Haleakala sunset with the full moon rising.”



Member: Prosperine.

Journal: Xmas in Maui (2001)

“Driving around the island is by far the scariest thing you can ever do—it tops driving to Monteverde in Costa Rica, that's for sure. The road to Hana is well paved, but if you want to see the area past Seven Sacred Pools (O'heo Gulch) and Nakalele Blowhole, you'd best be wary. These are the areas that are off-limits per your contract with your car-rental agency. Imagine winding cliffside roads; one-lane/two-way traffic with no pullouts; and a few crazy locals who speed by in their trucks. If you dare, go for it—it's a heart-pounding experience.”

ATTRACTIONS



Biking down the Volcano with Maui Downhill

199 Dairy Rd. Kahului. 800/535-2453. www.mauidownhill.com.

"Taking a bike tour of Haleakala was a great way to spend a morning. The tour company picks you up at your hotel early in the morning and whisks you to the top of the volcano. After a brief safety lesson, we hopped on our bikes and zoomed down the mountain, with brief stops to take pictures along the way. We stopped at a small lunch counter for a sandwich and stroll around a nice garden. There was almost no pedaling the entire way down, and the vans picked us up in the valley below. The cost is about \$90 per person." Member: **MarkR37**. Journal: **Maui Wowie**.

Golf Lessons from the Kapalua Golf Academy

500 Office Rd. Kapalua. 800/527-2582. www.kapaluamaui.com/golf.

"The staff aims to please at this lively driving range. Lessons cost \$35 for members, \$75 for guests. My excellent instructor took me out to the range first to assess my swing. After offering much encouragement, he made a few suggestions. Soon, I was hitting my four iron long, straight, and beautifully. Then we went into the 'swing center' for the videotaped version of the swing. The view from the teebox here is worth the price of the lesson alone. With the magnificent ocean as the target, how can you do any less than your best? The next day we practiced the 'short game' at the chipping and pitching area. This fabulous practice area comes complete with bunkers and undulation that simulate real course play. Doing this made a big difference in my game the next day." Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **WOW! Maui for everyone**.

snapshots from the road > > > > > >



"We came to **Haleakala** for the sunset and rising of the full moon. From down below, it seemed there was nothing but a smothering of clouds. The soon-to-be-setting sun sat above the powdery white clouds' horizon, an astounding juxtaposition against the glimmering ocean. At the summit, we saw the moon rise right after the sunset—magical!" Member: **saunter**.

Haleakala National Park

808/572-4400. www.nps.gov/hale/hale.htm.

"While seeing the sunrise from the summit of Haleakala can be a wonderful experience, there is much more to the mountain. Miles of trails into the crater are options for rugged types; we opted to stay on the pavement and let our eyes explore the scenery. Leleiwi Overlook is a short, easy walk from a small, paved parking lot. Kalahaku Overlook, the next stopping spot, provides a breathtaking view. The Crater Observatory is located directly on the edge of the crater, offering outstanding views and exhibits on the flora and fauna. The glass-enclosed Pu'u 'Ulaula Overlook sits at the summit. Rangers conduct talks and lead tours. To get the full effect of Haleakala, walk around—the wind and cold will certainly get your attention." Member: **Chicago_Dave**. Journal: **Maui: 3rd Time is the Charm**.



Helicopter Tours

“This was expensive, but a once-in-a-lifetime chance. Most operators charge about \$145 per person for about a 40-minute flight. It was beautiful, and I’m glad we did it! Once you get in the helicopter, everyone puts on headphones so you can hear the pilot. I felt like I was in *Jurassic Park* when the helicopter came to a huge waterfall and followed it to the bottom! The ride we went on took us to see Haleakala, Seven Sacred Pools, the Hana rain forest, and a lot of different waterfalls, beaches, and valleys along the North Shore.” Member: **Dreamtime**. Journal: **Honeymoon In Maui**.

Hookipa Beach

“Hookipa, in East Maui, was discovered about 20 years ago by the windsurfing community and is now considered the best spot in the world to set sail and ride the huge waves. If you haven’t seen this before, these people are insane. The surf is very big and the windsurfers zoom around at up to 30 miles an hour, flipping over waves and soaring into the air. It makes for a fun afternoon to sit in the car or walk down to the breezy beach and watch these kids risk their lives.” Member: **MarkR37**. Journal: **Maui Wowie**.

