

Maui, the Valley Isle

Maui, also called the Valley Isle, is just a small dot in the vast Pacific Ocean, but it has the potential to offer visitors unforgettable experiences: floating weightless through rainbows of tropical fish, standing atop a 10,000-foot volcano watching the sunrise color the sky, and listening to the raindrops in a bamboo forest.

Whether you want to experience the “real” Hawaii, go on a heart-pounding adventure, or simply relax on the beach, this book is designed to help you create the vacation of your dreams.

In this chapter, I’ve compiled everything you need to know to plan your ideal trip to Maui: information on airlines, seasons, a calendar of events, and more.

1 The Island in Brief

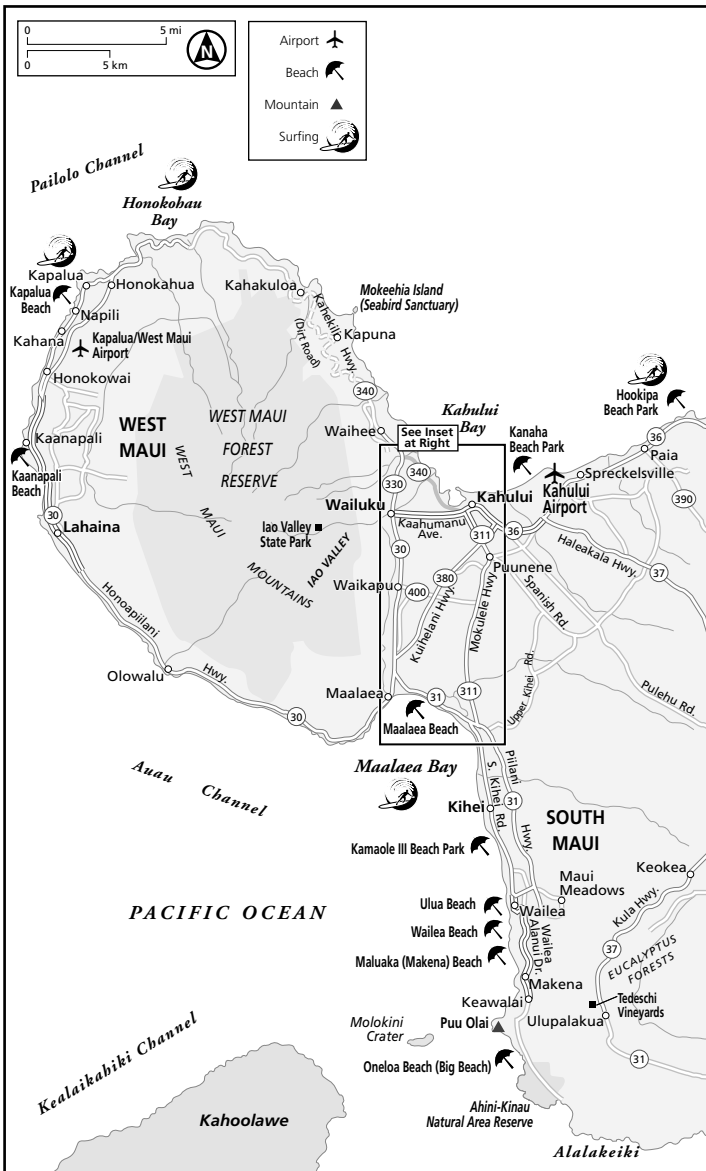
CENTRAL MAUI

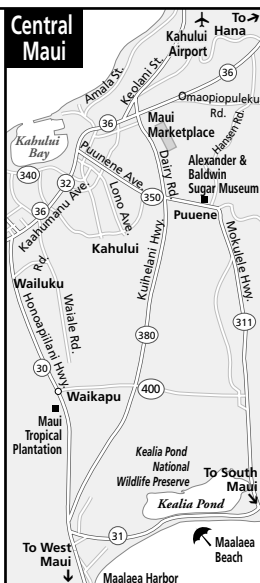
Maui’s main airport lies in this flat, often windy corridor between Maui’s two volcanoes. It’s also home to the majority of the island’s population. You’ll find good shopping and dining bargains here but very little in the way of accommodations.

KAHULUI This is “Dream City,” home to thousands of former sugar-cane workers who dreamed of owning their own homes away from the plantations. A couple of small hotels near the airport are convenient for 1-night stays if you have a late arrival or early departure, but this is not a place to spend your vacation.

WAILUKU With its faded wooden storefronts, old plantation homes, and shops straight out of the 1940s, Wailuku is like a time capsule. Although most people race through on their way to see the natural beauty of **Iao Valley** ★, this quaint little town is worth a brief visit, if only to see a real place where real people actually appear to be working at something other than a tan. Beaches surrounding Wailuku are not great for swimming, but the old town has a spectacular view of Haleakala, a couple of hostels and an excellent historic B&B, great budget restaurants, some interesting bungalow

Mau



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architecture, a Frank Lloyd Wright building, and the always-endearing Bailey House Museum.

WEST MAUI

This is the fabled Maui you see on postcards. Jagged peaks, green valleys, a wilderness full of native species—the majestic West Maui Mountains are the epitome of earthly paradise. The beaches here are some of the islands' best. And it's no secret: This stretch of coastline along Maui's "forehead," from Kapalua to the historic port of Lahaina, is the island's most bustling resort area.

The coastal communities are listed from south to north below.

LAHAINA ★ This old whaling seaport teems with restaurants, T-shirt shops, and a gallery on nearly every block, but there's still lots of real history to be found amid the tourist development. This vintage village is a tame version of its former self, when whalers swaggered ashore in search of women and grog. The town is a great base for visitors: A few old hotels (like the restored 1901 Pioneer Inn on the harbor), quaint B&Bs, and a handful of oceanfront condos offer a variety of choices. This is the place to stay if you want to be in the center of things—restaurants, shops, and nightlife—but parking can be a problem.

KAANAPALI ★★ Farther north along the west Maui coast is Hawaii's first master-planned resort. Pricy mid-rise hotels, which line nearly 3 miles of lovely gold-sand beach, are linked by a landscaped parkway and separated by a jungle of plants. Golf greens wrap around the slope between beachfront and hillside properties. **Whalers Village** (a mall with pricey shops like Tiffany and Louis Vuitton, plus a great whale museum) and restaurants are easy to reach on foot along the waterfront walkway or via the resort shuttle, which also serves the small West Maui Airport to the north. Shuttles also go to Lahaina, 3 miles to the south, for shopping, dining, entertainment, and boat tours. Kaanapali is popular with convention groups and families.

FROM HONOKOWAI TO NAPILI In the building binge of the 1970s, condominiums sprouted along this gorgeous coastline like mushrooms after a rain. Today these older ocean-side units offer excellent bargains for astute travelers. The great location—along sandy beaches, within minutes of both the Kapalua and the Kaanapali resort areas, and close to the goings-on in Lahaina—makes this area a great place to stay for value-conscious travelers. It feels more peaceful and residential than either Kaanapali or Lahaina.

In **Honokowai** and **Mahinahina** you'll find mostly older units that tend to be cheaper. There's not much shopping here aside from convenience stores, but you'll have easy access to the shops and restaurants of Kaanapali.

Kahana is a little more upscale than Honokowai and Mahinahina. Most of the condos here are big high-rise types, built more recently than those immediately to the south. You'll find a nice selection of shops and restaurants in the area, and Kapalua—West Maui Airport is nearby.

Napili is a much-sought-after area for condo seekers: It's quiet; has great beaches, restaurants, and shops; and is close to Kapalua. Units are generally more expensive here (although I've found a few affordable gems; see the Napili Bay entry on p. 52).

KAPALUA ⚡ North beyond Kaanapali and the shopping centers of Napili and Kahana, the road starts to climb, and the vista opens up to fields of silver-green pineapple and manicured golf fairways. Turn down the country lane of Pacific pines toward the sea, and you could only be in Kapalua. It's the very exclusive domain of the luxurious Ritz-Carlton Kapalua and expensive condos and villas, located next to two bays that are marine-life preserves (with fabulous surfing in winter).

Even if you don't stay here, you're welcome to come and enjoy Kapalua. There is public parking and beach access. The resort champions innovative environmental programs and also has an art school, a golf school, three golf courses, historic features, a collection of swanky condos and homes (many available for vacation rental at astronomical prices), and wide-open spaces that include a rainforest preserve—all open to the general public. Kapalua is a great place to stay put. However, if you plan to "tour" Maui, know that it's a long drive from here to get to many of the island's highlights. You might want to consider a more central place to stay because even Lahaina is a 15-minute drive away.

SOUTH MAUI

This is the hottest, sunniest, driest coastline on Maui—Arizona by the sea. Rain rarely falls, and temperatures stick around 85°F (29°C) year-round. On former scrubland from Maalaea to Makena, where cacti once grew wild and cows grazed, are now four distinct areas—Maalaea, Kihei, Wailea, and Makena—and a surprising amount of traffic.

MAALAEA If the western part of Maui were a head, Maalaea would be just under the chin. This windy oceanfront village centers

around a small boat harbor (with a general store, a couple of restaurants, and a huge new mall) and the **Maui Ocean Center** ⚡, an aquarium/ocean complex. This quaint region offers several condominium units to choose from, but visitors staying here should be aware that it is almost always very windy.

