

Xmas 2008 Maui

Wed. Dec 24, Xmas eve

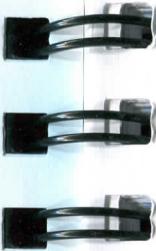
It's been snowing for a week in Seattle. Roads are a treacherous blend of snow & ice. Many flights have been cancelled. Grant's car was totalled yesterday. (A driver charged lone into him on the icy road.) Luckily the insurance company paid for a taxi to the airport (actually a town car, because taxis weren't accepting reservations). The Town Car driver was from Moscow, so we knew we were in good hands driving in the snow! It was weird lugging our suitcases out

to the curb through deep snow. It was snowing big fat flakes & we wondered if the flight would still be cancelled. But it wasn't, altho' there was a moment when the boarding person at the gate said they had to reduce weight & needed 8 volunteers. No one volunteered because they knew ~~they'd see~~ there would be no room on any flights anytime soon. And yet we flew anyway... I had a center seat, which was terribly cramped & uncomfortable, but luckily the 6 hour flight went more quickly than I'd feared.

It was raining at Kahului airport, but it was a light, warm rain. The rental car guy was driven by a 25 year old local with a mullet & like totally surfer dude speech & mannerisms - he cracked us up. Our rental car is a beater, but it was cheap (almost half the price of a chain agency).

Arrived at Karen & Steve's, in ~~Kahei~~ Kihei, about 3pm. It was 89° with a nice breeze. Sat on their porch which has a lovely view of the ocean, tho' it got a bit toasty in the

afternoon sun. Slept fitfully in a stuffy room with a lumpy pillow.



Saw a whale jump out in the bay. Humpbacks.



K & I live in a residential hood above a strip of fancy hotels. G & I drove down to walk on the beach & hotel boardwalks b4 dinner. A lovely evening & sunset. Area a bit resorty for our taste.



It did cool off quite a bit at night.



Noisy neighbors, but that's probably because doors & windows can be left open here.



Christmas Day, Thurs.

Breakfast on patio - a lovely morning!

Went to beach with Steve to try snorkeling. I really tried, but couldn't seem to get over my fear of inhaling water - it was very discouraging. The waves probably made it more difficult to relax. Grant loved it though, and saw a lobster.

b4 that we had xmas morning w/ K & S. K had very kindly bought us gifts, including a pretty cool Hawaiian shirt clock.

After beach we went to Da Kitchen, a wonderful local hole in the wall Hawaiian

Franklin partridge  
Pikake flowers

eateries specializing in "Kahlua Pork", which is not made with Kahlua. ~~It's not made with Kahlua~~ It tastes just like the pork at La Cocina del Puerco.

Karen, Steve, & I split a shrimp pasta that was rich & delicious. After lunch Grant & I went shopping. Back at K+S, K made an amazing Xmas dinner: turkey, all trimmings, best pecan pie I've ever had. Two friends

Came over: Diana, a late 50ish woman who lives 8 mo here, 4 mo in Bellevue, and James, a plumber friend of Steve's. After dinner Diana, Grant, & I walked on the beach. Very fragrant flowers at night in neighborhood.

Staying with K+S is difficult. She is very negative & crabby.

Friday Dec. 26

Raining, left for Lahaina. Lahaina is a touristy, unappealing place. Found some food (many places closed) for lunch. Rain has stopped.

Bought papayas at roadside stand.

Stopped at beach in Kapalua for lunch, then walked to see Dragon's teeth - ~~see~~ wave-sculpted lava formations. Big waves & wind today. Hawaiian grovesite on a beautiful slope overlooking the sea.



mongoose road not too bad sculptor castle ref mud 9

Continue along West Maui Highway - road is slippery with red runoff from cliffs. Stop at Nakalele Blowhole. Very windy - too windy to walk down to hole, but could see it from above. Landscape reminds me of Scottish moors.

The one lane section of road wasn't too bad, but definitely glad we're going clockwise! \* Stopped at Julia's for banana bread sample. Good, but not at \$6/loaf.

