

# The Explorer's guide to Kaua'i



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**The Explorer's Guide to Kaua'i** (1<sup>st</sup> Edition – July 2008)

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# Aloha Explorers!

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**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](http://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](http://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

Thank you for purchasing this guide! Your contribution helps keep this resource alive and thriving. Kaua'i Explorer is a labor of love, run by the Hawai'i Explorer team, endorsed by the County of Kaua'i and supported by our [site sponsors](#). You can continue to support the cause by recommending this guide to a friend. **Please do not share copies** (*this is the only time we will not advocate recycling resources*).




 Nounou Trail

**2** Coconut Marketplace

**1** **'Opaeke'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.

 Kuilau Trail

**1**

**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 history and lore. As you head

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up to 'Opaeke'a Falls and (sacred site). Along with the centers on either side of the highway featuring shops and restaurants.

     
Lydgate Beach Park

