



## **MAUI OCEAN CENTER - 2016 FACT SHEET**

*A Description of "The Aquarium of Hawaii"*

Maui Ocean Center's mission is to foster understanding, wonder, and respect for Hawaii's marine life, with a vision to conserve and sustain Hawaii's marine life for future generations through education and stewardship. This three-acre attraction is home to one of the world's largest collections of live Pacific Corals and a diverse variety of native Hawaiian marine animals, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Maui Ocean Center was awarded Traveler's Choice "Top 25 Best Aquariums in the U.S." by TripAdvisor, "#1 Aquarium in Hawaii" by Hawaii Magazine, and is a certified Hawaii Ecotourism Association tour operator. At Maui Ocean Center, visitors explore Hawaii's underwater world, traveling from the shallow reef 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 Hawaiian 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 Restaurant, Reef Café, and Coffee Shack) and shopping at Maui Ocean Treasures gift shop or online at [mauiocentertreasures.com](http://mauiocentertreasures.com).

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

Admission discounts are available for Hawaii residents and U.S. military members with valid ID. Admission tickets are available at the front entrance and [www.mauiocenter.com](http://www.mauiocenter.com). Seascape 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 11:59pm HST. Same-day admission is available for purchase online 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 valid IATA, IATAN, ARC, or CLIA 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 Park Entrance for assistance.

**EXHIBITS:** Maui Ocean Center's major exhibits:

**Surge Zone:** Waves provide shelter from predators for healthy marine life and juvenile fish.

**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.

**Nursery Bay:** Come eye-to-eye with Hawaii's juvenile sharks and rays.

**Marine Mammal Discovery Center:** Explore life-sized models and interactive displays of Hawaiian 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 12 and older can enter the Open Ocean Exhibit and encounter up to six species of reef sharks, stingrays, and over a thousand tropical fishes. Discover the cultural and ecological significance of Hawaii's sharks with Maui's only shark dive activity. \$199 plus tax per diver, gear rental packages available. Visit [www.mauiocenter.com](http://www.mauiocenter.com) or call (808) 270-7075 for reservations and more info.

The Behind-the-Scenes Tour takes guests to the Aquarium lab to learn about coral restoration and rehabilitation, Hawaiian green sea turtle husbandry, and how animals are raised at the Maui Ocean Center. At the conclusion of the 1-hour long tour, guests will have the unique opportunity to feed the turtles at Turtle Lagoon and sharks and rays at Nursery Bay. Visit [mauiocenter.com](http://mauiocenter.com) for reservations or more info.

**RESTAURANTS:** **Seascape Restaurant**

*Lunch: 10:30am to 3pm daily*

*Dinner: 5pm to 9pm, Saturday and Sundays (Pau Hana Hours: 5pm to 7pm)*

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 entrées, fresh salads and signature sandwiches. Seascape Restaurant is a "Platinum Certified Ocean Friendly Restaurant" by Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii. Aquarium admission is not required.

**Reef Café and Coffee Shack**

*Open: 9am to 3:30 daily*

Delightful outdoor cafés featuring deli-style sandwiches, an assortment of to-go lunches, specialty salads, desserts, Dole Whip, 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. The coffee shack 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, locally made pantry food, and much more. Aquarium admission is not required.

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