Lodging and Camping

Drive-up Camping:
There are two drive-up campgrounds: Hosmer Grove in the Summit Area (mountain) and Kīpahulu in the Kīpahulu Area (coast). Both campgrounds are first-come, first-served; reservation and fee free; and do not require any check-in. Simply drive to the campground after paying the park entrance fee of $10 per vehicle (valid for 3 days) and set up your campsite. You can stay at each of these campgrounds for 3 nights per 30 day period. The campgrounds have a 12-person group limit.

Hosmer Grove Campground lies in the cloud belt of Haleakalā, just below the 7,000-foot level (2134m) in the summit area. Be prepared for rain and cold weather. Nighttime temperatures can drop to near freezing (32°F/0°C); daytime highs average 50-65°F (10-18°C). The campground has picnic tables, BBQ grills, drinking water, and pit toilets. Sites are close together in an open, grassy area near the forest and shrubland of Hosmer Grove. A self-guided nature trail begins and ends at the campground. The forest comes to life in the early dawn with the many native birds in the area, making this a beautiful early morning hike. Ground/pit fires are prohibited. Use the provided grills only.

The Kīpahulu Campground is about 1/8 mile (.2km) south of the Kīpahulu Visitor Center. It overlooks ocean cliffs and is a short walk from `Ohe`o Gulch. In the evenings, the sound of the ocean waves makes this a peaceful place. The campground has picnic tables, BBQ grills, and pit toilets. No water is available at Kīpahulu; you must bring your own water supply. There are two general stores in the nearby town of Hāna (12 miles[19km] away) where you can purchase water and basic food supplies. Be prepared for rain, harsh sun, and mosquitoes.

Backcountry Camping:
There are two primitive backcountry campsites accessible by trail only: Hōlua and Palikū. You must have a permit and picture ID if you are camping at these sites in the Wilderness Area. Reservations are not required or accepted. Permits are issued the day you hike in. Stop by either Headquarters or Kipahulu visitor centers to view an 8-minute “Leave No Trace” program and receive a permit.

Permit pick-up times:
Headquarters Visitor Center: 7:00 am – 3:00 pm
Kīpahulu Visitor Center: 9:00 am – 12:00pm

- Campsite space is available on a first-come, first-served basis for the general public. Special accommodation is made for educational groups and civic groups which may reserve camping space up to 6 months in advance.
- Each person is limited to a maximum of 3 nights per 30 day period in the Wilderness Area with no more than 2 nights at any one site.
- Hōlua and Palikū campsites have a maximum limit of 25 people each with a 12-person group limit. Groups larger than 12 may not split into smaller groups and utilize the campgrounds at the same time. Larger groups MAY split into smaller groups with 12 in the wilderness, 12 at Hosmer, and 12 at Kīpahulu.
Hōlua and Palikū campgrounds have pit toilets and water available nearby. The water is non-potable and must be filtered or treated before drinking. In times of drought all water must be carried in.

Trail maps are available by mail or online.

Hōlua, the wilderness campground reached by the shortest hike, lies at 6,940 feet (2,115m) in the shrubland near Koʻolau Gap. Holua is 3.7 miles (6km) down the Halemaʻuʻu Trailhead or 7.4 miles (12km) from the Sliding Sand Trailhead. Visitors staying at Hōlua can enjoy day hikes into the central Wilderness Area. The landscape around Holua supports a native shrubland complimented by the lava flows.

At 6,380 feet (1,945m), Palikū is on the east end of the Wilderness Area at the base of a rain forest cliff. The campground is reached via a 9.3 mile (15km) hike on the Keoneheʻeheʻe (Sliding Sands Trail) or 10.4 mile (17km) hike on Halemaʻuʻu Trail. Clouds and fog often roll over the top of the cliffs behind Palikū, and rain is common. The extra moisture makes this spot exceptionally cool and lush.

Wilderness Cabins:
Three wilderness cabins are maintained by the National Park Service for visitor use by advanced reservation. The wilderness cabins are accessible only by trail. To reach the cabins, you must hike a minimum of 3.7 miles (5.9km) to Hōlua, 5.5 miles (8.9km) to Kapalaoa, and 9.3 miles (15km) to Palikū.

The cabin permit is NON-TRANSFERABLE. The permittee must be present on the entire trip and is legally responsible for the actions and safety of their group.

