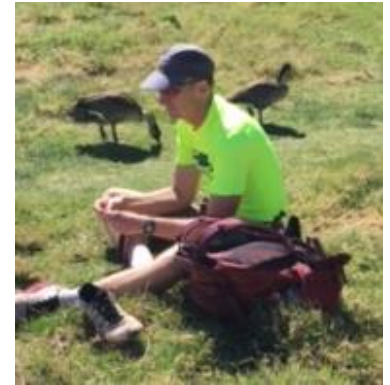


Maui Hike Trip Notes **January 27-February 4, 2017**

Headlines

- **-Second time around** – this was a hiking trip that I did in 2011. Also to Kauai and Big Island hiking in 2012. Before then in 2005 on a 15-day cruise and 2010 to Honolulu for the marathon and touring.
- **-Incentives** were the Haleakala hike down into and out of the volcano and the Road to Hana and staying at the Black Sand beach.
- **-Joining in** – my group had started with two other islands when I joined them so fortunately they were tired and I could mostly keep up. (Those islands would have also been a repetition for me.)
- **-A winter getaway** – Hawaii is not my favorite location but it's pretty special in the winter.
- **-Repeat until you get it right** - this was my fourth trip to and through the Road to Hana. Tom would say "once is enough".
- **-Touristing on the water** – we took a 5-hour boat trip for snorkeling and whale watching. And correction: no I did not go snorkeling. Been there. Done that. At Captain Cook and once was enough.
- **Trip Notes** I realize are getting lesser and looser. I'm often pressed to get laundry done and dried before I pack up for another trip.



Picture is Steve with two friendly and rare Nene geese. Down at the bottom of Haleakala volcano. Then at Hana a few unusual flowers, one was a hedge full of orange blossoms, the pink blooms were also in my room, and the yellow orchids were no larger than a fingernail.



Observations

- **-High on all tourist lists** - Maui is tops on many tourist destinations. It goes to show there is something for everyone and we all don't like the same thing.
- **-Best Places to Live: Happiest, Healthiest States**
<http://time.com/4655836/health-happiness-well-being-states/?xid=newsletter-brief>
This is particularly interesting if not surprising insofar as the Hawaiians do not appear to be very healthy. Try to get fruit or vegetables other than papaya and even try to get plain milk at any number of food Marts. It is also interesting because there appears to be extremes: wealthy enclaves and then very poor areas.
- **-Where is winter, fall, and spring?** –There are NO seasons except a full year of a hot season. Even the winter gives humidity and temperatures in the 80°. Perfect for tourist but I can't imagine living here full-time.
- **-Prices** of virtually everything are quite expensive. From \$3.50 a gallon of gas to \$10.50 per gallon of milk plus high if not rocky real estate prices.
- **-Will they secede from the United States?** – Many Hawaiians do not like being part of the United States and believe they were illegally taken over. Since a great number are on social subsidies, if they secede it might be a bonus for the United States. See **Hawaii secession** at https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaiian_sovereignty_movement
- **-More than their fair share of handicappers** – boarding the planes revealed a huge line up of handicappers and, different than those in Florida, they really were; a greater number of them due to size/weight.
- **-Surfers vs Tourists:** Beaches are primarily composed of great bod surfers or big American types.

VOG. Hawaii has a problem with air pollution – can you believe it? Have you ever heard of VOG? I will hope this is the reason for a little bit of a sore throat and watery eyes today. On the airplane into Honolulu people were talking about it but it just looked like fog to me.

<http://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/4341292> We saw videos of this unusual volcanic eruption that was flowing lava into the ocean and creating big steam sprays that looked like mini volcanoes eruptions. When I did the cruise of the Hawaiian Islands I was fortunate to see lava flowing into the ocean from the ship. Then we also saw a rather close up from the helicopter. Maybe too close up for comfort.

Airline travel. I choose to do this trip in one long duration. The other way is to stop on the West Coast and have a little walk around but I thought if I got on a 10 1/2 hour flight that I could eat and then conk out on my lie flat seat and arrive refreshed. Not.

Then on the way home I left Maui in the late morning and arrived in Honolulu at 2pm to learn that I had a 7 hour delay due to late arriving aircraft. I had a nice airline lounge and a food voucher for an upscale restaurant and the thought that it would be easier to sleep on a flight where we were taking off at 9 PM. They later gave me a \$200 voucher coupon.

Steve and Nola we're renting an apartment in Honolulu and offered to come get me and do something touristy but I was hesitant to leave the airport. And also hesitant to interrupt their lovely apartment and tourist stay.