KIHEI Kihei is less a proper town than a nearly continuous series of condos and minimalls lining South Kihei Road. This is Maui's best vacation bargain: Budget travelers flock to the eight sandy beaches along this scalloped, condo-packed, 7-mile stretch of coast. Kihei is neither charming nor quaint, but it does offer sunshine, affordability, and convenience. If you want a latte in the morning, fine beaches in the afternoon, and Hawaii Regional Cuisine in the evening, all at budget prices, head to Kihei.

WALEA ⚡ Only 3 decades ago, this was wall-to-wall scrub kiawe trees, but now Wailea is a manicured oasis of multimillion-dollar resort hotels strung along 2 miles of palm-fringed gold coast. It's like Beverly Hills by the sea, except California never had it so good: warm, clear water full of tropical fish; year-round sunshine and clear blue skies; and hedonistic pleasure palaces on 1,500 acres of black-lava shore. It's amazing what a billion dollars can do.

This is the playground of the private jet set. The planned resort development—practically a well-heeled town—has an upscale shopping village, three prized golf courses of its own and three more in close range, and a tennis complex. A growing number of large homes sprawls over the upper hillside (some offering excellent bed-and-breakfast units at reasonable prices).

Appealing natural features include the coastal trail, a 3-mile round-trip path along the oceanfront with pleasing views everywhere you look—out to sea and to the neighboring islands, or inland to the broad lawns and gardens of the hotels. The trail's south end borders an extensive garden of native coastal plants, as well as ancient lava-rock house ruins juxtaposed with elegant oceanfront condos. But the chief attractions, of course, are those five outstanding beaches (the best is Wailea).

MAKENA ⚡ After passing through well-groomed Wailea, suddenly the road enters raw wilderness. After Wailea's overmanicured development, the thorny landscape is a welcome relief. Although beautiful, this is an end-of-the-road kind of place: It's a long drive from Makena to anywhere on Maui. If you want to tour a lot of the island, you might want to book somewhere else. But if you crave a

quiet, relaxing respite, where the biggest trip of the day is from your bed to the gorgeous, pristine beach, Makena is your place.

Beyond Makena you'll discover Haleakala's last lava flow, which ran to the sea in 1790; the bay named for French explorer La Pérouse; and a chunky lava trail known as the King's Highway, which leads around Maui's empty south shore past ruins and fish camps. Puu Olai stands like Maui's Diamond Head on the shore, where a sunken crater shelters tropical fish, and empty golden-sand beaches stand at the end of dirt roads.

UPCOUNTRY MAUI

After a few days at the beach, you'll probably take notice of the 10,000-foot mountain in the middle of Maui. The slopes of Haleakala are home to cowboys, farmers, and other country people. They're all up here enjoying the crisp air, emerald pastures, eucalyptus, and flower farms of this tropical Olympus. You can see 1,000 tropical sunsets reflected in the windows of houses old and new, strung along a road that runs like a loose hound from Makawao, an old *paniolo*-(cowboy)-turned-New-Age village, to Kula, where the road leads up to the crater and **Haleakala National Park** (★★★). A stay upcountry is usually affordable, a chance to commune with nature, and a nice contrast to the sizzling beaches and busy resorts below.

MAKAWAO ★ Until recently, this small, two-street upcountry town consisted of little more than a post office, gas station, feed store, bakery, and restaurant/bar serving the cowboys and farmers living in the surrounding community. As the population of Maui started expanding in the 1970s, a health-food store popped up, followed by boutiques and a host of health-conscious restaurants. The result is an eclectic amalgam of old *paniolo* Hawaii and the baby-boomer trends of transplanted mainlanders. **Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center** (p. 164), Hawaii's premier arts collective, is definitely worth a peek. The only accommodations here are reasonably priced bed-and-breakfasts, perfect for those who enjoy great views and don't mind slightly chilly nights.

KULA ★ A feeling of pastoral remoteness prevails in this upcountry community of old flower farms, humble cottages, and new suburban ranch houses with million-dollar views that take in the ocean, isthmus, West Maui Mountains, Lanai, and Kahoolawe off in the distance. At night the lights run along the gold coast like a string of pearls, from Maalaea to Puu Olai. Kula sits at a cool 3,000 feet, just

below the cloud line, and from here a winding road snakes its way up to Haleakala National Park. Everyone here grows something—Maui onions, carnations, orchids, and proteas, those strange-looking blossoms that look like *Star Trek* props. The local B&Bs cater to guests seeking cool tropical nights, panoramic views, and a rural upland escape. Here you'll find the true peace and quiet that only rural farming country can offer—yet you're still just 30 to 40 minutes away from the beach and an hour's drive from Lahaina.

EAST MAUI

THE ROAD TO HANA ★★ When old sugar towns die, they usually fade away in rust and red dirt. Not **Paia**. The tangle of electrical, phone, and cable wires hanging overhead symbolizes the town's ability to adapt to the times. Here, trendy restaurants, eclectic boutiques, and high-tech windsurf shops stand next door to the ma-and-pa grocery, fish market, and storefronts that have been serving customers since the plantation days. Hippies took over in the 1970s, and although their macrobiotic restaurants and old-style artists' co-op have made way for Hawaii Regional Cuisine and galleries featuring the works of renowned international artists, Paia still manages to maintain a pleasant vibe of hippiedom. The town's main attraction, though, is **Hookipa Beach Park**, where the wind that roars through the isthmus of Maui brings windsurfers from around the world.

Ten minutes down the road from Paia and up the hill from the Hana Highway—the connector road to the entire east side of Maui—sits **Haiku**. Once a pineapple-plantation village, complete with cannery (today a shopping complex), Haiku offers vacation rentals and B&Bs in a quiet, pastoral setting: the perfect base for those who want to get off the beaten path and experience a quieter side of Maui but don't want to feel too removed (the beach is only 10 min. away).

About 15 to 20 minutes past Haiku is the largely unknown community of **Huelo**. Every day thousands of cars whiz by on the road to Hana. But if you take the time to stop, you'll discover a hidden Hawaii, where Mother Nature is still sensual and wild, where ocean waves pummel soaring lava cliffs, and where serenity prevails. Huelo is not for everyone, but if you want the magic of a place still largely untouched by "progress," check in to a B&B or vacation rental here.

HANA ★★ Set between an emerald rainforest and the blue Pacific is a village probably best defined by what it lacks: golf courses, shopping malls, and McDonald's. Except for two gas stations and a bank with an ATM, you'll find little of what passes for progress here. Instead,

you'll discover fragrant tropical flowers, the sweet taste of backyard bananas and papayas, and the easy calm and unabashed small-town aloha spirit of old Hawaii. What saved "Heavenly" Hana from the inevitable march of progress? The 52-mile **Hana Highway**, which winds around 600 curves and crosses more than 50 one-lane bridges on its way from Kahului. You can go to Hana for the day—it's a 3-hour drive (and a half-century away)—but 3 days are better. The tiny town has one hotel, a handful of great B&Bs, and some spectacular vacation rentals.

2 Visitor Information & Maps

For advance information on traveling in Maui, contact the **Maui Visitors Bureau**, 1727 Wili Pa Loop, Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793 (☎ **800/525-MAUI** or 808/244-3530; fax 808/244-1337; www.visitmaui.com).

The **Kaanapali Beach Resort Association** is at 2530 Kekaa Dr., Suite 1-B, Lahaina, HI 96761 (☎ **800/245-9229** or 808/661-3271; fax 808/661-9431; www.kaanapaliresort.com).

The state agency responsible for tourism is the **Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB)**, Suite 801, Waikiki Business Plaza, 2270 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815 (☎ **800/GO-HAWAII** or 808/923-1811; www.gohawaii.com).

If you want information about working and living in Maui, contact the **Maui Chamber of Commerce**, 250 Alamaha St., Unit N-16A, Kahului, HI 96732 (☎ **808/871-7711**; www.mauichamber.com).

INFORMATION ON MAUI'S PARKS

NATIONAL PARKS Maui has one national park: **Haleakala National Park**, P.O. Box 369, Makawao, HI 96768 (☎ **808/572-4400**; www.nps.gov/hale). For more information, see "Hiking" in chapter 4.

STATE PARKS To find out more about state parks on Maui, contact the **Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources**, 54 S. High St., Wailuku, HI 96793 (☎ **808/984-8109**; www.hawaii.gov), which provides information on hiking and camping. For free topographic trail maps, call the State Department of Forestry at ☎ **808/984-8100**.

COUNTY PARKS For information on Maui County Parks, contact **Maui County Parks and Recreation**, 1580-C Kaahumanu Ave., Wailuku, HI 96793 (☎ **808/270-7230**; www.co.maui.hi.us/departments/Parks/Recware).

3 Entry Requirements

PASSPORTS

For information on how to get a passport, go to “**Passports**” in the “**Fast Facts: Maui**” section, later in this chapter. For an up-to-date, country-by-country listing of passport requirements around the world, go to <http://travel.state.gov> and enter “foreign entry requirements” in the search box. International visitors can obtain a visa application at the same website. **Note:** Children are required to present a passport when entering the United States at airports. More information on obtaining a passport for a minor can be found at <http://travel.state.gov>.

VISAS

For specifics on how to get a visa, go to “**Visas**” in the “**Fast Facts: Maui**” section, later in this chapter.

