



East Moloka'i

West Moloka'i

Maui's Haleakala

Lana'i

for hill-haters or those with lots of beach stuff or SCUBA gear. There's a food concession at the top and showers at the bottom. A \$16 million "education center" is also at the top. (Though nice, it's hard to see how they spent *that* much on it.)

Snorkel gear is available for rent at the bottom—convenient, though it's overpriced at \$6–\$9 for cheap-o gear. Cash only. Lockers are \$5.

The parking lot is often full by 9:30 a.m. As groups of cars leave, the park will let small groups of cars in, but basically you'll want to arrive by 9 a.m. if you want to be sure you get a parking spot.

An alternative is [Hawaiian Ocean Promotions](#) at 396–9199. For \$20 they'll take you to and from your hotel to Hanauma Bay. Includes snorkel gear. [Tommy's Tours](#) (373–5060) has a similar service for \$18.

For the most part, Hanauma Bay lives up to its promise. It's a great place to spend the morning or afternoon, whether you're a novice or an experienced snorkeler.

Continuing on Hwy 72, there's a turnout $\frac{3}{4}$ mile past the entrance to Hanauma Bay. This is the [Lana'i Lookout](#), which is oddly named because if

you see an island offshore, odds are it *ain't* Lana'i, it's Moloka'i. (See photo caption for an explanation.)

About $1\frac{3}{10}$ miles past the Hanauma Bay entrance is a very narrow pullout. There's a Japanese fishing shrine here with a carving of a Japanese guardian god that was said to preside over dangerous waterways. Originally, there was a stone statue installed by a Japanese fishing club, but during WWII it was demolished, and this carving took its place. Walk past the shrine along the ridge for a hundred feet or so, and you're treated to wonderful view of the [Halona Beach](#) below and Halona Blowhole. Though more distant, in some ways this vantage point is even better than the dedicated blowhole lookout 500 feet up the road. This perspective shows the size of the blowhole eruptions in relation to the people at the lookout platform above. Locals still call this beach [From Here to Eternity Beach](#) since they filmed what was then (in the '50s) a steamy love scene there with the actors kissing and rolling around in the surf.

Just past the shrine is the parking lot for the [Halona Blowhole](#). This is where the ocean has undercut the lava and drilled a hole through to the top.

It's fairly reliable, but if the surf is not high enough, it won't be erupting. High tide is best. The lookout hangs below the parking lot with heavy railings to dissuade you from walking down to the blowhole itself. (Give yourself a pat on the back if you guessed that *liability* was the reason.) Of course, it's perfectly legal to walk down to Halona Beach on your right and



walk along the lava bench for a few minutes if you really want to visit the blowhole from below. If you do, be very cautious of the ocean, and never get between the ocean and the blowhole. Those who do and have been knocked in the hole are nearly always killed. Frankly, when we have visitors, we usually take them to see the blowhole from below. But we never do it when the ocean's raging, and we're always aware that our safety depends on the ocean being in a good mood.

[Sandy Beach](#) is your first good beach along this stretch. That giant lawn is where hang gliders and paragliders land after soaring the cliffs of Makapu'u. It's not uncommon to have a hang glider pilot come up to you and ask you to drive him and his vehicle to the top of Makapu'u and

Snorkelers rejoice—the pool is open at Hanauma Bay.

