

# Great OUTDOOR ADVENTURES of HAWAII

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**PRESERVING MAUI:**  
KAPALUA RESORT

**WAY OUT WEST**  
AT MOLOKAI RANCH

**PACIFIC PORTFOLIO:**  
BIG ISLAND LAVA

Biking Molokai  
U.S. \$2.95



# Hidden Hawaii

by Carrie Griffith

Dramatic ocean views at Mimo cliffs.

## MOLOKAI RANCH IS AN IDYLIC REFUGE FROM HAWAII'S MEGA-RESORTS.

Stepping off the plane at Ho'oléhua Airport on the island of Molokai in Hawaii, I am instantly aware I have stepped back in time to a slower way of life. Molokai is an otherworldly escape from the mega-resorts of Hawaii, with not even a single stoplight gracing the entire island.

This is what has drawn me to what is referred to as The Friendly Isle. This and Molokai Ranch, Hawaii's new all-inclusive vacation destination, where guests stay in tent accommodations and fill their days with outdoor activities. With 54,000 acres, Molokai Ranch is billed as its own paradise, perfect for adventurous families, couples and solo travelers.

I am met at the airport by Uncle Billy, a gregarious paniolo

(cowboy), personifying the aloha spirit for which Molokai is known. He shares with me interesting stories about Molokai's unique history and culture as we climb the road to Maunaloa. This former pineapple plantation town is home to the headquarters of Molokai Ranch and its Outfitters Center, where guests check-in for their Ranch stay.

Following check-in, I am driven to Paniolo Camp, my home for the next three days. Nestled in



## RODEO, MOLOKAI-STYLE

Visitors to Hawaii during the month of November will definitely want to mosey on over to the island of Molokai for the fifth annual Molokai Ranch Professional Rodeo. The two-day event will take place under the bright lights of Molokai Ranch's state-of-the-art Rodeo Arena in Maunaloa, on Saturday, November 14, and Sunday, November 15, 1998.

A Molokai tradition, riders and ropers from across Hawaii and the U.S. Mainland kick up the dust each year as they vie for cash purse and prizes. Professional cowboys and cowgirls compete in events such as bull riding, double mugging, saddle bronc riding, wahine (lady) steer undecorating, and keiki (child) barrel racing.

"The Molokai Ranch Professional Rodeo helps to preserve the proud and unique heritage of the ka paniolo Hawai'i (Hawaiian cowboys)," said Jimmy Duvauchelle Sr., cattle and equestrian manager at Molokai Ranch. "With events such as this, the island-born traditions and cultures such as that of the riders, ropers and cattle ranchers of Molokai are handed-down to future generations."

The rodeo opens and closes with traditional pa'u riders in Hawaiian regalia while a nationally-renowned rodeo clown entertains the crowd between event competitions.

Also scheduled at the Ranch for the rodeo weekend are food and crafts for sale and carnival rides. Wrapping up the festivities is a post-rodeo barn dance, Molokai-style of course.

the hillside, this Camp offers bird's-eye ocean views across miles of open pasturelands. With the views this stellar, I couldn't wait to see my accommodations.

Understand, prior to my arrival, I asked myself if camping in the Great Molokai Outdoors was my idea of fun, and surprisingly, I found that it is. Here, we are not talking about pitching a tent and sleeping on air mattresses on the hard ground. Molokai Ranch has developed what they call tentallows



— upscale canvas tents mounted on wooden platforms with many of the comforts of home. I have a plush queen size bed, solar-powered lights and ceiling fan, steamer trunk, private bathroom with hot water shower and my own spacious lanai with stunning views. Now, this is camping!

I quickly unpacked and headed for the open-air dining pavilion. I found my Camp Coordinator and we planned out a couple of activities. First up was the afternoon Paniolo Round-Up, a "city slickers" type

rodeo with several of the other guests. I met up with fourth generation Molokai Ranch paniolo, Uncle Jimmy Duvauchelle, who introduced me to my horse, Crazy Legs.