Saw a ~~red~~ mongoose! \* And two patches. And cows & ranches on steep, windswept slopes high above the ocean.

\* we were on inside of cliff.

Too soon we were back in ugly Kahului with traffic & strip malls. Stopped at K-Mart to buy a pillow because our host's was so uncomfortable. It was still early in the day & we didn't want to go back to K+S. Decided to find Sugar Beach, between Kihei & Ma'alaea. It's kind of an ugly stretch of road, but we finally parked at the most likely spot.

It was nice walking on the beach, but it was right near the road, & there were ugly hotel developments in both directions. After walking a while we decided to drive to La Pérouse, the end of the road on the south side of the island.



It turned out to be our favorite part of the island so far. It felt wild & undeveloped, and the best part was a two mile stretch of lava flows. The formations were taller than our car & very rugged, with the bright green slopes of Haleakala beyond - gorgeous! La Pérouse bay was rugged & beautiful & felt like the end of the world.

Back to K+S for dinner & then to an NA meeting in Kihei. Bed early as we'll be up early for a whale watch trip.

Friday Dec. 27

Many gorgeous flowers & heavenly smells. Birds include Franklin Partridge, & Myna birds & various small finch-like ones. A beautiful morning! Clouds but no rain & lots of blue sky.

Whale watch w/ctch  
from Ma'alea Harbor -

2nd windiest harbor in world.  
Saw many blows, two tails,  
lots of backs & dorsal fins,  
& a baby! Listened to  
singing on sonar - awesome.  
Saw a green turtle. Two hour  
trip, nice to be out on water.



Back to Kilauea for early lunch.  
We're going to go up Haleakala,  
but it's now socked in.  
Took a ~~long~~ break for laundry  
& pizza & call to mom & dad  
(they are still trapped on the  
mountain after 4 days!).

Then drove to Black Sand Beach  
where it began to pour as soon  
as we pulled in. I snuggled  
in car to ~~the~~ hypnotic sound  
of raindrops on roof while  
Grant went snorkeling, but  
it was too rough & he got  
pummeled a bit... It was very  
windy so after hanging out  
for a few minutes we drove  
back north to the Kealia pond  
boardwalk. Saw stilts & black  
crowned night herons.

Waikanihi Nature Trail  
on road to Hana

Kanaha Pond

K. says it didn't rain at all at their house today. I guess <sup>being</sup> in the shadow of Haleakala ~~is~~ really makes a difference.

The crowding & development on this island is very unpleasant.  
"They paved paradise & put up a parking lot."

Rotary Club holiday dinner at home in Wailea. Met nice guy who's working on "South Maui Sustainability" project.

Bird spots



15

Sunday Dec. 28 - Hana

Beautiful sunny morning in Kihei. Heavy rain starting in Paia. Landslide almost blocked road. Scary. Lots of flooding across road, & fallen rock debris. Trails very muddy & slippery so not a good day for hikes. Garden of Eden botanical garden worth the stop. Gorgeous gardens & views & ponds. Picnic tables (covered) with gorgeous views. Keone(?) rock below, where opening scene of Jurassic Park was filmed.

Grant got mosquito bites but

I didn't...

notes: Town of Kekaha

Surf Banana Bread Seal  
Wayside Two patches  
Waterfalls Sun breaks

"soul jahs"

Rainbow eucalyptus  
 roaring streams - brown  
 traffic - stop in road to  
 take photos  
 localized weather, squalls  
 Nahiku coast - like PNW  
 St Pk, cabin, mongoose  
 Haven't needed sunscreen - it  
 would get tiring to put on...  
 Hana Bay & Store  
 Cattle egrets & cattle  
 cactus in trees  
 Houses on stilts  
 Dinner  
 Warm wind crickets lizard  
 H.S. padding



Drove down into Keanae, a  
 small town with ~~the~~ taro patches,  
 great banana bread, and  
 a gorgeous, wild lava rock  
 shore with pounding surf.  
 We saw a monk seal  
 hauled up on the lava,  
 not quite close to the road.  
 We ~~had~~ thought it might  
 be ~~sick~~ injured or dying, but  
 we later found out it's common  
 for them to haul out & sleep.  
 They are a protected species.  
 Back on the main road  
 we stopped by the side of  
 the road for a beautiful  
 view down onto Keanae -  
 a fragile peninsula jutting into  
 the ocean (it was wiped out

by a tanager in 1946).  
Flooded square taro patches  
glisten like rice paddies.

