

Travel Tips

Kauai - the garden paradise of Hawaii

By DOREEN SIMPSON
KAUAI, the Garden Isle, oldest island in the Hawaiian chain, hundreds of light years removed from the body-jammed bustle of Waikiki on Oahu, came through the fury of Hurricane Iwa, proudly flaunting her beauty, albeit a trifle wind-blown.
 In November, 1982, Hurricane Iwa thundered northward towards the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific. Unlike hurricanes in the past, Iwa did not deflect. Instead she unleashed her howling winds of devastation upon Kauai, the tiny, privately-owned island of Niihau and parts of the west coast of Oahu.

Badly battered for hours, and totally subdued for several days, Kauai got up off her knees, rose from the rubble, shook her proud head in the gentle wind, and smiled in radiant beauty for all to see. Not a single life has been lost.
 In the spring of this year, I revisited Kauai and saw Koa and Ohia forests lying in tangled disarray, and shiny new roofs attesting to the fact that replacements were necessary. Little else betrayed the terrifying ordeal of a full-blown hurricane. Kauai still is the Garden Isle, the most beautiful island in the Hawaiian chain.

Because there is a fantasy quality to Kauai, let me lead you through its magical places with names that speak in musical tones.
 From the moment of landing at Lihue Airport, the visitor is aware that Kauai does not even remotely resemble Oahu. Kauai is a giant step back in time, to a slow-paced inconsequential accounting of time itself. There is no point in hurrying, and the visitor quickly realizes everything is run by Hawaiian time—relaxed and easy. Soon, even the most demanding and rambunctious, succumb to Polynesian paralytic, a dreamy, tranquil state of mind.

The major islands in the Hawaiian chain have their own descriptive names as well as their given names. Oahu is "The Gathering Place," Maui is the "Valley Island," the big island of Hawaii is known as the "Orchid Isle," Lanai is the "Pineapple Island," Niihau: "the Forbidden Island," and Kauai is appropriately named the "Garden Island." Her trees, hedges, gardens and wilderness abound with tropical flowers, their fragrance hangs in the clear, sweet air. Her valleys draped in lush, cool green descend in awesome magnificence to dip their lava toes into the crashing waves below. Her mountains speak of legends and history. A spear thrown by King Kamehameha the Great is said to have caused the "Hole In The Mountain"; the much photographed Sleeping Giant; the fictional Bali Hai filmed for South Pacific; and the very real Mount Waialeale - the wettest spot on earth; and the inaccessible, forbidding Na Pali range. These and other volcanic giants dominate Kauai's landscape and conceal within the island's interior some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

Waimea is a smaller version of Colorado's Grand Canyon, though not as bleak and forbidding. Nature has splashed rich greens and blues against the red and brown volcanic valleys. Of special interest are the lookout areas chosen because they offer the most panoramic views of the Canyon. Visitors are requested to park only in these designated areas as some stretches of mountain road narrows considerably. Superlatives spill from the tongue at each new view - each more spell-binding than the last. Culminating the skyward drive is Kalalau Valley Lookout. Kalalau Valley is so spectacular it will rob you of words, for it is the most dramatic sweep of valley, indescribably, the epitome of beauty which stirs up a flood of emotion, strangely washed over by serenity. It is a loveliness beyond compare upon which to feast the eyes while giving thanks for the precious gift of sight.

day weekdays, and \$8 weekends and holidays. Carts and clubs are available for \$10 and \$9, respectively.

Major hotels provide tennis courts and professional instructors. Pro shops at most hotels stock golf and tennis requirements.

The Kauai Surf Hotel at Kalapaki Beach is the only true high rise on the island. A high pali (hill) behind the hotel conceals the high structure from land view. Well manicured lawns set off by exotic tropical plants and flowers are a gardener's joy to behold. My personal feeling is that this hotel is too large and impersonal to fill my concept of a Hawaiian vacation.

The Sheraton Coconut Beach Hotel fits nicely into the Hawaiian theme, complete with coconut grove and movie set type rattan furniture in the Voyage Room where diners feast surrounded by genuine artifacts depicting Hawaii's ancient seafarers. The Sheraton Grove also conforms to Kauai's building code by standing the full height of a coconut tree - no higher, a comfortable island retreat, centrally located in Kapaa.

The new Waiohai and Sheraton at Poipu Beach sustained severe damage by Iwa. Though I was shown photographs of the incredible devastation of buildings, gardens and beach, I could detect no sign of damage. Not a blade of grass appears to have been touched. Both hotels bear mute testimony to the miracle of recreation, further confirming the dedication of those involved in assuring visitors Kauai is back to normal. Accommodation at both hotels is spacious and exceedingly comfortable.

Not pretentious

Less pretentious is the neat Kauai Resort, with a spectacular ocean view, beside Waialua River.

For a truly self-contained parcel of paradise there is but one choice - the fabulous Coco Palms Resort Hotel at Waialua. Its subtle opulence exudes a charm that transcends its obvious luxury. Naturally beautiful grounds weave through a vast coconut grove, enhanced by a lovely lagoon. Theme rooms are impeccably decorated, spacious and homey, yet titillating. The nightly torch lighting ceremony has no equal.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Doreen Simpson and her husband Eddy, of Brougham, have visited the Hawaiian Islands 13 times. Their special favourite is Kauai.

