

Wonderful Things To Do On Maui You Never Thought Of...but should!

By Kathy Takushi, Travel Expert



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Aloha and welcome ~

As a local Maui resident and travel agent I am passionate about helping visitors enjoy the best and most unique experience our beautiful Hawaiian Islands have to offer.

Following you are going to find my top tips to experience Maui like a local. Use them to help plan your visit to the Valley Isle and see why Maui is No Ka Oi!

-Buy yourselves fresh flower lei at Pukalani Superette for no reason at all except that they're beautiful and smell divine. And while you're there, grab a few pieces of Chili Chicken and a container of Potato/Mac Salad (and some plastic utensils and napkins!) and find a nice spot for a picnic.

-If it's spring, Upcountry Maui is swathed in a purple haze of jacaranda trees. Take a long, leisurely drive. Stop often (safely off the road, please!) and take lots and lots of photos. Be creative!



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-Do a Lahaina history tour – visit any or all of these – Wo Hing Temple Museum, the Baldwin Home Museum (there's a candlelit tour once a week), Hale Pa'i, Hale Pa'ahao Prison. Then treat yourself to a shave ice at Ululani's – and cast caution to the wind! Order flavors you've never even heard of – calamansi, tiger's blood, li hing mui, tamarind, melona, pickled mango!

-Take a sea glass collecting walk on the beach fronting the Lahaina Jodo Mission. You can use your treasure trove to make jewelry or keep it in a jar on a windowsill at home to remind you of your trip.



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-Check out the local thrift stores – Kula Hospital Thrift Store, ReVive Resale Boutique (Kahului), Secondhand Haven (at Makawao Union Church) and Friends of the Library Book Stores (several locations) are all fun and fabulous. They support great local causes and you could get really lucky. Wouldn't you love to find an authentic "silkie" (Hawaiian shirt) from the '50s or a piece of genuine Polynesian kitsch from an old tiki bar or a signed copy of a Hawaiian classic?

-Buy The Maui News on Thursday (the day there's an entertainment supplement called Maui Scene) and/or pick up Maui Time Weekly on Friday (it's free!) and pick a really local event to attend on the weekend – a rummage sale, a school, church or hula hālau fundraiser, an O-Bon dance in the summer. Eat real local food – like chow fun in a paper cone, chili and rice, mochi. Talk to the local folk. Ask questions. You'll be amazed at what you'll learn and how much fun you'll have.



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-Go to a local farmer's market – Upcountry Farmers Market, Hana Fresh, and Kula Country Farms are probably the best – and then prepare your own creative meal or snack or cocktail using your Maui fresh purchases.

-Take a REALLY local food tour. You can visit the link right here on our website – www.tourdafood.com

-Ask five local folks where to get the best SPAM musubi and why they chose that particular place. Then go get one!



-Visit Kahanu Garden, a National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hāna and experience the largest collection of breadfruit cultivars. Also on the grounds is Pi'ilanihale Heiau, one of the largest *heiau* in Polynesia and one of the best preserved in the Hawaiian Islands.

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-Before you come, do some research on Maui heiau and visit at least one while you're here. If you'd like to go deeper into ancient Hawaiian history, Hawaiian Mythology by Martha Beckwith, Ancient History of the Hawaiian People by Abraham Fornander, Hawai'i's Story by Hawai'i's Queen – Lili'uokalani, and Shoal of Time by Gavan Daws are all good reads.



Did you enjoy visiting the best of Maui with me?

May We Be of Service?

To begin planning or to learn more about what a vacation to Maui could be like for you and your family, [click here](#) to schedule a complimentary Hawaii Vacation Planning Session.

During our time together, I will guide you to the best times and places to visit. I look forward to learning more about you and the travel experience that you are craving.

Mahalo (Thank you),
Kathy

