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INTRODUCTION

6

a 1,000 years ago when the first Hawaiians arrived. And if you think you’ve seen beautiful drives, forget what you’ve seen, because the Hana Highway is perhaps the most pristine and jaw-dropping drive in all the world.

There are few words that can describe the cliffs cloaked in green, the lush valleys bursting with waterfalls more beautiful than you’ve ever seen. Its curves hug the coast and gaze over an ocean that stretches uninterrupted all the way to the Alaska coastline. Couple that with the black sand beaches (and some red ones too) and the multitude of trails, and the Hana Highway will reveal the island to you in a way you never imagined. Suddenly, the early rise seems so worth it - you only wish you had more time. Aloha to the Hana Highway and beyond on the island of Maui, Hawai‘i.

When it comes to driving to Hana Town, it’s the journey, not the destination, that is the main attraction. As you drive along the 52 miles of undeveloped road, with 56 one-lane bridges and 617 curves and turns, you will pass by the most breathtaking scenery on the face of the earth. It was literally a million years in the making.

You’ll have to get up early to start this trip; 7 a.m. or earlier is best to get your start in Pa‘ia town. An earlier morning means less traffic, and the more traffic you can avoid the more enjoyable your trip down the highway will be. If there is one complaint about the Hana Highway, it’s almost always about the traffic. So avoid the rush, get started early, and you’ll enjoy your trip significantly more.

Without any stops, it can take up to three hours to make the 52-mile journey to Hana. Some visitors and residents will try and do it in half that time. Don’t let yourself be rushed. Just be sure to show some Aloha and pull over occasionally and let those by who are in a hurry.

And don’t forget that the journey doesn’t end in Hana; it continues well beyond the sleepy coastal town in the bay.

All in all, you can expect the drive described in this book to last about two full days. It’ll really depend on how often you stop, which places you visit, and how much time you spend at each stop. The drive to Hana Town, with all the listed stops included, can take about a full day. The drive beyond Hana, including the ‘Ohe‘o Gulch, can easily take another day. To keep from driving any portion of the highway more than once, we recommend booking a room in Hana Town for a night (or more). Staying over at least one night will make your experience in east Maui feel far less rushed.

Along the journey there are several charming roadside stands selling refreshing tropical fruit, snacks and beautiful island flowers. But remember that you can’t take fruit or the flowers out of Hawai‘i, so only buy what you plan to enjoy while in the islands. If you want to take a bit of aloha home with you, you’ll find that the Kahului airport stores sell plenty of ready-for-takeoff pineapples and other goods.

We recommend picking up a foam cooler, ice, canned beverages and some snacks/small meals before heading out. It also is good to bring along toilet paper in case...
the rest stops are out. You’ll also want some rain gear and sunblock (UV index is normally 12 to 14+ in Hawai’i). Bring bottled water and proper footwear if you plan to hike any of the many stunning trails. A collapsible hiking pole isn’t a half-bad idea either; for some of the hikes three or four “legs” are better than two.

USING THIS GUIDE

In this guide we’ll embark on a journey covering the majority of east Maui, including both the Hana and Pi’ilani highways. Both are famous for their stunning coastal views, winding curves, one-lane bridges, and never-ending beauty. There are many who will proclaim the Hana Highway to be the best drive in all of Hawai’i, and quite frankly, we’re inclined to agree. It’s a journey and a drive that is truly magical and should be experienced by all.

This guide has been written for those looking to make the trip along the Hana Highway and beyond. Here are a few things that make our guide unique.

- **Detailed Maps:** Maps...you love them or you hate them, but we’ve worked hard to make sure our maps are detailed, yet clear and precise. All contain mile markers, general spot locations, cities, landmarks and major roads. We keep our maps simple because some maps are just plain too busy.

