

KAUA'I

HAWAII'S ISLAND OF DISCOVERY

The colorful town of Līhu'e, Kaua'i's commercial center, is the starting point for your tour of either half of Kaua'i. If you are off to the North Shore, first stop will be the Wailua River for a fascinating, three-mile ride on one of the river launches. At the very end passengers disembark to explore the hauntingly beautiful Fern Grotto. Your North Shore trip will be liberally sprinkled with a host of perfect beaches, sugarcane fields and a variety of unusual churches. But the highlight will be the incredible beauty of Hanalei Valley and Hanalei Bay. Their magic will linger in your memory for decades to come. Past Hanalei and Hā'ena Point is the unmatched spectacle of the Nāpali Coast. Helicopter services offer flights into this lost world of breathtaking beauty. Boat trips are also available along this spectacular coastline.

Kaua'i's South Shore is equally as lovely. You will travel high up into Kōke'e State Park to view Waimea Canyon—the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. While there you will also visit Kalalau Lookout for a view of an awe-inspiring Nāpali Coast valley whose emerald cliffs plunge 4,000 feet to the crashing surf below. Enroute down from the park you will catch a glimpse of the privately-owned Island of Ni'ihau. Stops at the Menehune Ditch, Spouting Horn, Hanapēpē Valley, Captain Cook's Landing, Po'ipū Beach,

Menehune Fishpond, and Nāwiliwili Harbor are other highlights of your memorable South Shore adventure.

Points of Interest

Botanical Gardens—Abounding in natural vegetation, Kaua'i also has several gardens which are open to the public for a small fee. Na 'Aina Kai Botanical Gardens in Kīlauea, Smith's Tropical Paradise at Wailua, Moir Gardens at Kiahuna Plantation in Po'ipū and the National Tropical Botanical Garden located both on the Northern and Southern ends of Kaua'i. Allerton and McBryde Gardens can be found in Po'ipū and Limahuli Garden can be found at Hā'ena. All offer an unusual assortment of flowers, shrubs, cacti and other magnificent species of plant life.

Captain Cook's Landing, Waimea Bay—The first place in which the intrepid British explorer set foot in Hawai'i in January, 1778. This bay was for many years a favorite provisioning port with Pacific traders and whalers.

Fern Grotto—This hauntingly beautiful cave, luxuriantly festooned with growing ferns, is reached from the Wailua Marina.

Grove Farm Homestead—Founded in 1864 by George Wilcox, the homestead is now a museum complex that includes the old family plantation home, wash house, tea house, guest cottage and other amenities. The homestead is typical of the old Hawaiian plantation experience and tradition. It is just south of Līhu'e.

Hanalei Valley—You will want to stop at the vantage point near the marker to gaze at this sweeping scene of majestic tranquility.

Hanapēpē Valley—Note the red cliffs and the handsome color accent they give the valley's myriad shades of green and blue.

Kalalau Lookout—Once peacocks preened their plumage in this tropic Eden and families cultivated terraces of taro. No one lives here now... nothing remains but one of the most beautiful views on earth.

Kamōkila Hawaiian Village—Above the great bend of the Wailua River, where war canoes of the King of Kaua'i, Kaumuali'i, once assembled, lie the ruins of an old Hawaiian village.

Kaua'i Museum—The museum in Līhu'e presents a factual history of Kaua'i, using artifacts and photographs. Other historical and art exhibits are also displayed.

Kē'ē Beach Park—A fine bathing and excellent snorkeling beach at the end of the road where the trail begins to the Nāpali Cliffs.

Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge—A refuge for nesting seabirds, the isolated promontory where the lighthouse sits is open to visitors.

Kōke'e State Park—Adjacent to Waimea Canyon this park has picnic grounds, cabins and a wide variety of outdoor activities including hunting, trout fishing and hiking. The NASA Kōke'e Tracking Station is located nearby.

Lumaha'i Beach—Chosen for Nurses' Beach in "South Pacific," this lovely spot is undoubtedly the most photographed beach on Kaua'i.

Menehune Ditch—Only small portions remain of what was once a great water course or aqueduct. Archeologists say it was built before Hawaiians came, possibly by the Menehune.

Menehune Fishpond, Niumalu—Remarkable stone walls are said to have been built in one night by the Menehune. The fishpond they enclose is still in use.

Old Russian Fort (Fort Elizabeth)—Hoping to seize Kaua'i for his Czar, an employee of the Russian Fur Company of Alaska built this fort near the mouth of the Waimea River in 1817. Rocky ruins are all that remain of his efforts and dream.

'Ōpaeka'a Falls—The Wailua River makes a dramatic plunge over a high cliff. 'Ōpaeka'a means "rolling shrimp" and dates from days when swarms of shrimp were seen rolling in turbulent waters at the base of the falls.

Po'ipū Beach—Exceptionally fine bathing beach. Great for snorkeling.

Royal Birthstones, Wailua—Women of Hawaiian nobility always tried to reach these sacred stones in time to give birth to insure the royal status of their children.

Sleeping Giant—The outline of a mountain ridge shows a striking resemblance to a reclining giant.

Smith's Tropical Paradise—This 23-acre site has gardens, lagoons, exotic birds and a unique narrated train ride which meanders through a rain forest, a Polynesian village, a Japanese island, a Filipino village and other interesting areas. Kaua'i's ethnic heritage is reflected nightly in a 75-minute musical production in the lagoon theater.

Spouting Horn—When tide is running high, waves pressured through lava tubes are forced through a hole in coastal rocks to burst noisily into spectacular fountains of salt spray and foam.

Wailua Falls—Nicknamed "Fantasy Island" Waterfalls.

Waimea Canyon—This is more than a view, it's an experience! You will treasure in memory its grandeur and jewel-tone colors, its awesome depth and breadth.

Wai'oli Mission House—Visitors are welcome to look through this quaint home, built in 1834 and restored by descendants of the first missionaries.

Wet and Dry Caves of Hā'ena—These eerie caverns, one dry, the other two filled with limpid green water, are where chiefs are said to have gathered in ancient times.

