

In the Field



5 SECRET SPOTS IN MAUI

Discover where the locals go

Add a few extra miles to your scenic Maui drives and say *aloha* to these hidden treasures. Most of them are cheap or free—great for families on a budget.

Maui Swap Meet Around 100 stalls pop up at the Maui Swap Meet every Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. offering fresh flowers, produce, Hawaiian print apparel,

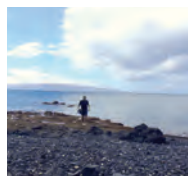
custom wood carvings and jewelry that ranges from artist-made to tourist-trade—all at the lowest prices you'll find on the island. (310 W. Kaahumanu Ave., Kahului; entry is 50 cents, parking is free)



The Bakery Behind an unassuming grey door near the Sugar Cane Train depot you'll find The Bakery. It's tiny, dark and full of equipment that looks like it came over with Captain Cook, but locals love its stuffed croissants, macaroons and fresh bread. Prices are rock-bottom, cash only and the doors close by noon. (Off Highway 30 at 991D Limahana Place, Lahaina)



The Aquarium Drive past the resorts at Wailea and the shores of Big Beach at Makena to the parking lot at La Perouse Bay. A short trek over a lava moonscape will bring you to the Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve



and a snorkelling spot called The Aquarium where candy-coloured fish flit through coral canyons. There are no facilities, so hang your towel over a tree branch and jump off a lava shelf to join the party. (South end of Makena Alanui Road, Makena)

Nakalele Blowhole At high tide, this blowhole puts on the best show in West Maui. Waves rumble through a manhole-sized opening and shoot a whooshing geyser of sea water up to 25 metres in the air. Just south of the blowhole, salt water has carved the lava boulders into fantastical, otherworldly sculptures. (The parking lot is just past the 38-mile marker on Highway 30, north of Kapalua)



Sea House Brunch Bliss—that's one word to describe breakfast on the patio of the Sea House Restaurant at the Napili Kai Beach Resort. Gaze out over Napili Bay while you linger over a stack of banana pancakes topped with mandarin oranges, pineapple, mango and whipped cream. Most items are around US\$10—a real Maui bargain. (5900 Lower Honoapiilani Rd., north of Lahaina) —Debra Smith



GEAR



Sunglasses for a Cause

I've been a fan of First Nations art... well, forever. So when I saw AYA sunglasses, I had to have a pair. Turns out the talent behind AYA's line of glasses (which includes fashion and sporty sunglasses, as well as readers and optical frames) is First Nations artist Corrine Hunt, one of the designers of the Olympic medals for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. While prices range from \$35 to \$329, I chose the cheapest of the lot (Yasmine, \$35), as I go through sunglasses like taco chips. These mid-sized lightweights have the iconic, simple ovoid lines of an eagle on their arms and have held up for four months. Despite being bashed about in my purse, the hinges still work and the double-polished lenses remain unscratched. The Yasmine sunglasses come in five shades and can slip easily into a carry-on bag. And, just in case you didn't feel good enough about this purchase, \$1 from the sale of every pair of AYA eyewear is donated to the ONEXONE First Nations Breakfast program, which supplied 500,000 breakfasts to children last year. (Free shipping on purchases over \$75; claudiaalanstore.com) —Deb Cummings

Maui thumbnail photos by Debra Smith