Maui by the numbers

- 164,637 population of Maui
- 2.5 million annual visitors to the island
- 10,000 estimated number of humpback whales in the waters around Maui during the winter months
- 7 million cans of Spam consumed annually by Hawaiians (includes spam sushi)

- 727 size of Maui in square miles making it the second largest Hawaiian island
- 300 approximate year A.D. that Polynesians first settled in Hawaii
- 21 approximate circumference in miles of the Haleakala Crater.
- 14 miles down in one side and out the other
- 13 number of letters in the Hawaiian alphabet.
- 6 days of hiking this trip.



Water Water Everywhere. Canyons. The Bamboo Forest of Seven Sacred Ponds and the waterfall.

Coconut Ice Cream – Bill and Karen bought a large container of coconut pudding ice cream and then walked around with room service. That was just before another dinner at Hana Ranch where ukuleles decorated a full wall and where I had my Last Supper of Tacos. I might have beat my record of the number of fish tacos consumed while on my last trip.



Notes home

Friday - entering Paradise i.e., my first day traveling to and in Maui

Lots of excited folks on the airplane very pleased to be coming to "paradise". They obviously like

- Hot temperatures
- Water and sand
- Even heftier folks than on the mainland
- High prices
- Crowded shore towns
- Hawaiians who might prefer to secede from the US.

Yet I am glad to be here and my main reasons have to do with hiking again down in Haleakala volcano (and hopefully back up and out too) and going again to the Black Sand beaches of Hana. (After all, I live within a walk of shore towns where I rarely go).

I'll have two nights on my own pre and one night post for a six-day hiking trip with ParksPlushiking.com. The hiking group started on two other islands and Steve and Nola kindly let me meet up with them in Maui. (I just returned from 10 days in Kansas City for skating so missed the first two islands). I was with them a few years ago on this same hike and have hiked the two other islands with them also, and had a 15-day cruise of Hawaiian Islands some years ago. Somewhere in between I had a long stay based in Honolulu when I came for the marathon.

It is a very long flight beginning with 10 1/2 hours from Newark direct to Honolulu, a couple hours layover in a very pleasant airline lounge, then a short hop into Maui. There I rented a car to become a tourist. I believe it all added up to a 20-hour day so it didn't take much Brandy nor reading for me to fall asleep quickly. I stayed conked out for nearly 9 hours.

I mentioned high grocery prices and to give an example a quart of milk is \$3.29. A hotel room might be double or triple the price of one on the Jersey shore. (I paid double but at the last minute checking the price I found the cost was triple.)

Maui coast hotel is just across the street from the water and a lovely complex. From my balcony is a garden, palm trees, and a view of the ocean. I'll add a couple of pictures to include a cute way of folding the bathmat like ocean waves.

Sonya sent me a nice piece about traveling that I will attach with the hope that you can enlarge it sufficiently to read it.



Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living. The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page. We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us. It is not down in any map. True places never are. Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. Not all those who wander are lost. I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance. The journey, not the arrival, matters. On the road again, just can't wait to get on the road again. Take only memories. Leave only footprints. Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer. Go at least once a year to a place you have never been before. You don't have to be rich to travel well. Our battered suitcases were piled on the sidewalk again; we had longer ways to go. But no matter, the road is life.

Day 2 - in Paradise

I rather liked having nothing that I had to do today which was my own paradise. Breakfast in my room, catching up on news, and watching the rain come in all suited me fine.

My rental car and I went off in one direction to lovely and elegant Wailea. In 2011 my legs took me there. In 2017 it was the car. It's a little bit artificial and new but somewhat opposite from the hustle and bustle and little junky shops of Kehei and my hotel area. I renewed acquaintance with a couple of the resorts and especially the Marriott.

Then I turned around and went up the coast returning through Kehei and following the coastal road through a couple small towns into Lahaina. The road is amazingly near to the surf as the beaches are quite narrow. In many areas we were banked between the surf and tall mountains which required chain-link fencing to keep from rockslides. Up above were a huge windmill turbine farm that I remember from 2011 trip being mostly silent but today they seem to all be working.

Lahaina was my destination but I went well beyond and wandered through many of the ritzy resorts that have gone up recently in Ka'anapali. I took a lot of little roads to include up to the small Maui airport and into Kahana. But Lahaina was my destination and I had in mind seeing the big old Banyan tree again and eating at the old colonial hotel across from it. But things change and the colonial balcony restaurant was now a 50s style diner but how could I complain because they had fish tacos. And the old Banyan tree was cluttered with a craft and music festival.