- Each person is limited to a maximum of 3 nights in the Wilderness Area and cabins per 30 day period with no more than 2 nights at any one cabin.
- Maximum group size in the wilderness is 12 persons. Groups and/or organizations with more than 12 may not split into smaller groups. Please call the park information line at (808) 572-4400 for assistance in planning your backcountry experience.
- The permittee must be an adult age 18 or older, must have a photo ID, and must accompany the group using a cabin.
- Wilderness orientation: Each person staying in a cabin is required to view an 8-minute “Leave No Trace” orientation at Park Headquarters Visitor Center. The orientation can be done in advance if desired.
- Hōlua, Kapalaoa, and Palikū cabins have pit toilets and water available near the cabin. The water is non-potable and must be filtered or treated before drinking.
- Each cabin has a wood-burning stove with limited presto logs provided, a 2-burner propane stove, cooking utensils, dishes, and 12 padded bunks. In times of drought, cookware will be removed and you must pack in all your water.
- There is no electricity in the cabins. Bring plenty of warm clothes and sleeping bags.
- Hiking off designated trails or taking shortcuts is prohibited. Off-trail hiking causes erosion and damages fragile life forms.
- Bicycles and other wheeled transportation are not permitted. Horses and mules are permitted at Palikū and Hōlua. Pets are not allowed.
- Quiet hours are 8pm to 8am. Please respect the privacy of others camping around you.

SAFETY: It is the permittee’s responsibility to ensure that the members of their group are appropriately equipped and properly prepared for hiking at altitude and in extreme weather conditions (heavy rain, high winds), and can hike/backpack up to 10 miles one way to the reserved cabin(s). Cell phone coverage is unreliable in the Wilderness Area.
Hōlua Cabin, the closest cabin, lies at 6,940 feet (2,115 meters) in the shrubland near Ko‘olau Gap, 3.7 miles down the Halemau‘u Trail or 7.4 miles down Sliding Sands Trail. Visitors staying at Hōlua can enjoy day hikes into the central Wilderness Area. The landscape around Hōlua supports a native shrubland flourishing among the lava flows. There is also a campground at Hōlua.

Kapalaoa Cabin, 5.5 miles down Slidings Sands Trail or 7.3 miles from Halemau‘u Trailhead, lies at the base of the cliffs on the south side of the valley. The view from Kapalaoa takes in brightly colored cinder cones, subalpine plants, and dramatic cliffs. In the spring and summer months, the endangered ‘ua‘u (Hawaiian dark-rumped petrel) can occasionally be heard and seen near the high cliffs. This cabin lies at 7,250 feet (2,210 meters). There is no camping allowed near Kapalaoa cabin.

Palikū Cabin, at 6,380 feet (1,945 meters), is at the east end of the Wildnerness Area at the base of a rain forest cliff. The cabin is reached via a 9.3-mile hike on Sliding Sands Trail, 10.1 miles on Halemau‘u Trail, or 8.6 miles up the Kaupo Trail. Clouds and fog often roll over the top of the cliffs behind Palikū. The extra moisture makes this spot exceptionally cool and lush. There is also a campground at Palikū.

Requesting a Cabin:
Each cabin is rented to only one group per night. A flat fee per night per cabin is charged. You may obtain a cabin reservation up to 90 days in advance online or over the phone.

- You may make an online reservation 24-hours a day by going to the following website: https://fhnp.org/wcr. The wilderness cabins are operated by the National Park Service, though the website reservation system is operated in partnership with the Friends of Haleakalā National Park. You may pay by credit card or ACH Debit (electronic payment from your checking account).
- If you are unable to make an online reservation, you may call (808) 572-4400 between 1:00 and 3:00 pm Hawai‘i Standard Time, Monday through Friday, and select the option for "park representative". You may pay by credit card or mail in a check for payment. Checks must be received within 5 weekdays of the date the reservation is made; otherwise the reservation is cancelled.

Permit Pick-up: Your cabin permit must be picked up at Headquarters Visitor Center between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm. If you are hiking up the Kaupo Trail and wish to pick up your permit at the Kīpahulu Visitor Center, we require 2 weeks’ notice.

Costs & Cancellations:
There is a flat fee per night per cabin which accommodates up to 12 people.

Early Reservations (> 3 weeks) $ 75.00 per night

A $10 service fee per reservation night is charged for any changes to the reservation. Cancellations made more than 3 weeks in advance of reservation date will be refunded less the $10 service fee per night. Changes to reservations within 3 weeks is not permitted and any cancellations are non-refundable.

Reservations (< 3 weeks) $ 60.00 per night

When reserved within 3 weeks of night of stay, the fee is non-refundable and the reservation cannot be changed.

Refunds:
Partial refunds are provided to permittees who cancel more than 21 days in advance of their first reservation night. Refunds are NOT given to permittees for weather unless the National Park Service has closed the park and/or Wilderness Area.
Visiting the Haleakalā Wilderness provides a wonderful opportunity to see native Hawaiian wildlife. As Nēnē (Hawaiian goose) are often seen near the cabins, please enjoy watching them and other wildlife from a distance. Do not feed or give water to wildlife.