

# TRAVEL

## THE DELIGHT IS IN THE DETAILS

Silversea voyage all about the luxury **G3**



12 ISLANDS,  
2 WHEELS

B.C. author  
rolls out guide **G5**

VANCOUVER SUN SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

SECTION G



# MAUI WOWS ALL AGES

Warm sunshine, jaw dropping sunsets and endless beaches make it easy to harness the aloha spirit



Maui's Kaanapali Beach, above, is a huge Maui attraction. The writer and her daughter, at top, enjoy a walk on one of Maui's many beaches.

MHAIRRI WOODHALL

As the beat of the drums quickens the dancers' pace accelerates and the stage bursts into a frenzied swirl of fire. Sitting in the front row I can see the reflection of flames in my daughter's wide eyes. Mesmerized by the troupe of fire-knife dancers, her body moves with the rhythm. When the Luau's final performance ends, she pleads to go on stage and dance for the audience. An encore of sorts. Using artful negotiation, we manage to dissuade her. But a seed has been planted and she is as in love with the Aloha State as her parents.

The Westin Maui's Waiale Polynesian Luau in Kaanapali is the best I've been to and a total win with kids. We booked preferred seating, which put us closer to the stage, but from what I can see there isn't a bad seat in the house. Free-flowing Mai Tais and wine and a buffet to please the pickiest of palates complement the stage

spectacle.

Hawaii is brilliant for kids — whether you go high end, budget conscious or somewhere in between. Warm sunshine, jaw dropping sunsets, endless beaches and an array of restaurants and accommodation choices make for an easy, laid back holiday. Maui in

particular holds a special place in my heart as I married my husband on a secluded beach here five years ago. We recently returned for the first time since our wedding with our feisty, three-and-a-half-year-old daughter and it didn't take her long to harness the aloha spirit.

SEE MAUI ON **G2**

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The Wailea beach area on the West shore of the island of Maui in Hawaii is superb, as is dining at the Grand Wailea resort's Humuhumunukunua'ia restaurant.

# MANUFACTURING MAUI MEMORIES

MAUI FROM **G1**

Our trip began in west Maui at the Westin Ka'anapali Ocean Resort Villas. We chose the property for its beachfront location, family-friendly resort amenities and fully-equipped suites. When travelling I appreciate the convenience of having an in-suite kitchen and laundry facilities. With three restaurants and grocery stocking services, the Westin is the best of both worlds. Add in a spa, Kid's Club, splash pools and shaded playground, and you have the makings of a perfect family vacation. We travelled with friends and took full advantage of the outdoor barbecues for most of our meals. The resort is also connected to the shops and restaurants at Whalers Village by a scenic oceanfront boardwalk, which we wandered along almost every day.

The historic seaside town of Lahaina is just a short drive from Ka'anapali and well worth a visit. Stop by Ululani's on Front Street for a Hawaiian shave ice and enjoy it in Banyan Court Park, beneath the shade of a sprawling banyan tree the size of a city block. For a family-friendly ocean adventure, book a tour with Atlantis Submarines in Lahaina. You'll sink more than 36 metres to see some of Maui's incredible marine life. Highlights of our trip included reef sharks, sting rays, an octopus and barracuda and of course SpongeBob SquarePants strapped to the side of a sunken ship.

Another way to get up close and personal with Hawaii's underwater world is at the Maui Ocean Center, which we visited en route to

Wailea. Stingrays, jellyfish, baby green sea turtles, six species of sharks and a plenty of native tropical fish are some of the ocean creatures you'll see. Our daughter loved getting her hands wet in the Tide Pool and was utterly mesmerized by the sharks swimming above her head in the Open Ocean exhibit's walk-through tunnel.

Our final days were spent beachcombing in South Maui. We first checked into the Fairmont Kea Lani, where every room is a large one-bedroom ocean view suite with balcony, so you enjoy a spectacular view while the kids are napping. The ocean was a bit rough to swim in during our stay, but our daughter was more than happy to build sandcastles, hunt for treasure on the beach and then cool off in the pool. The Fairmont's Ko Restaurant features one of our favourite happy hours on Maui, and children under five dine for free at all of the hotel's restaurants.

Another resort our family adores is the Grand Wailea, where we spent the majority of our time floating around the Canyon Activity Pool. Its name, however, doesn't quite do it justice, as there are actually nine pools connected by waterslides, a lazy river, white water rapids and waterfalls.

For my husband and I, the highlight of our stay — and perhaps even the trip — was the Grand's Humuhumunukunua'ia. Over the years we've eaten at a lot of restaurants on Maui and Humu is by far the pinnacle. We dined at sunset, watching tropical fish swim in a picturesque salt water lagoon. The food, atmosphere and service

were pure perfection. As with most Maui resort restaurants, children are welcome, but given the romantic setting I recommend taking advantage of the Kid's Club.

If you seek a lower priced, beachfront property in South Maui, the

all-suite Hale Pau Hana on Kamole Beach Park II in Keihi is a fantastic option. The friends whom we travelled with stayed here with their 10-month old and loved the convenience. Book a renovated ground-floor suite for ocean views

and easy access to the large stretch of sandy beach.

*The trip was hosted by the Hawaiian Tourism Authority. No one from the tourism authority read or approved of this article before publication.*

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DAVE'S CRUISE DESTINATIONS



## Mediterranean PLUS solo traveler deals!



**Dave Frinton**  
Co-Founder & President, CruisePlus

**N**ormally I am very specific about one or two sailings, but this week I have quite a number of extraordinary Med dates, with 14 night packages starting from **\$3299 CAD** per person including roundtrip Vancouver air, 2 nights pre cruise hotel, 12 nights in a balcony stateroom and all taxes. **\$4799 CAD** gets you a 26 night vacation (these are based on a September 27 departure and are one of many close in price to this and some are earlier in the summer too). Please call us to get the specifics as I don't have enough space here, or check out the details on our web site, plus ask about the optional Tuscany and Cinque Terre tour add on to the September 27 package.

Here's also some great news for solo travelers - we have a limited amount of staterooms on 7 different sailings where you will love the value - significantly less than normal single supplement pricing! If you are on your own and have been wanting to do a Med cruise, now really is the time.

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Then there are Med and Transatlantics, and you'll like our package pricing for those too - with sailings in October including a 30 day option on the marvelous ms Koningsdam. These are popular as the shorter flight home from Florida versus Italy or Spain is appealing to most. If you don't have a month to get away there are some terrific rates on 15 day crossings as well.

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