



TRAVEL

BY PAMELA SWANIGAN

CHEAP ROOMS

Condo Craze

JAPAN'S ECONOMIC BUST IS the tourist's good fortune. The waterfront hotels Japanese developers built in better times are now relatively cheap (and still semi-swank) condo rental units. All the rooms at the Mahana at Kaanapali (808-661-8751) have an ocean view and come equipped with everything from steak knives to vacuum cleaners. Buy a loaf of sourdough, a tub of Haleakala Farms sweet whipped butter and a pineapple—cored and peeled in a plastic tub—from the Cannery Mall Safeway, and you can breakfast on your balcony while watching Polynesian boys surf the morning waves. You'll save a fortune

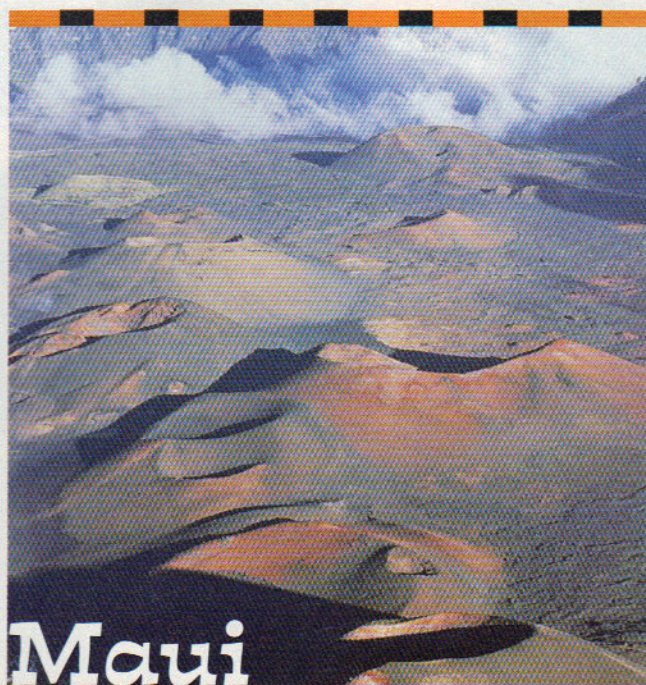


on pineapple alone: a whole tubbed one is about \$3; a small wedge at a restaurant can cost upwards of \$8.

NOT SO CHEAP ROOMS

The Wailea Aston

OF COURSE, SOME PEOPLE believe that vacationing and vacuuming are mutually exclusive. The resort district of Wailea offers the best luxury on Maui, for those willing to put a second mortgage on the house and sign away their firstborn child. Rooms at the Wailea Aston (808-879-1922) go from



Maui

Calling Maui Hawaii's second-most commercialized island, after Oahu (as most travel books do), is like calling Victoria B.C.'s second-biggest city, after Vancouver. "Commercial" in Maui means that there are two traffic lights on the hour-long drive between the Kahului airport and the main town of Lahaina. Stopping twice on Maui isn't going to kill anyone, either: with its lush scenery, turquoise waters and rust-red dirt, it's disconcertingly like walking into a postcard. As the famous Maui T-shirt says, the best things in life aren't things. Above: the Haleakala Crater.

\$245 to \$1,350 per night, and you're still going to get geckos and sugar ants coming in under the door. The luau (\$52 extra per person) is considered the best on the island, though, and the beach is a nice one. One way to forestall bankruptcy is to have breakfast and afternoon coffees at Stella Blues in nearby Kihei (808-874-3779), where the decently priced food is complemented by a fab collection of '60s psychedelic posters and Jerry Garcia memorabilia.

TIPS

Dos and Don'ts

DO ISLAND-HOP TO THE Big Island (Mahalo Air (808-833-5555) is cheapest, and they don't actually crash), do the Crater Rim drive down to the molten lava flow, and spend at least one night at the stunning Kilauea Lodge (808-967-7366), where the floors are polished hardwood, the bed linen is silken-fine, and each room has a big stone fireplace.

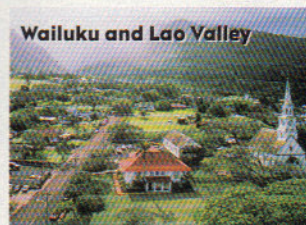
Do Turn left instead of right as you leave the airport car-

rental lots, take the one-minute drive down the curving road, and wash off your airplane stickiness in the coved-in section of Kahana Beach, much-used by windsurfers but largely overlooked by tourists.

Do make a point of seeing Lahaina's town square, an acre completely taken up by the world's biggest banyan tree. While you're in the area, get your picture taken with a bunch of macaws by the parrot guy, stationed next to a Wyland gallery (and across from a Wyland gallery, and, in fact, surrounded by Wyland galleries, which won't narrow it down at all).

Don't Take the limo tour of the Hana highway. Those turns are tight on foot and horrendous in a car of any size—and a limo can't pull over safely while passengers alleviate their car sickness at the foot of some orchid tree.

Don't Forget your jacket when you go to the Haleakala Crater, even if you demonstrate your sanity by skipping the sunrise drive and going midday. In 20 tor-



tuous miles that make Okanagan switchbacks look like a Prairie highway (count on one to two hours), you will ascend 10,000 feet and go through several cloud layers. It's cold up there. ☑