

ALOHA OPEN 2026 Activity Guide

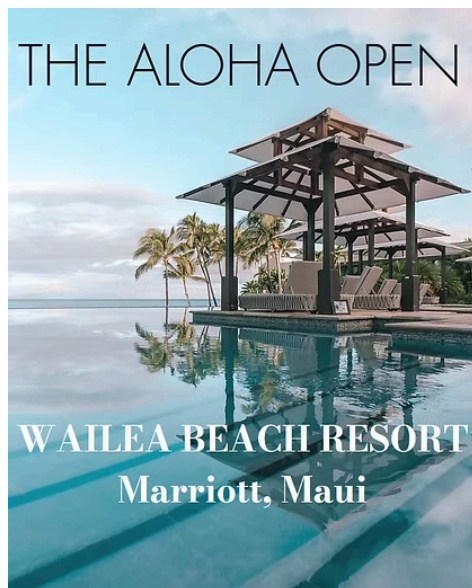
<https://www.alohaopenwcs.com/>

Disclaimer: This is not a comprehensive list. There is so much more to do on the island, and not intentionally leaving anything out. I may continue adding to it. These are just some of the activities previous attendees have recommended to me. Costs are just estimate just to get an idea on price range (prices subject to change with company, don't quote me!)

Event hotel location

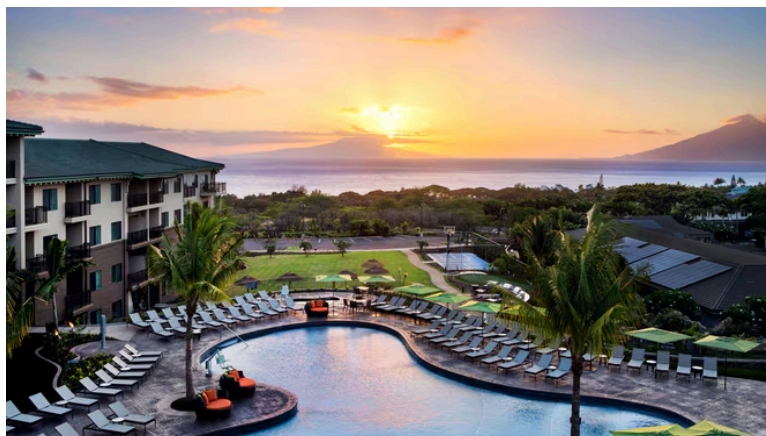
Main event hotel:

Wailea Beach Resort, Marriott Wailea, 3700 Wailea Alanui Drive, Wailea



Overflow hotel:

Residence Inn by Marriott Maui Wailea, 75 Wailea Ike Drive Wailea



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Shorter activities -- NO CAR REQUIRED:

*****can be done during the event in less than a day*****

1) Paddleboarding and Kayaking

Reservations: Not required, but rental gear may be limited at closest spots, so better to plan ahead. Many local places to rent including walking distance from the hotel. More than one beach near the hotel to choose from

2) Beach time

Wailea Beach - free public access, walking distance south of the event hotel



Ulua Beach - This is a quick walk from the venue in Wailea, Maui, and a popular, scenic white-sand beach renowned for excellent beginner snorkeling, diving, and calm morning waters. Located between rocky points, it features public restrooms, showers, and a dedicated parking lot, making it highly family-friendly and accessible. It is frequently visited for sea turtle spotting.



3) Pool Time

Many to choose from at the event hotel, no cost, no driving, no reservations



4) The Shops at Wailea

Right next to our event hotel!

Even if you're not looking to buy anything, this shopping mall is super cute to walk around and has lots of photo opportunities. There are shaded outdoor spaces where you can grab a tea/coffee or ice cream and just enjoy lounging around.



5) Snorkeling without a tour

Car required: No, but would be easier to have a car to get the rental gear

Reservations: Not required

Cost: Beach access free, just need to rent the gear

Rent gear for the day \$20-40 at Snorkel Bob's, Boss Frog, or other local shop. There is a Snorkel Bob 10min walk from the hotel and possibly could rent from the event hotel also.

