

## Makena Landing



Makena landing is my favorite dive location on Maui. Park in the parking lot and walk into the ocean. Be careful of the kayaks and consider diving elsewhere during a south swell. This isn't a deep site so to conserve air, surface swim close to the point on the right before descending. Just keep the reef to your right and you'll often find turtles, an assortment of morays, Parrotfish, and the usual Butterfly fish, Moorish Idols, and Pufferfish. I've also seen small Lionfish at this site.

The biggest attraction for me are the lava tubes. They range from the Toilet Bowl, a collapsed tube that swirls you around until you are "flushed" out of an exit, to the Bubble Cave, a lava tube that ends in an air pocket where you can take out your regulator and talk to your dive buddy. My dive computer indicated that we were actually at the surface, but there's no light so there's no visible indication. I would never enter a lava tube beyond its entrance without a guide.

Many of the caves have Whitetip reef sharks living in them. I've learned that they are not particularly fond of having lights shined in their faces. In 2007 one snapped at my daughter and I after my camera fired two strobes directly into its face. Note to self: Don't do that again.