

# Maui

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Our flight to Honolulu got in too late to connect to Maui, so we stayed at the Resort Quest Waikiki Beach Hotel, on Kalakaua close to Kapiolani Park, a 30 minute cab ride from the airport. Rooms are fair size, newly redone, and all rooms have a small Lanai. We were on the 14th floor, but we still heard the music from the outdoor restaurant and bar with the sliding glass door closed. Their rates include breakfast that is served outdoors by the pool. They also provide little thermal bags to put your breakfast in so that you can go across the street and have breakfast on the beach! We got up early on Sunday, looked out to Kalakaua Ave and saw lots of people walking up the street, so we followed — they were having an Easter Sunrise service on the beach!

On arrival in Maui, after grocery shopping in Kahalui, we drove to Hana. It took three hours. There are lots of great ocean views, and waterfalls along the way, and one lane bridges. There are lots of waterfalls along the way, many were pretty small, and they would be spectacular in rainy season. There are not a lot of places to pull over to look at the falls. When driving to Hana one gets a real sense of how volcanic the island is. I'd not realized this before.

In Hana we stayed in a one bedroom partial ocean view unit at Hana Kai Maui. We looked over the ocean and the black sand (black rock) beach and Hana Bay. The property is just off the main road but it's very quiet, I never heard the cars along the road. The property has no television or phone; it's very quiet and laid back even when the property is full.

The Seven Sacred pools are another 40 minutes past the town of Hana. I was glad we were staying overnight and didn't have to rush there after the long drive. We were told to go early, so when we got to the Haleakala Park station we were the 2nd or 3rd car in the small parking lot. We hiked 2 miles up and back to the Wailua and Waimoku Falls, through the bamboo forest, which was amazing. On our return the parking lot was overflowing; there were so many people down at the Seven Sacred Pools. On our way back to town we passed many mini busses with tourists just coming up for the day. I think it's well worth coming up Hana to to stay for one or more nights. You can't drive past the Seven Sacred Pools as the road was recently washed out.

Hana has two grocery stores: Hasagawa's General Store, a throwback to the past with a little bit of everything, and Hana Ranch Grocery store, a step above 7-11. There are also 2-3 restaurants at Hana Ranch and a snack bar on Hana Bay. In addition to Hana Kai Maui condos, the major place to stay is Hana Ranch. There are also the Hana Accommodations, various sized cottages that are fully furnished, and many smaller bed and breakfasts as well.

After 2 nights at Hana Kai Maui, we drove to Kihei. We stayed at Resort Quest Maui Banyan. It's on the south end of Kihei. It's a larger property with several buildings, each only 3-5 stories tall. It's across the street from the beach, but it's a short walk, easy to cross the street. I didn't feel that I was in a big property. We had a one bedroom unit, which was very well equipped and the units are air conditioned. I found Kihei to be not as commercial as Kaanapali and further north. Everything you need is within walking distance of our condo — beach, grocery shopping, restaurants, etc. One very popular restaurant is Fred's, a Mexican restaurant, and walking distance from Maui Banyan.

We drove up and down the west coast, from Wailua to Kahana, there's lots of construction going on, but I didn't notice the traffic jams in the Kaanapali area that I had remembered from past visits. Of course we were there in the middle of the week. Lahaina is pretty close to Kihei, not too long a drive. We were at the tail end of whale watching season. We didn't see any whales, but there people with whale watching information at most of the turnouts along Highway 30. Most of my clients who were in Maui over spring break saw lots of whales!

Going South from Kihei we drove through Wailea and Makena, both areas have been greatly developed since I was last year, many high end hotels and condo resorts. At the south end of Makena, here is a one lane road through lava fields which were once used by the astronauts for moon landing training. At the end of the road is a small parking lot for a very popular local beach Oneloa beach, in the middle of the lava fields!

Overall I'm glad we stayed at the less commercial areas of Hana and Kihei, less crowded and more relaxing!