The U.S. State Department has a **Visa Waiver Program (VWP)** allowing citizens of the following countries (at press time) to enter the United States without a visa for stays of up to 90 days: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Canadian citizens may enter the United States without visas; they will need to show passports and proof of residence, however. **Note:** Any passport issued on or after October 26, 2006, by a VWP country must be an **e-Passport** for VWP travelers to be eligible to enter the U.S. without a visa. Citizens of these nations also need to present a round-trip air or cruise ticket upon arrival. E-Passports contain computer chips capable of storing

U.S. Entry: Passport Required

New regulations issued by the Homeland Security Department now require virtually every air traveler entering the U.S. to show a passport—and future regulations will cover land and sea entry as well. As of January 23, 2007, all persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda are required to present a valid passport. Similar regulations for those traveling by land or sea (including ferries) are expected as early as January 1, 2008.

biometric information, such as the required digital photograph of the holder. (You can identify an e-Passport by the symbol on the bottom center cover of your passport.) If your passport doesn't have this feature, you can still travel without a visa if it is a valid passport issued before October 26, 2005, and includes a machine-readable zone, or between October 26, 2005, and October 25, 2006, and includes a digital photograph. For more information, go to www.travel.state.gov/visa.

Citizens of all other countries must have (1) a valid passport that expires at least 6 months later than the scheduled end of their visit to the United States, and (2) a tourist visa, which may be obtained without charge from any U.S. consulate.

As of January 2004, many international visitors traveling on visas to the United States will be photographed and fingerprinted on arrival at Customs in airports and on cruise ships in a program created by the Department of Homeland Security called **US-VISIT**. Exempt from the extra scrutiny are visitors entering by land or those (mostly in Europe; see p. 10) who don't require a visa for short-term visits. For more information, go to the Homeland Security website at www.dhs.gov/dhspublic.

CUSTOMS

For information on what you can bring into and take out of Maui, go to “**Customs**” in the “**Fast Facts: Maui**” section, later in this chapter.

4 When to Go

Most visitors don't come to Maui when the weather's best in the islands; rather, they come when it's at its worst everywhere else. Thus, the **high season**—when prices are up and resorts are booked to capacity—generally runs from mid-December through March or mid-April. The last 2 weeks of December in particular are the prime time for travel to Maui. Whale-watching season begins in January and continues through the rest of winter, sometimes lasting into May.

The **off seasons**, when the best bargain rates are available, are spring (mid-Apr to mid-June) and fall (Sept to mid-Dec)—a paradox, since these are the best seasons in terms of reliably great weather. If you're looking to save money, or if you just want to avoid the crowds, this is the time to visit.

Note: If you plan to come to Maui between the last week in April and the first week in May, be sure to book your accommodations, interisland air reservations, and car rental in advance. In Japan the

last week of April is called **Golden Week**, because three Japanese holidays take place one after the other. The islands are especially busy with Japanese tourists during this time.

Due to the large number of families traveling in **summer** (June–Aug), you won't get the fantastic bargains of spring and fall. However, you'll still do much better on packages, airfare, and accommodations than you will in the winter months.

THE WEATHER

Because Maui lies at the edge of the tropical zone, it technically has only two seasons, both of them warm. The dry season corresponds to summer, and the rainy season generally runs during the winter, from November to March. Fortunately, it seldom rains for more than 3 days straight, and rainy days often just consist of a mix of clouds and sun, with very brief showers.

The **year-round temperature** usually varies no more than 15°, but it depends on where you are. Maui's **leeward** sides (the west and south) are usually hot and dry, whereas the **windward** sides (east and north) are generally cooler and moist. If you want arid, sun-baked, desertlike weather, go leeward. If you want lush, often wet, junglelike weather, go windward. Your best bets for total year-round sun are the Kihei-Wailea and Lahaina-Kapalua coasts.

Maui is also full of **microclimates**, thanks to its interior valleys, coastal plains, and mountain peaks. If you travel into the mountains, it can change from summer to winter in a matter of hours, because it's cooler the higher up you go. In other words, if the weather doesn't suit you, go to the other side of the island—or head into the hills.

HOLIDAYS

When Hawaii observes holidays, especially those over a long weekend, travel between the islands increases, interisland airline seats are fully booked, rental cars are at a premium, and hotels and restaurants are busier than usual.

Federal, state, and county government offices are closed on all federal holidays: January 1 (New Year's Day); third Monday in January (Martin Luther King Day); third Monday in February (Presidents' Day, Washington's Birthday); last Monday in May (Memorial Day); July 4th (Independence Day); first Monday in September (Labor Day); second Monday in October (Columbus Day); November 11 (Veterans Day); fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day); and December 25 (Christmas Day).

State and county offices also are closed on local holidays, including Prince Kuhio Day (Mar 26), honoring the birthday of Hawaii's first delegate to the U.S. Congress; King Kamehameha Day (June 11), a statewide holiday commemorating Kamehameha the Great, who united the islands and ruled from 1795 to 1819; and Admission Day (third Fri in Aug), which honors Hawaii's admission as the 50th state in the United States on August 21, 1959.

MAUI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

As with any schedule of upcoming events, the following information is subject to change; always confirm the details before you plan your schedule around an event. For an exhaustive list of events beyond those mentioned here, check www.visitmaui.com, www.molokai-hawaii.com, or www.visitlanai.net for events throughout Maui, or <http://events.frommers.com>, where you'll find a searchable, up-to-the-minute roster of what's happening in cities all over the world.

January

PGA Kapalua Mercedes Championship, Kapalua Resort. Top PGA golfers compete for \$1 million. Call ☎ 808/669-2440 or visit www.kapaluamaui.com. Early January.

February

Whale Day Celebration, Kalama Park, Kihei. A daylong celebration in the park with a parade of whales, entertainment, a crafts fair, games, and food. Call ☎ 808/249-8811 or visit www.visitmaui.com. Early or mid-February.

March

Ocean Arts Festival, Lahaina. The entire town of Lahaina celebrates the annual migration of Pacific humpback whales with an Ocean Arts Festival in Banyan Tree Park. Artists display their best ocean-themed art for sale, and Hawaiian musicians and hula troupes entertain. Enjoy marine-related activities, games, and a Creature Feature touch-pool exhibit for children. Call ☎ 888/310-1117 or 808/667-9194, or visit www.visitlahaina.com. Mid-March.

Run to the Sun, Paia to Haleakala. The world's top ultramarathoners make the journey from sea level to the top of 10,000-foot Haleakala, some 37 miles. Call ☎ 808/280-4893 or visit www.virr.com. March 22, 2008.

April

Buddha Day, Lahaina Jodo Mission, Lahaina. Each year this historic mission holds a flower festival pageant honoring the birth of Buddha. Call ☎ 808/661-4303 or visit www.calendarmaui.com. Early April.

Banyan Tree Birthday Party, Lahaina. Come celebrate the birthday of Lahaina's famous Banyan Tree with a weekend of activities. Call ☎ **888/310-1117** or 808/667-9175, or visit www.visitlahaina.com. April 26 and 27, 2008.

East Maui Taro Festival, Hana. Here's your chance to taste taro in many different forms, from poi to chips. Also on hand are Hawaiian exhibits, demonstrations, and food booths. Call ☎ **808/264-3336** or visit www.calendarmaui.com. Generally late April.

May

Outrigger Canoe Season, all islands. From May to September nearly every weekend, canoe paddlers across the state participate in outrigger canoe races. Call ☎ **808/383-7790** or go to www.y2kanu.com for this year's schedule of events.

Annual Lei Day Celebration, Fairmont Kea Lani, Wailea. May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii, celebrated with lei-making contests, pageantry, arts and crafts, and concerts throughout the islands. Call ☎ **808/224-6042** or go to www.visitmaui.com. May 1.

International Festival of Canoes, west Maui. Celebration of the Pacific islands' seafaring heritage. Events include canoe paddling and sailing regattas, a luau feast, cultural arts demonstrations, canoe-building exhibits, and music. Call ☎ **888/310-1117** or visit www.mauicanoeifest.com. Mid- to late May.

June

King Kamehameha Celebration, statewide. It's a state holiday with a massive floral parade, *hoolaulea* (parties), and much more. Call ☎ **888/310-1117** or 808/667-9194, or go to www.visitlahaina.com for Maui events; call ☎ **808/567-6361** for Molokai events. June 6 and 7, 2008.

Maui Film Festival, Wailea Resort. Five days and nights of screenings of premieres and special films, along with traditional Hawaiian storytelling, chants, hula, and contemporary music. Call ☎ **808/572-3456** or 808/579-9244, or go to www.maui.filmfestival.com. Beginning the Wednesday before Father's Day, June 11 to June 15, 2008.

Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival, Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Kahului. Great music performed by the best musicians in Hawaii. It's 5 hours long and absolutely free. Call ☎ **808/226-2697** or visit www.hawaiianslackkeyguitarfestivals.com. Late June.

July

Makawao Parade and Rodeo, Makawao, Maui. The annual parade and rodeo event have been taking place in this upcountry cowboy town for generations. Call ☎ **808/572-9565**. July 4.

Kapalua Wine and Food Festival, Kapalua. Famous wine and food experts and oenophiles gather at the Ritz-Carlton and Kapalua Bay hotels for formal tastings, panel discussions, and samplings of new releases. Call ☎ **800/KAPALUA** or go to www.kapaluaresort.com. Usually early July.

