

# Know Before You Go

Whether you're securing accommodations (including camping permits), activities, dinner reservations or entry permits, please plan ahead. Ask for guidance about beaches and/or hiking trails.

## DRIVE WITH ALOHA

Drive slowly in school zones, near residential areas, and when heading east on our narrower roads. Reduce your speed at night and keep an eye out for deer, as many areas do not have street lights.

## RESOURCES

Most resources are found in the main town of Kaunakakai, including gas stations and banks. Please plan accordingly and reference the maps for information on specific locations.

## BUSINESS HOURS

Most Moloka'i businesses are locally-owned. Check hours of operation — many are closed on Sundays.

# Mālama

To *mālama* is to take care of, protect and preserve. We all carry the *kuleana* (responsibility) to *mālama* the island of Moloka'i.

- Be safe — heed signage, rules and weather advisories.
- Remain a respectful distance from wildlife.
- Support local — buy locally-made products, attend a festival, event or farmers market.
- Protect our natural resources by using only reef-safe sunscreen, leaving your area clean and supporting environmentally-friendly businesses.

Give back and get back by volunteering. Learn more at [gohawaii.com/voluntourism](http://gohawaii.com/voluntourism).

# Support Local

Supporting local businesses is a great way to *mālama* (take care of) the Hawaiian Islands. And with mom-and-pop stores, makers markets and farmers markets, it's fun to find the perfect food, fabric and handicrafts created in Hawai'i.

## LOCAL FLAVOR

Hawai'i is a paradise for high-quality agriculture in ideal conditions, with locally-grown produce, fresh seafood, grass-fed cattle and even macadamia-nut-fed pigs. Combined with Hawai'i's diverse ethnic heritage, it makes for a matchless assembly of technique and culinary tradition. *Mālama* is essential to Hawai'i's culinary culture, as innovative farmers and chefs produce a truly authentic and regenerative farm-to-fork experience.

## MOLOKA'I MADE

Interested in locally-made souvenirs? Look for the "Made in Moloka'i" seal, certifying that at least 51% of the value added to the products was done in Maui County. It's a great way to support local people and local pride.



# Staying Safe

Please heed all posted rules and safety guidelines and be aware that emergency and medical services are limited. There is only one hospital in Kaunakakai. In case of emergency, call 911.

## LAND SAFETY TIPS

- Stay on the trail to avoid trail damage — keep yourself and others safe.
- Do not trespass or park illegally to get to trailheads.
- Brush shoes off before and after hiking to avoid spreading invasive species.

For more info, visit [hawaiiitrails.hawaii.gov/trails](http://hawaiiitrails.hawaii.gov/trails).

## OCEAN SAFETY TIPS

- Don't step on or damage coral reefs.
- Use reef-safe mineral sunscreen.
- Never turn your back on the ocean.
- Swim only at beaches with lifeguards.
- Heed all posted warning signs.

For more info, visit [hioceansafety.com](http://hioceansafety.com).

# Essentials

## CLIMATE

Weather on Moloka'i is excellent year-round, with temperatures averaging 68–86 degrees Fahrenheit depending on location and time of year.

## TIME ZONES

Hawai'i Standard Time (GMT-10 hours), five hours behind the U.S. East Coast and six hours behind during Daylight Saving Time.

## TRANSPORTATION


The main airport is Moloka'i Airport (MKK) at the center of Moloka'i. There is also a small airport at Kalaupapa National Historical Park (LUP). Renting a car is the best way to get around. The island is easy to navigate, with only one two-lane highway stretching across it from end to end.


## GEOGRAPHY

Moloka'i is 38 miles long and 10 miles wide, with 106 miles of shoreline. At 260 square miles, it is the fifth largest of the main Hawaiian Islands. It is part of Maui County, which also includes Maui and Lāna'i. The largest town on Moloka'i is Kaunakakai. The smaller town of Maunaloa is on the island's West End.

# Contact

For visitors: [gohawaii.com/molokai](http://gohawaii.com/molokai)  
For travel agents: [agents.gohawaii.com](http://agents.gohawaii.com)

 [facebook.com/molokaivisitorsassociation](https://facebook.com/molokaivisitorsassociation)

 [@seemolokai](https://instagram.com/@seemolokai)

[#VisitMoloka'i](https://twitter.com/VisitMoloka'i)

## DOWNLOAD FOR INFO ON THE GO

GoHawaii App for travel advice — [hvcb.org/app](http://hvcb.org/app)

Hawaiian Language Toolkit — Help represent and honor Hawai'i and its language, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, 'āina (land) and community in a *pono* (correct) way. Learn how at [bit.ly/maemaetoolkit](http://bit.ly/maemaetoolkit).

**MOLOKA'I**  
One of the HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Pali Coast Sea Cliffs



Kalaupapa

## Welcome

As Hawai'i's fifth largest island, Moloka'i is only 38 miles long and 10 miles across at its widest point. Moloka'i uniquely continues to remain true to its Hawaiian roots, preserving the rural lifestyle of its people. Do not try to change the island, but rather let it change you.

