



MAUI BY THE SEA

VACATION COTTAGE

[Maui Activities and Restaurants](#)

last updated 01/02/17

First time to Hawaii: [Travel Smart Hawaii](#)

Check-out our [website](#) for general info on [Maui](#) and the [North Shore](#).

Also our [Maui by the Sea Facebook page](#) which shows a few places mentioned below.

Maui News and more: [Maui Now](#)

Weather and surf forecast: [Hawaii Weather Today](#). We use [this link](#) to have a sense of where the rain is. To follow the hurricanes during hurricane season: [KITV4](#).

DRIVING NORTH:

You can drive to [Hookipa Beach Park](#) (2 miles from the cottage) and watch the surfer and windsurfers. It can get pretty spectacular. Also recently some turtles are coming out of the water and resting on the sand. While yellow taped and protected it is fun to watch them.

In the cottage we have printed the directions to [Jaws](#), famous big waves surf spot. It is only 20mn from the cottage. Only worth going between September and March when a huge swell is coming.

Not far from the cottage if you want a short hike at [Twin Falls](#).

DRIVING TO HANA:

It takes us about 2 hours to get to Hana if we do not stop. It is fun to stop at look outs, by waterfalls or food stands to buy banana breads, fresh coconuts or [vegan ice cream](#) at the mile marker 27.5.

As you drive to Hana, your first stop would be at [Waianapanapa Park](#) (black sand beach).

Hana Town has one grocery store, one small restaurant and one gas station! One nice hotel with an art gallery too.

Just a few miles after Hana there is a beautiful turquoise water beach called [Hamoia Beach](#). Very nice for a lunch break and a swim.

Continue Hana Hwy (330) to the [Pipiwai Trail & Waimoku Falls](#), also the Seven Sacred Pools.

Be brave and continue the loop [around the island](#) instead of turning around to come to the cottage (longer in distance but faster in driving). The road (31) is a little narrow and unpaved for a few miles (car rental discourage to drive it as there is no cell service back there) but once you make it around the lumpy bumpy there is a beautiful straight asphalt laid road. Make sure you stop at the only [Kaupo Store](#). By the way, Kaupo is the start (or end, depending where you start) of the most challenging hike on Maui, Kaupo Gap Trail, taking you in and out of the Haleakala crater.

You will finally arrive at the [Ulupalakua Winery](#), you can visit and taste, there is also a little store across the road, the [Ulupalakua Ranch Store](#).

Keep driving now Hwy 37 and you will end up between Kahului and Paia.

DRIVING "UP":

Sunrise at [Haleakala Crater](#) National Park is often noted as a highlight of their Maui vacation experience for many of our guests. We love it too.

It has gotten so popular that the National park Service is now taking [reservations](#) which, most likely will need to be made well in advance of your visit to be sure to get a space. Of course no one can guarantee the weather but if you are the least bit interested we suggest you make the booking.

It requires an early departure so many of our guest make the journey the first morning of their arrival as they might be still a bit jet lagged and will wake up early anyway.

We have a page in our welcome book in the cottage that gives you directions and times.

It takes about 1h30mn to drive from Paia to the summit.

Note that the sky is already spectacular and worth seeing before the sun peaks. Use the flash for portraits. And stay a little longer after the sunrise, the colors and shadows of the inside of the crater are wonderful.

From there you can hike [Sliding Sands](#) or drive down to hike down Switch Back called [Halemau'u Trail](#). See all the [Crater Hikes](#) map. If you don't want to commit to a big hike, [Hosmer Grove Loop Trail](#) is easy and short; it is not inside the crater but on the side in the midst of pine trees.

On the way down we like to stop afterwards for breakfast or lunch at the [Kula Lodge](#). The view is incredible. And if it is lunch time we order brick oven pizzas.

DRIVING SOUTH:

Snorkeling on the South Shore, our favorite beach is [Maluaka Beach](#) next to the Prince Hotel. I find some shells and the water is pretty clear.