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“Visitors to the I’ao Valley will find a feast for the eyes: the **I’ao Needle**, the waterfalls that surge from the stream, the lush tropical foliage of this rain-forest wonderland. There is also a little hiking trail here, along with an example of Hawaiian-style taro gardens.” Member: **smmmarti guide**.

I’ao Valley

“These 6 acres with paved walking paths offer picturesque views and lush landscaping. Huge fan palms, tree fern, ti, ohia, and wild orchids can be spotted here. I’ao Needle reaches 1,200 feet into the sky, piercing the ghostly mist that glides in between the forested walls. A natural amphitheater marks the head of the valley. The floor of this remarkable notch in the mountains is more that 2,000 feet above sea level. Mark Twain called it the ‘Yosemite of the Pacific.’” Member: **BeAdventureous!** Journal: **Marvelous Maui!**

Ka'anapali Beach

“Ka'anapali is located in the resort area about 2 miles north of Lahaina. I found this beach to be one of the best for snorkelling—try the very end by Black Rock. Many people see turtles down here; don't touch them, though, or you'll face a stiff fine! Fish in every color of the rainbow will flock to you if you buy a little packet of fish food from one of the stands. You can rent snorkeling equipment as well. Since it's a resort area, there are lots of places to eat and gardens to stroll through.” Member: **kimca**. Journal: **3 Months on Maui**.

Kapalua Bay

“Kapalua Bay has been routinely listed among the top 10 beaches in the world. The sand and water are great, and what's below the water is also fantastic! We snorkeled off and on all day while enjoying a picnic lunch on the beach. The coral and marine fish were beautiful.” Member: **Waldo**. Journal: **Maui: Cheap and Easy**.

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“The **Lahaina Restoration Foundation** has published an excellent walking-tour map that details historic landmarks. The guide is free and can be picked up at the Baldwin House, 696 Front

St. My favorite parts of the walk were the enormous banyan tree in the village center and the old schooner parked in the harbor.” Member: **MarkR37**.

Lahaina

“This former whaling village is a colorful place to shop. Front Street houses historical buildings from the 1800s. Banyan trees sweep the picturesque streets, which are lined with galleries and shops selling clothing, handmade jewelry, scrimshaw, and unique gifts. Get a cone of shaved ice as you walk around. Better yet, people-watch and sip a drink under one of the many restaurants' palm-thatched roofs. In the harbor is *Cartheginian II*, a replica of the type of ship that brought the missionaries around Cape Horn in the early 1800s. Hard Rock Cafe is here too, bringing the crowds.” Member: **BeAdventureous!** Journal: **Marvelous Maui!**

Makawao

“Visitors come Upcountry to this old paniolo (cowboy) town to browse the galleries of local artists, shop the upscale boutiques, and wander the charming wooden walkways. Bakeries serve Portuguese *malasadas*, a beignet-type donut. A nearby rodeo ground delights locals and visitors alike with a special Fourth of July event. I was surprised by the one-of-a-kind garments at affordable prices—if you're a fashionista, forget Lahaina and head straight here. Makawao has also been voted one of the top art destinations in the country—the Hot Island Glass shop offers a glimpse into the production of beautiful objets d'art. A slew of natural-food delis and groceries whirl their peas into organic hummus, ensuring that everyone keeps their chakra and chi in perfect alignment.” Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **Maui - Hikes and Upcountry Delights**.

Makena Beach

“Makena Beach is also known as 'Big Beach.' If you wander down the beach far enough, you will hit 'Little Beach,' which is clothing-optional. Beautiful Makena draws crowds because it's somewhat sheltered from the trade winds. It's great for body surfing but a bit choppy for snorkeling. One thing to note, however, is that there is nowhere to buy food or drinks nearby. In addition, there are no lifeguards.” Member: **kimca**. Journal: **3 Months on Maui**.