August

Maui Onion Festival, Whalers Village, Kaanapali, Maui. Everything you ever wanted to know about the sweetest onions in the world. Food, entertainment, tasting, and the Maui Onion Cook-Off. Call ☎ **808/661-4567** or go to www.whalersvillage.com. Early August.

Hawaii State Windsurf Championship, Kanaha Beach Park, Kahului. Top windsurfers compete. Call ☎ **808/877-2111**. Early August.

September

Aloha Festivals, various locations. Parades and other events celebrate Hawaiian culture. Call ☎ **800/852-7690** or 808/545-1771, or visit www.alohafestivals.com for a schedule of events.

A Taste of Lahaina, Lahaina Civic Center, Maui. Some 30,000 people show up to sample 40 signature entrees of Maui's premier chefs during this weekend festival, which includes cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, and live entertainment. The event begins Friday night with Maui Chefs Present, a themed dinner/cocktail party featuring about a dozen of Maui's best chefs. Call ☎ **888/310-1117** or 808/667-9194, or visit www.visitlahaina.com. Early September.

Maui Marathon, Kahului to Kaanapali, Maui. Runners line up at the Maui Mall before daybreak and head off for Kaanapali. Call ☎ **866/577-8379**, or visit www.virr.com or www.maui-marathon.com. September 19, 20, and 21, 2008.

Maui County Fair, War Memorial Complex, Wailuku. The oldest county fair in Hawaii features a parade, amusement rides, live entertainment, and exhibits. Call ☎ **800/525-MAUI** or in July call 808/242-2721, or visit www.mauicountyfair.com. Last week in September or first week in October.

October

Aloha Festivals Ho'olaule'a, Lahaina. This all-day cultural festival, which culminates the end of Maui island's Aloha Festivals Week, is held at Banyan Tree Park and features Hawaiian food, music, and dance, along with arts and crafts on display and for sale. Call ☎ **888/310-1117** or 808/667-9194 or visit www.visitlahaina.com. September or October.

Halloween in Lahaina, Maui. There's Carnival in Rio, Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and Halloween in Lahaina. Come to this giant costume party (some 20,000 people show up) on the streets of Lahaina; Front Street is closed off for the party. Call ☎ **888/310-1117** or 808/667-9194, or go to www.visitlahaina.com. October 31.

November

Hula O Na Keiki, Kaanapali Beach Hotel, Kaanapali. Solo hula competition for children ages 5 to 17. In its 18th year, this weekend festival celebrates Hawaiian dance, arts, and music. Call ☎ **808/661-0011** or visit www.kbhmaui.com. Early November.

Hawaii International Film Festival, various locations on Maui. A cinema festival with a cross-cultural spin, featuring filmmakers from Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the United States. Call ☎ **808/550-8457** or visit www.hiff.org. Mid-November.

December

Hui Noeau Christmas House, Makawao. The festivities in the beautifully decorated Hui mansion include shopping, workshops and art demonstrations, children's activities and visits with Santa, holiday music, fresh-baked goods, and local foods. Call ☎ **808/572-6560** or go to www.huinoeau.com. Late November and early December.

Festival of Lights, island-wide. Festivities include parades and tree-lighting ceremonies. Call ☎ **808/667-9175** on Maui or 808/552-2800 on Molokai. Early December.

First Light 2008, Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Maui. The Academy of Motion Pictures holds major screenings of top films. Not to be missed. Call ☎ **808/572-3456** or go to www.mauifilmfestival.com. Mid-December to early January.

5 Getting There

BY PLANE

If you think of the island of Maui as the shape of a head and shoulders of a person, you'll probably arrive on its neck, at **Kahului Airport**. If you're headed for Molokai or Lanai, you'll have to connect through Honolulu.

At press time seven airlines flew directly from the U.S. mainland to Kahului: **United Airlines** (☎ 800/241-6522; www.ual.com) offers daily nonstop flights from San Francisco and Los Angeles; **Aloha Airlines** (☎ 800/367-5250; www.alohaair.com) has nonstop service from Oakland, Sacramento, Orange County, and San Diego; **Hawaiian Airlines** (☎ 800/367-5320; www.hawaiianair.com) has direct flights from San Diego, Portland, and Seattle; **American Airlines** (☎ 800/433-7300; www.aa.com) flies direct from Los Angeles and San Jose; **Delta Airlines** (☎ 800/221-1212; www.delta.com) offers direct flights from San Francisco and Los Angeles; **America West** (☎ 800/327-7810; www.americawest.com) has nonstop service between Maui and Las Vegas; and **American Trans Air** (☎ 800/435-9282; www.ata.com) has direct flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Phoenix.

The other carriers—including **Continental** (☎ 800/525-0280; www.continental.com) and **Northwest Airlines** (☎ 800/225-2525; www.nwa.com)—fly to Honolulu, where you'll have to pick up an interisland flight to Maui. (The airlines listed in the paragraph above also offer many more flights to Honolulu from additional cities on the mainland.) Both **Aloha Airlines** and **Hawaiian Airlines** offer jet service from Honolulu. See "Interisland Flights," below.

LANDING AT KAHULUI AIRPORT

If there's a long wait at baggage claim, step over to the state-operated **Visitor Information Center**, where you can pick up brochures and the latest issue of *This Week Maui*, which features great regional maps of the islands. After collecting your bags, step outside to the curbside rental-car pickup area. (All major rental companies have branches at Kahului; see "Getting Around Maui" later in this chapter.)

If you're not renting a car, the cheapest way to get to your hotel is **SpeediShuttle** (☎ 877/242-5777; www.speedishuttle.com), which can take you from Kahului Airport to any one of the major resorts between 5am and 11pm daily. Rates vary, but figure on \$33 for one to Wailea (one-way), \$46 one-way to Kaanapali, and \$63 one-way to Kapalua. Be sure to call before your flight to arrange pickup.

You'll see taxis outside the airport terminal, but note that they are quite expensive—expect to spend around \$60 to \$75 for a ride from Kahului to Kaanapali and \$50 from the airport to Wailea.

If possible, avoid landing on Maui between 3 and 6pm, when the working stiffs on Maui are "pau work" (finished with work) and a major traffic jam occurs at the first intersection.

IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Foreign visitors arriving by air, no matter what the port of entry, should cultivate patience and resignation before setting foot on U.S. soil. U.S. airports have considerably beefed up security clearances in the years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and clearing Customs and Immigration can take as long as 2 hours.

People traveling by air from Canada, Bermuda, and certain Caribbean countries can sometimes clear Customs and Immigration at the point of departure, which is much faster.

INTERISLAND FLIGHTS

Aloha Airlines (☎ 800/367-5250 or 808/244-9071; www.alohaair.com) is the state's largest provider of interisland air transport service. It offers 15 regularly scheduled daily jet flights a day from Honolulu to Maui on their all-jet fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft.

Hawaiian Airlines (☎ 800/367-5320 or 808/871-6132; www.hawaiianair.com) is Hawaii's other interisland airline featuring jet planes.

In 2006 a new airline entered the Hawaiian market. Owned by Mesa Air Group (which has more than 1,000 flights to 166 cities across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico), **go!** (☎ 888/IFLYGO2; www.iflygo.com) began service with 50-passenger Bombardier CRJ200 jets with service from Honolulu to Maui, Kauai, and both Hilo and Kona on the Big Island.

In 2007 visitors to Molokai and Lanai got not one but two new commuter airlines that began flying from Honolulu to Molokai and Lanai. **go!** started a new commuter service from Honolulu to Molokai and Lanai under the name **go!Express**, on their new fleet of Cessna Grand Caravan 208B planes. Another commuter airline, **Pacific Wings**, started operating a discount airline, **PW Express** (☎ 888/866-5022 or 808/873-0877; www.flypwx.com) with daily nonstop flights between Honolulu and Molokai and Lanai, plus flights from Kahului, Maui, and Molokai.

Island Air (☎ 800/323-3345 or 808/484-2222) serves Hawaii's small interisland airports on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai and operates deHavilland DASH-8 and DASH-6 turboprop aircraft. Although I have to tell you that I have not had stellar service from Island Air and would recommend you book on go!Express or PW Express if you are headed to Molokai or Lanai.

THE SUPERFERRY

As we went to press, the Hawaii legislature approved the long-awaited Superferry (www.hawaiisuperferry.com), scheduled to begin

service between Honolulu and Kauai and Honolulu and Maui in summer 2007. If you buy tickets online at least 14 days in advance, fares are \$44 off-peak (Tues–Thurs), \$55 peak (Fri–Mon) one-way. The regular fare is \$52 off-peak or \$62 peak. Tickets for children (2–12) and seniors (62 and over) cost \$41 off-peak, \$51 peak. Tickets for infants under 2 cost \$17.

Vehicles are charged separately, in addition to the passenger fares above. The fare for a car or SUV is \$59 off-peak, \$69 peak.

The 3-hour trip from Honolulu to Maui or Kauai will be offered once daily 6 days a week (no Sat service). The company hopes to add a second ferry in 2009 and a 4½-hour service from Honolulu to the Big Island.

