

NEWS RELEASE

MAUI OCEAN CENTER - 2016 FACT SHEET

A Description of "The Hawaiian Aquarium" in an Oyster Shell

Maui Ocean Center is dedicated to fostering understanding, wonder and respect for Hawaii's marine life. This three-acre attraction, is one of the few aquariums that features live coral and a dense and diverse variety of Hawaiian marine animals that can be found nowhere else in the world. Maui Ocean Center was awarded Traveler's Choice "Top 25 Best Aquariums in the U.S." by TripAdvisor.

At Maui Ocean Center, visitors explore Hawaii's unique underwater world, traveling from the rocky surge zone to the vast open ocean. Vibrant marine exhibits and interactive presentations by marine naturalists give visitors an understanding and appreciation of Hawaii's marine environment while perpetuating the island's host culture.

Maui Ocean Center's intimate setting features approximately 60 self-paced exhibits that bring guests face-to-face with Hawaii's unique marine life. Maui Ocean Center includes dining at three restaurants (Seascape Ma'alaea Restaurant, Reef Café and Hale Mea Ono coffee cart) and shopping at Maui Ocean Treasures gift shop or online at shop.mauiocenter.com.

- OPENED:** March 13, 1998
- LOCATION:** Hwy 30 Ma'alaea Harbor Village, Maui, Hawaii
- HOURS:** Open 365 days of the year, 9am to 5pm daily
- ADMISSION:**
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| Adults: | \$27.95 plus tax |
| Children: | \$19.95 plus tax (age 3 to 12); under 3 is free |
| Sr. Citizens: | \$24.95 plus tax (age 65 and up) |

Admission tickets are available at the front entrance and at www.mauiocenter.com. Seascape Ma'alaea Restaurant and Maui Ocean Treasures are available to the public without admission purchase.

ONLINE TICKETING: General one-day admission tickets purchased in advance online will receive a free week-upgrade. Must be purchased no later than the day prior to visit by 4pm HST. Same-day admission available for purchase online by 4pm HST without the free upgrade.

One-Week and Annual Journey Passes are also available.

Group Discounts are available to parties of 20 or more with advance reservations.

Travel Agents receive admission for \$5.00 plus tax with IATA card.

SERVICES: **Digital audio guides** with pre-recorded exhibit information in English, Spanish, Japanese, and Korean are available (\$3.00 per audio guide rental; family rate available). **Complimentary wheelchairs** are also available on a first come, first serve basis. Ask at the Front Gate for assistance.

EXHIBITS: Maui Ocean Center's major exhibits:

Surge Zone: Pounding waves provide shelter from predators to juvenile fishes.

Living Reef: Discover the astonishing beauty of Hawaii's coral reefs from the sunlit shallows to the calm, clear edge of the deep reef among 40 vibrant exhibits. Live corals on display are collected with special permits from the State of Hawaii.

Turtle Lagoon: Behold ancient mariners that survived for millions of years, the green sea turtles of Hawaii.

Tide Pool: An unforgettable hands-on experience with marine invertebrates, including sea stars, helmet shells and other tide-pool animals.

Hammerhead Harbor: Come eye to eye with Hawaii's most unusual sharks.

Marine Mammal Discovery Center: Life-size models and interactive displays explore monk seals, dolphins and whales found in Hawaiian waters.

Hawaiians and the Sea: This special exhibit features renderings of an ancient aquaculture system, fishing implements and tells the story of the Hawaiians' special connection to the sea.

Open Ocean: Glimpse into a part of Hawaii's pelagic realm from an acrylic tunnel presenting a 240-degree view of over a thousand tropical fishes, sharks and other marine creatures in a 750,000-gallon saltwater aquarium.

INTERACTIVE

EXPERIENCES:

Shark Dive Maui® gives SCUBA divers a chance to experience Hawaii's marine life in a whole new way. Certified divers age 15 and older can take the ultimate plunge in the Open Ocean Exhibit, coming face to face with numerous species of reef sharks, stingrays and over a thousand tropical fishes. \$199 plus tax per diver. *Available by reservation only.*

RESTAURANTS:

Seascape Ma'alaea Restaurant

Lunch: 10:30am to 3pm daily

An open-air restaurant overlooking Ma'alaea Harbor with expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and Haleakala. The full-service, trans fat free menu features seafood (sustainable species only) and other island favorites including hot entrees, fresh salads and signature sandwiches. Access to the restaurant is honored without admission to the Aquarium.

Reef Café and Hale Mea Ono coffee cart

Open: 9am to 3:30 and 5pm daily

Delightful outdoor cafés featuring deli-style sandwiches, an assortment of to-go lunches, specialty salads, desserts, cold beverages, fruit smoothies, and freshly brewed espresso and cappuccino to name a few. Seating under trellises is available. Reef Café is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily. Hale Mea Ono coffee cart is open 9:00am to 3:30pm daily.

SHOPPING:

Maui Ocean Treasures

Open: 9am to 5pm daily

Approximately 6,000 square feet of Maui's best and most unique shopping. Selections include ocean treasures, books, toys, music, logo wear, Hawaiiana, home décor, art works, fine jewelry, gourmet pantry food, and much more. Access to the gift shop is honored without admission to the Aquarium.

AQUARIUM

AFTER DARK:

Maui Ocean Center offers the most unique and memorable venue for a night of unforgettable sunset views, incredible food and fascinating marine life. From banquets for a few hundred to an intimate setting for a few... from under the water to under the stars! Party planners can choose from the oceanfront Seascape Ma'alaea Restaurant, the dramatic Open Ocean exhibit, the open-air Harbor Plaza, or simply reserve the entire park.

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