Maui Ocean Center

192 Ma'alaea Rd. Ma'alaea. 808/270-7000. www.mauiocenter.com.

"The Maui Ocean Center boasts a 750,000-gallon saltwater aquarium and a 50-foot-long acrylic tunnel that provides a 240-degree view of nearly 2,000 fish. The Living Reef exhibit elucidates the unique ecology of the state and explains the reason Hawaii is home to such a varied collection of marine life. In the main exhibit hall are aquariums filled with more exotic and colorful fish than any scuba trip could promise. The ethereal jellyfish tank, filled with thousands of floating, pulsating creatures, is a sight not to be forgotten. But the biggest source of pride is the Whale Discovery Center, where you'll follow the journey of a young whale's migration from Alaska to Maui. When you spot whales at sea, you'll feel an even closer kinship with the magnificent creatures." Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **Maui - More, More, More!**

snapshots from the road > > > > >



"The snorkeling at **Honolua Bay** was fantastic. The sealife was beautiful, and the vivid colors of the fish are as bright as a rainbow. Take your lunch and spend the day. There is no fee—ask at your hotel how to get here." Member: **glaufer**.

Molokini Crater

"A Marine Life Conservation District, Molokini is a crescent-shaped cinder cone off the south shore of Maui that teems with reef fish, turtles, rays, and sometimes whales; it's considered one of the best dive destinations in the world. Sign up with one of the many tour operators on Maui (one of the best-known is Trilogy). A half-day dive trip costs \$60 to \$80 per person. Often there are so many boats anchored here that avoiding collisions with other swimmers is a challenge. Endure it, and you will see more thrilling underwater sights than perhaps anywhere else on the island." Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal:

Maui - More, More, More!

Paia

"The dusty town of Paia, between the beaches at Hookipa and Spreckelsville, has a reputation as Maui's grand hippie hangout. Mana Foods is an organic grocery and gathering spot; two doors down, hit the community center for kick-ass yoga and capoeira classes. Baldwin Beach is the perfect place for an early-morning swim. But the main reason for stopping in Paia is to fill up on food and gas before making the long trek to Hana or Haleakala. At Milagro's, at the corner of Baldwin Avenue and the Hana Highway, you can fill your belly on either end of the journey. The cuisine could be labeled mock Mexican, but that's no insult—the fish tacos are a delicious, nutritious way to fuel your body for the day." Member: **m.s. oneill**. Journal: **Maui: What To Do, Where To Go,**

How To Be.



“The Valley Isle has an amazing way of making you feel particularly alive. The vibrant flora and fauna infuse visitors with an emotional magic. Pay attention to the way you feel on Maui—if you learn to love nothing but your own instincts here, your visit will be a success.”

Member: **m.s. oneill.**

Road to Hana

“This is definitely a must-do! We started out on Route 36 up by the airport. From Paia to Hana is only 52 miles, but these miles pass through a variety of Maui’s rain forests, winding through 617 hairpin turns and crossing 56 one-lane bridges. There are many places to stop along the way to hike or to swim under a waterfall, so bring your camera! About 11 miles past Paia is the popular Twin Falls. Follow the trail to the waterfall and lots of scenery. Pack a lunch and tank up your car in Paia; I don’t remember seeing any gas stations along the way. The destination of Hana isn’t the main attraction—the journey there is, since around every turn is a Kodak moment. If you go off-road, be careful—the lava can be very sharp on tires. What a place to get a flat tire in the middle of nowhere!” Member: **Dreamtime.** Journal: **Honeymoon In Maui.**

Seven Sacred Pools (Ohe'o Gulch)

Rte. 360, 40 miles past Hana.

“This is a very beautiful place to do some hiking. Those of you who don’t like saltwater will love it, as it’s fresh mountain water coming from the high elevations of Haleakala. Yes, the water is very cold—so get nice and hot hiking the trails! There are more than seven pools, and after the water runs through one pool, a waterfall attaches it to another and then to another until it finally reaches the ocean.” Member: **Dreamtime.** Journal: **Honeymoon In Maui.**



Spa & Fitness Center at Ritz-Carlton Kapalua

1 Ritz-Carlton Dr. Kapalua. 800/241-3333. www.ritzcarlton.com.

“If you’ve ever been smeared with green seaweed goop, steamed like a dumpling, kneaded like a ball of dough, or sprayed with high-pressure water hoses, you will know what a delight all of these treatments can be. If you haven’t, do not delay—get thee to the spa at the Ritz. There are many treatments particular to Hawaii—I usually take advantage of the seaweed wraps and lomi-lomi massage. You can also lift weights, hire a trainer, or take a pilates or yoga class. Friendly staff, chilled towels, and lemon-infused ice water are a few of the personal touches that add to the incentive to get physical. Also available are trail maps outlining routes for hikes and jogs.” Member: **smmmarti guide.** Journal: **WOW! Maui for everyone.**

