

KAYAKING

Kayaks are a fun way to see the coastline. None of Maui's rivers is fit for kayaking, but the shoreline offers lots to explore.

Areas to kayak are south of Olowalu in West Maui starting at Papalaua Wayside Park between the 11 and 12 mile markers. Paddle southeast along the pretty shoreline below the highway, staying close to land to keep winds from making your life more difficult. Most put in near the 14 mile marker, but it's much less interesting there.

If you can arrange it, in the afternoon it's nice to put in at Kihei and let the wind help you go down the coast, then come out at Makena Landing. Kihei winds tend to blow from north to south along the coast; West Maui winds tend to go from nothing to blowing offshore, which is more dangerous.

Also consider the coastline south of Big Beach at 'Ahihi Cove heading south. You can go around Cape Kina'u to Fishbowl, Aquarium and on into La Pérouse Bay, but be watchful of winds, especially in the afternoon.

Some companies put in at Makena Landing because it's so easy to launch. The kayaking from there is fairly good, though not great.

Winds will be your biggest factor. Don't let a breeze help you down a shoreline if you have to paddle back against it. Unless you've arranged for pickup, better to paddle in less breezy areas. The ocean can go from calm and light winds to wavy with strong winds

over a span of about 100 feet. Whitecaps on the water are caused by wind, and it's easy to drift from a protected area to an exposed area. Stay alert.

Many of the big resorts rent kayaks by the hour for confiscatory amounts. At press time the state was in the middle of a permit crackdown, and many of the companies that rent kayaks had been driven out of business. We weren't able to find any reliable non-resort sources for renting kayaks in West Maui. In South Maui **South Pacific Kayaks** (875-4848) has singles for \$40 and doubles for \$60 at Makena Landing before noon. **Big Kahuna Adventures** (875-6395) in Kihei has singles for \$40, doubles for \$60.

For guided tours, consider **Maui Eco Tours** (891-2223), **Maui Kayaks** (874-4000) and **South Pacific**.

In Hana, **Hana-Maui Sea Sports** (248-7711 or 264-9566) has short, kayak/snorkel trips at Hana Bay for \$89.

KITEBOARDING

See WINDSURFING, page 231.



There are several companies that provide various types of land tours. Some are better than others. **Temptation Tours** (877-8888) does van tours of the Hana Coast for around \$200. Though we recommend that you drive this yourself, if the winding road bothers you, this tour is better than not seeing the Hana Highway at all. Don't believe everything



Molokini is where you'll find the best water visibility in all Maui. Dive boats use the submerged corner and snorkel boats explore the inside.

you hear, however. We've heard some fairly bad information from them. We once had one of their drivers (not knowing who we were, of course) upon seeing a copy of this book tell us that "the authors of *Maui Revealed* have had their houses burned and their cars torched for revealing too many secret places on the island" and that the state of Hawai'i was "banning the book." Obviously, none of that's true, and we could only conclude that they simply make this stuff up as they go along.

Valley Isle Excursions (661-8687) and **Ekahi Tours** (877-9775) also provided guided van tours.

Lahaina Ka'anapali Railroad (661-0080) is listed as one of the "must-dos" in much of the free literature strewn about the island, but we can't help wonder if they've actually done it. Picture a slow-moving train that chugs through abandoned sugar cane fields, along a golf course and through a residential area. Dull, pointless and overpriced. Some kids may like it, but adults should blow their

money elsewhere. In Lahaina. \$23 for adults, \$16 for kids.

Ocean Tours

This is probably the single biggest activity that people pay to do on Maui, and for good reason. The calm, clear waters make it a boater's heaven. Maui's boating conditions are superb due to the shape of its coastline, and it has close island neighbors to visit.

In some ways, this is one of the most difficult sections to write about. The section's length is a testament to your varied options. So many choices and fleeting characteristics make it dizzying. We may take a boat tour and rave about it, but the day after we go to press, the boating company may sell their 50-foot sailing yacht and begin taking passengers out on an inflatable raft from Walmart. It's hard to keep up.