

Moloka'i Annual Special Events

January

Ka Moloka'i Makahiki Festival

March

Prince Kuhio Celebration
Soup R' Bowl Supper

April

Moloka'i Earth Day Celebration
Moloka'i Heritage Rodeo

May

Charity Walk
Kaiwi Channel Relay
Kilohana Spring Bazaar

June

Ka Hula Piko Hula Festival

July

Moloka'i to O'ahu Paddle Board Race
Moloka'i Bon Dance

September

Pailolo Challenge, Maui to Moloka'i, Canoe Race
Na Wahine O Ke Kai (Women of the Sea)
Moloka'i to O'ahu Canoe Race

October

Festivals of Aloha
Moloka'i Hoe Canoe Race: Men's Race, Moloka'i to O'ahu

November

Kapualei Ranch Stampede

December

Christmas Light Parade and Ho'olaule'a

Events calendar listing subject to change. For more local tips and information on upcoming events from Destination Moloka'i Visitors Bureau, please call 1-800-800-6367 or visit gohawaii.com/molokai

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MOLOKAI™

When it's right, you know.



Moloka'i is right for you if...

...the usual vacation leaves you needing a vacation.

On an island where two cars are considered a traffic jam, there's no reason to rush. Moloka'i rewards those who consciously slow down and embrace life. After all, you *are* on vacation.

...you like to sit and share a good story or two.



Your relaxed pace will pay off when you meet Molokai's friendly residents and engage in the great Hawai'i tradition of "talking story." This is more than a relaxing way to pass the time. It's also the best way to learn about places that locals love.



...you wish you could experience Hawai'i as it used to be.

Who says there's no such thing as a time machine? From its ancient fishponds to its deeply felt traditions to its emphasis on family and community, Moloka'i brings Hawai'i's history to life.

Discover for yourself what makes Moloka'i so right.

Starting in the east and working your way west, Molokai's magnificent scenery is revealed in the best possible light.

Morning

The rising sun illuminates Kaiwili Beach, Halawa (turn the page for more details on this historic valley). As you head west from here, you'll pass Pu'u O Hoku Ranch, a supporter of Hawaii's sustainable farming movement. Follow the dramatic shoreline, offering views of humpback whales, West Maui, pocket-sized beaches and circular fishponds.



Kaiwili Beach, Halawa



Kaunakakai Wharf



Church Row

Mid-Day

As you arrive in the middle of Moloka'i, you come to Kaunakakai, which offers a pleasant and bustling (for Moloka'i) two blocks of stores, eateries and more. Most fishing and kayaking adventures begin near here at Kaunakakai Wharf. Next you'll pass "Church Row." Slow down and enjoy the sight of church after church, representing many different denominations. You can put your westward progress on hold here if you wish, taking Hwy 470 north to visit the cool upland plains of Pala'au.

Afternoon

Resuming your westward drive back on Hwy 460, you arrive in West End Moloka'i. Acre after acre of ranchland is home to wild axis deer, turkeys and pheasants. The charming hamlet of Maunaloa makes a nice stop. The real stars of the west, though, are spectacular white-sand beaches, including Kapukahehu and incredible Papohaku. What better place to watch the sunset?



Kanahuehue in Kamalo

With wonders like these, it's a wonder there are no crowds.



Halawa Valley



Taro Patches



Papohaku Beach



Papohaku Beach Park

Historic Halawa Valley

One of the earliest settlement sites in Hawai'i, this classic cathedral valley was once filled with taro patches, thatched houses and temples. Descendants of the original residents are now restoring portions of the settlement and offering – by reservation only – a once-daily cultural tour with views of taro patches and a hike to Mo'oula Falls.

Papohaku Beach

As wide as a football field and an astonishing three miles long, this stretch of white sand makes beachcomber dreams come true. There's a beach park just inland with restroom facilities and barbecues. Overnight camping is allowed with a county permit.