Here is from Wikipedia: *The **banyan tree in Lahaina** was planted in 1873 to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of first American Protestant mission. The banyan tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) known in Hawaiian as paniana, located in the Courthouse Square, which was renamed Banyan Tree Park covering 1.94 acres, is not only the largest in the state but also in the United States. The tree was a gift from missionaries in India. A mere 8 feet when planted, it has grown to a height of about 60 feet and has rooted into 16 major trunks, apart from the main trunk, with the canopy spread over an area of about 0.66 acres.*

Lahaina was the capital to Hawaii until it moved to Honolulu in mid 1800s and then an early 1900s fire destroyed a lot of Lahaina's front Street. It all looks older than that but it is filled full of tourist and art shops now. And lots of tubbies.

It's a good thing we all like different things otherwise we might all be crammed into airplanes or all crammed onto the beaches. It is hard for me to imagine wanting to sit in the sun with sticky sand that finds its way into all body parts and then the difficulty of washing it off. As a general observation it appears that those without surfboards are not getting much activity.

Yet. It was a lazy day for me and I'm reminded how Tom says "that's just how I like it". Yet as I read my old trip notes from two other times into Maui I realize how life is changing. Maybe one day I'll be able to sit on the beach too.

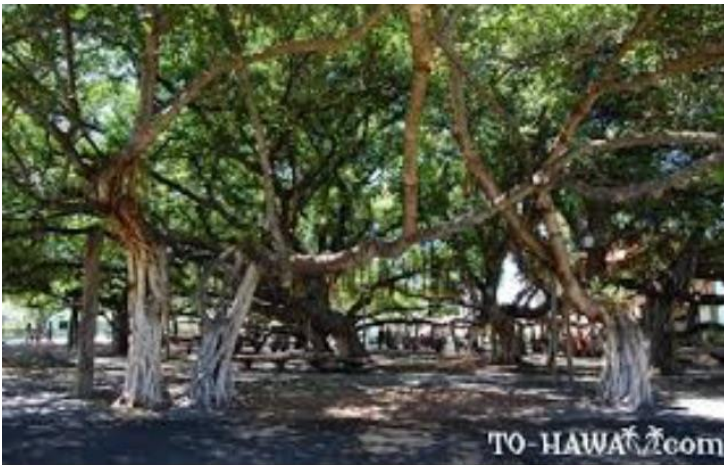
I am spending my late evening reading. 7 PM here is midnight according to my jetlagged body so I'm in an adjustment period. I had trouble leaving "Sword of Shannara" at home but it only had a few pages left. I swore I wasn't going to read any more of these fantasies but now I'm into the Ann Rice new beginnings of her vampire series called "prince Lestat". (Her angel period sure didn't last very long.). I have always remembered "interview with a vampire" as a big time favorite.

I meet the hiking group at the airport tomorrow morning.

Sent from Richelle in Paris (by Jacques Brell):

*I wish you never ending dreams
And the longing to realize some of them
I wish you to love whatever needs to be loved
And forget what has to be forgotten
I wish you passions I wish you silences
I wish you bird songs to wake you up
And children's laughter
I wish you to resist engulfment, Heartlessness
And the negative virtues of our time.
And most of all, I wish you to be yourself.*

Pictures include a view from Lahaina from the water over toward the mountains, a panorama from today of the Banyan tree and then a group of the Blanton photos from the web. Also there are a lot of pictures on my trip report from my 2011 trip to Maui. It is attached in a PDF version.



Day 3 - it is NOT (always) Paradise

I woke to high winds that are expected to remain for the day and rain coming down sideways. I had lots of thoughts of just staying in but who knows that maybe the weather report will be wrong and we can hike after all. (That turned out to be so). Smile.

I scooted off to the airport feeling pretty weird without a suitcase but I was to turn in my rental car and meet my hiking group at baggage claim. I think we are lucky that the hike trail on the itinerary was closed. I remember it being wide-open and muddy.

One hiker showed up sick-as-a-dog and will be taken to the hotel. He suggested it was something that he ate but I'll not be doing much hugging there just in case it's the flu.

Of interest is that I have hiked with all of these folks before. Some multiple times which I suspect is a big compliment to the leaders for their high return rate. One hiker was on this exact same hike with me and here we are again.

Our leaders, Steve and Nola, were certainly challenged today with the weather forecast, one sick hiker, and a trail closed and needing to find an alternate. They did quite well because we drove south beyond Wailea to the end of the road and found a park where we walked a very rocky lava path along the lovely coast. My tootsies were not ready for the rough terrain.

The weather did clear and dry but the wind continued and is predicted to be wet and windy the next couple days. (Thank heavens for changeable weather because it was updated to a much better prediction).