[Paako Cove](#) or Secret Cove is this adorable little beach, famous for wedding pictures. In winter, beautiful beach with turquoise water is [Big Beach](#). In summer, beware the surf is monstrous but spectacular to watch body boarders.

DRIVING WEST:

Now that you have gone around one side of the island through Hana, you might want to try the other side: [Paia, Lahaina, Kapalua, Wailuku](#). I have done it once 30 years ago and Craig used to bike around! We have heard from guests it is better to do it clockwise as at some point the road is narrow and you want to be the one against the mountain and not the one on the edge of the cliff!

Also here is a website about [road work and lane closures](#), it matters when you plan to drive around the West Maui and suddenly you are stopped half way and have to turn around!!!:

SATURDAY MORNING ONLY:

[Upcountry Farmers Market](#) in Lower Kula is very very nice. We buy organic veggies, fruits, coffee, honey... and a great variety of prepared food. Go early... 7am to get first choice. Tama has a stand and sells cup of her award-winning coffee, [kulabeans](#). [Maui Swap Meet](#) in Kahului.

AND MORE:

With this link below you can access all the Maui "paid" activities:

[Hawaiian Tours and Activities](#) or call: 808-856-3920

Whale watching and sunset cruises.

Sailing to Molokini + snorkeling.

Haleakala on Horse Back.

You can also make reservation and go to a Luau (very touristic but also very appreciated). The two most famous ones are: [the Old Lahaina Luau](#) (Hawaiian) and [the Feast at Lele](#) (Tahitian).

You have children with you (or not) and want to see the sea creatures, go to the [Maui Ocean Center](#), very nice aquariums.

Visit the [Lavender Farm](#), [Surfing Goat Dairy](#), [Flower Farm](#), also a [Farm Stand](#), fun to go at pumpkin time!!! And you can learn more about bees, pick your own organic vegetables and buy the best cow and goat yogurts and eggs in Kula at [mauibeas](#).

Get a tour and Luncheon at the [O'o Farm](#), pick your salad, visit the coffee farm while your lunch is prepared (recommended by guests).

Visit the [Haliimaile Distilling Company](#) and next to it [Makai Glass Maui](#).
A quality store for gifts just opened in Paia: [Luna & Tide](#) (next to HiTech).
Or rent a [1957 Porsche 356 Speedster Convertible](#), why not!

And save this link for when you get here, click the [calendar](#) on the top right of that page to look up the events.

Night time shows, concerts, festivals are at the [Maui Arts and Cultural Center](#).

SNORKELING:

From May to September, when the surf is down on the North Shore you can easily snorkel in front of the property and at Hookipa (right side looking at ocean). There you will not only see lots of turtles sleeping on the sand but you will be able to swim with them while they are feeding. But you will see nicer coral and a wider variety of fish if you go to the West and South sides.

Napili Bay and Kapalua Bay are small and accessible bays, easy for snorkeling. Also in between Kihei and Makena I like to go to Maluaka Beach, on the left side when you look at the ocean.

If you continue down the coast of Makena you will arrive at the Ahihi Kinau Reserve.

SURFING, SUP, WINDSURFING AND KITESURFING:

The main stores to buy and rent are: [HiTech](#), [Naish](#) and [Kahahakai](#),
If you decide to surf and need to rent a board: [Island Surfboard Rentals](#), they deliver!

Here are some surfing schools. The first two might be the best for you as they will teach you wherever the waves are appropriate for you, they don't have a set beach like the others. And the Rivers (twins) live 2 mn from here:

[Rivers to the Sea](#)

[Action Sports Maui](#)

[Maui Wave Riders](#)

[Maui Surfer Girls](#)

Now in summer most of the surfing is done in Kihei (20-30 mn from here) and towards Lahaina. Hookipa (2mn from here) has some small waves too.

Maria Souza will teach you how to Stand Up Paddle.

[Stand Up Paddle Boarding School](#)

and if you already know you can get

GOLFING:

GOLF CLUBS RENTAL:

[Maui Golf Shop](#)

[Golf Club Rentals](#)

NEARBY GOLF COURSES:

Maui Country Club is the closest one, 5mn from the cottage. Private course (9 holes) but open to public on Mondays.