- **Place Ratings:** Each spot has a rating (1-5 stars; 5 is best). None of our ratings has been influenced by anyone or anything other than what you will see/experience at each spot. If we liked the place, we’ll tell you we liked it, and if we didn’t, you’re going to know about that too. You’ll know what to expect at each spot. We have found that this feature has been very useful for time-strapped travelers. Here are the ratings:

  - ★★★★★ - Must See
  - ★★★★★ - Excellent
  - ★★★★☆ - Good
  - ★★★☆☆ - So-So
  - ★★☆☆☆ - Poor
  - ★☆☆☆☆ - Avoid or Kapu

- **Mile Markers:** Mile markers are the best way to describe the location of various spots on Maui. Our guide gives directions based on mile markers around the island so you can locate and view each stop easily. To help distinguish which side of the road spots are on, we don’t say “left” or “right” but rather “Mauka” (toward the mountain and center of the island) or “Makai” (toward the ocean). This way, no matter what direction you are travelling, you’ll always know which side of the road the spot is on.

POSSIBLE CLOSURES

From time to time every road or highway is plagued by unexpected closures, maintenance, or delays. On Maui, these closures can occur more frequently due to the unique climate and diverse geography of the island.

Maui can periodically receive vast quantities of rainfall on its windward slopes, creating rock and mud slides along the Hana Highway. Beyond the ‘Ohe’o Gulch, along the Pi’ilani Highway, the drier leeward side cliffs are also prone to rock slides, though the installation of netting has greatly reduced the hazards there.

Recent history has certainly re-iterated the susceptibility of these roads to closure. In October 2006, there was a significant earthquake off the coast of the Big Island (southeast of Maui). Shortly after the quake several portions of the Hana Highway and beyond were
closed. Much of the quake damage was repaired promptly by the county, though a large portion of the highway beyond the ‘Ohe’o Gulch was closed indefinitely due to the danger of rock slides. After nearly two years of road maintenance, in October 2008, the isolated rural communities of Kaupo, Kipahulu and Hana were reconnected by the opening of the road.

Since the danger of rock slides persists along the Pi’ilani Highway the county may close the road as needed for maintenance. These unpredictable closures, when they do occur, will prohibit vehicles from making the “loop-tour” around east Maui. As a result, you will need to access Highway 37 in Upcountry Maui to view a few of the sites listed at the end of this guide, such as Tedeschi Winery (page 61).

When driving the Pi’ilani Highway around the ‘back route’ into Upcountry Maui we advise checking with the ranger station at the ‘Ohe’o Gulch as to road conditions before continuing.

IS THE DRIVE FOR YOU?
Pros & Cons of the Hana Highway

Some of the most frequently asked questions about this journey are, “Is the drive for me?” and “Why all the controversy about the road beyond Hana Town?” Below we’ll cover both of these topics.

If you’ve done any research on the Internet regarding the Hana Highway, then you know there is quite a debate over whether the drive is worth the time and effort. So that brings us to the first question, “Is the Hana Highway right for you and your travel party?” The answer isn’t a simple yes or no. Ultimately it really comes down to the type of traveler you are and what your interests include. From a personal standpoint, there is no way we’d ever go to Maui and not drive the highway. But we know others who are just as inclined to tell you to skip it altogether. This divergence in opinion is what causes the great debate.

If you are the type of traveler who wants to see and do as much as you can during your trip (including hiking) and consider yourself an avid outdoors man, then the Hana Highway is definitely something you will want to consider. Just keep in mind that the drive can involve several days of sightseeing (it’s hard to do it in a single day) along many miles of winding road (more than 100 miles round-trip). But it’s also one of the most beautiful stretches of highway in the entire country. Having visited every state in the Union, we feel we can speak with some authority on this subject. If you are the nature-loving type of traveler, then we highly suggest the Hana Highway for you.