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Shorter activities -- CAR REQUIRED:

*****can be done during the event in half day or less than full day*****

4) Snorkeling tour

Friday 9/25/26 7am-10am

Reservations: Yes, contact Helen Zhou to get put on the list, first come, first serve

Discounted rate through the event, \$100 cash (normally \$130)

Tour departs from Kihei boat landing - 2920 S Kihei Rd, Kihei, HI 96753

Distance from event hotel: 2 miles, ~6 min drive

Gear provided, takes you to famous Molokina crater



Redline Rafting | Molokini and Maui Snorkeling Tours

<https://redlinerafting.com>

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Seafire Snorkel

<https://seafirecharters.com>

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2) Iao Valley monument

[Iao Valley State Monument – Division of State Parks](#)

Distance from event hotel: 20 miles, ~40min drive

Reservations: Requires online reservations, can park for free down the road and short walk in (especially since hike is short), or \$10 for parking lot.

1 hour, short hike. You cannot walk up to the monument, but there is a short staircase with a vista point with this amazing view. There are other small trails along the river and around this park to walk around.



3) Ho'okipa / Paia

Distance from event hotel: 22miles from hotel, ~40min each way

Reservations: not required

First stop of Road to Hana

Beach with lots of sea turtles!! Please be respectful of keeping a distance and definitely no touching, but you can get a great view of them from behind the signs. The water is more rough here, so snorkeling is not recommended, but you can go for a swim. Surfers are out there too. Small cute town to walk through. Check out Paia Fish Market - Great fish tacos \$\$



4) La Kahea Farm Tour

[Taste of Hawaii: Maui Farm Tour & Tropical Fruit Tasting | Lā Kāhea Farm](#)

When: Available Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30 am

Tour Duration: 1.5 hours

Distance from event hotel: 15 miles from event hotel (approx 30 min one way)

Reservations: Yes, book through website

Cost: \$65 adults, \$45 for children 2 and under



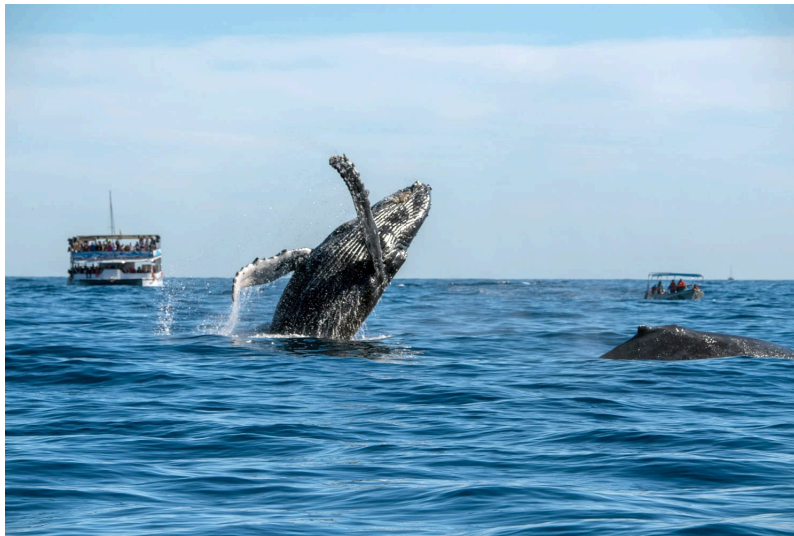
5) Whale watching tours

Car required: Yes. Drive time depends on tour location, but allow 2 hours round trip to most common boat departure locations. 13 miles from Maalaea Harbor (about 25 min drive). 28 miles from Lahaina Harbor (50min drive). I've only done the Maalaea Harbor one, but I'd recommend it. Great experience and much closer to get to from event hotel.

Reservations: Required

Cost: \$100+

Tour duration: usually around 2 hours, usually in the evening



6) Popular Beaches

You can pretty much have your pick as Maui has the most accessible beaches of all the islands. Paddle board, Kayak, Snuba, Scuba, Snorkeling, Swimming. Here are a few of the beaches that locals favor.

