



## ARRIVAL

We arrived at about 8:30 at night, and by the time we got our rental convertible, it was about 9:30. We were booked in a condo in Poipu on the South shore of Kauai, which was about 13 miles from the airport. Neither of us had been there before, but we were armed with directions from the rental agency. We followed the signs in the dark toward our destination, but at one point we were supposed to go through a “tree tunnel”. We thought it was like the one in Sequoia National Park, where it was cut through a huge tree! We found out later when it was light, it was formed by a mile long stand of eucalyptus trees planted in 1913 that arched over the road!



Sequoia Tree Tunnel



Kauai Tree Tunnel

Well we did not see anything like that, but pressed on. Finally got to a point in the dark, where we did not have a clue, and stopped to ask some locals for help. They were very helpful, and said we were on the right road, but had not gone far enough.

So after Mr. Toad’s dark wild ride, and an hour after we left the airport, we got to our condo. Kathy had found it on line, and it was perfect! The owners had included all manner of amenities, including, tableware, cookware, pocket books, even beach chairs, beach mats and a cooler

## SEA DAY

The next morning the heavens opened up and it rained almost all day. We called it a “sea day”, as if we were on a cruise. We ventured out to a local shopping center and had a great brunch. When we got back to the condo we called the rental agency’s Activities Manager, a very nice lady named Pat, who could get us some discounts on cruises, etc. She made arrangements for a number of activities for us.

The pictures below are of the view from our lanai and of a Black Headed Night Heron stalking the stream for insects, fish, etc. in the stream behind us. Kathy named him “Sneaky”.





The next day dawned bright and clear with the moon still in the sky. We took a ride to an ocean blowhole called Spouting Horn because of the noise the water made as it spouted. We also had our first experience with all the chickens running loose on the island. One of our tour guides told us the reason there were so many loose was that there was only one KFC on the island.



### GETTING WHACKY IN A WACO (BIPLANE, THAT IS)

We had previously made arrangements for an aerial tour of Kauai with a company called Tropical Biplanes. We met the pilot, Kevin, at the airport and discovered that the beautiful WACO biplane would hold both of us in the front cockpit! Since we live close to a small airport, Kathy had watched all manner of biplanes flying, and put that on her "bucket list". In fact, the two biplanes featured on American Idol were from our airport and owned by a husband and wife.

We were given old style cloth helmets and goggles, but with the advantage of modern headsets with an intercom. We flew clockwise around the island, starting at the southern part.



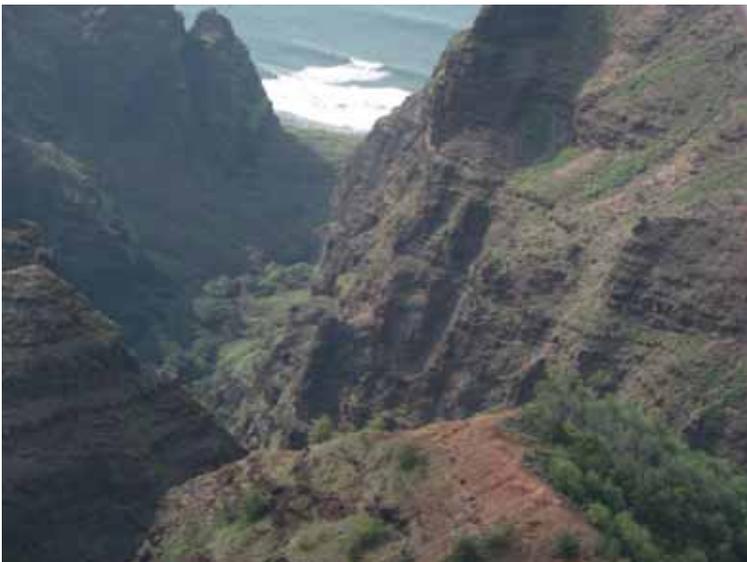
The first picture is of the Poipu area with the Sheraton on the left and the Marriott on the right of the beach in the middle.



We even got a picture of a whale spouting just off the coast  
As we circled the island, we saw deep canyons and numerous waterfalls due to the rain the previous day



We were able to actually fly into the caldera of Mt Wai'ale'ale, the wettest spot on earth, getting over 460 inches of rain every year! We enjoyed the view so much, our pilot circled around for another pass inside the crater.



Unfortunately, the flight was over too soon, but we loved every minute of it!



### TUBING & WAIKLUA WATERFALL

The next day we were scheduled to go tubing down the old irrigation ditches, but as we got ready, there was a severe thunderstorm which forced cancellation of our trip. In fact, there was another group in the ditches, and they were worried that they would have to evacuate them.

On our way back to our condo, we saw a sign to the Waialua Falls. According to the guidebook we found in our condo, it is the most accessible waterfall on the island. After a very scenic ride to the view point, we saw the waterfall. We had seen it on our biplane flight, but this was up close and personal.