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“If you’re driving anywhere around the island, pack ice, water, and snacks. When traffic snarls, you’ll be glad you planned ahead. Just imagine every outing of more than 15 minutes as the road to Hana, and you’ll have things covered. If you take the drive north of Kapalua through the mountains, make sure the most cool-headed driver in your party is behind the wheel to navigate the treacherous twists and turns.” **Member: smmmarti guide.**

Surfing at Honolua Bay

“The pride of West Maui is Honolua Bay, especially when the north swell hits the island and wraps around the land mass, ending up at ‘The Bay.’ For more information on how the north wrap works, consult your high school physics teacher. As you drive up the Honoapi‘ilani Highway, you’ll come to a bridge under a leafy canopy in a narrow valley. Cross it, drive up the hill and around the bend, and there will be a dirt road to the left. Follow that to the cliff and park your car. There are a couple of dirt paths to walk down for better views—worth it for the able-bodied and relatively sure-footed.” **Member: smmmarti guide.**

Journal: **Maui - More, More, More!**



Tedeschi Vineyards

Ulupalakua. 808/878-6058. www.mauiwine.com.

“When Haleakala is in the clouds, there are other places to check out in the Upcountry area. The drive to the winery features terrific views and a landscape very different from other areas of Maui. The free tours end at the tasting room, where you can sample the variety of wines. Don’t expect anything that compares to a Mondavi cabernet, but the Maui blanc pineapple wine is an excellent picnic choice. As you head back towards Kula, stop by the **Kula Botanical Gardens** on Upper Kula Road (Hwy. 377). For \$5, you can wander this beautiful 5-acre garden that features thousands of plants, pools, a gazebo, and even some caged lizards. We ended this low-key day with lunch at the **Kula Lodge**, which has excellent sandwiches and salads. For something different and relaxing, don’t miss this part of Maui.” **Member: thecopes.**

Journal: **Maui - Embassy Resort and beyond.**



Tropical Plantation Tour

1670 Honoapi‘ilani Hwy. Wailuku. 808/244-7643.
www.mauionline.com/activityland/plantation.html.

“The free Maui Tropical Plantation Tour takes you around the grounds of a working plantation on a sort of jerky tram. The plantation grows 15 different types of crops and arrays of orchids. The guide narrates the entire way, providing information on the vegetation you see and even stopping to demonstrate how to remove the husk on a coconut. After the tour, you can enjoy a Hawaiian buffet-style meal for less than \$10.” **Member: virgoeleanne.**

Journal: **Maui...Most Awesome&UniquelIsland.**

snapshots from the road > > > > >



“Hi, I'm Gil Z and I'm a whaleaholic. While on my honeymoon, I fell in love with another man. So did my wife. He was a big fella—45 feet long, 30 tons, and had a beautiful voice. We listened to his haunting vocalizations as we snorkeled on a whale-watching cruise near Lahaina—it was like getting splashed with a liquid wave of sound.” Member: **Gil Z.**

Whale-Watching

“If you happen to be in Maui during the winter, seriously consider going on a whale-watch. The humpbacks start arriving in late November and stay in the area until March. You can take a tour from one of many ships docked right in downtown Lahaina. We chose the Pacific Whale Foundation (808/879-8811) because it's a nonprofit company that uses some of the \$25 fee for research and preservation of the magnificent creatures. We came across a large female with her calf, who was very curious about our boat and came right up to look at us. It was almost a religious experience as the two whales circled around us. The views coming back into the harbor were fantastic.” Member: **MarkR37.**
Journal: **Maui Wowie.**

DINING

A Pacific Cafe

Azeka Place II, 1279 S. Kihei Rd. Kihei. 808/879-0069.

