

Kauai & Niihau Dive Sites



Squirrelfish can be found schooling in caverns by day and foraging the reef at night

Covered by lush tropical forest, Kauai is aptly nicknamed the ‘Garden Island.’ With stunning scenery and scant development, it is a mecca for hikers, kayakers and other adventurers. Niihau, Kauai’s closest neighbor, is generally referred to as the ‘Forbidden Island.’ This small, dry, windswept island has been privately owned since 1864 and limited numbers of non-Hawaiians are permitted to visit.

When weather conditions are favorable, Kauai and Niihau offer some unique and exciting dive opportunities. The islands’ positions on the northern edge of the warm-water coral belt and the fact that their shorelines are prone to large swell impacts mean that corals are not as abundant as they are along the southern Hawaiian Islands. What the region lacks in coral reefs it makes up for with exciting lava formations, unusual fish species and pristine diving conditions.

KAUAI

Kauai is the fourth largest of the Hawaiian Islands, with an area of 558 sq miles (1445 sq km). If you are looking for lush scenery, this is the place to find it. The North Shore is green and mountainous with waterfalls, beautiful beaches and stream-fed valleys. The northwest coast is lined by the steeply fluted Na Pali sea cliffs, Hawaii’s foremost hiking destination.

Though summer trade winds keep the heat down, Kauai’s climate changes more with location than season and tends to be more varied than the other islands.

Excellent dive sites are found around the island but overall access is less reliable than around the rest of the Hawaiian Islands due to Kauai’s less-predictable weather conditions. Sites located along the dramatic North Shore are undiveable during the winter months, and even the south shore spots can be sketchy at times. Although there are good novice dive spots on Kauai, some of the prime sites are better suited to more experienced divers.

Kauai Dive Sites		GOOD SNORKELING	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
53	GENERAL STORE			•	
54	TURTLE BLUFFS			•	
55	PK		•		
56	KOLOA LANDING		•		
57	AMBERS ARCHES			•	
58	SHERATON CAVERNS		•		
59	BRENNECKE’S LEDGES			•	
60	OCEANARIUM				•
61	TUNNELS REEF		•		
62	KEE LAGOON		•		
63	MANA CRACK				•