### DRIVE TO THE NORTH SHORE END OF THE ROAD.

The next day we took a leisurely drive to the north side of the island.



It is only 54 miles from our condo, but it is slow going. Who cares? We are on island time, and stopped many times to enjoy the scenery. Our first stop was at Lydgate Park, near the mouth of the Waialua River. From there we drove out to Kilauea lighthouse, which was under restoration. The top half where the light was had been covered by some construction mesh, so I could not get a picture for my brother-in-law. The lighthouse was built in 1913, and was in use until 1976. There is a visitor center which tells of the history of the lighthouse as well as the life of the lighthouse keepers. The point is also a bird refuge for many types of birds, including the Lyasan albatross and the Red-Footed Booby.



The view from the point was beautiful, and there was Moku'ae'ae Island off the point that was also a home for many birds



We continued down the road around the island, stopping at an overlook near Kalihihai Stream, one of the 4 navigable rivers in all of Hawaii, where we saw some folks in an outrigger canoe and kayaks. Kauai, being the oldest island in the Hawaiian chain had time for the forces of nature to carve out canyons and rivers.



Continuing up the road, we crossed the first of 10 one way bridges on the road. We stopped at Waikapala wet cave. This cave was formed when the ocean was much higher than today and etched away at the lava rock creating the cave. At the back of the main cave is a small opening into another, smaller room accessible only by swimming.



We finally got to the end of the road, at Ke'e beach, but unless you got there before 10 AM, there was no place to park! We backtracked a mile or so to Ha'ena Beach, and set up under a clump of palm trees. We had stopped at a Subway store and picked up a couple of sandwiches. We had the chairs, beach mat, and cooler from the condo and were all set. Kathy, being the experienced camper, directed the way the mat and chairs had to be placed.



It was a beautiful beach, but for some reason it was closed to swimming. After eating lunch and relaxing a while, we headed back home. A few miles down the road, however, we stopped at another beautiful beach called Lumahai Beach. It was one of the beaches on which the movie South Pacific was shot. Below is a picture of my very own Nellie Forbush, but she said she was not going to wash her man (me) right out of her beautiful silver hair.



We got back to Poipu in time for the little local Polynesian show in the shopping center. It was quite entertaining. At the end of the show they asked the children to come up, and one mom put a little grass skirt and bikini top on her 4 year old daughter.



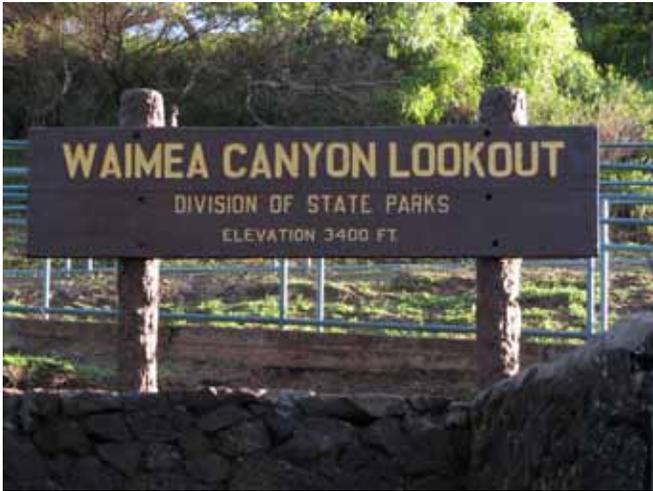
After the show, we heard live music from the restaurant in the shopping center. It was a local artist named Ronnie Toki playing guitar and singing some of the old standards. He was quite good, and we bought a copy of his CD. Something like that has more meaning to us than a bobble head hula doll made in China

### BIKING DOWN WAIMEA CANYON

We made the arrangements with Outfitters Kauai, who were conveniently located a half mile from our condo.

We opted for the sunrise trip as it would be cooler. After giving us a biking test and fitting us with helmets, we headed off. We stopped briefly for fresh muffins and coffee before we headed up the canyon. After a safety briefing, we climbed aboard our mountain bikes that had specially designed disk brakes to handle the downhill run. The tour was led by experienced guides who led the way down a 12 mile stretch of road that snakes its way past Waimea Canyon down to the sea. We were followed by our support

vehicle for safety, to make sure no cars tried to pass us. We stopped at a lookout point that was 3400 feet above sea level. The views of the canyon were spectacular in the morning light.



We pointed our bikes downhill, and rolled past wild sugarcane fields, grazing cattle, and stands of palms. Kathy was a little apprehensive at first, as she had not ridden a bike in 30 years! I told her to relax-it was just like riding a bike, whereupon she rolled her eyes again!



## NA PALI CATAMARAN SAIL

The next day we drove to Port Allen to sail on our Na Pali catamaran cruise. We went with Holo Holo cruises as they had the largest boat. We saw another boat go out where everyone was sitting in deck chairs, which would not have suited us at all.