If you are the type of traveler who is looking to relax, sit back on the beach, hates mosquitoes, and not do a lot of “outdoors stuff,” then you might want to rethink the Hana Highway. It is a long drive, and it can be frustrating if your ideal vacation involves a “no-work” attitude. Local residents don’t care much for slow-drivers on the road and will drive the center line if held up in traffic enough. This frustrates a lot of visitors and really makes the drive a lot less rewarding that it could or should be. As a visitor, use the common courtesy of pulling over from time to time to let residents and/or other travelers by.

With that said, here are a few more things to keep in mind when deciding if you want to make the drive. If you answer “yes” to most of these, then we’d recommend the drive. However, if you feel you are answering “no” to most of these, then you might want to consider spending your time somewhere else.

1.) Are you, and all the people in your party, comfortable with frequent turns without getting motion sickness? If not, all the turns might be a rough journey. Since one of us has motion sickness, this was initially a concern. We can gladly say we have not once had...
is not always as full of “aloha” as people in other parts of Maui. We’ve never had any problems, but there are better beaches on Maui, so why waste your time here?

THE ROAD TO HANA
Highway 360 to Hana Town

Mile Marker 0

As you continue down Highway 36, past mile marker 16, you’ll come to the junction of Highway 36 and Highway 360. This is the official start to our journey. Resetting your odometer at the junction will help you keep track of mileage along the drive. The lush vegetation that lines the drive is due in large part to the fact that the Hana Highway skirts the edge of the Ko’olau Forest Reserve (note the highlighted area on the map).

This reserve stretches up to around 4000 feet on the slopes of Haleakala Volcano. Inside this reserve is a tropical paradise of sorts, filled with bamboo, eucalyptus, mango and guava trees. Ko’olau is crisscrossed by a 75-mile network of tunnels and irrigation ditches now overseen by EMI. It leases the land because of the vast amount of rain that this area receives. Near the coast, rainfall averages 60-80 inches a year. Just up the slopes of Haleakala the rainfall jumps to an incredible 200-300 inches a year.

TWIN FALLS & TRAIL
Mile Marker 2 - Highway 360 ★★★★★

Just beyond mile marker 2 a bridge crosses the Ho’olawanui stream and here you’ll find our first stop, Twin Falls. But first, a word of advice. Twin Falls is a nice stop if you want to view several small falls. Compared to what is ahead of you though, it’s really not worth
the time to stop here this early in your journey. We have talked with several people who have stopped at this location expecting grand waterfalls they won’t find until farther down the road. If you do decide to stop now (or later) you can pull off and park on the mauka (toward the mountain) side of the road in a small parking lot that is usually accompanied by fruit stands.

Beyond Twin Falls, between mile marker 3 and 4, close to Huelo, you’ll start to encounter the first really sharp turns in the highway.

**NA'ILI'ILI-HAELE [KAPU]
(FOUR WATERFALLS & BAMBOO FOREST HIKE)
*Mile Marker 6 - Highway 360
★★★★

You might read about this spot online or in another guidebook. A half-mile beyond the missing 6 mile marker a trail leads mauka to four different falls. The spot should be considered Kapu, or off-limits. It's located on private EMI property (see page 16). To further prove our point, on New Year’s Day 2012, a woman had a fatal accident at this location due to a fall. We advise visitors to skip this stop.

**PAINTED BARK
EUCALYPTUS TREES
*Mile Marker 6 - Highway 360
★★★★

Between mile markers 6 and 7 you’ll find some Painted Bark Eucalyptus trees makai (toward the ocean) in a small grove. These trees have a unique bark that appears to have been hand-painted shades of red, purple and green. This location is not really a stop, as there really isn’t much room to pull over. You also can get a glimpse of these trees at the Garden of Eden (see page 25) or Ke’anae Arboretum, which will come later in our journey (see page 31).

**SCENIC LOOKOUT
*Mile Marker 7 - Highway 360
★★★★

About half way past mile marker 7 there is a scenic lookout over a valley/gulch. A lot of people stop at this location, but better things are ahead.

Near mile marker 8 there is a pullout, but we also advise skipping that stop; there’s nothing there.