“This chef has a small but expanding island empire based on his excellent reputation, which continues to grow. We ate at two of his restaurants on Kauai as well, featuring excellent Hawaiian/fusion dishes. No two menus at his places are exactly alike. Always packed, with locals as well as tourists in the know.” Member: **cat30.** Journal: **Maui for 10 days.**

snapshots from the road > > > > >



“Whatever you do, go on a snorkel boat! Our captain spotted dolphins and whales and next thing we knew, we had several dolphins swimming off our bow and a pair of whales surfacing near us. The kids went nuts!” Member: **thecopes.**



Aloha Mixed Plate

1285 Front St. Lahaina. 808/661-3322.

“Anybody who wants to get a feel for a Hawaiian working man's lunch should come here for a taste of authentic Hawaii, better known as the plate lunch. This was great—plenty of food and some great flavors. The kids loved it!” Member: **KO.** Journal: **2 Weeks in Maui.**



Anuenue Room

Ritz-Carlton, 1 Ritz-Carlton Dr. Kapalua. 808/669-6200. www.kapaluamaui.com.

“There is no better place to celebrate a special occasion than the Anuenue Room. Tropical flowers and crystal chandeliers set the mood. Ubiquitous patio torches cast their glow on the diners in the open-air portion of the restaurant. Most tables overlook superb views of the Ritz pools and the ocean. The wine list has won awards of excellence from *Wine Spectator* yearly since 1996. Chef Virgil Brandel fuses traditional French foods with distinctly Hawaiian flavors, such as salt-crusted onaga and Hawaiian seafood bouillabaisse. The results are tres magnifique!” Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **WOW! Maui for everyone**.

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“Hawaii’s citizenry represents an unparalleled melting pot of diversity. Although Caucasians make up a good percentage of the population, they are by no means the majority in these islands that are home to the descendants of the original voyagers from Polynesia as well as Filipinos, Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, Koreans, Puerto Ricans, Polish, Germans, and many ‘others.’ The cultural smorgasbord includes ahi sushi, Hawaiian lomi-lomi or poke, lilikoi cake, shoyu chicken, and Portuguese malasada (donuts)—all now considered typical Hawaiian foods.” Member: **smmmarti guide**.



Cheeseburger in Paradise

811 Front St. Lahaina. 808/661-0830. www.cheeseburgermaui.com.

“Cheeseburger in Paradise is famous for—you guessed it—burgers. The enormous, juicy burgers will fill you up for the rest of the day. There are two dining levels with great views of the water. Breakfast is served daily. There’s a huge selection, ranging from macadamia-nut pancakes to chili-cheese omelets. Lunch and dinner menus include burgers, shrimp, soups, salads, sandwiches, and more.” Member: **kimca**. Journal: **3 Months on Maui**.



Gazebo Restaurant

Napili Shores Hotel, 5315 Lower Honoapi’ilani Rd. Napili. 808/669-5621. www.outrigger.com.

“The Gazebo can make a morning person out of the most die-hard night owl. Tucked behind the Napili Shores Hotel rests this oceanfront gem with the best breakfast and views this side of Lahaina. There will likely be a queue at this open-air shack with plastic tables and chairs, but don’t worry. While you wait, you can watch the waves come in or the snorkelers at the beach. The pineapple/macadamia-nut pancakes are as good as any exquisite dessert. The house specialty fried rice, although not a typical breakfast item, is a succulent combination of rice, vegetables, egg, sausage, and ham.” Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **WOW! Maui for everyone**.

Hali'imaile General Store

900 Hali'imaile Rd. Makawao. 808/572-2666. www.haliimailegeneralstore.com.

"Beverly Gannon, Maui's most celebrated female chef, runs this Upcountry restaurant down a little-traveled road outside of Makawao. The old plantation-style warehouse has a sophisticated menu and an airy bar decorated with whimsical fish sculptures. A mango margarita went down easy. The seafood bouillabaisse was a huge bowl of various local seafood swimming in a delicate sauce. My husband followed his sushi sampler (ono!) with the perfectly roasted prime rib. Hali'imaile is a must to cap off a visit to Maui's Upcountry." Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **Maui - Hikes and Upcountry Delights**.

snapshots from the road > > > > > >



"As we wound our way down the narrow Upcountry road lined with eucalyptus trees and verdant foliage, we spotted an occasional horse pasture or country estate through an opening in the trees.

We stopped outside one particularly lovely place, where I sighed at the vistas of both coasts visible in the valley between Haleakala and the West Maui Mountains."

Member: **smmmarti guide**.

Hula Grill

Whalers Village, 2435 Ka'anapali Pkwy. Ka'anapali. 808/667-6636. www.hulagrill.com.