6 Money & Costs

It's always advisable to bring money in a variety of forms on a vacation: a mix of cash, credit cards, and traveler's checks. You should also exchange enough petty cash to cover airport incidentals, tipping, and transportation to your hotel before you leave home, or withdraw money upon arrival at an airport ATM.

ATMs

Hawaii pioneered the use of **ATMs** more than 2 decades ago, and now they're everywhere. You'll find them at most banks, in supermarkets, at Longs Drugs, and in most resorts and shopping centers. **Cirrus** (☎ 800/424-7787; www.mastercard.com) and **PLUS** (☎ 800/843-7587; www.visa.com) are the two most popular networks; check the back of your ATM card to see which network your bank belongs to (most banks belong to both these days).

Be sure you know your personal identification number (PIN) and daily withdrawal limit before you depart. **Note:** Remember that many banks impose a fee every time you use a card at another bank's ATM, and that fee can be higher for international transactions (up to \$5 or more) than for domestic ones (where they're rarely more than \$2). In addition, the bank from which you withdraw cash may charge its own fee. To compare banks' ATM fees within the U.S., use www.bankrate.com.

CREDIT CARDS & DEBIT CARDS

Credit cards are the most widely used form of payment in the United States: **Visa** (Barclaycard in Britain), **MasterCard** (EuroCard in Europe, Access in Britain, Chargex in Canada), **American Express**,

Diners Club, and **Discover**. They also provide a convenient record of all your expenses and offer relatively good exchange rates. You can withdraw cash advances from your credit cards at banks or ATMs, but high fees make credit card cash advances a pricey way to get cash.

It's highly recommended that you travel with at least one major credit card. You must have a credit card to rent a car, and hotels and airlines usually require a credit card imprint as a deposit against expenses.

ATM cards with major credit card backing, known as “**debit cards**,” are now a commonly acceptable form of payment in most stores and restaurants. Debit cards draw money directly from your checking account. Some stores enable you to receive cash back on your debit card purchases as well. The same is true at most U.S. post offices.

Visitors from outside the U.S. should also find out whether their bank assesses a 1% to 3% fee on charges incurred abroad.

TRAVELER'S CHECKS

Though credit cards and debit cards are more often used, traveler's checks are still widely accepted in the U.S. Foreign visitors should make sure that traveler's checks are denominated in U.S. dollars; foreign-currency checks are often difficult to exchange.

You can buy traveler's checks at most banks. The most popular traveler's checks are offered by **American Express** (☎ 800/807-6233; ☎ 800/221-7282 for card holders—this number accepts collect calls, offers service in several foreign languages, and exempts Amex gold and platinum cardholders from the 1% fee); **Visa** (☎ 800/732-1322)—AAA members can obtain Visa checks for a \$9.95 fee (for checks up to \$1,500) at most AAA offices or by calling ☎ 866/339-3378; and **MasterCard** (☎ 800/223-9920).

Be sure to keep a copy of the traveler's check serial numbers separate from your checks in the event that they are stolen or lost. You'll get a refund faster if you know the numbers.

Another option is the new **prepaid traveler's check cards**, reloadable cards that work much like debit cards but aren't linked to your checking account. The **American Express Travelers Cheque Card**, for example, requires a minimum deposit (\$300), sets a maximum balance (\$2,750), and has a one-time issuance fee of \$14.95. You can withdraw money from an ATM (\$2.50 per transaction, not including bank fees), and the funds can be purchased in dollars, euros, or pounds. If you lose the card, your available funds will be refunded within 24 hours.

7 Travel Insurance

The cost of travel insurance varies widely, depending on the cost and length of your trip, your age and health, and the type of trip you're taking, but expect to pay between 5% and 8% of the vacation itself. You can get estimates from various providers through **Insure MyTrip.com**. Enter your trip cost and dates, your age, and other information, for prices from more than a dozen companies.

For **U.K. citizens**, insurance is always advisable when traveling in the States. Check **www.moneysupermarket.com**, which compares prices across a wide range of providers for single- and multi-trip policies. **The Association of British Insurers** (☎ 020/7600-3333; www.abi.org.uk) gives advice by phone and publishes *Holiday Insurance*, a free guide to policy provisions and prices. You might also shop around for better deals: Try **Columbus Direct** (☎ 0870/033-9988; www.columbusdirect.net).

TRIP-CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Trip-cancellation insurance will help retrieve your money if you have to back out of a trip or depart early, or if your travel supplier goes bankrupt. Trip cancellation traditionally covers such events as sickness, natural disasters, and State Department advisories. The latest news in trip-cancellation insurance is the availability of **expanded hurricane coverage** and the “**any-reason**” cancellation coverage—which costs more but covers cancellations made for any reason. You won't get back 100% of your prepaid trip cost, but you'll be refunded a substantial portion. **TravelSafe** (☎ 888/885-7233; www.travel-safe.com) offers both types of coverage. Expedia also offers any-reason cancellation coverage for its air-hotel packages.

For details, contact one of the following recommended insurers: **Access America** (☎ 866/807-3982; www.accessamerica.com), **Travel Guard International** (☎ 800/826-4919; www.travel-guard.com), **Travel Insured International** (☎ 800/243-3174; www.travelinsured.com), or **Travelex Insurance Services** (☎ 888/457-4602; www.travelex-insurance.com).

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Although it's not required of travelers, health insurance is highly recommended. Most health insurance policies cover you if you get sick away from home—but check your coverage before you leave.

International visitors should note that unlike many European countries, the United States does not usually offer free or low-cost

medical care to its citizens or visitors. Doctors and hospitals are expensive, and in most cases will require advance payment or proof of coverage before they render their services. Good policies will cover the costs of an accident, repatriation, or death. Packages such as **Europ Assistance's "Worldwide Healthcare Plan"** are sold by European automobile clubs and travel agencies at attractive rates. **Worldwide Assistance Services, Inc.** (☎ 800/777-8710; www.worldwideassistance.com) is the agent for Europ Assistance in the United States.

Though lack of health insurance may prevent you from being admitted to a hospital in nonemergencies, don't worry about being left on a street corner to die: The American way is to fix you now and bill the living daylights out of you later.

If you're ever hospitalized more than 150 miles from home, **MedjetAssist** (☎ 800/527-7478; www.medjetassistance.com) will pick you up and fly you to the hospital of your choice in a medically equipped and staffed aircraft 24 hours day, 7 days a week. Annual memberships are \$225 individual, \$350 family; you can also purchase short-term memberships.

LOST-LUGGAGE INSURANCE

On flights within the U.S., checked baggage is covered up to \$2,500 per ticketed passenger. On flights outside the U.S. (and on U.S. portions of international trips), baggage coverage is limited to approximately \$9.07 per pound, up to approximately \$635 per checked bag. If you plan to check items more valuable than what's covered by the standard liability, see if your homeowner's policy covers your valuables or get baggage insurance, such as Travel Guard's "BagTrak" product.

If your luggage is lost, immediately file a lost-luggage claim at the airport, detailing the luggage contents. Most airlines require that you report delayed, damaged, or lost baggage within 4 hours of arrival. The airlines are required to deliver luggage, once found, directly to your house or destination free of charge.

8 Specialized Travel Resources

TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES

Most disabilities shouldn't stop anyone from traveling in the U.S. There are more options and resources out there than ever before.

Travelers with disabilities are made to feel very welcome in Maui. Hotels are usually equipped with wheelchair-accessible rooms, and tour companies provide many special services. The **Hawaii Center**

for Independent Living, 414 Kauwili St., Suite 102, Honolulu, HI 96817 (☎ 808/522-5400; fax 808/586-8129), can provide information.

The only travel agency in Hawaii specializing in needs for travelers with disabilities is **Access Aloha Travel** (☎ 800/480-1143; www.accessalohatravel.com), which can book anything, including rental vans, accommodations, tours, cruises, airfare, and just about anything else you can think of.

The following travel agencies don't specialize in Hawaii travel, but they offer customized tours and itineraries for travelers with disabilities. **Flying Wheels Travel** (☎ 507/451-5005; www.flyingwheelstravel.com); **Access-Able Travel Source** (☎ 303/232-2979; www.access-able.com); and **Accessible Journeys** (☎ 800/846-4537 or 610/521-0339; www.disabilitytravel.com).

For travelers with disabilities who wish to do their own driving, hand-controlled cars can be rented from **Avis** (☎ 800/331-1212; www.avis.com) and **Hertz** (☎ 800/654-3131; www.hertz.com). The number of hand-controlled cars in Hawaii is limited, so be sure to book well in advance. For wheelchair-accessible vans, contact **Accessible Vans of Hawaii**, 186 Mehani Circle, Kihei (☎ 800/303-3750 or 808/545-1143; fax 808/545-7657; www.accessaloha.travel.com). Maui recognizes other states' windshield placards indicating that the driver of the car is disabled, so be sure to bring yours with you.

Vision-impaired travelers who use a Seeing Eye dog can now come to Hawaii without the hassle of quarantine. A recent court decision ruled that visitors with Seeing Eye dogs only need to present documentation that the dog is a trained Seeing Eye dog and has had rabies shots. For more information, contact the Animal Quarantine Facility (☎ 808/483-7171; www.hawaii.gov/hdoa).