Tomorrow's hike is one of the two main hikes/areas that I came for. We will leave very early to drive up about 10,000 feet to the top of the Haleakala volcano where we begin our descent through some five eco-zones to the bottom. 2500 feet of elevation down. Then it's the challenge of getting up and out. About 1500 feet of elevation over 2 miles. The total was to be 12 miles but my little iPhone pedometer showed 14 total miles for the day and 33,000 steps. A lot of those steps were big steps and Rocky and uneven. They think I can do it....

There are four groups that take people up to the top Haleakala for the sunrise. Those trips start at something like 3:30 in the morning. Fortunately we are not trying to see the sunrise. Then there are the tour groups that take people up with a bunch of bicycles so they can ride down. Me? I want to see it on my feet and just hope I can do so again. I'm not so sure that my feet are totally cooperating but maybe the lava fields were rougher than usual.

Photos include my wandering through the airport waiting for arrival of my fellow hikers and finding some sculpture. Our walk along the lava fields seaside. And some goats along the way.

Dinner? An Italian restaurant too far away for me to sneak out before dessert. They had some pretty nice sounding offerings but I had been thinking about Florence and grandma's meatballs so that's what I had.



Spoiler alert: Day 4 might get titled "when is Diana going to grow up and realize that she can't keep doing these hikes?).



Day 4 - is it time for Diana to grow up? Give up?

Can I keep doing these hikes? I felt like an old lady today. I'll tell you. However our sweet hiking leader and friend Nola sent me this very kind message: Day 4 should be titled "Diana crushes her old record." :)

My phone started ringing at 5 AM making for a very long day. We were gone by 7 AM with my chosen breakfast being a breakfast Burrito which half went in my backpack for what was going to be a long hiking day.

But this was what I came for. I had a few times when I wondered about that choice and related it to having babies: Mommies forget the labor. The van ride was one and a half to two hours and much of it a windy road which I do not do well and it took me quite a while until my stomach was not in my throat. The hiking miles going down were easy for me even though it was 2500 feet descent. The miles going up 1500 feet of ascent to the other side were not. They were tough, I was hot, coughing from breathing the blowing sands, and wondering why the hell I was there. We had a bunch of fast hikers (four) that I couldn't keep up with. Two other hikers had decided not to attempt the day's effort and stayed up on top.

I was feeling like an old lady and wondering whatever made me think that I could do this hike again. I did it in 2011 in 6 1/2 hours so I was quite comforted and relieved to find I managed it today in five hours 33 minutes. I say managed but in fact I was huffing and puffing.

The weather was favorable, starting at about 42° at the top and not a whole lot of wind like expected or like in 2011, and maybe in the mid-50s to 70° toward the bottom.

Despite getting back to the hotel and having at least a full hour to clean up and go off to dinner, I chose instead to calm down, talk to Tom, rest up, catch up on email and News, do laundry and get more than five hours of sleep.

Here is from my 2011 trip notes:

Haleakalā National Park became a park in the early 60s and is a huge and inactive volcano for at least 200 years. We had van support up to our start at 9800' at a visitor's center where in the low 40 degree temperatures we started down the Sliding Sands trail to about 6500' to the Halua cabin, and then back up the other side to 8,000' via the Halemauu Trail. While it was only 12 miles, it took us a strenuous 6.5 hours over lots of different terrain. The hike was worth the long trip to Maui just on its own and parts of it reminded me of the Grand Canyon.

The first section of the hike is outlined at www.naturalbornhikers.com/trails/slidingsands.html. Many unique photos are at www.terrageria.com/parks/np.Haleakalā.

Then my 2011 photos: the really special hike, and the one I claim was worthy of the whole long venture across the ocean to Maui, was the trek into the Volcano. We started at around 10,000' and low 40s with lots of wind but soon spent much of the day in near perfect weather. Never did we consider wanting to take the horses/mules into the volcano. The observatory was up higher than we started. It's off limits and called Science City where data is gathered to help scientists map the movements of the Earth's crust. This volcano hasn't erupted for about 200 years and is neither active nor extinct but considered to be sleeping. Haleakalā would be considered the world's largest volcano if measuring from ocean floor to be 30,000'. It is 3,000' deep, 7.5 miles long as the crow flies and 2.5 miles wide with a total circumference of 21 miles. As such, many find its crater to be one of the most impressive spots on earth.



The colors reminded me of the Painted Desert. Pele's Paint Pot is listed as a surreal landscape of brightly colored ashes. The terrain was varied from our sliding sands trail to near technical tip-toeing through lava fields. We found some rare and unusual birds, one called a chukka (sp?) above and the other the Nene goose below which is Hawai'i's state bird. It reminded me of a Canadian goose with more stripes and colors.