Keawakapu Beach

A stunning, mile-long stretch of golden sand located between South Kihei and Wailea in Maui, Easy to get in. Nice for swimming.

Makena Beach (Big Beach)

Makena Beach (Big Beach) in South Maui is a stunning, expansive, and undeveloped coastal area known for its golden sand and turquoise waters. As part of Makena State Park, it offers lifeguards, food trucks, and portable toilets, but is famous for hazardous shorebreaks. If in doubt, don't go out.

Oluwalu

Considered by many to be some of the best snorkeling in Maui, Olowalu offers 450 acres of coral to explore while searching for interesting Maui sea life. Sometimes called Mile Marker 14, that's what you'll look for as you head south from Lahaina. You can easily spend the whole day checking out the Olowalu reef.

7) Shopping

Wailea Village Farmers Market, Tuesdays 8 - 11 am.

<https://www.wvfarmersmarket.org>

Kihei Wailea Gift and Craft Fair, 9-2 pm.

<https://kiheicraftfair.com>

Upcountry Farmers Market, 7-11 am

<http://www.upcountryfarmersmarket.com>

Maui Swap Meet - Every Saturday Morning In Kahului 7 - 1 pm.

Go early as it gets very warm.

<https://www.mauihawaii.org>

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Longer excursions:

****Takes at least a full day. Ideal for dancers coming early or staying later for the event**

1) Road to Hana

Car required: Yes

Reservations: No, but some of the stops along the way may require permits

Time required: 6 hours one way

Beautiful scenic drive, need rental car, very windy

MANY vista points and hikes along the way

2) Haleakala

Reservations: Required

Haleakalā Crater offers otherworldly, Mars-like hiking experiences in Maui through barren volcanic landscapes, colorful cinder cones, and rare silversword plants. The most popular routes are the 8-11 mile Sliding Sands Trail (Keonehe'ehe'e) for dramatic, steep, high-altitude scenery, or the 7.5-mile Halemau'u switchback trail, often demanding 7+ hours.



3) Hike Maui - Tours

Car required: No

Cost: \$171 to get picked up at the event hotel

Reservations/Details: Contact Angela Dusenberry for more information

- Guided hiking tour will take you to places where the public does not have permits to go

4) Hiking options on your own:

Waihee Ridge Trail

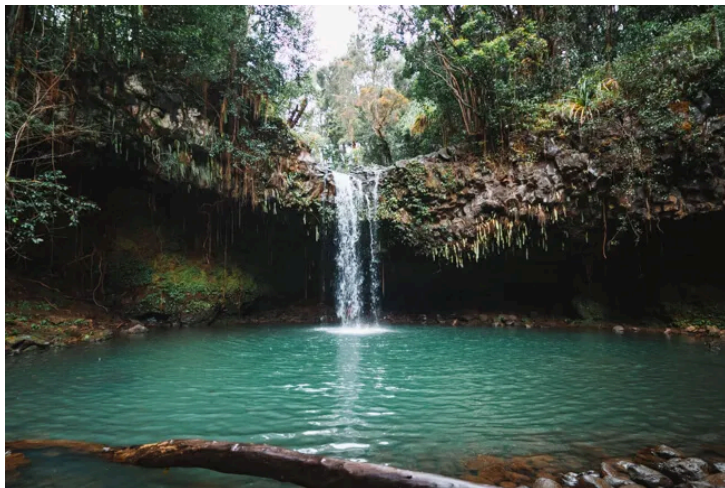
The Waihee Ridge Trail is generally considered a moderate to challenging hike, best for those with reasonable fitness. It features a steep 1,500+ foot elevation gain over roughly 4 miles

(out-and-back), starting with a steep paved section, transitioning to forested switchbacks, and ending at a panoramic ridge overlook.



Twin Falls

Twin Falls in Maui is generally considered an easy, family-friendly hike. It is a short, popular, and well-marked trail located on the Road to Hana. However, it can become moderate if you explore the upper trail, which requires traversing rocky, muddy areas and potential wading through water to reach the furthest waterfalls.