There are several nice  
"waysides" (rest areas) along the  
road.

Wailua Valley wayside  
afforded another lovely  
view down onto the town  
of Wailea (which we didn't  
drive to because of a sign  
that said "if you don't live  
here you don't belong here."),  
& up the mountain to  
half a dozen waterfalls.

The waterfalls & streams  
are swollen <sup>about</sup> today with  
all the rain & silt. Not



a good day for swimming in  
pools. You have a sense that  
the whole side of the  
~~mountain~~ mountain is being  
washed toward the sea,  
& it's a miracle that  
the road doesn't give way.

Luckily there are sun  
breaks between the squalls  
squalls (some of which we  
can barely see ~~to~~ to drive  
through, even w/ wipers doing  
high speed). As we ~~near~~  
near Hana & the east side of the island  
the sky begins to show patches of  
~~the~~ clearing & we're sure there must  
be rainbows nearby. The place  
begins to feel magical & we can

see why people love it so much. It's amazing how localized the weather here can be. While it's raining on us, the sky nearby can be blue.

Although many locals drive the road, it seems dominated by tourists, who must drive the locals crazy with their gawking, abrupt stops, or even stopping in the middle of the road to take pictures.

We drove the 2½ mile side road to Nahiku to a dead end with <sup>more</sup> rugged coastline - not really worth it. From a distance the coast is very reminiscent of the WA coast. I like this wild coast better than the sandy beaches of South Maui.



There don't seem as terribly many tourists as there could be and probably are in high season. Arrived at Wai'anapanapa St. Pk. at 3pm, about 5 hrs. after leaving Kihei. We were a little tired & crabby. It was some tough driving for Grant. Checked in to our cabin. It's great! Much nicer than I thought it would be. It's clean & has a kitchen with all the basics. It has a nice covered front porch with a picnic table & ocean view. Also electricity and comfy beds. All for \$45/night.

There are mongoose around. After unpacking we did a stroll to see the park, then a quick drive through Hana & to Hanao Bay

where some kids were surfing. There were lots of cattle on the steep green slopes above the road. Many houses are on stilts. Thin, square stemmed cactus climb into trees. The High School has a paddling team - must be canoeing? They go all over the island for sports. I can't imagine a school bus on the Hana road!

Back at the park we walked on the shore trail for a while. The shoreline here is wild & beautiful, with lava arches, a black sand beach, & a cove.

Then back to the cabin for a dinner of soup (never buy Progresso Ham & Split Pea again...), chips, & hummus.



There is a lovely warm breeze off the ocean. The temperature is idyllic. We're watching lizards (anoles?) eat bugs outside the window. There don't seem to be too many mosquitoes - at least not inside (there are good screens on all the windows). There are crickets (?) singing.

There are papaya trees galore around the cabin.

The salt air is corrosive so the cabin has a lot of rust & peeling paint, but it's otherwise pretty clean.

One nice thing about the rain & clouds is that you don't have to wear sunscreen - I would get tired of putting on sunscreen all the time if I lived here.