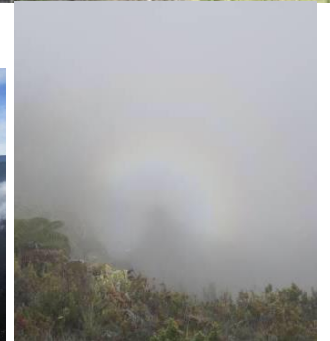
Their cabin wasn't exactly Phantom Ranch but an appreciated stop with picnic table and outhouse. See the trails we hiked? From one side of the volcano, down to the bottom and up those switchbacks. We were often above the clouds and often within them.

See the rainbow? We were fascinated that we could put our own shadow inside the rainbow and the camera picked it up. That's ME – my aurora in the rainbow. This was within a rain forest with mist swarming up the mountain onto our trail and creating a forest of wood palms.



I later found an explanation of this rainbow effect: This is a phenomenon called Specter of the Brochen. With the setting sun's orangy light filtering through light clouds and onto the denser fog that has gathered in the crater below, a circular rainbow appears. Suddenly, an apparition materializes in the center of the rainbow. Raise your hand to wave and the spirit responds; call out and you may get an echo in reply. Of course, the specter is your own shadow but the ephemeral quality of this experience – at once both human and heavenly – is a fitting summation of all that Maui is. There the shadow stands, as silent testament to what some, perhaps slightly numbed by daily encounters with this magic land, may have grown to take for granted: Maui Nō Ka O'i. "Maui indeed is the best."

On that I say the end. But it really isn't because there's another hike tomorrow, then a whale watching and snorkeling trip the following day where we travel in the afternoon the 3 Hour Famous Rd. to Hana.



Day 5 - I made a good mistake

I'd thought the first days hike was today's hike. You might recall that we took an alternate hike because the planned hike had been washed out and closed down. I had said "good" I didn't like it anyway.

Mistake. That hated hike that I had remembered being so hot and difficult happened today, the weather was good, and the hike was absolutely lovely. It was a long ways up and the wind was blowing so strong that sometimes we had to stop, jam the trekking poles in the ground and keep both feet stable.

It was up on the hill where there were Fields of wind turbines and it was overlooking the ocean where a number of whale watching boats and snorkeling excursions were occurring. Some saw whales and some of us just thought maybe we saw whales.

The trail was a zigzag old rough cobblestone road that was used by horses. One can look down the hill and see the middle old asphalt road that is now replaced by a modern-day highway. Yet it too was pretty crowded when I drove it on Saturday and crowded again when we went back in the evening to Lahaina

Hair and skin and feet by the end of the day were proof that we had been hiking on a volcanic island. I came home filthy which Resulted in clogging the bathtub with black gunk and my hair being as thick as when I was much younger.

Pedometer resulted in 25000 steps and ONLY 7.8 miles but wow some of those miles were rough stone steps.

I often times missed dinner purposely in order to have a little quiet time and sometimes just so that I'm not rushed between the hike and dinner. Yet even though I had been to Lahaina on Saturday I wanted to go again and I knew that the fish restaurant, Lahaina Fish Co., on the water was special. Wait to you see the sunset below. It did make for a late night as it is around 45 minute drive one way.

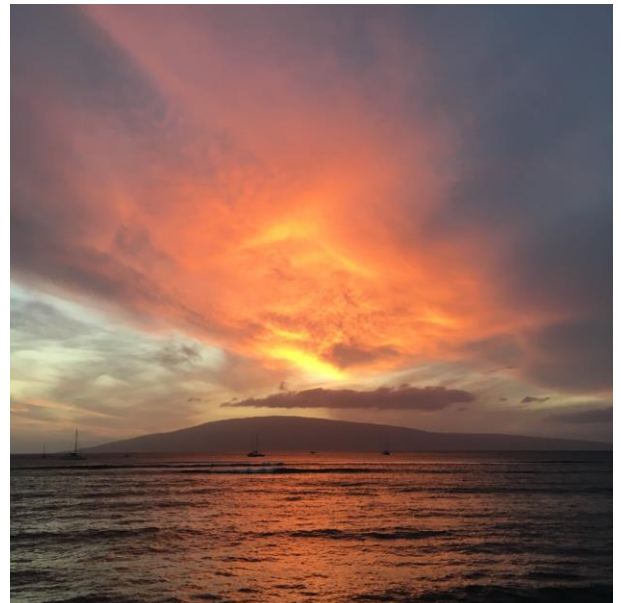
While there I found something new. The old Banyan tree that covers nearly 2 acres is filled with mynah birds at dusk who are taking roost and chattering away. I knew the danger of walking under and through the tree but I couldn't resist and I do think I managed to get out clean. However I was wearing a black and white jacket so who knows.