The **America the Beautiful—National Park and Federal Recreational Lands Pass—Access Pass** (formerly the **Golden Access Passport**) gives the visually impaired or those with permanent disabilities (regardless of age) free lifetime entrance to federal recreation sites administered by the National Park Service. This may include national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges.

The American the Beautiful Access Pass can only be obtained in person at any NPS facility that charges an entrance fee. You need to show proof of medically determined disability. For more information, go to www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm or call ☎ 888/467-2757.

Organizations that offer a vast range of resources and assistance to travelers with disabilities include **MossRehab** (☎ 800/CALL-MOSS; www.mossresourcenet.org); the **American Foundation for the Blind** (AFB; ☎ 800/232-5463; www.afb.org); and **SATH** (Society for Accessible Travel & Hospitality; ☎ 212/447-7284; www.sath.org). **AirAmbulanceCard.com** is now partnered with SATH and allows you to preselect top-notch hospitals in case of an emergency.

Access-Able Travel Source (☎ 303/232-2979; www.accessable.com) offers a comprehensive database on travel agents from around the world with experience in accessible travel; destination-specific access information; and links to such resources as service animals, equipment rentals, and access guides.

Many travel agencies offer customized tours and itineraries for travelers with disabilities. Among them are **Flying Wheels Travel** (☎ 507/451-5005; www.flyingwheelstravel.com); and **Accessible Journeys** (☎ 800/846-4537 or 610/521-0339; www.disabilitytravel.com).

Flying with Disability (www.flying-with-disability.org) is a comprehensive information source on airplane travel. **Avis Rent a Car** (☎ 888/879-4273) has an “Avis Access” program that offers services for customers with special travel needs. These include specially outfitted vehicles with swivel seats, spinner knobs, and hand controls; mobility scooter rentals; and accessible bus service. Be sure to reserve well in advance.

Also check out the quarterly magazine *Emerging Horizons* (www.emerginghorizons.com), available by subscription (\$16.95 per year in the U.S.; \$21.95 outside the U.S.).

The “Accessible Travel” link at **Mobility-Advisor.com** (www.mobility-advisor.com) offers a variety of travel resources to persons with disabilities.

British travelers should contact **Holiday Care** (☎ 0845-124-9971 in the U.K. only; www.holidaycare.org.uk) to access a wide range of travel information and resources for people with disabilities as well as seniors.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELERS

Known for its acceptance of all groups, Hawaii welcomes gays and lesbians just as it does anybody else. For the latest information on the gay marriage issue, contact the **Hawaii Marriage Project** (☎ 808/532-9000).

Pacific Ocean Holidays, P.O. Box 88245, Honolulu, HI 96830 (☎ 800/735-6600 or 808/944-4700; www.gayhawaii vacations.com), offers vacation packages that feature gay-owned and gay-friendly lodgings. It also has a website (www.gayhawaii.com) with a list of gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses and links throughout the islands.

The **International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association** (IGLTA; ☎ 800/448-8550 or 954/776-2626; www.igлта.org) is the trade association for the gay and lesbian travel industry. It offers an online directory of gay- and lesbian-friendly travel businesses and tour operators.

Many agencies offer tours and travel itineraries specifically for gay and lesbian travelers. **Above and Beyond Tours** (☎ 800/397-2681; www.abovebeyondtours.com) are specialists in arranging tours in Australia for gay and lesbian visitors. San Francisco-based **Now, Voyager** (☎ 800/255-6951; www.nowvoyager.com) offers world-wide trips and cruises, and **Olivia** (☎ 800/631-6277; www.olivia.com) offers lesbian cruises and resort vacations.

Gay.com Travel (☎ 800/929-2268 or 415/644-8044; www.gay.com/travel or www.outandabout.com) is an excellent online successor to the popular *Out & About* print magazine. It provides regularly updated information about gay-owned, gay-oriented, and gay-friendly lodging, dining, sightseeing, nightlife, and shopping establishments in every important destination worldwide. British travelers should click on the “Travel” link at www.uk.gay.com for advice and gay-friendly trip ideas.

The Canadian website **GayTraveler** (gaytraveler.ca) offers ideas and advice for gay travel all over the world.

The following travel guides are available at many bookstores, or you can order them from any online bookseller: *Spartacus International Gay Guide, 35th Edition* (Bruno Gmünder Verlag; www.spartacusworld.com/gayguide) and *Odysseus: The International Gay Travel Planner, 17th Edition* (www.odysusa.com); and the *Damron* guides (www.damron.com), with separate, annual books for gay men and lesbians.

SENIOR TRAVEL

Discounts for seniors are available at almost all of Maui’s major attractions, and occasionally at hotels and restaurants. Always inquire when making hotel reservations, and especially when you’re buying your airline ticket—most major domestic airlines offer senior discounts.

Members of **AARP**, 601 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20049 (☎ **888/687-2277**; www.aarp.org), get discounts on hotels, airfares, and car rentals. AARP offers members a wide range of benefits, including *AARP: The Magazine* and a monthly newsletter. Anyone over 50 can join.

Some great, low-cost trips to Hawaii are offered to people 55 and older through **Elderhostel**, 75 Federal St., Boston, MA 02110 (☎ **800/454-5768**; www.elderhostel.org), a nonprofit group that arranges travel and study programs around the world. You can obtain a complete catalog of offerings by writing to Elderhostel, P.O. Box 1959, Wakefield, MA 01880-5959.

If you're planning to visit Haleakala National Park, you can save sightseeing dollars if you're 62 or older by picking up an **America the Beautiful—National Park and Federal Recreational Lands Pass—Senior Pass** (formerly the **Golden Age Passport**), which gives seniors 62 years or older lifetime entrance to all properties administered by the National Park Service—national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges—for a one-time processing fee of \$10. The pass must be purchased in person at any NPS facility that charges an entrance fee. Besides free entry, the American the Beautiful Senior Pass also offers a 50% discount on some federal-use fees charged for such facilities as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, and tours. For more information, go to www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm or call ☎ **888/467-2757**.

Many reliable agencies and organizations target the 50-plus market. **Elderhostel** (☎ **800/454-5768**; www.elderhostel.org) arranges worldwide study programs for those age 55 or over. **ElderTreks** (☎ **800/741-7956** or 416/558-5000 outside North America; www.eldertreks.com) offers small-group tours to off-the-beaten-path or adventure-travel locations, restricted to travelers 50 and older.

Recommended publications offering travel resources and discounts for seniors include: the quarterly magazine *Travel 50 & Beyond* (www.travel50andbeyond.com) and the best-selling paperback *Unbelievably Good Deals and Great Adventures That You Absolutely Can't Get Unless You're Over 50 2005–2006, 16th Edition* (McGraw-Hill), by Joann Rattner Heilman.

FAMILY TRAVEL

Maui is paradise for children: beaches to frolic on, water to splash in, unusual sights to see, and a host of new foods to taste. Be sure to look for the “Kids” icon throughout the book.

The larger hotels and resorts have supervised programs for children and can refer you to qualified babysitters. You can also contact **People Attentive to Children (PATCH; ☎ 808/242-9232; www.patchhawaii.org)**, which will refer you to individuals who have taken their training courses on child care. If you are traveling to Molokai or Lanai, call ☎ **800/498-4145** or visit www.patchhawaii.org.

Baby's Away (☎ 800/942-9030 or 808/875-9030; www.babysaway.com) rents cribs, strollers, highchairs, playpens, infant seats, and the like, to make your baby's vacation (and yours) much more enjoyable.

Recommended family travel websites include **Family Travel Forum** (www.familytravelforum.com), a comprehensive site that offers customized trip planning; **Family Travel Network** (www.familytravelnetwork.com), an online magazine that provides travel tips; **TravelWithYourKids.com** (www.travelwithyourkids.com), a comprehensive site written by parents for parents offering sound advice for long-distance and international travel with children; and **Family Travel Files** (www.thefamilytravelfiles.com), which offers an online magazine and a directory of off-the-beaten-path tours and tour operators for families.

Also look for *Frommer's Hawaii with Kids* (Wiley Publishing, Inc.).

9 Packages for the Independent Traveler

Booking an all-inclusive travel package that includes some combination of airfare, accommodations, rental car, meals, airport and baggage transfers, and sightseeing can be the most cost-effective way to travel to Maui. Package tours are not the same as escorted tours. They are simply a way to buy airfare and accommodations (and sometimes extras like sightseeing tours) at the same time.

When you're visiting Hawaii, a package can be a smart way to go. You can sometimes save so much money by buying all the pieces of your trip through a packager that your transpacific airfare ends up, in effect, being free. That's because packages are sold in bulk to tour operators, who then resell them to the public at a cost that drastically undercuts standard rates.

Good sources for packages include **More Hawaii for Less (☎ 800/967-6687; www.hawaii4less.com)**; **Outrigger's Ohana** (Hawaiian for "family") hotels (☎ **800/462-6262; www.ohanahotels.com**) and the more upscale Outrigger resorts and condominiums

(☎ 800/OUTRIGGER; www.outrigger.com); the **ResortQuest** chain (☎ 866/77-HAWAII; www.resortquesthawaii.com); **American Airlines Vacations** (☎ 800/321-2121; www.aavacations.com), **Delta Vacations** (☎ 800/654-6559; www.deltavacations.com); **Continental Airlines Vacations** (☎ 800/301-3800; www.covacations.com); and **United Vacations** (☎ 888/854-3899; www.unitedvacations.com); and **online travel agencies** such as Expedia, Travelocity, Orbitz, Site59, and Lastminute.com.