The World's Tallest Sea Cliffs

To see the North Shore Pali in all its glory, you'll need to get there by mule, hiking or airplane. It's more than worth the effort, however, rewarding you with a view of sea cliffs towering some 3,900 feet at their highest point.

Kalaupapa

Make your way to Kalaupapa Lookout and watch the spectacular view unfold before you. The stories of recently canonized Saint Damien and Saint Marianne Cope, both of whom devoted themselves to the care of Hansen's Disease patients here, are inextricably tied to this rugged peninsula. The famous mule ride or vigorous hike down from "topside" Moloka'i is not to be missed, but be sure to make reservations in advance (age 16 and up).



Kalaupapa Guided Mule Ride Tour



Saint Damien Statue at St. Joseph's Church

Ali'i Fish Pond



The Fish Ponds of Moloka'i

A link to the distant past, Molokai's fishponds were largely constructed 700-800 years ago. Some 60 fishponds are still on the island today, the largest covering over 400 acres. Stone and coral walls keep fish inside while allowing seawater in and out, an ingenious form of early aquaculture that still inspires today.



Make your plans. Then plan to discover even more.

A Few Friendly Recommendations

Kaunakakai is the place to get your supplies, a snack or meal, make reservations for activities and rent equipment, but there's much more to discover in this compact town. The sense of history is palpable, as many of the shops here have been Moloka'i mainstays for several generations. As you stroll and browse, you'll find lovely made-in-Moloka'i arts and crafts as well as a refreshingly relaxed pace of life. Greet everyone with a smile and say hello; don't be shy, this is Moloka'i.

Just north of town is the Moloka'i Museum and Cultural Center. Featuring a renovated sugar mill, which gives you a fascinating glimpse of what life on Moloka'i used to be like.

Get an up-close look at Molokai's agriculture with tours of Kumu Farms, Moloka'i Plumeria and Macadamia Nut Farm. Little roadside fruit and vegetable stands are worth a detour, too.

The Maunaloa General Store makes a handy stop for snacks or groceries on West End Moloka'i. Be sure to drop by the Big Wind Kite Factory while you're in town. Say "howzit?" to the owner and settle in for a long story or two.

Something special is always happening on Moloka'i. For a listing of what is currently going on, please go to the events calendar at Molokai-Hawaii.com.

Not sure what to do next? You can never go wrong by simply wandering.



Moloka'i Museum and Cultural Center



Big Wind Kite Factory



Remember to Let the Moments Happen

A final word of advice: If you come upon a picturesque pocket beach, a charming old church or an intriguing sign, stop and take a look. And if a local starts telling you stories, listen. The things you learn could just make your trip.