"I give the Hula Grill an A+ for the best service on the island. I had the focaccia sandwich—very good, with tons of fillings. The price was under \$10 and very reasonable for a beachfront restaurant in Ka'anapali. The Hula Grill offers seating practically on the sand. This is a favorite for tourists at sunset."

Member: **virgolette**. Journal: **Maui...Most Awesome&Uniquesland**.



Java Jazz

3350 Lower Honoapi'ilani Rd. Lahaina. 808/667-0787. www.javajazz.net.

"This is the coolest coffee shop on the West Side. Owners Katherine and Farzad Azad have the place smokin' with sofas, artwork, jazz, whimsical touches, and, of course, coffee brewing and smoothies shakin'. Farzad also puts on impromptu performances and jam sessions on certain evenings.

Breakfast service starts at 6am with waffles, eggs, burritos, omelets, and baked items. A simple lunch and dinner menu includes falafel, burgers, Tuscany chicken, and blackened fish. Sensational." Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal:

WOW! Maui for everyone.

Kimo's

845 Front St. Lahaina. 808/661-4811. www.kimosmaui.com.

"If you follow the shimmering orange reflection the sun imparts on the ocean just before it dips behind Lanai, it will lead you directly to a wooden bar stool at Kimo's. The water laps against the patio, the tiki lamps blaze, the slack-key guitar plays, and you know you've stumbled upon something special. Try some exotic local seafood like opakapaka; juicy steaks and a children's menu make it a suitable choice for any palate. Romantic tables for two and larger tables for groups all offer stunning views of the ocean." Member: **smmmarti guide**

Journal: **Maui - More, More, More!**



“The **Kapalua Wine and Food Festival**, set on the gorgeous lawns of the Ritz-Carlton and Kapalua Bay hotels every July, is an extravagant display. Dozens of wineries offer their best vintages, while Maui’s best chefs—often including Roy Yamaguchi, Alan Wong, and Beverly Gannon—compete by showing off their culinary talents.” Member: **smmmarti guide**.

Lahaina Fish Company

831 Front St. Lahaina. 808/661-3472. www.lahainafishcompany.com.

“Maui is a great place for fresh seafood, and Lahaina Fish Company is a great place to order it. The restaurant is always busy, but the wait is worth it! We were seated on a deck looking over the ocean. Since the restaurant was crowded and we feared we’d have to wait a while for our entrees, we ordered tons of appetizers. My friend and I shared the generous helping of ahi katsu sashimi—scrumptious! The peel-and-eat shrimp appetizer hardly left room for the entrees.” Member: **virgoleanne**. Journal: **Maui...Most**

Awesome&UniquelIsland.

Mama's Fish House

799 Poho Place. Paia. 808/579-8488. www.mamasfishhouse.com.

“Mama's Fish House comes highly recommended by locals and tourists alike. It's the kind of place where locals take their dates and celebrate birthdays. The cuisine is very Hawaiian, offering ahi, ono, taro, and more. There are views of the ocean out the screened windows. The inside is all dark wood, making it very cool on a hot day. Mama's is a busy place—stop by just to enjoy a drink at the bar, and definitely make reservations if you want to have dinner. There's plenty of parking and a nice beach with tiki torches, outrigger canoes, palm trees, and that aqua-blue ocean of your dreams.” Member: **saunter**. Journal:

Maui No Ka Oi.



Plantation House Restaurant

2000 Plantation Club Dr. Kapalua. 808/669-6299. www.theplantationhouse.com.

“Watching the sun sink into the ocean while sipping a mai tai at a place with a view means you've mastered life in paradise. Unfortunately, restaurants in Ka'anapali and Lahaina with the best views are often nabbed by tourists. Those looking for a more relaxed environment would be wise to head for the hills in West Maui instead. The sumptuous signature dishes are appropriately from the sea; Hawaiian-style pork tenderloin is every bit as tasty as the fish. Plantation House is also a favorite for breakfast, offering eggs Benedict with ahi or crab cakes. It's cooler up here, but the huge fireplace takes the chill out of the open-air dining room.” Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **Maui - Hikes and**

Upcountry Delights.