Travel packages are also listed in the travel section of your local Sunday newspaper. Or check ads in the national travel magazines such as *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Magazine*, *Travel + Leisure*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and *Condé Nast Traveler*.

Packages, however, vary widely. Some offer a better class of hotels than others. Some offer the same hotels for lower prices. With some packagers, your choice of accommodations and travel days may be limited. Which package is right for you depends entirely on what you want. Be sure to **read the fine print**. Make sure you know *exactly* what's included in the price you're being quoted and what's not. Are hotel taxes and airport transfers included or will you have to pay extra? Before you commit to a package, make sure you know how much flexibility you have, say, if your kid gets sick or your boss suddenly asks you to adjust your vacation schedule. Some packagers require ironclad commitments, while others charge only minimal fees for changes or cancellations.

10 Getting Around Maui

The only way to really see Maui is by rental car. There's no real island-wide public transit. The best and most detailed road maps are published by *This Week* magazine, a free visitor publication available on Maui. Most rental-car maps are pretty good, too.

BY CAR

Maui has one of the least expensive car-rental rates in the country—about \$47 a day (including all state tax and fees); the national average is about \$56. Cars are usually plentiful on Maui, except on holiday weekends, which in Hawaii also means King Kamehameha Day, Prince Kuhio Day, and Admission Day (see “When to Go,” earlier in this chapter). Rental cars are usually at a premium on Molokai and Lanai, so book well ahead.

All the major car-rental agencies have offices on Maui, usually at both Kahului and West Maui airports. They include: **Alamo**

(☎ 800/327-9633; www.goalamo.com), **Avis** (☎ 800/321-3712; www.avis.com), **Budget** (☎ 800/572-0700; www.budget.com), **Dollar** (☎ 800/800-4000; www.dollarcar.com), **Hertz** (☎ 800/654-3011; www.hertz.com), and **National** (☎ 800/227-7368; www.nationalcar.com). You might also want to check out **Breezenet.com**, which offers domestic car-rental discounts with some of the most competitive rates around.

There are also a few frugal car-rental agencies offering older cars at discount prices. **Word of Mouth Rent-a-Used-Car** ★, in Kahu-lui (☎ 800/533-5929 or 808/877-2436; www.mauirentacar.com), has older cars (Toyotas and Nissans from 1995 to 2004) that start at \$27 a day (air-conditioned, four-door), including all taxes, with a 3-day minimum, or from \$156 a week, free airport pickup and drop-off included. **Maui Cruisers**, in Wailuku (☎ 877/749-7889 or 808/249-2319; www.mauicruisers.net), also offers free airport pickup and return on its 8- to 10-year-old Nissan Sentras and Toyota Corollas, with rentals starting at \$31 a day (3-day minimum) or \$175 a week (including tax and insurance).

To rent a car in Hawaii, you must be at least 25 years old and have a valid driver's license and a credit card.

If you're visiting from abroad and plan to rent a car in the United States, keep in mind that foreign driver's licenses are usually recognized in the U.S., but you should get an international one if your home license is not in English.

INSURANCE Hawaii is a no-fault state, which means that if you don't have collision-damage insurance, you are required to pay for all damages before you leave the state, whether or not the accident was your fault. Your personal car insurance back home may provide rental-car coverage; find out before you leave home. Bring your insurance identification card if you decline the optional insurance, which usually costs from \$12 to \$20 a day. Obtain the name of your company's local claims representative before you go. Some credit card companies also provide collision-damage insurance for their customers; check with yours before you rent.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

TAXIS For island-wide 24-hour service, call **Alii Cab Co.** (☎ 808/661-3688 or 808/667-2605). You can also try **Kihei Taxi** (☎ 808/879-3000), **Wailea Taxi** (☎ 808/874-5000), or **Maui Central Cab** (☎ 808/244-7278) if you need a ride.

SHUTTLES **SpeediShuttle** (☎ 877/242-5777; www.speedishuttle.com) can take you between Kahului Airport and all the major resorts from 5am to 11pm daily (for details, see “Landing at Kahului Airport” under “Getting There,” earlier in this chapter).

Holo Ka’a Public Transit is a public/private partnership that has convenient, economical, and air-conditioned shuttle buses. Maui Public Transit consists of seven public bus routes, all operated by Roberts Hawaii (☎ 808/871-4838; www.mauibus.com). These routes are funded by the County of Maui and provide service in and between various central, south, and west Maui communities. All of the routes are operated Monday through Saturday only. There is no service on Sunday. The routes go from as far south as Wailea up to as far north as Kapalua. Fares are \$1 to \$2.

FAST FACTS: Maui

American Express For 24-hour traveler’s check refunds and purchase information, call ☎ 800/221-7282. Two local offices are located at the **Westin Maui** at Kaanapali Beach (☎ 808/661-7155).

Area Codes All of the islands are in the 808 area code. Note that if you’re calling one island from another, you must dial 1-808 first, and you’ll be billed at long-distance rates (often more expensive than calling the mainland).

Automobile Organizations Auto clubs will supply maps, suggested routes, guidebooks, accident and bail-bond insurance, and emergency road service. The **American Automobile Association (AAA)** is the major auto club in the United States. If you belong to an auto club in your home country, inquire about AAA reciprocity before you leave. You may be able to join AAA even if you’re not a member of a reciprocal club; to inquire, call AAA (☎ 800/222-4357). AAA is actually an organization of regional auto clubs, so look under “AAA Automobile Club” in the White Pages of the telephone directory. AAA has a nationwide emergency road service telephone number (☎ 800/AAA-HELP).

Business Hours Most offices are open from 8am to 5pm. Bank hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30am to 3pm, Friday from 8:30am to 6pm; some banks are open on Saturday. Shopping centers are open Monday through Friday from

10am to 9pm, Saturday from 10am to 5:30pm, and Sunday from 10am to 5 or 6pm.

Currency The most common bills are the \$1 (a "buck"), \$5, \$10, and \$20 denominations. There are also \$2 bills (seldom encountered), \$50 bills, and \$100 bills (the last two are usually not welcome as payment for small purchases).

Coins come in seven denominations: 1¢ (1 cent, or a penny); 5¢ (5 cents, or a nickel); 10¢ (10 cents, or a dime); 25¢ (25 cents, or a quarter); 50¢ (50 cents, or a half dollar); the gold-colored Sacagawea coin, worth \$1; and the rare silver dollar.

For additional information see "Money & Costs," p. 19.

Customs What You Can Bring into Hawaii Every visitor 21 years of age or older may bring in, free of duty, the following: (1) 1 liter of wine or hard liquor; (2) 200 cigarettes, 100 cigars (but not from Cuba), or 3 pounds of smoking tobacco; and (3) \$100 worth of gifts. These exemptions are offered to travelers who spend at least 72 hours in the United States and who have not claimed them within the preceding 6 months. It is altogether forbidden to bring into the country foodstuffs (particularly fruit, cooked meats, and canned goods) and plants (vegetables, seeds, tropical plants, and the like). Foreign tourists may carry in or out up to \$10,000 in U.S. or foreign currency with no formalities; larger sums must be declared to U.S. Customs on entering or leaving, which includes filing form CM 4790. For details regarding U.S. Customs and Border Protection, consult your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or **U.S. Customs** (☎ 202/927-1770; www.customs.ustreas.gov).

What You Can Take Home from Hawaii **Canadian Citizens:** For a clear summary of Canadian rules, write for the booklet *I Declare*, issued by the **Canada Border Services Agency** (☎ 800/461-9999 in Canada, or 204/983-3500; www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

U.K. Citizens: For information, contact **HM Customs & Excise** at ☎ 0845/010-9000 (from outside the U.K., 020/8929-0152), or consult their website at www.hmce.gov.uk.

Australian Citizens: A helpful brochure available from Australian consulates or Customs offices is *Know Before You Go*. For more information, call the **Australian Customs Service** at ☎ 1300/363-263, or log on to www.customs.gov.au.

New Zealand Citizens: Most questions are answered in a free pamphlet available at New Zealand consulates and Customs

offices: *New Zealand Customs Guide for Travellers, Notice no. 4*. For more information, contact **New Zealand Customs**, The Customhouse, 17–21 Whitmore St., Box 2218, Wellington (☎ 04/473-6099 or 0800/428-786; www.customs.govt.nz).

Dentists Emergency dental care is available at **Kihei Dental Center**, 1847 S. Kihei Rd., Kihei (☎ 808/874-8401), or in Lahaina at **Aloha Lahaina Dentists**, 134 Luakini St. (in the Maui Medical Group Building; ☎ 808/661-4005).

Doctors No appointment is necessary at **West Maui Healthcare Center**, Whalers Village, 2435 Kaanapali Pkwy., Suite H-7 (near Leilani's restaurant), Kaanapali (☎ 808/667-9721), which is open 365 days a year until 6pm. In Kihei call **Urgent Care**, 1325 S. Kihei Rd., Suite 103 (at Lipoa St., across from Star Market; ☎ 808/879-7781), open daily from 7am to 10pm; doctors here are on call 24 hours a day.

