

West Maui Sweep — Blowhole to Kapalua

11

AUGUST 2026

Nakalele Blowhole · The Gazebo · Napili Bay · Fork & Salad · 'Iao Valley · Wailuku · Merriman's

CHECK THE TIDE CHART FIRST · GAZEBO IS CASH-ONLY · MERRIMAN'S 6:30
CONFIRMED

DAY TIMELINE



Booked / confirmed



Timing window — arrive on time



Flexible — shuffle or skip

7:30-8:15**Nakalele Blowhole — tide-dependent**

North coast · Small roadside pull-off, short walk down · Geyser-like eruptions, best near HIGH TIDE (checked last night) · STAY ON HIGH GROUND - people have been killed at the water's edge; the view from above is the whole show · IF THE TIDE IS WRONG: Makaluapuna Point (Dragon's Teeth) instead - end of Office Rd by the Ritz-Carlton.

8:45-10:30**Breakfast — The Gazebo, Napili**

Napili Shores Hotel · Park on the north side on Napili Place · Mac nut pancakes, eggs benedict, fried rice · Expect a line - it earns the hype · CASH ONLY · Backup if the wait is silly: Hawaiian Village Coffee's bagels & donuts.

11:00-1:00**Napili Bay — swim, snorkel, honu**

Walk straight from the Gazebo · Protected bay, calm and clear - one of West Maui's best turtle-spotting beaches · Showers by the boardwalk · No public restrooms (nearest at Kapalua Bay) · No lifeguards.

~1:30 PM**Lunch — Fork & Salad, Lahaina**

1183 Honoapiilani Hwy, #100 · Farm-to-table salads, grain bowls & sandwiches from Maui farms · Walk-in, fast-casual, vegan & GF friendly - no reservation needed.

~2:30-3:00**Auntie Snorkel — gear pickup**

335 Keawe St, Suite 220 (Lahaina Gateway) · (808) 298-3021 · Rental snorkel sets for the rest of the week · Quick stop.

~3:00-3:20**Peace Love Shave Ice**

150 Kai Hele Ku St, Lahaina · Family-run, organic syrups · Open 12-6 · On the way out of town.

3:30-4:15**'Iao Valley State Park**

Lush gorge in the West Maui Mountains · Short walk to the Kuka'ilimoku needle viewpoint · Site of the 1790 Battle of Kepaniwai · \$10 parking + \$5/person · Sudden showers are normal - packable shell.

4:15-5:30**Wailuku Town**

Right next door · North Market St: local shops, the historic 'Iao Theater, mom-and-pop stores - the un-resort Maui · LEAVE BY 5:30 - it's ~50 min to Kapalua.

6:30 PM**Dinner — Merriman's Kapalua**

1 Bay Club Pl · CONFIRMED · 6:30 PM · Table for 4 · Clifftop oceanfront, farm-to-table - the nicest dinner of the Maui week, timed so sunset (~7:00) lands during the meal · CANCELLATION FEE inside 24 hrs.

MEALS AT A GLANCE

BREAKFAST**The Gazebo, ~8:45**

Walk-up, expect a wait · CASH ONLY

LUNCH**Fork & Salad, ~1:30**

1183 Honoapiilani Hwy · walk-in, no res

DINNER**Merriman's, 6:30 PM**

CONFIRMED · Table for 4 · 24-hr cancel fee

CRITICAL REMINDERS

- NAKALELE SAFETY: stay on high ground, full stop. The rocks by the water have killed people. The eruptions are perfectly visible from above.
- Tide decides the first stop: near high tide = blowhole; wrong tide = Dragon's Teeth (always worth it - jagged lava coast + prayer labyrinth).
- CASH DAY: Gazebo breakfast is cash-only and 'lao charges \$10/car + \$5/person at the gate. \$60-80 in small bills covers it.
- Napili Bay: no lifeguards - check conditions before snorkeling out; the bay is usually gentle but this is still August south-swell season.
- MERRIMAN'S has a cancellation fee inside 24 hours - the reservation is locked, plan the day to make it. Leave Wailuku by 5:30 (~50 min drive) and freshen up in the car or arrive early at Kapalua.
- Smart casual for Merriman's - pack the dinner outfits in the car in the morning; there's no time to go back to the villa.
- TONIGHT: lay out DARK clothing + warm base layers (long pants, hoodies, thick socks) - tomorrow is helicopter + O'o Farm + Haleakala summit until ~10 PM.

PACKING CHECKLIST

☐	Cash - Gazebo + 'lao fees (\$60-80 small bills)	☐	Reef-safe sunscreen + lip balm
☐	Tide chart checked (phone screenshot)	☐	Packable rain shell - 'lao showers
☐	River shoes - lava rock at the blowhole	☐	Bug spray - 'lao is lush and shaded
☐	Snorkel gear - Napili turtles	☐	Change of clothes for the afternoon
☐	Mask defogger + hair ties	☐	Flip flops for town, river shoes for rocks
☐	Beach chairs & umbrella (2-hr Napili stay)	☐	Water bottles + cooler (optional)
☐	Towels + wet bag	☐	Camera / GoPro - blowhole + needle + honu
☐	Dry bag - blowhole spray + valuables	☐	Merriman's outfits IN THE CAR from morning
☐	Rash guards / UV shirts	☐	Deodorant + wet wipes (car freshen-up)

TODAY'S STOPS — ONE BIG COUNTERCLOCKWISE LOOP

1	Nakalele Blowhole (or Dragon's Teeth)	Kahekili Hwy pull-off · tide decides
2	The Gazebo	Napili Shores Hotel · park on Napili Place
3	Napili Bay	Walk from the Gazebo
4	Fork & Salad	1183 Honoapiilani Hwy #100, Lahaina
5	Auntie Snorkel + Peace Love Shave Ice	335 Keawe St #220 · then 150 Kai Hele Ku St
6	'lao Valley State Park	End of 'lao Valley Rd · \$10 + \$5/person
7	Wailuku Town	North Market St · leave by 5:30
8	Merriman's Kapalua	1 Bay Club Pl · dinner 6:30 PM

KEY NUMBERS & CONFIRMATIONS

Merriman's Kapalua 1 Bay Club Pl Confirmed · 6:30 PM · Table for 4 24-hr cancel fee	Auntie Snorkel (808) 298-3021 335 Keawe St #220 Lahaina Gateway	The Gazebo Napili Shores Hotel CASH ONLY expect a wait	Westin Nanea (808) 662-6300 45 Kai Malina Pkwy Kapalua is ~15 min home
---	---	---	--

Sunset ~7:00 PM - watched from your clifftop table at Merriman's over Kapalua Bay. Tomorrow is the biggest day of the trip: Blue Hawaiian helicopter 8:30 AM (arrive 8:15, dark clothes), O'o Farm lunch, Kula Bistro pickup 2:30, Maui Stargazing until ~9:45 PM on a NEW MOON.