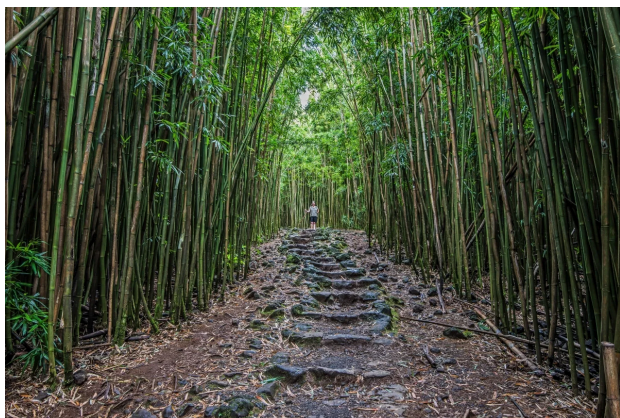
Kapalua Trail (37 miles, ~1 hour drive from hotel)

The Kapalua Coastal Trail in West Maui is a popular, easy 1.75-mile (one-way) coastal hike offering stunning oceanfront views, lava fields, and beach access between Kapalua Bay and D.T.



Piipiwai Trail (2.5-3hr drive away)

The Piipiwai Trail in Maui's Haleakalā National Park (Kīpahulu district) is a premier 4-mile round-trip hike, typically taking 2–3 hours to complete. It is ranked as moderate in difficulty, offering a scenic journey through a massive bamboo forest and a towering banyan tree, ending at the 400-foot Waimoku Falls.



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Dining

1) Island Gourmet Market (grocery store), 4 min walk

Walk across a parking lot from the hotel. Can get poke and other premade meals along with your usual grocery items, Hawaiian chocolates.... And cute souvenirs!

2) Restaurants in Wailea (walking distance from event)

Choice Healthy Kitchen and Juice Bar Wailea, 12 min walk

116 Wailea Ike Dr, Kihei, HI 96753

The Best Vegan & Vegetarian Food in Maui, Gluten Free options. Burrito bowl is so so good.
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Island Vintage Coffee, 5 minutes walk

Try their yummy açai bowls with the local Haupia Cream on top!

They are well known for their coffees

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Akamai Coffee Company, 11 min walk

Wailea, 116 Wailea Ike Dr, Kihei, HI 96753

Breakfast and other menu includes scrumptious avocado toast. This is another local/visitor favorite for their coffee.

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Lahaina Brewing company, 11 min walk

<https://lahainabrew.com/pages/wailea-menu-food>

Thai Soba Noodle Salad & Banh Mi sandwich are popular

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The Pint & Cork, 7 minutes walk

Elevated pub food

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Monkeypod Kitchen, 19min walk

Well known for the Lilikoi Mai Tai!

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LINEAGE Restaurant Wailea, HI, 4 minute walk from hotel

A New Dining Experience in Wailea

Only opened 5 pm on Tues-Saturday. We love their garlic noodles and fresh whole fish.
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3) South Maui Gardens - fun vibrant food truck spot

<https://www.southmauigardens.com>

Car required: Yes, 10 min drive

Reservations: Not required

Price range: \$15+

Tons of food truck options, lots of benches to eat outside, has bathrooms

Every local and visitor on Maui loves the food trucks at South Maui Gardens.

From the amazing Thai Mee Up with yummy drunken noodles to Little Pink Taco and famous Wagu Burger. Breakfast booths include açai bowl and @bacon-and-blossom with their Lilikoi Mochi pancakes

4) Mama's Fish House

<https://mamasfishhouse.com>

Car required: Yes

Reservations: Required months in advance, but if you're lucky, something might open up, so keep checking online. No walk ins

Price range: \$\$\$\$ (100+)

This is right on the ocean with an incredible view and ambience and history.

5) Haleakava | Kihei

Requires car, but short drive <10 minutes

Had to throw this one in. It's a great community spot and serves Kava in a shell or bowl. The ritual of sharing a bowl of kava (from a root grown in the Polynesian islands) has been passed down for generations. You see it at weddings, special events.

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