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## KAPALUA

### Ritz-Carlton Kapalua

(800) 262-8440 or (808) 669-6200  
1 Ritz-Carlton Dr.



463 rooms (including 107 1- or 2-bedroom residential suites), pool, keiki pool and playground, 2 spas, health spa, 6 restaurants, an *awesome* 24-hour fitness center (with trainers), valet parking, 37- or 42-inch flat screen TVs, 24-hour business center, resort-wide Wi-Fi, 13 conference rooms, 4 tennis courts, basketball court, environmental and cultural programs, 24-hour room service, laundry is valet only, maid service is *twice* daily, coffee makers with free daily coffee daily, wedding coordinator. The resort underwent a \$180 million renovation in 2008 with great results. The overall feeling is now very Hawaiian and calming with rich wood tones and warm color schemes. The resort is expensively furnished with lots of artwork spread about the grounds. The buildings and the hotel itself are handsome. The staff is eager to please and will get you anything you need. They show a large amount of aloha to each and every guest—even small children.

They have an on-site program called “Jean-Michel Cousteau Ambassadors of the Environment” for guests 3 years old and up where you learn about sea creatures, take underwater pictures, go on hikes, etc. Prices for those range from \$60–\$80 for kids 3–18 and \$80–\$90 for

adults. They also offer a “kids’ night out” where they’ll help your keiki make pizzas and gaze at the stars or do other activities for \$70. There is a cultural adviser who offers tours and programs—many of which are included with the resort fee. Their new 17,500 sq. ft. spa is very nice with co-ed areas available and showers off the treatment rooms.

The rooms are 440 sq. ft. (plus lanai), a full 160 sq. ft. smaller than a Four Seasons room (their biggest competitor), but all are nicely furnished. There are separate showers and tubs in the bathrooms. There’s a *mandatory* \$20 per day resort fee that mostly covers things other expensive resorts give away free, such as charging privileges (*gee, thanks*), use of fitness center, cultural history tours, ground shuttle services, Wi-Fi access, local and toll-free telephone calls, discounted golf fees and preferred tee times, self-parking and a few other things. Valet parking is an additional \$18 per day. The swimming pool is 3-tiered and shallow (3.5–4 feet deep) but open 24 hours. They have covered cabanas next to the pool for \$75 *per day* and luxury cabanas, which are \$250 *per day* and include a flat screen TV, sofa, private attendant, fruit, water, etc. These are very large and can easily fit a family of 5. (You can get a room at some places for that much!) Their Club floor rooms have their own private lounge with free goodies, like top-shelf liquor and breakfast. Their residential suites are one or two hotel-type rooms joined by a main living area with complete kitchen (except an oven).

The resort is as far north as you can get in West Maui. Allow extra time when planning off-site activities. Due to the Hawaiian sacred site adjacent to its grounds, it is set farther back from the ocean than many other large resorts. Their beach doesn’t stack up well against other island hotels, and they erect a

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BEACH CLOSED sign often, especially in the winter since it’s more susceptible to high surf here. Also, weather is not as good in Kapalua as the other resort areas on the island. Very strong winds are common (we often see people by the pool covered with towels to ward off a chill), as are passing drizzly showers.

However, the remoteness of this resort may also be its charm, and the Ritz works for us. Rooms (440 sq. ft.) are \$299–\$765, club rooms (440 sq. ft.) are \$595–\$865, residential suites (900–1,510 sq. ft.) are \$545–\$1,215, suites (900–2,560 sq. ft.) are \$545–\$8,000.

## NAPILI

### Hale Napili

(800) 245-2266 or (808) 669-6184  
65 Hui Dr.



18 units, daily maid service, BBQs, free Wi-Fi, free room safes and free laundry room. A dreamy location on Napili Beach with clean, comfortable rooms, and an *extremely* warm staff make you feel at home. In fact, they often greet guests saying, “Welcome home.” As with many Napili resorts, most visitors are long-time repeats, and they can book out a year in advance. Layouts and furnishings are amazingly variable, but most are nice,

clean, and most face the ocean. Baths have showers only. All have full kitchens. It was built in 1965 and is not plush, but Hale Napili is an easy place to like—and an easy place to return to. Studios (approx. 500 sq. ft.) are \$160–\$215. 1/1s (approx. 700 sq. ft.) are \$260. 3-night minimum. Discounts on longer stays.

## KAHANA

### Kahana Village

(800) 824-3065 or (808) 669-5111  
4531 Lwr. Honoapiilani Rd.



42 units, pool, spa, maid service mid-week (weekly stays), BBQs, free room safes, washer/dryer in the units, free hi-speed Internet access. Wonderfully spacious rooms, high-grade appliances and a great oceanfront location. The grounds are very lush. Units have lots of glass and an open feel, but they are still private if you want. The ground floors are massive 1,600 sq. ft. 3/2s with wet bars, nice kitchens, and the additional bedrooms are equally large. The shoreline from the “prime” (ocean front) units seems delectably close. They changed their classifications, and now units 7–18 are called “ocean front,” which we feel might be a little generous since the pool and lawn front your view. But maybe we’re just being a bit picky. Upstairs units are 1,200-sq.-ft., 2/2 townhouse-type units with the second bedroom as a loft-type—not quite as desirable as the lower



A REAL GEM



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