**WAIKAMOI RIDGE TRAIL
(KO’OLAU FOREST RESERVE)
*Mile Marker 9 - Highway 360
★★★★★

A little over a half-mile past mile marker 9, keep your eyes open for the parking lot (mauka) to the Waikamoi Ridge Forest Trail and Overlook. It is easy to miss due to the fact it’s around a bend in the road. After parking in the often crowded lot, head up to the open area to your left to a small overlook with picnic shelters and the Waikamoi trail head.

The Waikamoi Trail is a beautiful, short nature walk through trees, bamboo and ferns with scenic overlooks at various points along the way. There are actually two sections to the trail. One is a short loop that takes about half an hour and ends where it starts (at the picnic area), and the other is a one-way extension from the loop trail. Both trails start at the picnic shelter near the parking area.

When starting the trail(s), we recommend you take the right path at the trailhead. It will take you counterclockwise around the loop and is ultimately an easier hike in that direction. When you get about half way along the loop trail (and at the first lookout bench) you’ll notice the extension branching off to the right. This extension is well worth the extra effort because it’s always less crowded than the loop trail and will take you farther up the ridge. At the top of this ridge the trail breaks out of the trees into a grassy clearing with another shelter and picnic site. This overlook offers some remarkable views of the highway and ocean. After you turn to head back, you’ll return to the loop trail and take a right onto it. From there the loop trail goes down the ridge to another bench overlook and then along the contour to the beginning point at the trail head.

The trail is usually in good condition, but that can change with just one good rain storm. The worst
part of the loop trail (when heading counterclockwise) is the part beyond the extension trail. It goes steeply downhill at times and can be filled with roots. We suspect this will be “fixed” in the future, as volunteer groups have already improved the first half of the loop. There are no facilities at this site, and we do recommend bug spray because mosquitoes like to congregate here.

The Waikamoi Trail is a total of .08 miles if you do the loop trail alone and about 1 1/2 miles if you do the extension. Expect to spend about 30 minutes to an hour here depending on which trails you hike.

WAIKAMOI FALLS
Mile Marker 10 - Highway 360

Between this spot and our next stop you might notice a small waterfall and pool near the bridge mauka on the Waikamoi Stream. Nothing about this falls or pool really warrants a stop unless it has recently rained. Some people don’t know this and stop anyway.

A larger falls exists upstream, and after a rainstorm is an incredible sight. If you are driving the road during or after a rainy spell, keep an eye out for the falls which will be partially visible from the highway.

GARDEN OF EDEN
BOTANICAL ARBORETUM
Mile Marker 10 - Highway 360
★★★★★

On the mauka side of the highway, a half-mile past mile marker 10, you’ll find The Garden of Eden Arboretum & Botanical Garden. We usually don’t go into details about private gardens or businesses. But this garden, the creation of Alan Bradbury, is the exception to the rule. It’s one of our favorite stops on the entire drive.

The garden is most popular for its debut in “Jurassic Park.” The Keopuka “Jurassic Park” Rock which can be seen from a gorgeous lookout inside the garden was featured in the opening scene of the movie.

The 25-acre site was purchased in 1991 with a vision of restoring the area’s natural ecosystem with Hawai‘i’s native and indigenous species. Along the way the opportunity arose to include exotic plants and trees from the South Pacific region and tropical rain forests throughout the world. Today there are more than 500 botanically labeled plants, including the most extensive collection of Ti plants in Hawai‘i. Ti has a long history of usage by the Polynesians in ceremonies and rituals and is still considered one of Hawai‘i’s most culturally useful plants. You also can get a good look at Upper and Lower Puohokamoa Falls (our next stop) from the garden. Several domesticated animals live inside the garden including peafowl, chickens, ducks, geese and even some horses.

There is an art gallery and several other attractions within the garden as well now, so expect to spend about an hour or two at this location.

