

# MAUI OCEAN CENTER

*Our Mission: To foster understanding, wonder and respect for Hawaii's marine life.*

## **Maui Ocean Center Media Kit**

*A Description of "The Aquarium of Hawaii"*

For over 20 years, Maui Ocean Center, The Aquarium of Hawaii has fostered understanding, wonder, and respect for Hawaii's marine life with visitors from around the world. Today, it's regarded as Maui's top attraction and a member of TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame.

Hawaii is one of the world's most isolated archipelagos steeped in unrivaled natural beauty and cultural heritage. Regarded as the global capital of endemism, nearly 25% of all marine animals in Hawaiian waters are found nowhere else in the world. Maui Ocean Center serves as a portal into this world beyond our own, providing visitors with an immersive journey through an underwater paradise.

Maui Ocean Center is home to one of the world's largest displays of live Pacific corals and features only marine animals found in Hawaii. Descend from the colorful Living Reef exhibits to the vast 750,000-gallon Open Ocean exhibit on a journey where encounters with schooling reef fish, sharks, stingrays, turtles, and an incredible diversity of marine life await.

The relationship between the Hawaiians and the sea and messages of environmental conservation are cornerstones of the Maui Ocean Center story. The collective experience of native wildlife, local culture, and our social responsibility to be stewards of the sea is what defines Maui Ocean Center as "The Aquarium of Hawaii."

<b>OPENED:</b>	March 13, 1998
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<a href="#">192 Ma'alaea Rd, Wailuku, HI 96793</a>
<b>HOURS:</b>	Open 365 days of the year, 9am to 5pm daily (final admission at 4:30pm)
<b>ADMISSION:</b>	<b>Adults:</b> \$29.95 plus tax <b>Children:</b> \$19.95 plus tax (age 3 to 12); under 3 is free <b>Sr. Citizens:</b> \$26.95 plus tax (age 65 and up)
<b>MEDIA:</b>	<a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">Instagram</a>   <a href="#">Twitter</a>   <a href="#">YouTube</a>   <a href="#">Newsletter</a> @MauiOceanCenter #MauiOceanCenter

*Admission discounts are available for Hawaii residents and U.S. military members with valid ID. Purchase at the Park Entrance and [www.mauioceancenter.com](http://www.mauioceancenter.com). Seascape Restaurant and Maui Ocean Treasures are accessible without admission purchase. Complimentary wheelchairs are available on a first come, first serve basis at the Park Entrance.*



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## HIGHLIGHT OF EXHIBITS

**Living Reef:** Home to one of the world's largest displays of live corals featuring shallow reef to deep reef habitats. Over 40 Hawaiian coral species are found throughout these exhibits. *All corals are alive and were acquired with permits from the State of Hawaii or raised from the Aquarium Lab.*

**Turtle Lagoon:** Behold ancient mariners that survived for millions of years, the Hawaiian green sea turtle. *All turtles are raised at Maui Ocean Center and released to the ocean through Sea Life Park's Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle Educational Loan Program.*

**Tide Pool:** A favorite among children, this outdoor exhibit provides a hands-on experience with harmless sea stars, sea urchins, and other tide-pool animals.

**Marine Mammal Discovery Center:** Explore model replicas and interactive displays of Hawaii's marine mammals including Hawaiian monk seals, dolphins, and whales. *Maui County ordinance prohibits the exhibition of live cetaceans, an ordinance that Maui Ocean Center fully supports.*

**Hawaiians and the Sea:** Visit early Hawaii and learn about ancient aquaculture systems, fishing implements, and the story of the Hawaiians' special connection to the sea.

**Open Ocean:** Glimpse into Hawaii's pelagic realm from a 240-degree view tunnel in a 750,000-gallon exhibit. Stand among hundreds of fish, up to six shark species, and stingrays in the Aquarium's largest exhibit.



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## **POPULAR PRESENTATIONS**

*View presentation listings at [mauiocenter.com/schedule-calendar](http://mauiocenter.com/schedule-calendar). Schedule subject to change. All presentations are included with Aquarium admission.*

**Shallow Reef:** A marine naturalist describes inshore habitats while identifying coral and reef fish species in a remarkable, 50,000-gallon exhibit.