After some instruction, I mounted my horse and tested my skill at pole bending. Then, the participants were divided into two groups for head-to-head competition. A herd of cattle was brought into the arena and we competed in team cattle round-up and cutting races. There was a lot of whooping

and hollering as we worked as a team to keep the cattle to one side of the arena and into an enclosed pen in the center with none escaping. All of the events were timed, and in the end the girls won, with the guys calling for a re-match the next day.

After the Round-Up, I headed for my tentallow and a nice hot shower. I then relaxed with a book and glass of wine on my lanai until it was time for dinner. Up at the dining pavilion, Chef Erwin prepared a huge spread. It was delicious. Conversation was

plenty, with many guests sharing their day's experiences. By 9 p.m., I was ready for bed and the next day's activities.

After a restful sleep, I was up at the pavilion by 7 a.m. for breakfast. I confirmed my morning's activity with the Camp Coordinator and met up with the other guests joining me for ocean kayaking at the Kolo Cliffs Camp. It was a beautiful morning on the water, with gentle winds and no waves. The guided ocean kayaking was a two-hour



down-wind jaunt, and we spied such amazing sea life as spinner dolphins, manta rays and colorful tropical fish. Then, I headed out for a leisurely cultural hike past ancient heiau (temples), and other archaeological sites.

Dinner back at Paniolo was again great, and the evening program featured star-gazing. The sky was brilliant with constellations. It was another early night as I had a big day of mountain biking ahead.

I met up with mountain biking manager Bob Ward in the morning, and he outfitted me with my bike and helmet. He led our group on an intermediate ride through kiawe forests and red dirt gulches on our way down to Helena Beach. Molokai Ranch boasts a large network of trails for all levels of biking. The ride was action-packed with several hilly sections and breathtaking vistas. At the bottom, we were met by a van for the ride back up. At Camp, I cooled off in the pool, a water tank which has been cut in half, and decided

my afternoon activity would be lazing in a hammock. It was perfect.

That night, after another great meal, I packed up for my move the next morning to Kaupoa Beach Camp. Situated on a beautiful double-crescent white sand beach, Kaupoa is what many dream Hawaii to be. Individual mounted tentallows dot the scenery, surrounded by lush green grass, royal palm trees and several marked archaeological sites. The dining pavilion overlooks the



## THE BEST SMALL TOWN IN HAWAII

From 1922 until the 1970s, Maunaloa town was the bustling center of West Molokai's pineapple industry. As the pineapple industry declined, so too did the community's vitality and self-sufficiency. Today, Maunaloa town is being rebuilt by land owner Molokai Ranch. The town's revitalization is centered around a master plan based on preserving the rural village environment while providing vital physical and economic infrastructure to meet community needs.

Key to the plan is plantation-style architecture and carefully considered design, evoking the gentle and leisurely lifestyle of old Hawaii. Like the old town, the new Maunaloa provides a comfortable rural environment for family living, surrounded by open pasturelands that overlook panoramic ocean vistas.

The town's main street is also being revitalized, with 70-year-old buildings being refurbished, and new buildings constructed in the plantation style. Maunaloa town recently saw the grand opening of the island's only theatres, the Village Grill restaurant, and a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, and a small lodge is currently under construction.

Central to the town is the Maunaloa Civic Park, which features a "Concerts in the Park" musical series, pineapple exhibition gardens and cultural museum.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Molokai Ranch is a vacation destination. Nightly rates start from \$185 per person and include camp accommodations, hearty ranch-style meals, daily activities, courtesy airport transportation and transportation while on Ranch land, gratuities and Hawaii state taxes. Guests may choose from three unique

campsites: Paniolo, Kolo Cliffs and Kaupoa Beach camps. Horseback and ocean charter adventures are available for an additional charge.

For reservations or more information, call Molokai Ranch toll free at 1-877-PANILOLO (1-877-726-4656). [www.molokai-ranch.com](http://www.molokai-ranch.com)



**MOLOKAI RANCH**  
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