Morning's drive

A morning's drive to Haena will take you through tranquil Hanalei Valley with its expansive taro fields, and to some of the island's nicest beaches. Beaches at Kalihawai Bay, Anini, Hanalei and Lumahai and Lumahai are all accessible from the road. However, Lumahai, where most of South Pacific was filmed, is only for the sure-footed but worth the slippery descent and arduous climb back. Most recently a sequence for the TV miniseries The Thorn Birds was filmed at Haena Beach.

Sightseeing, surfing and sunbathing are not Kauai's only attractions. Shoppers will be delighted to know that the new Kukui Grove Center is open for business, and rivals the sprawling Market place at The Coconut Plantation. Both centers boast a variety of excellent stores and restaurants. Smaller centers are located throughout the island. A golfer's dream comes true on the well known Princeville Makai Golf Course at Hanalei.

Green fees

Green fees are \$30 per person for 18 holes. Carts are available for \$8 on a share basis. The Kauai Surf and Country Club offers an 18-hole, par 72 course on the 220-acre Hauai Surf Hotel grounds. Green fees for 18 holes, including a cart, are \$25-\$12.50 for 9 holes. For an economical day of golfing, try the course local golfers use - the Waialua Golf Course. Green fees are \$7 for a full-

Aerial Tour

The only way to see these remote areas is by helicopter. Several helicopter tour companies operate on the island. Compare prices and scope of area covered; and look in the many free publications for discount coupons for these tours, and other attractions. Be sure to take along lots of film. Nowhere on earth has nature created so many breathtaking waterfalls, languid pools, dancing rainbows, and sheer rugged beauty, as you will discover when you fly into this enchanted land.

Take a smooth boat ride on the Waialua River to the famous Fern Grotto where hundreds of weddings have been performed. A profusion of sword ferns hang from the moist roof of this mammoth cave while the surrounding jungle creates a natural amphitheater with incredible acoustics. The hauntingly lovely Hawaiian Wedding Song, sung by the boat crew to an enraptured audience will become a memory to recall time and time again.

Rent a car for the drive to Waimea Canyon. Tour buses are inclined to hurry. Set aside a day for this adventure and enjoy it at a leisurely pace. Known as the Grand Canyon of the Pacific,

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TRAVEL A BARGAIN SOMETIMES!

A holiday, whether it be to a sunny tropical paradise, aboard a Caribbean cruise liner or to the snowy ski slopes of Western Canada or Europe can represent one of the 'best value for dollar' purchases you can make if you shop wisely! So says Lawrence Elliott, owner of OMNIVENTURE TRAVEL in the Sherwood Plaza in Markham.

low seasons just slightly differently, it is not uncommon to find that in any given destination, one package represents a better buy on one date but perhaps another is preferable on a totally different date.

"The reputation of a tour operator is another important point to consider."

"Only professional advice can work towards protecting the consumer from getting left high and dry!"

George Martin of OMNIVENTURE, with over fifteen years as a professional travel consultant, says he enjoys just as much today, counsell-

ing clients on their vacation as he did when he started. "However," says George, "I have several hundreds of thousands of miles of travelling under my belt now and many more stamps in my passport to stand on as experience to advise my clients on what is best to fulfill the type of vacation they're looking for." George continues by saying, "travel really does represent excellent value for dollar and Canadians enjoy 'bargains' in holiday packages... when travelling outside of Canada, compared to what many consumers in other nations have to pay for a com-

parable holiday." However, George is quick to point out that he agrees fully with Lawrence that an apparent bargain can turn into a 'rip-off' or 'holiday disaster' if one doesn't spend time with and heed the advice of a professional travel agent. Open six days a week as well as Thursdays and Fridays till eight, OMNIVENTURE TRAVEL offers that professional advice and personal attention. George and Lawrence really enjoy their work and look forward to having you drop in to discuss your vacation over a cup of their very special coffee!

Lawrence advises that, "when you are laying out hard earned, after-tax dollars for that special vacation, you should visit a professional who will take the time to find out exactly what type of holiday you like and then counsel you on the best value for you during the particular time period you want to travel."

With ten years experience in Sales and Product Development in the wholesale and tour operator side of the travel industry, Lawrence says he draws on that background to judge "vacation value."

"Depending on market trends and many other factors, usually there are one or more particular 'sunspots' for example, that represent better value for dollar spent to get there, pay for the accommodation and also the money to enjoy oneself once you have arrived."

"As well, as most hotels, cruise lines, tour operators and airlines judge their high, shoulder, and

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Travel Agent Creates November 33rd

Allports Travel, Unionville, has created a brand new day to say **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!**

Allports Travel Counsellors, Unionville's own travel agent, created a new day all to itself, so that it can say thank you to the many people who travel on pleasure and business throughout the world. The travel agency wanted a singular day in the year, and looked at all three hundred and sixty five available.

ALL EXISTING DAYS WERE USED UP
 Allports found that every existing day was already used up. Some by a Monday, others by a Tuesday, and all the others too, right through to Sunday; also, every day belonged to someone's birthday or anniversary. So Allports Travel created November 33rd for its own special "Travellers Day!"

LIKE MAGIC IT APPEARS AT ANY TIME

Allports says it is purely coincidental that November 33rd appears to fall on December 3rd. The travel agency insists it just appears to do this because it is such a very special day... just like the Yellow Brick Road is a very special road. It's always there, and like magic can become visible at anytime... so can November 33rd! This magical day exists to say **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.**

DEEP RED ROSES IN THE SNOW

Allports Travel says that deep red roses will appear on November 33rd, even if fresh white snows lie over all the lands. Allports also promises that many more magical moments will happen, as we travel along with November 33rd. Why? Because it is a brand new and very, very special day created for you!

NOVEMBER 33
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