**Open Ocean Dive Presentation:** Aquarium divers enter the 750,000-gallon exhibit to talk about the sharks, rays, and fish found in open ocean environments. Specialized masks allow divers to communicate with the audience.

**Turtle-riffic Tuesday:** A veterinarian and team of aquarists conduct the Hawaiian green sea turtles' routine health examination, enabling guests to see the turtles up-close.

**Turtle Lagoon:** Learn about the Hawaiian green sea turtle with a chance to view a live feeding.

**Wet Naturalist:** An interactive experience with a marine naturalist presenting from within the outdoor Discovery Pool or Surge Zone. See, touch, and learn about various tide pool animals.

**Story Time & Crafts:** Perfect for children ages 3-12, join a marine naturalist for an ocean-themed story time and craft hour.



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## TOURS & ENCOUNTERS

**Behind-the-Scenes Tour:** Visit the Aquarium lab with a marine naturalist to learn about corals, Hawaiian green sea turtles, how animals are raised at the Maui Ocean Center, and an exclusive opportunity to feed the animals at Turtle Lagoon and Nursery Bay. [mauiocenter.com/behind-the-scenes-tour](http://mauiocenter.com/behind-the-scenes-tour) or (808) 270-7075.

**Shark Dive Maui®:** Discover the cultural and ecological significance of Hawaii's sharks with Maui's only shark dive activity. SCUBA certified guests ages 12 and up can enter the Open Ocean Exhibit with staff divers to encounter up to six species of sharks, stingrays, and hundreds of tropical fish. Gear rental packages available. [mauiocenter.com/shark-dive](http://mauiocenter.com/shark-dive) or (808) 270-7075.

**Native Plant & Cultural Tour:** Explore the park's landscape with a cultural practitioner to learn the history and uses of native Hawaiian and Polynesian plants. [mauiocenter.com/native-plant-cultural-tour](http://mauiocenter.com/native-plant-cultural-tour).

**Digital Audio Guide:** Pre-recorded exhibit information in English, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, and Hawaiian (\$3.00 per audio guide rental; family rate available).

**Complimentary Park Map:** Admission includes a park map available in English, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, German, Italian, and French.



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## DINING

**Seascape Restaurant:** An open-air restaurant overlooking Ma'alaea Harbor with expansive views of the Pacific Ocean and Haleakala. Features sustainable seafood and other island favorites. Seascape Restaurant is a "Platinum Certified Ocean Friendly Restaurant" by Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawaii. Aquarium admission is not required to dine. Lunch: 10:30am-3pm daily. Dinner: 5pm-9pm, Fridays-Sundays with Pau Hana specials 5pm-7pm. [Mauiocenter.com/dine](http://Mauiocenter.com/dine) or (808) 270-7068.

**Reef Café and Coffee Shack:** 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 beverages to name a few. The 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:** 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, artworks, fine jewelry, locally made pantry food, and much more. Aquarium admission is not required to shop. Open 9am-5pm daily. [Mauiocenter.com/maui-ocean-treasures](http://Mauiocenter.com/maui-ocean-treasures) or (808) 270-7061.



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## COMPLIMENTARY WITH ADMISSION

Marine Naturalist Presentations

Wi-fi and Public Parking

Cultural Activities and Programs

Souvenir Photo

Daily Short-Film Presentations in the Makai Theater

Keiki Petroglyph Passport (Included with Child Admission)

## TOP AWARDS & ACCOLADES - MAUI OCEAN CENTER

**15 Top Aquariums in the US You Need to Experience** – TripAdvisor, 2018. [View](#)

**Best Children's Activity on Maui** – MauiTime Best of Maui (Rader Voted), 2015-2017

**#1 Best Zoo or Aquarium** – HAWAII Magazine, Reader's Choice Awards, 2015

**Top Rated on Viator** – Viator, 2015

**Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame** – TripAdvisor, 2015

**Best Local Operator** – Viator Travel Awards, 2014

**Top 25 Best Aquariums in the U.S.** – TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice, 2014-2015

**Best Environmental Attraction** – The Maui News Best of Maui, 2010 & 2012

**Certificate of Excellence** – TripAdvisor, 2012-2017

**Best Land Activity** – The Maui News Best of Maui, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2013

**Top-Rated Attraction in Hawaii and 50 Top-Rated Attractions in the U.S.** – Zagat Survey U.S. Family Travel Guide

