Kaanapali Beach

Kaanapali is a west Maui resort area a few miles north of Lahaina. The Kaanapali Beach Resort was built in the 1960s, introducing the world to this area as a tourist destination.  
  
Ka’anapali is located only a few miles northwest of Lahaina Town. Take Highway 30 West from Lahaina for approximately 2 miles. Continue on Kaanapali Parkway until you reach the beach on the left.

Aside from the breathtaking coastline, the distinctive quality of Ka'anapali Beach has to be Pu'u Keka'a (Black Rock). As a show of strength, King Kahekili repeatedly braved jumping from Black Rock. Every evening now features a cliff diving ceremony, with cliff divers lighting torches and performing the same jump as King Kahekili.

This is one of Maui’s most popular beaches, mainly because of its proximity to resorts and hotels. Tourists flock to [Kaanapali](https://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-guide/maui) for its three miles of white sand. If you stay until the evening, you’ll catch the cliff-jumping ceremony that takes place every sunset.

Similar to Waikiki Beach, Kaʻanapali Beach is a hotbed of activity due to its location among Kaʻanapali Resort and the many other hotels that sit along the shore. The 1.5-mile-long Kaʻanapali Beach, however, is far less crowded than its Oahu counterpart, only feeling the strain of the masses during busy seasons such as Christmas. Located in West Maui, Kaʻanapali Beach was once a retreat for Hawaiian royalty and today is often called one of the best beaches on Maui, thanks to its wide array of beach activities, including seasonal parasailing, surfing, volleyball, and sailing. On the north end of the beach is Black Rock, a renowned snorkeling destination and home to a cliff diving ceremony that happens every day at sunset.

With world-class entertainment, from golf courses to resorts and restaurants, it’s not hard to imagine Ka’anapali Beach as the royal retreat it once was. But with all its accouterments, nothing comes close to simply enjoying the water and basking in the natural beauty.  
  
With three miles of white sand and crystal clKa'anapali Beach includes soft, golden sand and gorgeous water. Along this stretch of coast, you find many hotels flanking the beach. Ka'anapali Beach harbors endless opportunities for water sports lovers. Black Rock slices across the beach and is a popular spot for snorkelers and scuba divers to earn their certification. Other options for water play include parasailing, windsurfing, and jet skis.

Head to Black Rock, at the north end of the beach, for a boat tour of the marine life in this area. Plus, visit the booths on Kaanapali Beach, where you can sign up for snorkeling, boat excursions, kayaking, sailing, the Sheraton Luau, surfing lessons, and water equipment rentals.

ear water, it’s no wonder why Kāʻanapali Beach was once named America’s Best Beach. Fronting Kāʻanapali’s hotels and resorts, this former retreat for the royalty of Maui is now a popular getaway for the world.  
  
Kāʻanapali was Hawaiʻi’s first planned resort and has become a model for resorts around the globe. Five hotels and six condominium villages face this renowned beach. Also fronting Kāʻanapali is the open air Whalers Village, a world-class shopping complex that features a variety of exceptional shops and restaurants, a renowned whaling museum and free Hawaiian entertainment. Kāʻanapali also has two championship golf courses, the Royal Kāʻanapali and the Kāʻanapali Kai, where you may even see a breaching whale as you try to line up a shot.  
  
One of Kāʻanapali Beach’s most famous attractions is the daily cliff diving ceremony off the beach’s northernmost cliffs known as Puʻu Kekaʻa, or Black Rock. Held every evening at sunset, a cliff diver lights the torches along the cliff, diving off Black Rock in a reenactment of a feat by Maui’s revered King Kahekili. To soar above Kāʻanapali‘s breathtaking coastline yourself, try a zipline tour by Kāʻanapali Skyline Eco Adventures and enjoy a royally good view of one of Maui’s signature beaches.

<https://www.bestofmauiactivities.com/book/kaanapali-ocean-adventure-lanai-snorkel-eco-scooter/>

<https://www.bestofmauiactivities.com/book/parasailing-lahaina-and-kaanapali-by-west-maui-parasail/>  
<https://www.bestofmauiactivities.com/book/teralani-kaanapali-deluxe-whale-watch/>

MAKENA BEACH

Ever-sunny south Maui has many gems, but Makena Beach shines as a [top-tier beach destination](https://nextvacay.com/best-beaches-in-hawaii) among the Hawaiian Islands. Called by many names, including Makena or Oneloa Beach, the local moniker of Big Beach is perhaps the most fitting.

Stretching nearly two-thirds of a mile, with no development in sight, it’s just you, the sand, and the sky. Dramatic cliffs and a white sand shore make it one of the best beaches in Maui, but the clear, turquoise waters make it a staple among Maui’s best swimming beaches too.

Whatever you’re in the mood for—sunbathing, swimming, snorkeling, or riding the waves—Big Beach is among the best and most picturesque places in Maui to do it.

<https://www.bestofmauiactivities.com/book/keliis-kayak-makena-turtle-adventure/>

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HAMOA BEACH

It's a crescent shaped beach with lush greenery on both sides. The sand has salt and pepper look, but is velvety soft!