Admission is $15 per person as of this printing, but it is well worth it. The garden is open daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. More photos and a map can be found on their web site:

www.MauiGardenOfEden.com
inland, back up the mountain. It’s a nice side-trip if you have the time. If not, you can get a more intimate view of another falls on the same stream in a few minutes. Upper Waikani Falls is just ahead.

WAILUA VALLEY STATE WAYSIDE PARK
Mile Marker 18 - Highway 360 ★★★★★

A little over a half-mile past mile marker 18, mauka, you’ll come to Wailua Valley State Wayside Park. Most visitors breeze right by and never even realize it’s there. The park provides perspectives of the Ke‘anae Valley (a lower portion of the Ko‘olau Gap in Haleakala’s crater) and an overlook of Wailua Village. It’s not a major attraction, but it’s worth a stop for some great scenic views. After parking, take the stairs up to the lookout on your right. If you’re interested, a paved overlook another quarter-mile down the highway provides an even better look at Wailua town.

UPPER WAIKANI FALLS
(THREE-BEARS FALLS)
Mile Marker 19 - Highway 360 ★★★★★

Mauka a half-mile beyond mile marker 19 you’ll find beautiful Upper Waikani (Three-Bears Falls). This is one of the most visited waterfalls in the area. You can get a great view of this triple-spouted beauty from the side of the road. If you’d like to get a bit closer, there is a path at the Hana end of the bridge which leads you right to the falls. The trail is accessible from mauka and makai sides of the bridge, but makai is easier. Simply climb down and under the bridge and follow the jungle-like path towards the falls and then rock-skip a few feet up to the best vantage point. This is a really great way to view the falls up close and personal. The photo on the previous page may make the falls look fairly small, but it’s actually 70 feet tall!

The falls can change in size dramatically depending on rainfall. In the winter months the falls can be huge, unapproachable, and even unattractive, whereas in the spring and summer it can ideally be much smaller (as seen on the previous page).

WAILUAIKI FALLS
Mile Marker 21 - Highway 360 ★★★★★

Near the 21 mile marker you’ll cross over Wailuaiki Stream Bridge. If you can find a place to park (usually just beyond the bridge), pull over and take a look at the 50-foot waterfall cascading just under the bridge. This stream and waterfall can dry up if it hasn’t rained lately, as the East Maui Irrigation (EMI) company diverts a lot of the water upstream. Speaking of upstream, a hunters road/trail starts mauka just up the road from the bridge and goes to a variety of other waterfalls upstream that are almost always flowing, but this trail is on EMI land. See page 16 for more information about hiking in restricted EMI areas.

PUA‘A KA‘A STATE WAYSIDE PARK
Mile Marker 22 - Highway 360 ★★★★★

Farther down the highway, around a half-mile past mile marker 22, you’ll find Pua‘a Ka‘a State Wayside Park (that’s always fun to say). Here you’ll find a paved trail to several small falls and a picnic area. A larger falls can also be accessed upstream via a dirt trail. This trail crosses EMI land and cannot be taken without permission. If you decide to go, use caution crossing the viaduct and be prepared for mud.

Mongooses (yes that’s plural) also hang out at the park. You may already have seen them streaking across the road. Some bright soul imported them to kill the rats that the sailors brought here on their boats. Well, they killed the ground rats and most of the ground birds, but left the tree rats. The mongoose is now found on every island except Kaua‘i. The little creatures run around this area gathering food left over from picnics. You also are likely
WAIOKA POND [KAPU]  
(VENUS POOL)  
**Mile Marker 48 - Highway 31**

Venus Pool, also known locally as Waioka Pond, isn’t the well kept secret it once was, and the popularity of the spot has caused some tension over access to it. Several residents have informed us that there is no safe or legal way (without trespassing) to reach the pool. Additionally, many visitors have been ticketed at this location by police. It begs the question, is this all really worth it? In our opinion, no! There is just too much controversy surrounding this spot and it’s too difficult to access, so we recommend you skip it and continue to ‘Ohe’o instead. If you still choose to swim here, avoid the end of the pool where the stream enters the ocean; there is a bad undertow.

