

5/10/04

Alan and Brigid,

On Saturday, we drove "The Road to Hana", a trip around 1/2 of the island. Probably less than 100 miles, but it took 12 hours, at least 8 hours driving. It circles a mountain. Lots of waterfalls and beautiful remote rocky coast. But the road wound constantly and was very narrow in places. There was about 7 miles of gravel road and another 10 of rough pavement. There was one tense moment when going down a hill, I shifted into reverse instead of to a lower gear, but fortunately all it did is turn off the engine. Which is not good when you have power steering, but I got it restarted quickly. It nearly gave Carol a heart attack. The far end of the island is not a good place to break down with a rental car. At one point, we had to wait for a big old bull to stagger out of our lane. Maui is a big beef producer, and some of the cattle ranches are on really remote parts of the island.

Yesterday, Carol came down with a touch of diarrhea, so we stayed close to home. I did some snorkeling in back of our hotel, went again this morning. We've postponed a snorkeling trip to a submerged crater from Tuesday to Thursday. I've booked a guided hiking trip into the crater for Friday.

Steve