Thank you for many of your comments about growing up or growing old. Here is one from Ann: My advice....Don't grow up and don't give up. Keep going 'till you drop!

Pictures include our in-glorious picnic spot after hiking up the hill overlooking the whales playing and overlooking in the wind turbines. Then into the shopping area of Lahaina I found door handles that were made of brass Koi. My fish taco appetizer and a glass of water that for some reason looks nuclear.

Next up will be a very early morning to catch a boat for a five hour whale watching tour followed by a 3 1/2 hour drive on the famous road to Hana improperly called the Hana highway.

Will I survive my usual motion sickness? Coming up.





Day 6 - it was a dizzy day - full of motion

When you live on East Coast time you shouldn't mind having to get up at 4:30 AM while in Hawaii. But if you were up until midnight, and screwed up your alarm and woke up at 3:30 AM, your body does mind.

We packed out and delivered our luggage to the van before 6 AM. We had a boat to catch about 20 minutes away.

If you really knew me you were first surprised that I was willing to get up that early and secondly that I would even consider going out on the water. Even more stupidly for me it was partly a boat trip for snorkeling. I went because I had had enough hiking and because I was going to see another island. And even more so because part of the five hours on the boat included whale watching. By the following note to Marie you will know that I was impressed.

"Today I went whale watching and being in the boat for five hours was tough but worthwhile. I was impressed with what the volunteer workers do for saving the whales. So, I have adopted a whale that travels from Australia to Maui each year to birth her calves and that adoption is in your name. You should be receiving a certificate of adoption with a description of your whale. Her name is NALA. It means queen in Hawaiian. She has been a mother 10 times and of course her name is similar to my hiking leader friend Nola. You will receive updates when she is spotted and information on where she is. You know that they do not need to be banded or marked like birds because their tails are all as different as our fingerprints."

Surprisingly, I made it through the whole five hours and was even able to eat the breakfast and the barbecue lunch. And then we headed off for a 3 1/2 hour drive to Hana and that I made OK too. Unfortunately our sweet little hiking leader Nola who can do about anything that Superman can do, didn't manage to keep breakfast or lunch down.

The road to Hana is called the Hana highway and that is a big joke. It takes 3 1/2 hours and it has some 600 turns and many little single lane bridges. It also has some dramatic scenery. Tom and I did it some years ago and he said never again. In 2011 I did it as a tourist and had many lovely stops on the way, from bamboo forest to old chapels to orchid farms and cat sanctuaries. Then I did it a few days later with Steve and Nola for the hiking trip which included two nights in Hana. So motion sickness or not, I think it's worth it.

We arrived in Hana at a condo that I have enjoyed very much in the past and were given a few hours of freedom from any commitment. I took the time to walk on the Black Sand beach, down at the bay where the group had been snorkeling a few years back, over through the golf course and into a lovely hotel spa with a number of art shops and onto an original general store that was one of the first in all the island.

Pictures include some of the snorkeling, some of our barbecue lunch, and the view up to the windmill turbines where we hiked high above the day before.

Here is from my 2011 notes:

Most of us were thrilled with the Hāna Kai Maui Condos with not only lots of room, but modern, well appointed, a size you could live in, outdoor porches and lovely grounds made all the better by the direct seaside view of the famous black sand beaches and roiling surf. To listen to the surf throughout the room, to see the water from every room in the condo, all was just perfect.

My room was —Hāna Kai 207 —Kawaipapall a large corner lanai and high lofted ceilings afford this unit a spacious and airy feeling. Accommodates 1 - 4 guests with 1 Queen and a Queen Futon. See www.Hanakaimaui.com/rooms.html.

Here's a view from my living room through the porch screen thru to the beach, and from the porch down to the grounds and series of Koi ponds, followed by the living room of the leader's condo where we gathered for breakfast.