[Maui Country Club](#)

Pukalani Country Club is my son's favorite because one of the closest - 20mn - and no wind. And a great view over the island.

[Pukalani Country Club](#)

Waiehu public golf course. Probably the cheapest one. 35mn from the cottage. Windy.

[Waiehu Golf Course](#)

The Dunes is in Kahului, 20mn from cottage.

[The Dunes at Maui Lani](#)

These two are still on this side of the island, 30mn from cottage.

[Kahili Golf Course](#)

[Kamehameha Golf Club](#)

And here is a list of all the golf courses on Maui where you can make reservation, prices are lower through these sites:

[Tee off](#) or [Golf Now](#)

[Hawaii Golf Courses](#)

HIKING:

If you like to hike we have a book in the cottage with all the different hikes.

Here are the [top 10 Hikes in Maui](#).

Here is a hike on paved road with spectacular view, on a dead end road with barely any cars: Thompson Road. You park at Grandma's coffee place (nice muffins and drinks) and walk up 100 meters towards the hospital and on your right you will see Thompson Road. I found this [video](#) on youtube to give you an idea of the place and see if it is of any interests to you.

Another trail close to the cottage is in the [Makawao Forest](#), shaded hike, great for walking or mountain biking.

And if you prefer to have a guide: [Hawaiian Creation Adventures](#)

My favorite thing to do is to walk [Baldwin Beach](#) which is 5 minutes from the cottage. Two miles beach, walk to the end, [Baby beach](#), you can swim laps in flat water.

[Camping and cabin rental](#): how to get a permit, location of authorized camping sites.

BIRD WATCHING

First in the yard we have the adorable monjito, they come in group and you hear them before you can see them. They are so small but they constantly sing and talk to each other!! I hear them regularly. We also have cardinals, egret, shorebirds and the loud myna bird.

There is also [the Pond in Kahului](#)

And [the Board Walk in Kihei](#)

Also up on the mountain, [Hosmer's Grove](#)

YOGA

Yoga is everywhere, especially in Paia, you won't have a hard time finding a studio. What I would recommend if you have any sore body part is [Somatics](#) with Lisa Cary. I go to her class almost every Wednesday afternoon and I am pain free in my neck and back. Check out her website, few people know about Somatics.

[Maui Restaurants](#)

The Maui by the Sea cottage is 1/2 mile from Paia Town. Paia has over a dozen restaurants: [Maui's North Shore](#), (Fish, Crêperie, Argentinian, Mexican, Sushi, Pizza, Vegan, Raw, Thai) and 1/2 mile in the other direction you have the famous [Mama's Fish House](#) restaurant, fine dining. We prefer lunch time as it is not as crowded and you can enjoy the view, reservation recommended.

In Paia also a health food store (which I prefer to Whole Foods) called [Mana Foods](#), they close at 8:30pm.

[Kuuu Store](#) (closest store to the cottage, located btw cottage and Mama's fish House) is a small deli store with smoothies, coffee, juice and lunch plates. Open from 6:30am to 7:30pm.

In the list below we have tried a lot but not all of these restaurants. Some were recommended by friends.

PAIA RESTAURANTS

My favorite for morning coffee and I see that they have just started to serve dinner too: [Paia Bay Coffee](#). Not easy to find they are located in the middle of Paia behind the San Lorenzo store.

[Anthony's Coffee](#) for breakfast is one of our guests' favorite place to grab a coffee.

[Cafe des Amis](#) (my second favorite for coffee after beach walk) has a little courtyard they have curries, sweet and savory crêpes, closes at 8:30pm.

[Fish Market](#), Craig's favorite, great fish tacos, you order, they call your name, you eat at a big wood table, closes at 9:30pm.

[Flat Bread Pizza](#) closes at 10pm.

And if you want more quiet and with booth and traditional food, and sushi bar,

[Charley's](#) closes at 10pm on Friday and Saturday.