We were first taken to a cove where we snorkeled, but there were not that many fish around.



After snorkeling, we were allowed to have beer or wine, and I found that a beer was a good way to get the salty taste out of my mouth.

To make up for the lack of fish while snorkeling, we encountered a large pod of dolphins.



I was lucky enough to be up on the bow and saw a dolphin surfing right below me next to the hull!! I also got a great shot of 2 dolphins swimming together.



As we rounded the island toward the North side, we came across some whales that were breaching. It was an awesome sight to see them come up out of the water and crash back in.



We sailed along the Na Pali coast, and were impressed with the high cliffs and deep canyons.



There were also some beautiful remote beaches accessible only by boat



We also saw the Honopu Archway, which connected 2 beaches. Parts of King Kong and Six Days, Seven Nights were shot at that location.



We were very fortunate to have such a calm day at sea so we could get very close to the cliffs. We encountered an interesting cliff where it appears the lava flow stopped and started a number of times, leaving an almost stair step appearance. We also saw the Waiahuakua sea cave.



All in all, it was a great day, and we both enjoyed it thoroughly. They also offered longer cruises, but this one at about 5 hours was just right.

#### TUBING REVISITED

Some time ago, there was an article in Westways, the AAA magazine about tubing down the old irrigation canals. We really enjoyed tubing in Ocho Rios, and this looked like fun.

We started out down the canals, and we each had a camera when I got the pictures back, I discovered that we took nearly identical pictures. The hairy legs on the right are mine.



The ditches and the tunnels we went through were hand dug in 1870 by Chinese, Japanese, and Portuguese laborers. We were issued gloves and hard hats with lights to protect us as we went through the tunnels.



**KAYAKING ON THE HULE'IA RIVER OR HOW TO PADDLE 6 MILES ON A 2 MILE RIVER TOUR**  
Kathy and I had never kayaked together, so this turned out to be a very interesting experience. For some reason, when we both paddled, the kayak zigzagged from one bank of the river to the other. We blamed each other and grumbled under our breaths each time we headed for the river bank. The picture on the left was taken before the first zigzag. The picture on the right reflects the way we ended up as we reached the end of our ordeal LOL.  
We found the little kayak at a souvenir shop, and when we saw it we both burst laughing, so we bought it to remember our first and last kayak trip together.



The river was really muddy with the red dirt of Kauai as it had rained the night before and washed the dirt downstream.



We finally reached the takeout place and started our trek through the rain forest. The problem with walking through a rain forest is two fold-rain, which makes everything muddy and slippery, and forest which means a tangle of foot tripping roots.



We saw a number of small waterfalls on our way in to the picnic area. We had a very nice picnic in a very secluded flat spot on the river. At least we know that going back to the river will be downhill, but still in the rain forest.



We finally got back to the river, and a powerboat was waiting for us to take us back to the put in spot.

## KILOHANA PLANTATION

Well, all good things come to an end, and we packed for our return home. Checkout time was 10 AM, and our flight left at 10 PM, so we booked a day room in a small boutique hotel near the airport. After spending 10 days in a 1200 square foot condo, staying in the hotel room was claustrophobic! The lady at the desk loaned us a cooler and gave us some ice to keep our sodas cold while we wandered.

A few days earlier, we spotted a sign for the plantation and noted that it featured a railroad. They also had some artisan shops and a restaurant.

We bought our tickets for the 40 minute ride and noted the cute GE diesel engine and open air cars



The track layout was configured like a figure 8, where the small loop went by an area where there were some wild pigs to feed and some cattle.

After the train ride we headed to the restaurant for lunch. The restaurant was in the old plantation house which was huge. It was two stories and was 16,000 square feet in size. Besides the restaurant, the house also had a number of galleries and shops.

We then went back to the hotel to relax, and then stopped at a little Chinese restaurant for dinner.

The plane ride home was shorter than the flight out, but was very uncomfortable, especially when we arrived back in California at 5AM and it was cold.

We had shut the heat off before we left, and it was 51 degrees in our house. It took about an hour for the house to warm up, and in the meantime I put our little heating pad under the covers for Kathy.

In summary, it was a fantastic trip. We did a lot of adventure type activities, and spent a lot of time just kicking back. The fun thing was that Kathy had been here before and I had not, so it was her turn to guide me to some of the sights and activities.

It was great not having to “follow the yellow umbrella”. As an example, while we were at Spouting Horn, 2 tour buses pulled up with people from Cunard’s Queen Victoria cruise ship. They stayed about 20 minutes and then were all hustled back on the buses, to return to the ship. It was so peaceful and quiet to be all alone there, and reflect on the beauty of the spot. We both enjoy cruises and land tours, but there is a lot to be said about the luxury of time, to fall in love with a place. The island of Kauai will always be special to us, and we know we will be back again.

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