Roy's Nicolina

4405 Honoapi'ilani Hwy. Kahana. 808/669-5000.

"In 1988, when Roy Yamaguchi opened his first restaurant in Honolulu, a unique Hawaiian cuisine was born. This fusion of fresh, local ingredients influenced by the various flavors of the Pacific Rim is now found in the most upscale restaurants in Hawaii. On my first visit to Roy's, it seemed too corporate and boisterous, with no gorgeous views and no romantic nooks. On my second visit, guided by local friends on where to sit (by the window) and what to order (lemongrass-cruste shutome, Chinese duck), my reaction quickly changed—I had developed into a full-fledged Roy's fan. My husband chose the four-course tasting menu with wine pairings, a bargain at \$60. The wines had him singing praise even before the molten chocolate cone of decadence appeared to top things off." Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal:

American as Apple Poi: Maui on the 4th of July.

Sansei

Kapalua Bay Shops, 115 Bay Dr. Kapalua. 808/669-6286. www.sanseihawaii.com.

"More than one sushi habit was born here. The fish is only hours out of the water when you eat it. Sansei is perhaps the most popular establishment north of Lahaina. As if the food weren't enough of a draw, Thursday is karaoke night, which literally rocks the joint. Go early (5:30pm) to take advantage of the happy-hour appetizers. Favorites include the calamari salad with a sweet and tangy sauce. Move on to the panko-cruste seared ahi, then the unbelievable butter fish. Trust the friendly waiters—they'll steer you in the right direction if you're adventurous. Save room for dessert—the apple tart with cinnamon ice cream is very likely the best you will ever taste." Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal:

WOW! Maui for everyone.

AFTER DARK

Casanova's

1188 Makawao Ave. Makawao. 808/572-0220.

"Snuggled into the one and only major intersection of downtown Makawao in Upcountry Maui, Casanova's is well known by locals for its dance nights (along with its fine pastas and pizzas). Don't forget to go to ladies' night (hip-hop dance beats) on Wednesdays, live music on Thursdays, and wild Latin dancing on Fridays. My friends drive over 2 hours from the other side of Maui to make it to Casanova's on Friday nights." Member: **saunter**. Journal: **Maui No Ka Oi**.



Old Lahaina Luau

1251 Front St. Lahaina. 808/667-1998. www.oldlahainaluau.com.

"If you're looking for an authentic Hawaiian luau, this is the one to see. When you arrive, you are given a fragrant fresh lei—and a mai tai, of course! You have time to wander the grounds, observing the various craftsmen and taking in the sunset. You can see the cooking pit, or imu, as it is uncovered; the performers explain everything in detail as they unearth the pig. After everyone has their dinner, the show begins. A fantastic narrator tells the basic history of the islands and the ancient hula; dancers come out at various times throughout the show. Beautiful costumes, music, and dance, and the storyteller was wonderful. Highly recommended!!" Member: **Chele**. Journal: **Maui, playground in the sun**.

snapshots from the road > > > > >



“Realizing that performances of luau and hula offer native Hawaiians a forum for keeping their ancestry and culture alive, how can you not go? A **luau** may be the best opportunity to experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of the original inhabitants. It’s not perfectly authentic, of course, but it’s a very good thing.” Member: **smmmarti guide**.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Embassy Vacation Resort

104 Ka’anapali Shores Place. Lahaina. 800/362-2779. www.embassyvacationresorts.com.

“The EVR is an excellent choice, serving both the timeshare crowd and those looking for the services of a hotel. The rooms are huge, with a foldout sofa, kitchenette, balcony, king bed in the bedroom, and large bathroom with two vanities. The pool area is definitely the highlight—we found ourselves spending quite a bit of time here. The kids love the water slide, and there’s a spa as well. Another neat thing for families is the miniature golf course on the roof. The restaurant features a different buffet menu every night—if you’re really hungry, it’s not a bad deal. Or stick with the sandwiches at the poolside grill and you won’t be disappointed.” Member: **thecopes**. Journal: **Maui - Embassy Resort and beyond**.



Kapalua Bay Hotel & Villas

1 Bay Dr. Kapalua. 800/782-9488. www.kapaluabayhotel.com.

“If you want to imagine what it’s like to live (albeit temporarily) in paradise, check into a Kapalua Bay condo. The extensive Kapalua development is home to one of the world’s best beaches and to the famous Mercedes Championship of Golf Tournament. The Bay Villas are directly oceanfront or oceanview and have the advantages of unobstructed vistas of the strait between Molokai and Maui, typically filled with humpback whales in winter. Walk out your door and be right at the beach for surfing, snorkeling, and sunbathing. A free shuttle service takes you on demand anywhere in Kapalua.” Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **WOW! Maui for everyone**.

snapshots from the road > > > > >



“Hiking in the volcanic crater of **Haleakala** is one of the best activities on the island. The moonscape displays colorful peaks of lava flows, and the only vegetation is the rare plant called silversword. There are tons of trails and camping is actually allowed! Bring a jacket, lots of water, and a camera—the views are amazing.” Member: **Prosperine**.