## Notes:

mongooses or geese?

morning walk on cliffs

cute mongoose scratching

Sunny morning!

had to fathom warmth near ocean, even breeze is warm

lava rock walls & terraces

bright green on black

rained in the night

car bottoming out

NFL Park

muddy trail

bamboo forest

great frigatebirds

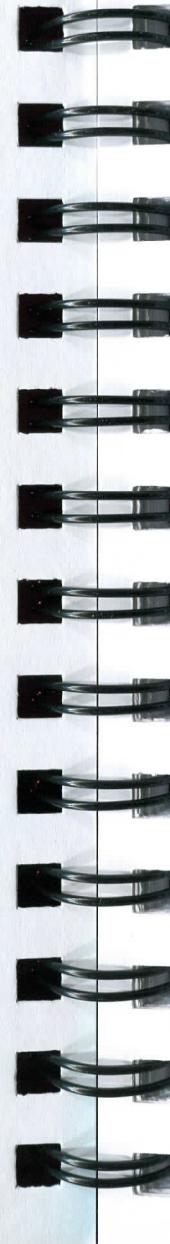
road closed

drive back on edge

windsurfers

Wailea

Vietnamese



Monday Dec. 29

A beautiful morning - it rained in the night. Several mongoose running around - they are very cute. They dash & stop, scratch, look at you, and repeat. Just like Riki Tiki Tavi. After delightful Caffix on the verandah we went for a walk on the cliff trail. We were the only ones out and about & it was delightful to have the whole wild coast to ourselves.

We saw two Great Frigatebirds!! Soaring along the coast.

It's hard to believe how warm it is, even at night. Even the fairly constant onshore breeze is warm. It's a delightful climate.

There are many black lava rock walls & terraces - very attractive.

Bright green foliage against the black lava is stunning.

The old Sentra we rented is very no frills. It bottomed out a couple times yesterday which had us a bit worried about breaking down far from town, but it keeps on trucking.

Drove 9 miles south to Haleakala Ntl. Park & went for a long walk. First to Ohe'o Gulch, aka the 7 Sacred Pools. They were closed to swimming due to high water. Then we walked a mile up a muddy, rocky, rooty trail to see ~~the~~ bamboo forest, which was quite magical.

The torrents of water careening down the valley were beautiful, but very reminiscent of home.

The road washed out near Kaupo so we couldn't drive all the way around the island & had to retrace our steps back to Hana & Kapahuli. This meant driving on the outer edge of the road. As the passenger I was really scared, so I drove instead, and then I was fine... It was nice to see the scenery this time in beautiful sunshine.

We were loathe to return to K&A's because Steve left this morning for Kauai & we didn't want to hang out with Karen alone. So we stopped to watch surfers &

windsurfers in Haiku, then drove to see the famous Wailea beach. It's supposedly the "best beach in America," but we did not like it at all. Wall to wall people & backed by hotels. Paradise defiled!

Went to dinner at a Vietnamese Restaurant - it was tasty & healthy.

Back at K's preparing to get up early to watch a Haleakala sunrise, weather permitting!

## Notes:

3:30 alarm  
 road to mt - fog, scary!  
 crowd at top, too busses  
 sunrise, cold & wind  
 bikes down  
 vihys going down  
 Kula  
 fewas backside road <sup>moons</sup>  
<sup>lava</sup>  
 3 kinds eactus <sup>airto coal</sup>  
 blue roads  
 Waipoli Rd. & view  
 birds at Kealia Pond  
 rest, cook dinner  
 walk in rain

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Wed. - pack more rain  
 pond than usual shift noise  
 beach egret roost  
 relaxed & happy people

Myra  
Northern Cardinal

Birds:

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Chukar (K)   | Great frigatebird |
| Pheasant (G) | Bulwer's Petrel   |
| Nene goose   | Amakihi           |

Kealia Pond:

- Wandering Tattler
- White-faced Ibis
- Sanderling
- Black-necked stilt
- Hawaiian coot
- Cattle egret
- Black-crowned Night Heron
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Pacific Golden-Plover
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Black Francolin & brown Japanese White-Eye
- House Finch
- Chestnut Munia
- Nutmeg Mannikin (GWE)