The Road to Hāna -

The Hāna Highway was designated in 1999 as a National Millennium Legacy Trail and in June 2001 most of it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. But it has long been known as one of the nation's most scenic highways and one of Maui's major tourist attractions. It is also a notoriously narrow, winding road, with hundreds of hairpin curves, dozens of one-lane historic bridges, and typical average speeds of only 15 mph so they say to allow at least three hours from Kahului to Ohe'o Gulch. From the web: Even though this legendary road is just 52 miles long (from Kahului to Hāna), it takes around three hours and can be quite a challenge to navigate. That's because it is narrow and winding. There are about 620 curves and 59 bridges, 46 of which are one-lane bridges. It can take a toll on one's nerves, especially if one is used to driving on wide, multiple-lane highways. That's why the Road to Hāna is also known as the "Divorce Highway," because it has caused quite a few arguments among some couples. The drive is very much worth it though and offers many scenic views of Maui's northern coastline, rainforests, black-sand beaches, waterfalls and lush, tropical vegetation. The Road to Hāna is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hāna itself is a sleepy little town. There is a luxurious hotel, the Hotel Hāna-Maui, an art gallery and some small shops, eateries and road stands. So in case you plan to drive yourself, just take your time and make an entire day of this road trip. Stop at the scenic lookout points and take in all the views. Also, stop at some of the roadside stands that sell local foods, including really good banana breads and Hawai'ian coffee. Just south of Hāna Maui is another popular attraction, the Ohe'o Gulch, also known as the Seven Sacred Pools. The road continues as a dirt road, the Piilani Highway.

From Carolyn about the Road to Hana: That certainly does NOT look like a Sunday drive!!! LOL <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngDers0hMII> naturally I had to experience it for myself... (That was the wide and paved portion!)

How many times can you go to Hāna?

In 2005 Tom and I were in Maui having docked in Lahaina from a 15-day Hawai'ian cruise and we took the optional Road to Hāna (long) day trip. I decided to do it again on the second day in Maui thinking it would renew my acquaintance with Maui's far eastern shore and also give me a totally different perspective from a hiking trip. Other than the monstrously difficult drive, that turned out to be

good. Here I am at one of their canyons and beaches. It was a long but glorious day from 7am to 6pm.

At a state park and national historical site is a church built of pink coral and cement that withstood an early 1900s tsunami. It is still bordered with a very volcanic and rocky beach and we were blessed with high surf conditions. I enjoyed very much the 1912 bridges built when the road was no more than a one lane dirt road and of course the bridges remain one lane only.

These pictures were taken at the black sand beach near to Hāna. I would return here again later in the week and I'd gladly return here still again. I tried very hard to think of a way to stay over in Hāna a couple days but it was not only impractical but the hotel was sold out.

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More to copy. More to tell. But space is constrained. Can you tell I like it here?





Day 7 - still in Hana

You might remember that my last trip to Hana in 2011 I tried to figure out a way to stay on longer. This time I can't even think about it because I leave to Israel in a week. Life is tough.

Hawaiian fish – Ha ha ha. It is the Humuhumunukunukuapua`a (Rhinecanthus rectangulus) that was designated the official state fish of Hawaii on a five year trial basis in 1985. When the trial quietly lapsed in 1990, no action was taken to either reinstate it or designate a new species. If you want to learn more, it takes less time than it does to say it.

www.statesymbolsusa.org/symbol-official-item/hawaii/state-fish-aquatic-life/humuhumunukunukuapuaa

And with that, THE END. Or good night, or in this case it was morning out our Hana condo window.



PS I decided NOT to add my 2011 trip notes even though they are much better prepared. You could find them at www.LibertyLadies.weebly.com.

Itinerary

Note time difference is 5 hours earlier

Fri Jan 27

8:20am Depart Newark EWR via UA#15
2:48pm Arrive Honolulu HNL for plane change

4:15pm Depart Honolulu HNL via Hawaii Airlines #326
4:55pm Arrive Maui OGG

Rental Car Thrifty

Hotel Maui Coast Hotel – 2 nights on own then 3 nights with PPH
2259 South Kihei Road, Kihei, HI 96753 Tele 808 874 6284
<http://www.mauicoasthotel.com/>

Note: Hawaii is considered territory/state under AT&T plan.

Sat Jan 28

Day open for touring

Sun Jan 29 – My Day 1 and their Day 8 of Hike

10:30am Meet hiking group at airport rental car facility
Which rental facility is PPH using?

Waihe'e Ridge, Iroquois State Park - Distance: 4 mi - Difficulty: 4

Lodging: Maui Coast Hotel – 1st of 3 nights
See address and phone above

For rest of group who started a week earlier: Today is transfer day number 2 as we'll fly as a group from Kauai to Maui.

Once on Maui, we'll hike from a grassy upland trail-head to scenic Waihe'e Ridge on the northeast side of Maui's west lobe. Time permitting, we'll also visit Iroquois State Park with its famous namesake lava formation and lavish tropical gardens.

Mon Jan 30 – My Day 2 and their Day 9 of Hike

Sliding Sands/Halemau'u Trails - Distance: 12 mi - Difficulty: 5

Lodging: Maui Coast Hotel – 2nd of 3 nights

Haleakala National Park is our destination for day 9, where we'll begin our point-to-point hike at nearly 10,000' on the aptly named Sliding Sands Trail. Making our way into, then across the Haleakala Caldera, we'll encounter an other-worldly place of incredible starkness and beauty. Note that our hike includes the Silversword loop, passing many of these plants found nowhere else on earth.