ALAA’ALULA FALLS  
**Mile Marker 46 - Highway 31**

Just beyond the 46 mile marker, you will pass over Ala’alaula Bridge. Next to the bridge, mauka, is a small waterfall. It’s nothing special, and better falls are right around the corner.

PAHI FALLS  
**Mile Marker 46 - Highway 31**

Just before mile marker 45 you’ll pass over Paihi stream. As of press time, this stream is spanned by a temporary bridge (see page 9). Here you’ll also find a small roadside waterfall called Paihi Falls that drops about 50 feet just beside the road.

WAILUA STREAM  
**Mile Marker 45 - Highway 31**

Around mile marker 45 you’ll cross over Wailua stream. Yet you won’t find Wailua Falls here. The falls is actually our next stop, on Honolewa Stream (oddly enough). So why the mention of the stream? Upstream exist two beautiful falls, Kanahualii Falls and Waihiumalu Falls. Unfortunately you can’t visit either, but you can view one of them from the highway. Not to get ahead of ourselves, but shortly after you pass Wailua Falls, at the top of a hill, glance behind you up on the cliff. You should be able to catch a glimpse of the upper falls on the stream, Waihiumalu Falls (400 ft).

WAILUA FALLS  
**Mile Marker 45 - Highway 31**

Just beyond mile marker 45 you’ll reach one of the most gorgeous falls in all of Hawai‘i, Wailua Falls. You will cross a bridge where its stream waters pass under the road. As noted, this falls is on Honolewa Stream and not Wailua stream. There is a parking lot immediately off to the makai side after you pass the falls. Wailua Falls gracefully cascades 80 feet through a lush setting in the surrounding vegetation just feet from the road.

There is a short path to the base of the falls, but it can be tricky so use caution. The water flow varies but is usually pretty throughout the year. Upstream exists Kekuapo‘owai Falls, but unfortunately it is only visible by helicopter.

Pua’a Lu’u Falls and another small waterfall (Hahalawe Falls) are both located a little farther down the road from Wailua Falls. There’s a pullout on the side of the road past the bridge at Pua’a Lu’u Falls, and the short path (look for the giant tree) downstream to the falls is also worth a brief stop.
CHAPTER 4 • ‘Ohe’o Gulch & Kipahulu Area

The Pools of ‘Ohe’o are the highlight of the drive beyond Hana Town.

‘OHE’O GULCH & KIPAHULU AREA
Mile Marker 42 - Highway 31
End of the Hana Highway
★★★★★

About 15 minutes past Hana, near mile marker 42, is the ‘Ohe’o Gulch at the east end of Haleakala National Park. In 1969, the land where the ‘Ohe’o Gulch is situated (formally known as Kipahulu coastal area) was donated to the Haleakala National Park system so the pools would forever be open to the public.

The ‘Ohe’o Gulch today is known by many names. Some call it the Hawaiian habitation sites. The trail passes a grove of hala trees on the way to beautiful views of the ocean and several large pools.

Swimming is permitted when conditions allow it. Never jump into the water from the cliffs above. Also, the ocean currents at Kuloa Point are very strong and sharks and high surf are constant dangers. Do not go into the ocean here; stay in the pools above if you swim.

After crossing the bridge over the stream, the parking lot is located makai. The fee for visiting the park is only $10 per vehicle and is valid for this part of Haleakala National Park, as well as the road that leads to the summit of Haleakala (see page 64).

Starting some two miles inland, the Palikea and Pipiwai Streams are the source of water for all of the falls in this area. These streams join inland to form a string of pools along the ‘Ohe’o Gulch. The easiest to reach and the nicest pools are located near the shoreline right beyond the Park Ranger’s building.