And this restaurant in Paia called [Rock & Brews](#) has just opened in 2014. It should be a fun place to go. Big tables, huge tv with either sports or music shows.

Almost across the street from Rock & Brews is Toby's Shave Ice, I was told, it has great poke bowls (raw ahi with soyu, ginger etc.)

MAKAWAO RESTAURANTS

On the way to Makawao these restaurants have a nice menu:

[Lumeria](#) just started with dinner and also offers Sunday brunch.

[Haliimaile General Store](#)

[Makawo Steak House/Cafe O'Lei](#) (go to restaurants)

[Market Fresh Bistro](#)

HAIKU RESTAURANTS

A sushi bar just opened, [Nuka](#), very very nice.

[Colleen's](#)

and lots more small organic restaurants and food trucks across the street and around the parking lot.

Further down Hana Hwy on West Kuiaha at the Pauwela Cannery there is another restaurant opened for breakfast and lunch. No website.

KULA RESTAURANTS

[La Provence](#), French pastries.

[Kula Bistro](#)

[Kula Lodge](#) (nice to stop there coming down from your sunrise watch, beware you might not be alone and there might a long line of tourists!)

[Grandma's Maui Coffee](#)

KAHULUI & WAILUKU RESTAURANTS

Local "grind", there is one in Kahului: [Da Kitchen](#) & [Tin Roof](#)

Almost impossible to find this place unless you know about it, it is in Kahului industrial, German owners [Brigit and Bernard's Garden Cafe](#)

I will add this Vietnamese restaurant [A Saigon Cafe](#) as some guests mentioned it and loved it, I like it too.

And in the same neighborhood in Kahului, there is a bakery with French looking desserts that I just discovered : [Stillwell's Bakery & Cafe](#)

A little further up in Wailuku, Aria's: [Aria's](#)

And a golf restaurant, [the Dunes](#) in the middle of town.

We have just explored this place recently. The [Mill House](#) at the [Maui Tropical Plantation](#). If you walk up passed the main building, you will find a nice restaurant decorated by the same person who decorated Mama's Fish House. Menu wants to be fine cuisine, small portions. For dinner they offer tapas. They also have a Chef's table. Food trucks are more and more popular: I have heard many good things about [Geste Shrimp](#) along the harbor road and a group of 6 food trucks are across the street from Costco.

KIHEI RESTAURANTS

We have gone quite a few times for lunch and dinner to the [5 Palms](#) restaurant which is at the end of Keawakapu Beach. And we just discovered [Sarento's on the Beach](#) where we had a fabulous diner next to the beach and facing the sunset. They don't seem to serve lunch, but do have breakfast until 11am. So far it is my favorite restaurant, but you want to be seated beach front.

For beer lovers Kihei has the [Maui Brewing Co.](#)

WEST SIDE RESTAURANTS

At Maalaea Harbor, where the Ocean Center is. If you go down the stairs next to the Ocean Center you will find [Beach Bum's Bar & Grill](#), always packed, Maui's premier Barbecue restaurant, live music.

In Lahaina, [Kimo's](#) is on the water, it is right on Front Street so pretty touristy style.

Not far, [Lahaina Fish Co.](#), is one of my local friends' favorite.

[Longhi's](#) closer to the harbor, sit upstairs.

If you prefer simpler, not as touristy and away from the crowd then drive down Front Street to [Honu](#) and [Mala](#), almost only seafood. Not as fancy setting but right by the ocean and easy parking. It reminded me of the local restaurant in the Caribbean.

Just off Front Street is the [Lahaina Grill](#), no view, but 5 stars restaurant.

And I was just told about [Star Noodle](#) right outside of Lahaina, up the hill, a combination of Hawaiian, Japanese, Thai... noodles. I can't wait to go try it.

In Kaanapali, the [Hula Grill](#) is fun, right on the beach and you can sit with feet in the sand, usually always live music around sunset.

I am adding this one in Kapalua that I really like, it is right on a beach with turquoise water, the [Sea House](#).

Etc... etc... Let me know if there are other things you are thinking about and I will be happy to give you some information.