

Maui Roadsters Upcountry Maui & North Shore Driving Route



Upcountry Maui is an unexpected diversion from the usual beach scene with breathtaking vistas, cooler temperatures, and winding roads perfect for cruising in our Speedsters. We have highlighted some of our favorite stops along the way below.

Instead of taking Haleakala Highway which is a straight shot up, we recommend a more scenic route so you can enjoy the views and the Speedster. From Kihei head north towards Kahului on the Piilani Highway and turn right at Hansen Road (sugar mill). Take the first right at Pulehu Road (look for "Landfill" sign) and follow to Omaopio Road (left branch in road).

A little bit down the road, Hawaiian Sea Spirits distills Ocean Vodka and Deep Island Hawaiian Rum from organic sugar cane and deep ocean mineral water. Take a \$10 tour of their state-of-the-art facility complete with samples of their products and a souvenir shot glass, or just cruise their picturesque drive and get great photos with their quirky signs ("Martini Crossing") and sweeping views from their Martini Garden. Tours run daily every half hour between 9:30am and 4pm. For your next stop, the [Surfing Goat Dairy](#) gives free cheese samples and has food to purchase as well. Open 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 9am-2pm on Sunday. **Note: the Dairy has guard dogs that can be very aggressive towards cars and they have damaged one of our Speedsters in the past. If you stop there, please park on the road above the main lot and walk down. Definitely skip the Dairy if you are afraid of dogs (or goat cheese).**

Continue along Omaopio Road and cut across Kula Highway 37. Turn right on Lower Kula Road. Turn left on Kimo Drive. This is a nice winding drive through a local neighborhood with some interesting tropical plants. Turn right on Haleakala Highway. You may want to stop at the [Kula Lodge](#) about 1/4 mile down on your right. Besides lovely views from their garden, their restaurant features a wood fired pizza oven and you can shop for local gourmet items or fine art at Kula Marketplace. Another 3 miles down the road is [Kula Botanical Garden](#), with 8 acres of colorful and unique plants, amazing rock formations, a covered bridge, waterfalls, koi pond, aviary, chameleon exhibit, and native nene geese. Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm is the highest you can go on Waipoli Road and is more notable for its gift shop and gardens than fields of lavender.

Continue along Haleakala Highway until it meets Kula Highway 37, the main road Upcountry. Turn left towards Ulupalakua. After you pass the school on your left and St. John's Episcopal Church on your right, look for the green storefronts at the town of Keokea (don't blink, it's just a few buildings including an old gas station). Grandma's is a rustic coffee house with great pastries and views that you can enjoy with a cup of their homegrown and home-roasted organic coffee. Four generations have been brewing coffee here for over 90 years! Next door, Henry Fong Store takes you back in time to an old-fashioned, no-nonsense country store. Across the street to the right of the road to the hospital, Thompson Road is one of the most beautiful roads on the island and is definitely worth a detour (see photos above). Take the one-lane road on the right which looks more like a driveway with the "Horse Crossing" and "No Outlet" signs, not the road on the left that leads to Kula Hospital. Thompson Road is bordered by lush pastures and lava rock walls, and we always stop here to take photos, especially before sunset when the light is magical. After exploring this scenic stretch, return to Kula Highway and continue heading south towards Ulupalakua.

Just past Keokea between mile markers 18 and 19 is Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Park. This is a nice place to enjoy the beautiful views and a picnic lunch at one of the stone tables set amongst Chinese sculptures. Beyond the park Highway

37 becomes a narrow, twisting road that navigates the slopes of Haleakala, flanked by rolling hills and eucalyptus trees. This part of Maui feels more like Napa Valley than the Valley Isle. At the end of your journey is [Maui's Winery](#) at Ulupalakua Ranch, the only commercial winery on Maui (open 10am - 5:30pm). Grapes have been grown here for over 40 years and Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Malbec and Syrah, have all found a home in the rich, volcanic soils. The winery originally made a name for itself with its popular pineapple wines, Maui Blanc and Maui Splash (think Moscato), but now offers a selection of still and sparkling wines featuring the aforementioned grapes. Enjoy wine tastings and three free daily public tours (10:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm) of the property that is steeped in history. The tasting room is the former guest cottage of King Kalakaua (aka the "Merrie Monarch") when he visited the island and the staff will treat you like royalty as well.

Founded in 1856, [Ulupalakua Ranch](#) is Maui's second largest cattle ranch, sprawling across 18,000 acres of land that begins at the ocean and rises to the 6,000 feet elevation. Across the street from Maui's Winery, the Ulupalakua Ranch Store & Grill serves as a convenience store and lunch hangout for local paniolos (Hawaiian cowboys) with offerings like ranch-raised Ulupalakua beef, lamb, and their famous elk burgers (grill open 11am-5pm). Visitors can shop for locally made gifts, goodies and western memorabilia with a Hawaiian twist. If you'd like to keep exploring this area you can drive as far as the Auwahi wind turbines where on a clear day you can see Mauna Kea on the Big Island. This part of Maui is sparsely travelled and you will likely have the undulating roads and beautiful vistas mostly to yourself. Turn around at this point as road conditions become poor and can damage our Speedsters.

Head back along Highway 37 towards Kahului/Pukalani. You can retrace your steps by taking Haleakala Highway to Olinda (more scenic) or turn right at route 365 (more direct) towards the cowboy town of Makawao. Cowboys on Maui? You bet your sweet okole! The Valley Isle has a rich and robust history of ranching that dates back almost 200 years. Although the cattle industry on Maui has declined, you can still trace its roots through the many ranches that dot the island and especially in the cowboy town of Makawao, site of the largest rodeo in Hawaii. Local ranchers still hitch their horses in front of charming stores that look like they were plucked out of the old west. Spend an afternoon "talking story" with paniolos or explore Makawao's many shops, boutiques and galleries. And don't miss T. Komoda Store & Bakery with their legendary cream puffs (closed Wednesday and Sunday).

Follow Baldwin Avenue, Makawao's main street, down hill (north) to Pa'ia. This boho surfing town has lots of shops, galleries and restaurants to explore. Flatbread Pizza Company and Pa'ia Fish Market are tasty, casual options for lunch or dinner. The legendary Mama's Fish House nestled beside Kuau Cove just east of Pa'ia offers a breathtaking setting, excellent service and stellar seafood at astronomical prices. A top pick for both visitors and locals celebrating special occasions (it's our anniversary must-do every year), this extremely popular institution books up in advance for both lunch and dinner, so be sure to make a reservation or try for a table in the lounge.

Continue your North Shore exploration by heading to Ho'okipa Beach Park, a world-renowned windsurfing and kiteboarding destination with epic waves. Catch all the action from Ho'okipa Lookout on the north side. **Park in the upper lot on the cliffs**, not the lower one where the surfers park, and walk down to the beach. Below the cliffs, exposed lava along most of the shore break makes the beach challenging for swimmers but attractive to green sea turtles that come ashore to rest at sunset. Baldwin Beach on the other side of Pa'ia is a long sandy stretch with views of the West Maui mountains and full facilities. Calm pools at either offer protected swimming areas while the main beach has large, regular breaks. Although you won't witness the sun sinking into the water on this part of the island, sunsets behind the mountains and clouds can be spectacular.

If you are ready to finish your journey, Pa'ia is about 30 minutes from Kihei and 40 minutes from Wailea. Please text or call us at 808-339-6204 from Pa'ia when you're heading back. Have a fantastic day and feel free to give us a call if you have any questions!