Ritz-Carlton Kapalua

1 Ritz-Carlton Dr. Kapalua. 808/241-3333. www.ritzcarlton.com.

“The Ritz is situated on the former playground of the Hawaiian royals—a playground that includes the burial site of many ancient dignitaries. When the Ritz broke ground, it discovered evidence of the sacred site and thus reconsidered its plans. Originally intended to be distinctly ‘oceanfront,’ the Ritz now sits back from the sea just a bit. In order to utilize the beach, guests take a short walk or are driven in golf carts. The beach is officially called the D. F. Fleming Beach. It, like all other beaches in Hawaii, is public, though one section is attended by Ritz personnel. The hotel’s beach kiosk stocks ice water, towels, and lotion. To feel truly pampered, poolside service at the hotel is a must—the multi-tiered pool, waterfalls, whirlpools, cabanas, lunch and drink service, complimentary pineapple chunks, and Evian spritzes are conducive to dreaming the day away. That is, if you aren’t tempted to take the challenge of the putting course or the croquet court adjacent to the pool area.” Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal: **WOW! Maui for everyone**.



Royal Lahaina Hotel

2780 Kekaa Dr. Lahaina. 800/222-5642.

“Some say that this hotel has Polynesian charm. I say that it was the best deal I could find in an awesome location with 3 weeks’ notice. Seeing that I got a deal on a discount room for \$79 per night, it seemed doable. The resort offers a restaurant, a nightly luau, a pool, a concierge desk, and more. I would say it’s a good choice at the bottom end of the spectrum. On the plus side, there’s free cable, free beach towels, a complete activities desk, a post office, a boutique, golf access, and access to Ka’anapali Beach Walkway (great for jogging and long strolls past other hotels to a little shopping district). Next door, the Sheraton’s beach has good snorkeling.” Member: **Prosperine**. Journal: **Xmas in Maui (2001)**.

snapshots from the road > > > > >



“Hiking on **Molokai** is a treat—it’s drier than some of the other islands, so there’s fewer mosquitoes. And the views are incredible! Many people claim this island beats Moab for mountain biking, too. I’d believe it, but just be sure to stock up on water bottles.” Member: **gosusan**.

GO FURTHER

Lanai

“Lanai is a beautiful surprise and refreshing departure from what you might think Hawaii to be if you only visit the islands of Maui or Oahu. The Lodge at Koele at the top of the mountain feels more like the North Woods than a tropical island, and the gardens would put any Englishman into a swoon. Lanai is a unique playground for hunting, fishing, clay shooting, golf, croquet, tennis, and horseback riding, and also offers pleasures such as swimming, surfing, beachcombing, kayaking, and hiking.” Member: **smmmarti guide**. Journal:

Luscious Lanai.

Molokai

“Molokai remains the least developed of the Hawaiian islands you can visit. If you want to slow down, come here and learn why residents say ‘Moloka’i mo’ bettah!’ Molokai is first and foremost a place to relax—so perhaps the most important thing to do here is NOTHING. Take a day to hike down to the Kalaupapa National Park and tour the leper colony—it’s a beautiful place and a moving experience. Drive along the eastern shore up to the lush Halawa Valley, which has many secluded beaches. Have a mai tai at the beachfront bar of the Hotel Molokai. And finally, skip Molokai if you want exciting nightlife or fancy shopping opportunities.” Member: [gosusan](#). Journal: [Molokai Mo' Bettah](#).

PHOTO GALLERY



Banyan Tree
Member: MarkR37



Maui Golf
Member: smmmarti guide



Coconut Grove
Member: smmmarti guide



Palm Trees
Member: SpaceCowgirl



Waterfall
Member: m.s. oneill



Kapalua Bay
Member: smmmarti guide



Ascending Haleakala
Member: Prosperine



Kaupo Fog
Member: m.s. oneill

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