Coconut Grove



Coffees of Hawai'i



Kumu Farms



Exploring Moloka'i

- 1.** Kaluakoi – Some Moloka'i condominium accommodations are located here.
- 2.** Papohaku Ranchlands – Pheasant, wild turkeys and mongooses roam freely in this area.
- 3.** Kapukahehu (Dixie Maru Beach) – A great spot to watch the sun sink into the Pacific and witness the green flash at sunset.
- 4.** Papohaku Beach – Wander this dream-like, white-sand expanse. At 2.8 miles long, it's one of the biggest beaches on Moloka'i, and certainly one of the most beautiful.
- 5.** Kaluakoi Road – Drive carefully at night to protect the wild axis deer population that roams freely. These spotted deer are native to India and were given as a gift to King Kamehameha V in the 1860s. Listen for their high-pitched bark at night.
- 6.** Kaiwi Channel – Outrigger canoes race from Moloka'i to O'ahu across this treacherous 41-mile stretch of Pacific Ocean.
- 7.** Whale watching – From December to May, observe majestic Pacific humpback whales from shore or a whale watching boat. These leviathans of the sea launch themselves into the air with startling leaps of power, creating memories that last a lifetime.
- 8.** Kapuwa Grove – Planted by Kamehameha V in the 1860s with over 1,000 palm trees, this is one of the last of the royal coconut groves and a true Moloka'i landmark. Lovely "Church Row" is located just across the street.
- 9.** Kaunakakai – This main town on Moloka'i is virtually unchanged since the early 1900s. Take a leisurely walk down Ala Malama Street and enjoy an eclectic collection of charming shops and restaurants. Don't miss the Saturday outdoor market, and, of course, picturesque Kaunakakai Harbor.
- 10.** Kaunakakai Harbor – See the longest wharf in Hawai'i. Go deep-sea fishing with experienced oceangoing captains.
- 11.** Waikolu Overlook – Discover native birds, ohia and countless ferns among the lush vegetation of Kamakou.
- 12.** Coffees of Hawai'i – Over 100 acres of Java Heaven. Sample gourmet coffees and shop in the delightful boutique.
- 13.** Nene O'Moloka'i – Learn about the endangered state bird of Hawai'i, the Nene, face-to-feather.
- 14.** St. Joseph's Church – Churches abound on Moloka'i, including this historic chapel built in 1876 by Saint Damien. A monument in his honor stands nearby.
- 15.** Kamalo Wharf – Walk along the stone foundation and look back at the highest mountain on Moloka'i, Kamakou, rising to 4,970 ft.
- 16.** Kalua'aha Church – Built in 1835, this was the first Christian church built on the island.
- 17.** Explore the Reef – The longest continuous fringing reef (28 miles) in Hawai'i lies off south Moloka'i. Natural "finger" and stony coral abounds.
- 18.** Kumimi Beach – Also known as Twenty Mile Beach, this is one of the island's most popular snorkeling spots.
- 19.** Hawaiian Fishponds – The ancient aquaculture of Moloka'i developed some 60 rock wall fishponds along the south shore, the largest encompassing over 400 acres.
- 20.** Road to Halawa Valley – The coastal route to Halawa Valley becomes a one-lane road starting at the twenty-mile marker, but the scenery is worth the adventure!
- 21.** Pu'u O Hoku – It means "hill of stars," and you'll understand why. Visit the ranch, where you can find last-chance supplies before venturing to Halawa.
- 22.** Halawa Bay – At the spectacular mouth of the valley, stand on the golden beach and imagine you're a heroic Polynesian voyager to the Hawaiian Islands. This is one of the spots where these original visitors to Hawai'i first landed.
- 23.** Halawa Valley – It is the eastern-most of the amphitheater-like valleys of the remote, lush north coast. Halawa is accessible by guided hikes only. This is one of the true natural wonders of Hawai'i – a half-mile wide and three to four miles deep, backed with cliffs and two towering waterfalls. The 150-ft. pool is so full of bubbles it's been likened to swimming in champagne.
- 24.** Kalaupapa Lookout – Enjoy a phenomenal view of Kalaupapa Peninsula. In the 1850s, Hansen's Disease swept through the Hawaiian Islands. The worst cases were sent to this isolated, yet magnificent peninsula. Father Damien arrived in 1873 and worked tirelessly for the patients until his death in 1889. Father Damien was revered for his infinite, all-consuming love for the residents of Kalaupapa.
- 25.** North Shore Pali – Ranging from 800 to 3,900 feet, these are the tallest sea cliffs in the world.
- 26.** Pala'au State Park – Overlooking Kalaupapa Peninsula, this misty State Park has winding trails, petroglyphs and picnic tables. Visit the phallic rock.
- 27.** Kalaupapa Peninsula – Visit Kalaupapa by air, mule or foot. Fly in and hike out, hike in and fly out – there are many ways to experience Kalaupapa in addition to the famous mule ride. Pre-arranged tours are required, ages 16 and up.
- 28.** Moloka'i Museum & Cultural Center – On the National Register of Historic Places is the restored R. W. Meyer Sugar Mill of 1878. A definite must-see and do while on Moloka'i.