Drinking Laws The legal age for purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages is 21 in Hawaii; proof of age is required and often requested at bars, nightclubs, and restaurants, so it's always a good idea to bring ID when you go out. Bars are allowed to stay open daily until 2am; places with cabaret licenses are able to keep the booze flowing until 4am. Grocery and convenience stores are allowed to sell beer, wine, and liquor 7 days a week.

Do not carry open containers of alcohol in your car or any public area that isn't zoned for alcohol consumption. The police can fine you on the spot. And nothing will ruin your trip faster than getting a citation for DUI ("driving under the influence"), so don't even think about driving while intoxicated.

Electricity Like Canada, the United States uses 110–120 volts AC (60 cycles), compared to 220–240 volts AC (50 cycles) in most of Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Downward converters that change 220–240 volts to 110–120 volts are difficult to find in the United States, so bring one with you.

Embassies & Consulates All embassies are located in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Some consulates are located in major U.S. cities, and most nations have a mission to the United Nations in New York City. If your country isn't listed below, call for directory information in Washington, D.C. (☎ 202/555-1212) or log on to www.embassy.org/embassies.

The embassy of **Australia** is at 1601 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 (☎ **202/797-3000**; www.austemb.org). There are consulates in New York, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The embassy of **Canada** is at 501 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 (☎ **202/682-1740**; www.canadianembassy.org). Other Canadian consulates are in Buffalo (New York), Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle.

The embassy of **Ireland** is at 2234 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (☎ **202/462-3939**; www.irelandemb.org). Irish consulates are in Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and other cities. See the website for a complete listing.

The embassy of **New Zealand** is at 37 Observatory Circle NW, Washington, DC 20008 (☎ **202/328-4800**; www.nzemb.org). New Zealand consulates are in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The embassy of the **United Kingdom** is at 3100 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (☎ **202/588-7800**; www.britainusa.com). Other British consulates are in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Emergencies Dial ☎ **911** for the police, an ambulance, or the fire department. For the **Poison Control Center**, call ☎ **800/362-3585**.

Gasoline (Petrol) At press time, in the U.S. the cost of gasoline (also known as gas, but never petrol), is abnormally high (about \$3.76 per gallon). Taxes are already included in the printed price. One U.S. gallon equals 3.8 liters or .85 imperial gallons. Fill-up locations are known as gas or service stations.

Hospitals For medical attention, go to **Maui Memorial Hospital**, in central Maui at 221 Mahalani, Wailuku (☎ **808/244-9056**), or east Maui's **Hana Medical Center**, on Hana Highway (☎ **808/248-8924**).

Lost & Found Be sure to tell all of your credit card companies the minute you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen, and file a report at the nearest police precinct. Your credit card company or insurer may require a police report number or record of the loss. Most credit card companies have an emergency toll-free number to call if your card is lost or stolen; they may be able to wire you a cash advance immediately or deliver an emergency credit card in a day or two.

Visa's U.S. emergency number is ☎ **800/847-2911** or 410/581-9994. American Express cardholders and traveler's check holders should call ☎ **800/221-7282**. MasterCard holders should call ☎ **800/307-7309** or 636/722-7111. For other credit cards, call the toll-free number directory at ☎ **800/555-1212**.

If you need emergency cash over the weekend when all banks and American Express offices are closed, you can have money wired to you via **Western Union** (☎ **800/325-6000**; www.westernunion.com).

Mail In Lahaina there is a U.S. post office at the Lahaina Civic Center, 1760 Honoapiilani Hwy.; in Kahului there's a branch at 138 S. Puunene Ave.; and in Kihei there's one at 1254 S. Kihei Rd. At press time domestic postage rates were 26¢ for a postcard and 41¢ for a letter. For international mail, a first-class letter of up to 1 ounce or postcard costs 90¢ (69¢ to Canada and Mexico). For more information go to www.usps.com and click on "Calculate Postage."

If you aren't sure what your address will be in the United States, mail can be sent to you, in your name, c/o General Delivery at the main post office of the city or region where you expect to be. (Call ☎ **800/275-8777** for information on the nearest post office.) The addressee must pick up mail in person and must produce proof of identity (driver's license, passport, and the like). Most post offices will hold your mail for up to 1 month and are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, Saturday from 9am to 3pm.

Always include zip codes when mailing items in the U.S. If you don't know your zip code, visit www.usps.com/zip4.

Passports For Residents of Australia: You can pick up an application from your local post office or any branch of Passports Australia, but you must schedule an interview at the passport office to present your application materials. Call the **Australian Passport Information Service** at ☎ **131-232**, or visit the government website at www.passports.gov.au.

For Residents of Canada: Passport applications are available at travel agencies throughout Canada or from the central **Passport Office**, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G3 (☎ **800/567-6868**; www.ppt.gc.ca). **Note:** Canadian children who travel must have their own passport. However, if you hold a valid Canadian passport issued before December 11, 2001, that bears the

name of your child, the passport remains valid for you and your child until it expires.

For Residents of Ireland: You can apply for a 10-year passport at the **Passport Office**, Setanta Centre, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 (☎ 01/671-1633; www.irlgov.ie/iveagh). Those under age 18 and over 65 must apply for a 3-year passport. You can also apply at 1A South Mall, Cork (☎ 021/272-525) or at most main post offices.

For Residents of New Zealand: You can pick up a passport application at any New Zealand Passports Office or download it from their website. Contact the **Passports Office** at ☎ 0800/225-050 in New Zealand or 04/474-8100, or log on to www.passports.govt.nz.

For Residents of the United Kingdom: To pick up an application for a standard 10-year passport (5-year passport for children under 16), visit your nearest passport office, major post office, or travel agency or contact the **United Kingdom Passport Service** at ☎ 0870/521-0410 or search its website at www.ukpa.gov.uk.

Police In an emergency, dial ☎ 911 for police. For nonemergencies, call the district station in Lahaina (☎ 808/661-4441) or Hana (☎ 808/248-8311).

Smoking It's against the law to smoke in public buildings, including airports, shopping malls, grocery stores, retail shops, buses, movie theaters, banks, convention facilities, and all government buildings and facilities. Smoking is not allowed in restaurants, bars, and nightclubs. Most bed-and-breakfasts prohibit smoking indoors, and more and more hotels and resorts are becoming nonsmoking, even in public areas. Smoking is also prohibited within 20 feet of a doorway, window, or ventilation intake.

Taxes The United States has no value-added tax (VAT) or other indirect tax at the national level. Every state, county, and city may levy its own local tax on all purchases, including hotel and restaurant checks and airline tickets. These taxes will not appear on price tags. Hawaii's sales tax is 4%. The hotel-occupancy tax is 7.25%, and hoteliers are allowed by the state to tack on an additional .1666% excise tax. Thus, expect taxes of about 11.42% to be added to your hotel bill.

Time The continental United States is divided into **four time zones**: Eastern Standard Time (EST), Central Standard Time

(CST), Mountain Standard Time (MST), and Pacific Standard Time (PST). Alaska and Hawaii have their own zones. For example, when it's 9am in Los Angeles (PST), it's 7am in Honolulu (HST), 10am in Denver (MST), 11am in Chicago (CST), noon in New York City (EST), 5pm in London (GMT), and 2am the next day in Sydney.

Daylight saving time is in effect from 2am on the second Sunday in March to 2am on the first Sunday in November, except in Arizona, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Daylight saving time moves the clock 1 hour ahead of standard time.

Tipping Tips are a very important part of certain workers' income, and gratuities are the standard way of showing appreciation for services provided. (Tipping is certainly not compulsory if the service is poor!) In hotels tip **bellhops** at least \$1 per bag (\$2–\$3 if you have a lot of luggage) and tip the **chamber staff** \$1 to \$2 per day (more if you've left a disaster area for him or her to clean up). Tip the **doorman** or **concierge** only if he or she has provided you with some specific service (for example, calling a cab for you or obtaining difficult-to-get theater tickets). Tip the **valet-parking attendant** \$1 every time you get your car.

In restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, tip **service staff** 15% to 20% of the check, tip **bartenders** 10% to 15%, tip **checkroom attendants** \$1 per garment, and tip **valet-parking attendants** \$1 per vehicle.

As for other service personnel, tip **cabdrivers** 15% of the fare; tip **skycaps** at airports at least \$1 per bag (\$2–\$3 if you have a lot of luggage); and tip **hairstylists** and **barbers** 15% to 20%.

Visas For information about U.S. visas, go to <http://travel.state.gov> and click on "Visas." Or go to one of the following websites:

Australian citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information from the **U.S. Embassy Canberra**, Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600 (☎ 02/6214-5600) or by checking the U.S. Diplomatic Mission's website at <http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/consular>.

British subjects can obtain up-to-date visa information by calling the **U.S. Embassy Visa Information Line** (☎ 0891/200-290) or by visiting the "Visas to the U.S." section of the American Embassy London's website at www.usembassy.org.uk.

Irish citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information through the **Embassy of the USA Dublin**, 42 Elgin Rd., Dublin 4, Ireland (☎ 353/1-668-8777), or by checking the "Consular Services" section of the website at <http://dublin.usembassy.gov>.

Citizens of **New Zealand** can obtain up-to-date visa information by contacting the **U.S. Embassy New Zealand**, 29 Fitzherbert Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington (☎ 644/472-2068), or get the information directly from the website at <http://wellington.usembassy.gov>.