



MORE HULA, LESS MOOLAH

How to visit Maui without breaking the bank

By Debbi & William Kickham

If there are two words that usually strike fear into your wallet, it's "Hawaiian vacation". However, as travellers to Hawaii for the past 25 years, we've uncovered a wealth of affordable options that are deeply discounted and dirt-cheap. Take a page from our playlist and book your flight to Maui now!

Check-In

Maui's best-kept secret accommodation is the Outrigger Aina Nalu. At this modern condo property, rates start at \$145 per night for studios with large refrigerators and microwaves. One and two-bedrooms feature full kitchens with coffeemakers, walk-in slate showers and internet access. It's Luxury with a capital L, including queen-size beds, Samsung flat-screen TVs, Hawaiian accessories, pool and barbecue facilities. The location is also ideal; just a block from Lahaina's bustling Front Street, with art galleries, shops and restaurants.

For families, nothing beats Napili Kai Beach Resort. Rates start at \$270 for garden-view rooms; their website features free nights and packages, like "Seventh Heaven" featuring the 6th and 7th night free. Our oceanview suite featured marble flooring and granite benchtops, kitchenette and two bedrooms. Try the on-property Sea House Restaurant, which Zagat's rated as "Excellent". (The fish tacos are to die for) The resort also offers terrific freebies such as complimentary snorkels and masks, so you can make the most of its extraordinary sandy beach; Wi-Fi and daily activities that include hula and adult lei-making lessons. Off-property benefits include discounted rates at the Bay and Plantation Golf courses at Kapalua Resort (next door); hiking and walking trails and insulated coolers for road trips. Ideal for doing the famous road trip to Hana. The resort prides itself on no "nickel and diming" which, rightfully, keeps guests returning

There's a new kid on the block in upscale Wailea – the Hotel Wailea, where couples and honeymooners can enjoy luxurious

900 square foot suites starting at just \$200 per night. Ask for a "partial Ocean-view" Suite; it features refrigerator; stovetop; microwave and more. This beautiful resort offers a complimentary shuttle service to the Grand Wailea beach; comped Mai Tais at the pool on Tuesdays from 4-4:30; workout facilities and its own orchard where you can pick your fruity favourites on Monday mornings.

Check it out

Hungry for something special? If you visit Leilani's On The Beach on Tuesdays, you can enjoy "Taco Tuesdays," when their award-winning Tacos are priced at just \$4 each. The tacos feature crave-worthy roasted tomatillo sauce. Daily, from 3-5pm diners can also enjoy draft beers, Mai Tais, Margaritas and sliders for just \$4 each. Downstairs on beach-walk-level, entrees also start at \$8.95 all day long.

Some restaurants also offer good deals with fixed-price menus. Duke's Beach House offers a \$25.95pp tasting menu daily from 4:45pm to 5:45pm. Try five types of pupus including a sampler featuring coconut shrimp; four entrees including sautéed macadamia-nut fish; and two desserts.

The Sheraton Maui (the very first resort on Kaanapali) offers a \$39 fixed-price menu at Black Rock Steak and Seafood. The grilled fish with four different sauces is worth the airfare across the Pacific. Save room for the famous Checkerboard cake, the hotel's signature specialty, consisting of coconut ice cream and chocolate cake wrapped in marzipan. At sunset visit the Sheraton's Cliff Dive Bar, where, from 3-5pm cocktail prices are reduced and you



FACTS:

Outrigger Aina Nalu: www.outrigger.com
 Napili Kai Beach Resort: www.napilikai.com
 Hotel Wailea: www.hotelwailea.com
 Leilani's On The Beach: www.leilanis.com
 Duke's Beach House: www.dukesmaui.com
 Sheraton Maui: www.sheraton-maui.com
 Warren and Annabelle's Comedy Show:
www.warrenanddabelles.com

www.visitmaui.com

can watch the acclaimed nightly Cliff Diver Ceremony, when a local Hawaiian plunges into the Pacific from atop Black Rock.

The best show in town is Warren and Annabelle's comedy magic show, featuring the incredible Warren Gibson. Warren wows audiences with unbelievable sleight-of-hand and clean comedy that is hilarious but never off-colour. Just try getting that at most clubs these days. We recommend the Royal Flush package (\$99.50pp) offering the two-hour magic show plus two cocktails, combination platter of gourmet appetisers and huge homemade dessert. Book BEFORE you leave; the show sells out nightly. ■■

