



- HIGHLIGHTS
- ITINERARIES
- SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL
- EASY-TO-USE MAPS

# Discover Kaua'i

Experience the best of Kaua'i



# Discover Kaua'i

Contents



Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



## The Best...

Lists for everything from beaches to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out

## Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



## Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the maps:



Beaches



Eating



Sights



Drinking



Sleeping



Information

This edition written and researched by

Paul Stiles  
E Clark Carroll

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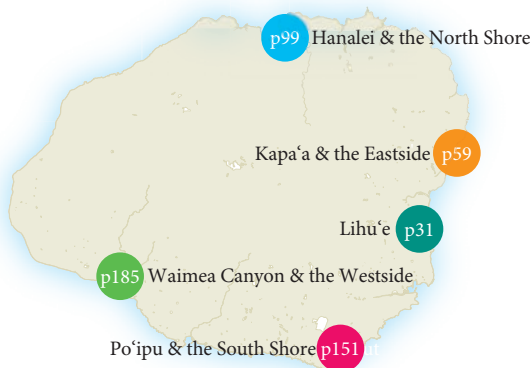
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# This Is Kaua'i

Tropical paradise – if ever there was an idea with a powerful grip on the mind, this would be it. And if ever there was a place to match, it is the Garden Island of Kaua'i. The emerald pinnacles of the Na Pali Coast, the painted walls of Waimea Canyon, the misty mountains of Hanalei and the sunny beaches of Po'ipu radiate outward from the ancient cone of Mt Wai'ale'ale, all of which is surrounded by a cornucopia of flamboyant marine life. These elements forge a magical union that sets this island apart from the world and, indeed, produce the giddy feeling of having risen above it.

With an astonishing list of outdoor adventures, Kaua'i will puncture your resort bubble. Here you can soar over tropical valleys, zip through treetops on a cable, paddle to inaccessible beaches and float through mountain caves. Each new experience is a special, often unforgettable, way of interacting with the island.

Kaua'i inspires more inward explorations, too. The values of the ancient Hawaiians are alive and well here, rooted in mountains, waves, clouds and a holistic understanding of the natural world. You will encounter this in simple ways, such as when someone gives you directions *mauka* (toward the mountains) or *makai* (toward the sea). On a deeper level, this traditional culture is built on moderation, balance, fairness and unity, producing a gentle pace of life, strong families and legendary hospitality.

You can't help admiring the way that Kaua'i has preserved itself in the face of the 20th century. Here, no town surpasses 10,000 people. By law, no building is taller than a coconut tree, and it is impossible to circumnavigate the coast by car. When a multimillion-dollar ferry arrived to begin service to neighboring islands, Kaua'i residents, concerned over environmental and other issues, blocked its path. It never returned. Visitors do.

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