

The Explorer's guide to Kaua'i



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The Explorer's Guide to Kaua'i (1st Edition – July 2008)

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Table of Contents

Aloha Explorers!.....6

The Place.....8

Overview 8

Food / Supplies / Shopping 9

Climate / Weather 9

Water Temperature 10

Island Culture 10

Aloha 10

Island time 11

Driving 11

Bridge Etiquette 11

Pidgin 12

Experience Hawaiian Culture 12

Valuables 12

Crowds 13

Accommodation / Transportation 14

Deciding where to stay 14

Resorts 14

Hotels 14

Vacation Rentals 14

Hostels 15

Camping 15

Getting around the island 18

Rental Cars 18

Cab service 18

Motorcycle 18

Bus 19

Moped 19

Bike 20

Hitchhiking 20

Exploring Kaua'i 21

Spend a day at the park 21

North Shore Parks 21

East Side Parks 22

South Shore Parks 23

West Side Parks 23

Visit a botanical garden 24

National Tropical Botanical Gardens 25

Na 'Aina Kai 25



Go up to Koke'e.....	25
Stroll through Hanapepe Town	26
Go Waterfall Hunting.....	26
'Opaeka'a Falls	26
Wailua Falls	26
Namolokama	27
Hanakapi'ai Falls	27
Hear some local music	27
Radio.....	27
Music Venues	28


10 Tips for Eco-conscious Traveling 30

#1 Reduce.....	30
#2 Reuse	30
#3 Recycle	31
#4 Water	31
#5 Conserve Electricity.....	33
#6 Use alternative forms of transportation.....	33
#7 Join a beach clean up.....	33
#8 Tread Lightly.....	34
#9 Respect the island way of life.....	34
#10 Buy local	34

Maps..... 36

Ha'ena, North Shore.....	37
More about Ha'ena	38
In between Ha'ena and Hanalei.....	38
Hanalei, North Shore.....	39
More about Hanalei	40
Hanalei Restaurants	40
Princeville, North Shore.....	42
More about Princeville.....	43
Princeville Restaurants.....	43
Kilauea, North Shore	44
More about Kilauea	45
Kilauea Restaurants.....	45
Anahola, North Shore	46
More about Anahola.....	47
Anahola Restaurants	47
Kapa'a, East Side	48
More about Kapa'a	49
Kapa'a Restaurants	49
Wailua, East Side	51
More about Wailua.....	52
Wailua Restaurants.....	52
Lihu'e (N. end), East Side.....	53



More about Lihu'e (N. end)	54
Lihu'e (N. end) Restaurants	54
Lihu'e (S. end), East Side	55
More about Lihu'e (S. end)	56
Lihu'e (S. end) Restaurants	56
Koloa, South Shore	57
More about Koloa	58
Koloa Restaurants	58
Po'ipu, South Shore	59
More about Po'ipu	60
Po'ipu Restaurants	60
Port Allen / 'Ele'ele / Hanapepe, West Side	61
More about Port Allen / 'Ele'ele / Hanapepe	62
Port Allen / 'Ele'ele / Hanapepe Restaurants	62
Waimea, West Side	63
More about Waimea	64
Waimea Restaurants	64
Kekaha, West Side	65
Koke'e, West Side	66
Na Pali, NW Shore	67
  Resources	 68
Ocean Safety Tips	68

Hiking Safety Tips	69
Web Links	70

Aloha Explorers!

The Explorer's Guide to Kaua'i comes from the Hawai'i Explorer team, all of whom are long-time island residents. An alternative to the guidebooks created by visiting travel writers, this book is about the place we call home - the place we love to explore every day. The Explorer's Guide answers the questions travelers most frequently ask on www.kauaiexplorer.com. Inspired by our love of this island, we've included inside tips on how to enjoy Kaua'i in a way that is *pono* (proper). With 1.2 million visitors coming to the island every year, this information helps you have a stellar travel experience while keeping Kaua'i beautiful.

The Explorer Team: We are Kauaians. A few of us grew up here, and the rest of us have lived here for ten or twenty years. Our ages range from the late twenties to mid forties. Some of us have children, some have pets. We surf, we hike, we kite board, we mountain bike, we travel. We love Kaua'i. We love our work. And of course, we love to explore!

What makes this guidebook unique?

- ♦ **Island perspective:** This highlighted info comes from the viewpoint of residents. We enjoy these areas and we've seen how visitors don't always get the facts they need or are just plain misinformed. This book offers authentic information that can help you have a real island experience.
- ♦ **Original maps:** The Explorer's Guide provides unique maps

to island towns that lay out the basics: post offices, grocery stores, public bathrooms, points of interest, restaurants and parks. It's the stuff we want to know when we travel and the things locals may take for granted.

- ♦ **Preservation and Safety:** Our dedicated chapter to preservation and safety info is - dare we say - the largest we've ever seen in a guidebook. It's only fitting that a Kaua'i guide offers ways to explore while being safe and treading lightly in the island's wild and fragile terrain! So we didn't stop at a single chapter. Preservation and safety tips are highlighted throughout the entire book, because we believe they're an inherent part of having a great trip. These hints help insure that you have an epic experience and that the beauty of the Garden Isle will be here for everyone's enjoyment for many generations to come.
- ♦ **Paperless:** You've already made the first step in an eco-conscious trip by purchasing this paperless guidebook! You can study this guide from home, reference it from your laptop or PDA, or print pages, as needed (*please print on recycled paper*).

⚠ Disclaimer

This book doesn't encompass everything – we believe that part of the fun of travel is making discoveries for yourself. What we do offer are the highlights of the island from a

local perspective, giving you a solid foundation from which to explore. We have made every effort to provide the most accurate information possible. However, you may find some special spot not mentioned here (*Kaua'i is magical like that*). Maybe you'll find one of the restaurants listed has since closed (*Kaua'i can be like that, too*). Not every island business is included, and we are not endorsing or recommending any company listed. **Hawai'i Explorer is in no way responsible for any injury, loss or inconvenience incurred by users of this guide.**

Additional Notes

No one said that Kaua'i was consistent. This is obvious when it comes to the use of that reversed-looking apostrophe, known as an "okina" in the Hawaiian language. It signifies a breath break, kind of like the pause in "uh-oh." It is seen in the word "Kaua'i" when properly used and is a part of many Hawaiian words. Years ago, the 'okina (and the kahako, which is the line sometimes seen over a vowel) were often left out, especially in street signs. Today, there is more awareness to preserve the appropriate diacritical marks, but it is not always done. For this guide, we've chosen to be as consistent as possible, using the 'okina in the text, but omitting it from all street names. Because of font and keyboard restrictions, we've opted to leave out the kahako altogether. [Learn more about the Hawaiian language...](#)

Feedback

Feel free to offer feedback from your experiences for fellow travelers in the www.kauaiexplorer.com forum.

Hawai'i Explorer welcomes your comments and updates for future editions:

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As we revise this book, you'll get the new editions, *for free!*

Mahalo nui loa

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1 **'Opaeka'a Falls:** easy access to a breathtaking waterfall. A popular roadside stop for visitors. Park and walk to lookout. You can follow the road to the end to access the [Kuilau trailhead](#).

2 **Coconut Marketplace:** an outdoor mall featuring an array of shops and a few restaurants.

Wailua, East Side The heart of Wailua is the expansive Wailua River, which is the only navigable river (by boats bigger than kayaks) in all of Hawai'i. The

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history and lore. As you head up to 'Opaeka'a Falls and (a sacred site). Along with the centers on either side of the highway featuring shops and restaurants.

