



Whalers Village Museum - Portrait of the Seafaring Life

KĀ'ANAPALI, Maui - Vibrant, dynamic, and aligned with the sophisticated dreams of diverse travelers, Whalers Village Fine Shops & Restaurants simultaneously honors the wild and rugged years that gave it its name—with the world-renowned Whalers Village Museum.

Located near a dramatic display of a 40-foot sperm whale skeleton at the entrance of the shopping center, the museum illustrates the heyday of whaling in Lāhaina (1825-1860), which brought hundreds of sailors into town eager to recuperate on Maui's balmy shores, and holds Hawai'i's largest collection of harpoons, tools, sea chests, sailor journals, and ship logs. Self-guided audio tours, available in English, German, Spanish, and Japanese, combine with artifacts, photo murals, movies, and graphics to show the dangerous life the sailors led, forced to remain aboard the whaling ships on voyages that could last as long as five years.

One of the finest whaling museums in the Pacific, the museum features special exhibits, such as a 19th-century birdcage made from whale bone, ornaments and utensils made from whale tooth ivory, and a scale model of a whaling ship—one of the largest in the world—with a perfect replica of the cramped living quarters of the 25-member whaling crew.

Whalers Village Museum is known internationally for its collection of scrimshaw—the seafarer's lonesome art, practiced during long hours at sea, and consisting of engraved or tattooed pictures on sperm whale teeth and sperm whale bone, etched in with razor-sharp knives, rubbed over with ink to bring out the design.

The museum opened in 1984 under the direction of curator and whale expert Lewis Eisenberg, and was built by the original developer of Whalers Village Shopping Center, the James Campbell Estate. James Campbell (1826-1900) survived a whaling shipwreck in his youth to become a prominent businessman in the islands during Lāhaina's whaling years.

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Visitors to Whalers Village Museum will appreciate the museum gift shop, which sells jewelry, sculptures, and a large selection of books about whales and whaling. Here are the perfect keepsakes by which to remember the whales, and, in particular, the carefree humpback whales that return each winter to Kā'anapali to frolic in its calm, deep-blue waters, oblivious to the past, yet drawing attention to our vulnerable marine environment.

One of Maui's top attractions, Whalers Village Museum welcomes more than 200,000 visitors per year, and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The short films about whales and whaling offered throughout the day start at 10:00 a.m. and further enhance understanding of the past and present of our beloved whales. Admission is free.

Recognized as Maui's premier oceanfront shopping destination, Whalers Village Fine Shops & Restaurants is part of the master-planned, award-winning Kā'anapali Beach Resort and hugs the famed three-mile long strip of Kā'anapali Beach. Set on 8.5 tropical acres, the three-level open-air village comprises 110,836 square feet of shops and restaurants and is open daily from 9:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. Maui's premier beachfront shopping center also offers oceanfront dining, a center stage for cultural entertainment, and annual festivals.

For more information, call the museum at 808-661-5992.

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