### FACTS ABOUT MOLOKA'I

- There are six swimmable beaches on Moloka'i.
- There are three state parks, 11 county parks and one national park on the Island.
- The highest peak on Moloka'i is Kamakou, towering at 4,970 feet.
- Moloka'i receives about 50,000 guests per year and has a population of approximately 7,500.
- The island has a collection of the world's highest sea cliffs and the longest continuous fringing reef.
- Kalaupapa National Historical Park was once a place of exile for those with Hansen's disease.

## Our 'Āina (land), our Home

One way of understanding Moloka'i is to learn its many sayings. "Moloka'i Pule O'o" reflects its spiritual connection, translating to "Moloka'i of the potent prayers." "Moloka'i Nui a Hina" honors the island as the offspring of Hina, emphasizing its heritage. Finally, "Moloka'i 'Āina Momona" means "Moloka'i, Land of Abundance," celebrating its bounty. Please share in the *kuleana* (responsibility) to preserve the culture and character of Moloka'i, being mindful of laws and traditions.

Many Native Hawaiians have been displaced due to the impacts of outside economic interests and investments. While visiting, please support local businesses and entrepreneurs. Carefully consider your community impact, especially on future generations.

## History & Culture

The oldest Hawaiian chants describe the Hawaiian Islands, the spirits that inhabit them, the forces of nature that shaped them and all the living things upon them as inextricably connected. This sense of connection is the foundation of Hawaiian culture: understanding that we all have a mandate to *mālama* (to care for) our environment and one another.

The people of Moloka'i understand this in a very deep way. On this rustic, unspoiled island, they live their culture day in and day out, working with the land and the ocean to sustain their families.

## Activities

### AERIAL TOURS

With most departing from Maui, these are an unbeatable way to view remote corners of the island and a collection of the world's highest sea cliffs.

### AGRICULTURAL TOURS

Visit different farms on this proudly rural island, including a macadamia farm (by appointment only).

### ECO ADVENTURES

Go sailing, hiking or biking amidst rugged natural beauty of Moloka'i.

### FISHING

Book fishing charters for memorable days on the water.

### HORSEBACK RIDING

Get in touch with the land and history of this rural island.

### MUSEUM

Visit Moloka'i Museum & Cultural Center just north of Kaunakakai.

### NATURE

Explore 2,774-acre Kamakou Preserve, run by the Nature Conservancy and home to more than 250 rare Hawaiian plants. These guided tours are by reservation only. You can also visit historic Hālawā Valley, discover well-preserved Hawaiian fishponds at Ka Honua Momona or view famous Kalaupapa National Park from the 1,000-foot level at the Kalaupapa Lookout in Pālā'au State Park.

### RETREATS

Rather than posh day spas, find retreats focused on forging deeper connections with the natural world.

### TENNIS

The island's two courts are at the Mitchell Pau'ole Center in Kaunakakai.

### WATERSPORTS

Guided tours offer exceptional scuba diving, fly fishing and kayaking.



Mokapu



Kaunakakai



Kalaupapa



Pāpōhaku



## Regions of Moloka'i

### WEST END

Swim or snorkel in the sparkling turquoise-blue waters at Pāpōhaku Beach, or enjoy unique shopping and museums in the charming town of Maunaloa.

### CENTRAL MOLOKA'I

2,000 foot sea cliffs amid dazzling landscapes frame Kalaupapa, one of the most remote settlements in the Hawaiian Islands.

### EAST END

Take a guided tour through the magnificent tropical paradise of Kamakou Preserve and let the breathtaking natural beauty renew you.



## Resort Areas

Moloka'i does not have any major resorts, but you'll find most accommodations in one of these three areas.



### 1 KALUAKO'I

Located in West Moloka'i, Kaluako'i offers condominium rentals with easy access to the white sands of Papōhaku Beach.

### 2 KAUNAKAKAI

The island's main town is conveniently centrally located and offers vacation rentals, cottages, a hotel, and bed and breakfasts.

### 3 EAST END OF MOLOKA'I

You'll find several condominium and vacation rentals in this beautiful area.

## Visit Responsibly

Be careful and alert. Tours led by local hosts are an excellent way to stay safe and support local while deepening your appreciation for this amazing place.

- Stay on paved roads and avoid venturing off the beaten path. Beware of flash floods up *ma uka* (inland), which can happen suddenly.
- *Kapu* means "no trespassing" and "do not enter," so do not enter places where you see these signs.
- There are no lifeguards on Moloka'i beaches. Exercise caution in the water, as strong currents and undertows are often present.
- Take your *ōpala* (trash/rubbish) with you.
- To avoid trespassing, stay with your group or local host. Be conscious of places where visitors may not be welcome, even if you see residents, and especially if there are no other people present.
- Above all, remain kind and polite.