



Lihu'e

📍 808 / POP 6455

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kaua'i Community Market (p94)
- ➔ Hamura Saimin (p95)
- ➔ Gaylord's (p96)

Best for History

- ➔ Grove Farm (p86)
- ➔ Alekoko (Menehune) Fishpond Overlook (p87)
- ➔ Kilohana Plantation (p86)
- ➔ Lihu'e Lutheran Church (p89)

Why Go?

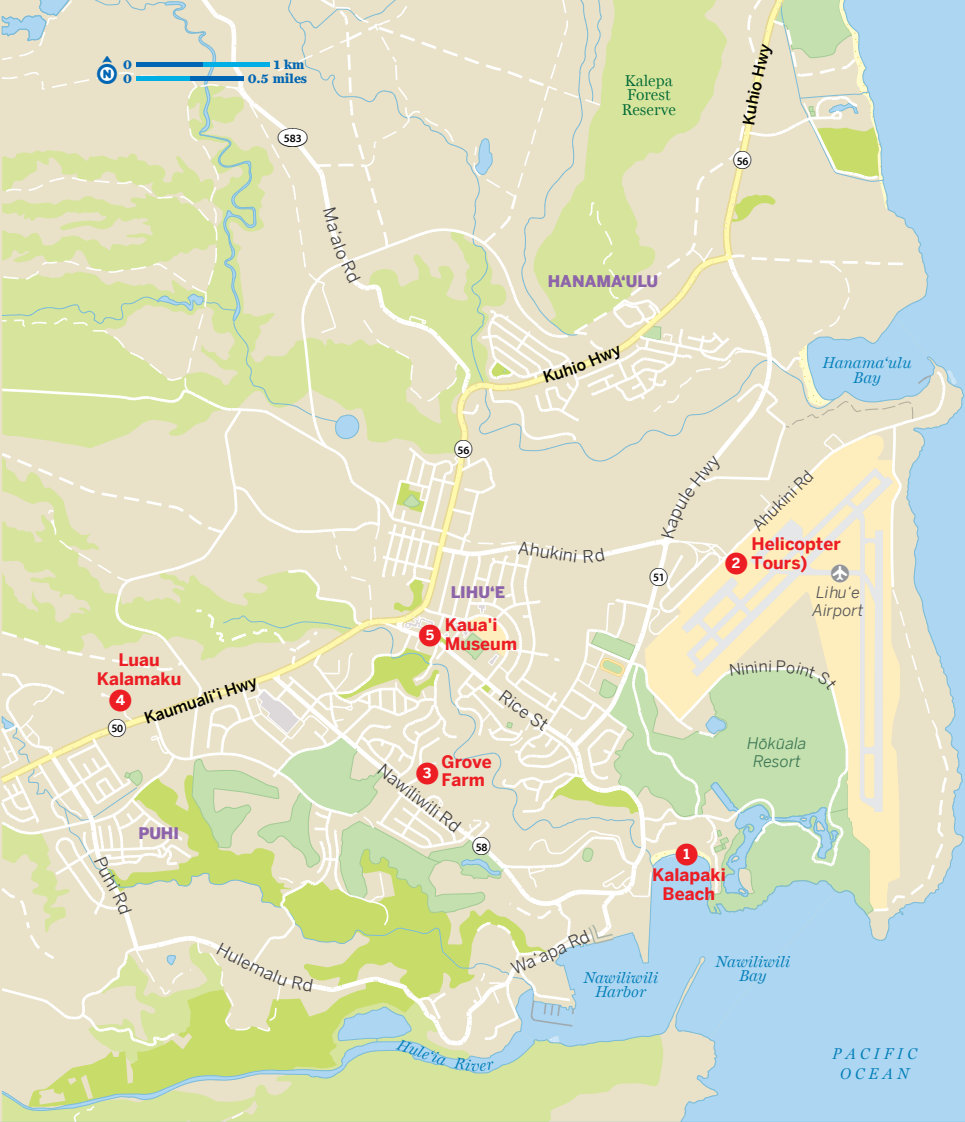
The island's commercial center is strip-mall plain, but there's an abundance of economical eateries and shops along with a down-to-earth, workaday atmosphere that's missing in resort areas. While Kalapaki Beach is a charmer, Lihu'e is more a place to stock up on supplies after arrival at the airport before heading out on your island adventure.

Lihu'e arose as a plantation town back in 1849 when sugar was king, and its massive sugar mill (still standing south of town along Kaunualii Hwy) was Kaua'i's largest. The mill closed in 2000, ending more than a century of operations. It left behind an ethnic melting pot of Asian, European and Hawaiian traditions that make the town what it is today.

Activities tend to center around Kalapaki Beach with a few top golf courses and cool beaches nearby. This is the kickoff point for helicopter tours and a few fun excursions to waterfalls.

When to Go

- ➔ The weather is always nice here – less rainy than the north and less dry than the south.
- ➔ Kaua'i Community Market is on Saturday and Grove Farm tours on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- ➔ Don't miss the Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival in November and the May Day festivities.



Lihue Highlights

- 1 Kalapaki Beach** (p87)
Chilling on this Kauai classic melds natural beauty with loads of fun for the whole family.
- 2 Helicopter tours** (p75)
Slicing through canyons on a once-in-a-lifetime flight over the soaring cliffs of the Na Pali Coast, Mt Wai'ale'ale's rain-soaked crater and the 'Grand Canyon of the Pacific.'
- 3 Grove Farm** (p86)
Traveling back in time in this authentically restored 19th-century sugar plantation property is like a large-scale still life.
- 4 Luau Kalamaku** (p96)
Embracing the kitsch at the island's best luau (Hawaiian feast) successfully combines the traditional and the contemporary.
- 5 Kaula'i Museum** (p88)
This treasure trove will teach you all about the unique history of the Garden Island.