



KAUAI

Even from a distance, Kauai's emerald mountains elevate high above the ocean, giving you a glimpse of why this island is called the "Garden Isle" of the Pacific. It is believed Kauai was first discovered by the Marquesans around 400-600 AD, where they found fresh water from high waterfalls and fertile lands to plant all kinds of food, making it the perfect spot to live. It was called The Royal Coconut Coast.

Eventually Westerners began to arrive, the first being Captain James Cook, who landed on Kauai's Waimea beach in January 1778. Still to this day, 70% of the island is inaccessible by foot, yet holds 5.8 million years of natural beauty along with the most beaches, rivers and waterfalls of the Hawaiian Islands.

1. It is literally the most isolated inhabited landmasses in the world, being 2,390 miles from California, 3,850 miles from Japan, 4,900 miles from China and 5,280 miles from the Philippines.
2. Make sure to take one of Kauai's sailing tours along the Na Pali area, which is famous for gorgeous views of golden shores and deep jungle valleys, that stretches for 15 miles.
3. Waimea Canyon is approximately one mile wide, 3,600 feet deep and 10 miles in length. It's nickname is "The Grand Canyon of the Pacific."
4. Kauai's highest mountain is Kawaikini Peak at 5,243 feet and is the wettest spot on Earth, averaging 450 inches of rain per year.
5. Kauai's highest waterfall is Waipoo, falling 800 feet in Waimea Canyon.
6. More than 70 movies have been filmed on Kauai including Jurassic Park, Indiana Jones Raiders of the Lost Ark and Pirates of the Caribbean.
7. The Kilauea Lighthouse was built in 1913 on the northern part of Kauai with the world's largest clamshell lens. It was a significant factor during WWII in offering radio beacon signals to aviators especially for pilots veering off course while trying to land. Today it is the only lighthouse in Hawaii open to visitors.
8. In August of 2000, Puka Dog opened its little blue hot dog hut doors in Kekaha at the base of Waimea Canyon. It took the simple "hot-dog" and revolutionized it with mouth-watering relishes and secret sauces from tropical fruits and plants grown on Kauai.
9. One of the best spots to truly appreciate Mother Nature's creations is Kauai Tropical Paradise. Known as "The Coconut Coast" it holds 30-acres of botanical and cultural gardens and is home to Kauai's most popular luau that has been family owned for four generations.
10. Did you know that Kauai's Building Code states "no building shall be taller than a Coconut Palm", basically no taller than a 4 story building!
11. Kauai's unofficial "Bird of Paradise" is the island's wild Rooster.
12. On Kauai's South Shore, the Spouting Horn blowhole holds a legend. Kaikapu, a giant moo (*lizard*), guarded her domain so fiercely that any who entered, would be eaten. One day, a boy named Liko entered the ocean to outwit the lizard. Kaikapu attacked him, but Liko thrust a sharp stick into her mouth, swam under the lava shelf, and escaped through a small hole to the surface. She followed Liko and got stuck in the lava tube and to this day, you can hear her roars and see her breath spraying from the blowhole.
13. Hawaii has no native land reptiles or amphibians and only two native mammals, the hoary bat and the monk seal. Kauai is the only island without the pesky mongoose, which were imported to control rodents but got out of control.