Tues Dec. 30

Rose at 3:30 am to drive up Haleakala for sunrise. The steep, winding road was scary in the dark, rain, & fog. At times we could barely see the center reflectors & crept along. ~~dark~~  
At the top we were surprised to see the parking lot nearly full, even with the rain & wind. It must have been blowing 40 mph. We waited until just before the sun was due to rise ~~& then~~ wait before leaving the car, then walked to the crater rim with the dozens of other shivering people, stood in the howling wind hoping the clouds might clear -

Ideas: Urn cannon Binoc Magnet

but they didn't. After it got light we went back to car & waited a while for the crowds of cars to clear, then began our descent. We could now see the road we had driven in the dark: dryland shrubs reminiscent of E.WA, glorious crowd-shrouded views of farmland & towns of central Maui & upcountry & west Maui mountain. The slopes of Haleakala on this side are brownish rock. We watched groups of <sup>rented</sup> bicycles glide down the road (a lead guide prevents them from going too fast).

In Kula we stopped for gas then explored this idyllic green town where my coworker ~~the~~

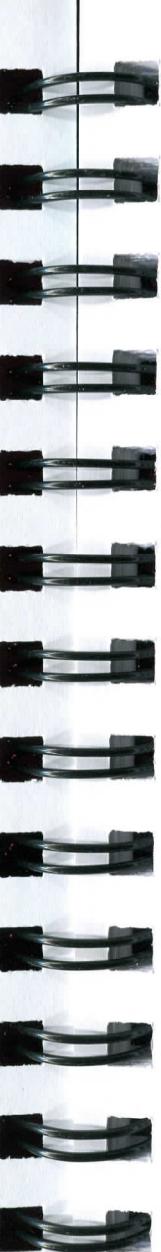


Darlene & her husband were born & raised. There are many gardens here, & lovely views of the ocean. Compared to other towns nearby it feels like you're out in the country.

Next we headed southeast on the road toward Kauao, on the non-Hana side of Haleakala. The scenery was stunning! At first it looked like the Scottish Moors - lush green rolling hillocks sloping down to the sea. Farther ~~the~~ along we entered the lava field. The lava flowed out of the crater & down to the sea. The swath of lava on the hillside is carpeted in brilliant green. Below is ~~the~~ a black lava field

we saw driving out to La Pérouse. Several multi-hued cinder cones dot the slope. One of the most visually stunning landscapes I've seen! We reluctantly turned back to Kula. ~~From~~ There we took a side roads across the valley, ~~through~~ past local homes & through sugar cane fields, back to the main highway.

\* drove up Waipoli road, a steep, narrow, asphalt ribbon that climbs past a lavender farm & up into a Eucalyptus forest. The road ends at PoliPoli St. Pk., but we only went up to a good picnic spot, where we feasted on the glorious view.



\* The stilts are very noisy, making a constant screech like a squeaky toy. Dozens of egrets were roosting in a tree making soft murmuring noises.

Our last stop of the day was Kealia Pond, a ntl. wildlife refuge. It seems that hardly anyone goes there. It's an awesome place! A series of ponds attract waterfowl galore. We saw a white-faced ibis, as well as hundreds of stilts, Hawaiian coots, and numerous other birds.\* It was a delightful end to a really memorable day.

Back at Karen's we had a lovely dinner of salad and chowder (she made it with corn, shrimp, milk, broccoli, and cheese - yum!).

After dinner we went for a walk in a light rain. Few roads go through & it was dark & hard to see. We ended up walking much further than intended. Grant had two sore

feet so it was a tough slog. At one point a really nice man gave us a ride on a golf cart when we wandered into a long dead end.

Wed. Dec. 31

Spent the morning packing & visiting with Karen. Steve called from Kauai to see how the rest of our stay had gone. Then we said goodbye to K, and drove to Kealia pond.

After that we drove to Sugar Beach for one last look at the sand & waves - it was hard to leave! Then to the rental car place & the airport, all of which went smoothly. It's sad to say goodbye to the tropics!

Everyone, both passengers & locals, seems very relaxed & happy. We were told it rained more this Dec. than usual, but there was less wind & calmer seas.