

Hanalei The Beach by Suzanne

Right in front of the houses, you are almost in the exact center of Hanalei Bay. It is a sandy bottom. The swimming is usually best in the summer time when there are no waves. Small waves are fun for boogie boarding or surfing but big waves bring strong currents so that's a good time for watching and walking. To the left, gorgeous, very few people; to the right, the action, volley ball, beach parks, boats & the pier.



Hanalei Bay is usually pretty flat & inviting in the summer and can have huge beautiful waves in the winter. The big winter swells depend upon storm activity in the Northern Hemisphere so you never know when they will come & how long they will last. Usually we get our first small swells in September or October which can last a day or a few days. Big waves peak in the winter, petering out again in April and May.

There are three places with life guards on the bay, the closest being about 200 yards to the right. The other two are at the Pavilion and to the left of the pier. These are great places for children and people like me who like to boogie board, float

around enjoying the scenery or jump over the little waves. In the summer, usually all the bay is kid friendly with swimming parents. In the winter especially, ocean conditions vary widely so check with the life guards. They are not there all the time so check for them too! You can make no assumptions in Hawaii.

You can snorkel summer time in front of the house though you won't see much but sand. At both ends of Hanalei Bay are reefs which offer more interesting snorkeling. The reef on the right hand end of the bay is fun snorkeling. You cross the Hanalei River to get to this spot. Princeville Hotel's pool, bar and food concession are a short walk from the snorkeling spot so refreshments when you emerge from the ocean are handy (charge cards being water proof!)

Hanalei is world famous for surf, though the most famous surf spot is at least a 5 to 15 minute paddle from the sand past the pier. In Hanalei Bay are The Point, Flat Rock, & The Bowl, The Pier, Pine Trees, Middles, and Waikoko; all are renowned surf spots, some for beginners, some only for pros. The closest surf spot to our house is Pine Trees, just to the right and then Middles way out but not far to the left. You can see most of them from the beach houses. Past Hanalei in either direction are more great surf spots.

My favorite place to snorkel is at Ke'e Beach at the end of the road to the West, about 15 minutes. It is absolutely gorgeous above & below the water with many different kinds of fish. (Resist standing on any reef. It kills our reef creatures.) You can see down the Na Pali coast line, sunsets are awesome. There is a great hiking trail there as well. Closer is Tunnels, which is knock out beautiful & good snorkeling on the inside reef very close to the beach but not much parking. It is also a great surf & windsurf spot on the outside reef for the ocean savvy. Ten minutes East of Hanalei is 'Anini, good for kids and windsurfing lessons. Five minutes more is Kalihiwai, a beautiful bay and river, good for kids in summer, surf in the winter, & a beautiful walk any time. These are just a few other close beach favorites of mine. Respect the ocean, reef, sun and have fun!



Both photos are right in front of the houses; July above, January at right.

Hanalei Moon Beach Cottage & the Kobayashi Family Beach Houses beachkauai.com 888 871 7888