Tue Jan 31 – My Day 3 and their Day 10 of Hike

Lahaina Pali Trail - Distance: 5 mi - Difficulty: 4

Lodging: Maui Coast Hotel – 3rd of 3 nights

Today's hike begins the center point of Maui's two lobes and travels along an ancient trade route through rocky grassland and scrub forest before descending to the island's west shore. Whales can

often be seen (and heard!) on the descending portion of this trail. After our hike (and showers back at our hotel!), we'll commute to Lahaina to explore town a bit before dinner, then return to Kihei for the evening.

Feb 1 – My Day 4 and their Day 11 of Hike

Snorkel and Whale Watching Outing or Ahihi-Kinau Reserve. Hoapali Trail - Distance: 7 mi - Difficulty: 2

Lodging: Hana Kai Maui – 1st of 2 nights
4865 Uakea Rd, Hana, HI 96713 Tele 808 346 2772

<http://www.hanakaimaui.com/> - *We offer first class studio, one- and two-bedroom Hana accommodations that feature exquisite grounds, beachside barbeque, fully equipped kitchens, private lanais, and free wireless internet service. Many of our Hana condos have panoramic oceanfront views where you can experience incredible sunrises and moonlit nights while turtles and dolphins swim nearby in the surf. As you travel the beautiful Hana Highway through Maui's untouched rainforest, you will be surrounded by breathtaking views, majestic waterfalls and a lush tropical landscape. Your journey ends as you reach the town of Hana. Here is unspoiled Hawaii, where you can relax and enjoy the true spirit of Aloha. Assigned to room 107 (vs 207 in 2012)*

The Hana coast offers some of Hawaii's most beautiful beaches. From the black sands of Wainapanapa State Park to world famous Hamoa Beach, you can enjoy swimming, snorkeling or surfing close to your doorstep. There are many hidden places for you to explore. Just eight miles away, the pools at Oheo Gulch ("seven pools") offer great scenery and refreshing swimming in Haleakala National Park. Hikers will enjoy a panoramic hike up through the bamboo forest to Waimoku Falls. The trails at Wainapanapa will bring you to fresh-water caves or take you along the coast to spectacular views where you can sometimes see humpback whales as you hike along the cliffs.

Two choices are available on this day 11. Guest electing to hike will head to the Waimea area south of Kihei and three moderate shoreline trails, including the historic Hoapali trail. As an alternative to hiking, guests may also choose a half-day boat outing for snorkeling at the Molokini Crater and Turtle Bay and whale watching (the cost of the boat outing is included in the tour cost). Following the hike or cruise, the entire group will commute on the famous Hana road to an amazing ocean-side hotel/condominium for a two-night stay.

Feb 2 – My Day 5 and their Day 12 of Hike

Ohe'o Gulch/Waimoku Falls, Piipiwai Stream - Distance: 5 mi - Difficulty: 3

Lodging: Hana Kai Maui – 2nd of 2 nights

Today we'll continue on the Hana road south of "town" to east portal of Haleakala National Park, where we'll hike up through several incredible bamboo forests to secluded 400' Waimoku Falls. On our return leg, we'll take the short loop trail along the Piipiwai stream past the Ohe'o pools (often erroneously referred to as the "Seven Sacred Pools"). Time permitting, we'll also pay a visit to the burial site of Charles Lindbergh before returning to Hana.

Fri Feb 3 – My Day 6 and their Day 13 of Hike

Hana-Wai'anapanapa Trail - Distance: 5 mi - Difficulty: 2

Befitting the conclusion of our Hawaiian excursion, today we'll hike from a popular local beach park near Hana along a historic sea-side trail over various lava formations and past ever-crashing ocean

surf. Following the hike, we'll commute back on the Hana road to Kahului, with a stop for a last meal together along the way.

4:00pm End of hike

Hotel Maui Seaside Hotel – 1 night and reservation by PPH
100 West Kaahumanu Avenue, Kahului Tele 808 877 3311

Sat Feb 4

1:39pm Depart Maui OGG via Hawaii Airlines #395

2:19pm Arrive Honolulu for plane change

4:20pm Depart Honolulu HNL via UA#14

Sun Feb 5

6:51am Arrive Newark EWR

Participants

Nada (Chuck couldn't come at last minute)

Bill and Karen

Diane Williams – (didn't show)

Carol Mueller

Patricia Tierny from UK

Steve K