



Kaua'i

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Josselin's Tapas Bar & Grill (p547)
- ➔ Koloa Fish Market (p536)
- ➔ Kaua'i Community Market (p481)
- ➔ Tiki Tacos (p495)
- ➔ Hanalei Taro & Juice Co (p524)

Best Beaches

- ➔ Hanalei Bay (p517)
- ➔ Maha'ulepu Beach (p539)
- ➔ Kauapea (Secrets) Beach (p505)
- ➔ Kealia Beach (p502)
- ➔ Salt Pond Beach Park (p556)

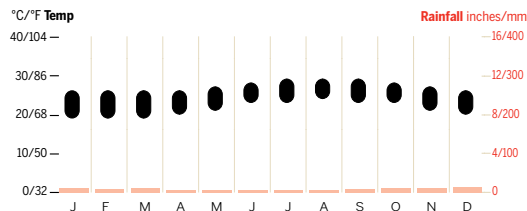
Why Go?

On Kaua'i, the mana (spiritual essence) of the *'aina* (land) is palpable, and will hit you when you least expect it. It could descend as you round a corner and are gobsmacked by a velvety emerald mountain range. Or while navigating one of the island's spectacular trails into a lush interior kissed with endless rainbows and waterfalls. Or maybe when paddling down a sinuous red river.

For many visitors, bliss comes after diving, swimming, paddling or riding world-class waves in bays that are deep blue and life-affirming – where you can watch sea turtles, wild dolphins and whales, and contemplate endless Pacific horizons. On Kaua'i, your heart and mind cannot help but open wide. Even a short island-hop here could become an extended stay, which on the flight home may have you debating immediate relocation – that is, if you go home at all.

When to Go

Lihu'e



Jun–Sep Sunshine abounds, the ocean is calmer and days longer, with sunsets like splatters of paint.

Dec–Mar Whale-watching, sudden rainstorms and rainbows. Don't leave car windows down!

Apr–May Smallest crowds and best deals, and many festivals too.

Kaua'i Highlights

- 1 Take a sunset sail or test your strength by hiking or kayaking the **Na Pali Coast** (p531).
- 2 Take in the grand vistas from roadside lookouts and wilderness trails in **Waimea Canyon** (p568).
- 3 Paddle upstream to hidden jungle waterfalls in the sacred **Wailua River Valley** (p490).
- 4 Laze on the beach or learn the ancient Hawaiian sport of surfing in idyllic **Hanalei Bay** (p517).
- 5 Lace up your hiking boots for panoramic views or a journey into the otherworldly Alaka'i Swamp at **Koke'e State Park** (p570).
- 6 Take the plunge and snorkel the South Shore around sunny **Po'ipu** (p534).
- 7 Go gallery-hopping, shopping and street-food-snacking on 'Art Night' in quirky **Hanapepe** (p556).
- 8 Contemplate eternity on Kaua'i's biggest, wildest beach at **Polihale State Park** (p567).
- 9 Be charmed by laid-back attractions and everyday local life in the island's capital, **Lihu'e** (p474).