KULOA POINT TRAIL
Mile Marker 42 at ‘Ohe’o Gulch
★★★★★

The Kahakai Trail stretches a quarter-mile between Kuloa Point and the Kipahulu campground. Shoreline views along the ocean are beautiful, but be mindful of your step. Of the three trails in the area, this is the one to skip, but given that it’s so short you might as well enjoy it while here.

PIPIWAI TRAIL
Mile Marker 42 at ‘Ohe’o Gulch
★★★★★

The Pipiwai Trail is a moderately strenuous 4-mile round-trip trail. Total elevation gain is approximately 650 feet. The trailhead is right past the bridge that passes over Pipiwai Stream on the mauka side of the highway. The trail winds uphill along the edge of Pipiwai Stream past several waterfalls and pools. The remains
of a sugar mill dam, irrigation systems and flumes of the late 1800's can be seen in several places along the trail.

Be sure to close any gates you pass through as cattle are permitted to graze inside the fence. Speaking of which, watch out for what the cows may have left behind on the trail.

MAKAHIKU & WAIMOKU FALLS
On Pipiwai Trail - Highway 31

The first half-mile heads up gently sloping meadows to an overlook of the beautiful Makahiku Falls. Makahiku Falls cascades a phenomenal 184 feet from one pool into another. The pool at the crest of the falls is sometimes referred to as “Infinity Pool.”

When flowing, it is a sight to behold. Unfortunately, it has a tendency to dry up in the summer when there is less rain. There is a small sign noting the location of the falls along the trail. Ask the park rangers about the falls if you want to know about its current flow rates before hiking.

Just beyond the falls you’ll encounter a giant banyan tree (photo on page 66), a native of India. In another half mile you enter a woodland of mixed ohī’a and koa trees. Continue your hike over foot bridges above the stream and through lush tropical forests of introduced bamboo, mango and guava. Be prepared for rain, mud and slippery mosses.

Because of the marshy ground, wooden boardwalks have been built to make hiking easier. Once you arrive at the bamboo forest, you’ll definitely feel like you’ve stepped into another world.

Despite not being native to Hawai‘i, the bamboo is beautiful. More than 30 feet tall, the exotic forest is cool and dark and even quite spooky. The winds that funnel up from the sea cause the leafy tops of the bamboo to sway, and as the poles below knock together in the gloom, they produce sounds that are both beautiful and eerie, like primitive music.

As you leave the bamboo forest, you can catch a glimpse of 400-foot Waimoku Falls (photos on page 8 and 15) taking its long plunge down the face of a horseshoe-shaped cliff into a shallow pool at its base. From here you’ll have to cross the streams (their depth and flow rate depend on recent rainfall) to reach the falls.

All said and done, the hike to Waimoku Falls is 4 miles round trip and takes approximately two hours up and an hour and a half down.

Mosquitoes are common here, especially in the wetter winter months. Be sure to bring bottled water if you hike and never drink the stream water (see page 15). Sturdy shoes (or hiking boots) are a must and a hiking pole may prove useful for some hikers. Use extreme caution crossing the streams near Waimoku Falls and do not cross them at all if it has recently rained.

The Pipiwai Trail is one of the best hikes on Maui. Don’t miss it!
road is only partially paved, and the rest merely graded dirt and gravel, it is recommended mostly for 4-wheel-drive vehicles.

However, the first part of the drive should be quite accessible and you can walk the rest of the way if you’re feeling up to a hiking challenge. A light jacket might also be a good idea as it can become quite chilly. If you decide to skip this stop, you’ll soon find yourself back at the southern junction of Highway 37/377.

From here where you go next is up to you. Aloha for using our guide to the Hana Highway & Beyond.

If you are looking for additional information on this drive, please visit our Web site listed below. On those pages we’ve included pictures of everything described in this guide along with any updates and/or corrections.

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Banyan trees, such as this one on the Pipiwai Trail, are a trademark of Hawai‘i.
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