

THE HETERO-FRIENDLY GAY TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# PASSPORT

PARADISE FOUND  
**KAUAI**

WHAT'S NEW IN  
**MIAMI**

WORLD EATS  
**VENICE**

**YANGTZE**  
RIVER CRUISE

GLOBETROTTING  
**TANZANIA**

EXPLORING  
**CHILE'S**  
PATAGONIA

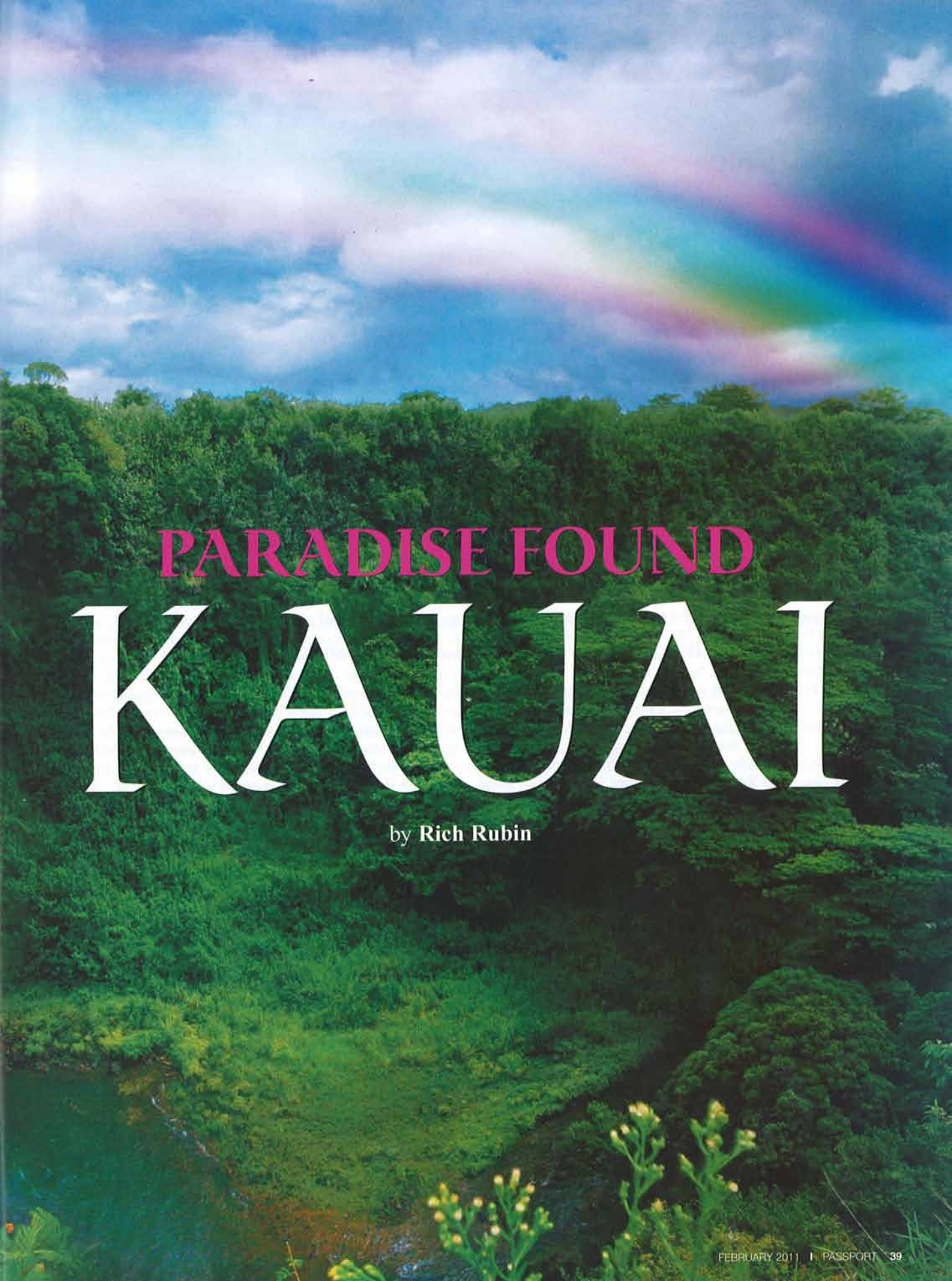
FLYING THE  
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INSIDER'S GUIDE  
**PHILADELPHIA**

FEBRUARY 2011  
USA \$4.95 CANADA \$5.95



+ **92** LGBT CRUISES!



PARADISE FOUND

# KAUAI

by Rich Rubin



Kilauea Lighthouse

Photo: Can Balcioglu

## The first decision to make about Kauai is where you want to situate yourself, as the different areas of the island have very distinct atmospheres.

Of course, my camera has been very active during all these botanical visits, and the next morning I arise before dawn and set out on one of the most wonderful adventures of my trip: a “photo safari” with Brian Ross of **Photos Safaris Hawaii**. “Photography means, literally, writing with light,” says Ross as we stand on a darkened, pre-dawn north coast beach that used to be the site of the hippie colony Taylor Camp. As I look at the first threads of magenta appearing in the distant sky, Brian comments, “People tend to focus on the object, rather than the light on the object.” I’m soon looking at Kauai’s amazing scenery in a totally different way. What used to be a beach has now become a series of points, vertical and horizontal quadrants, and a set of light patterns making their way across the scene and illuminating it in an ever-changing variety of patterns.

After a stop at **Kilauea Bakery** (we photographers do need our baked goods and caffeine, and they have the best on the island), we venture up the road to the famous **Kilauea Lighthouse**, a north coast landmark, poised at the end of a spit of land, with birds nesting in the trees around it. I’m amazed at how Ross’ tips improve my photos, and I highly recommend the photo safari to not only see some of the island’s hidden beauty spots but to record them in a way that preserves the experience most effectively.

You’ll put your lessons to use as you head out across this photogenic island, where a simple drive becomes an hours-long series of photo stops, or just pauses to gaze. Everywhere you turn there’s something to look at, whether it’s an unspoiled beach or a rich mountain range. As I drive from Hanalei to Poipu, I stop at overlook after overlook, from the one outside Hanalei that looks over the perfect geometry of the taro fields, mountains rising in the distance, to the twin overlooks with views of tumbling Opaekaa Falls, and the glorious Wailua River, Kauai’s only navigable river and site of many a kayaking or picnicking venture.

Feeling more adventurous? Companies like **Jack Harter Helicopters**

and **Air Ventures** swoop you over this stunning landscape, the former in helicopters and the latter in six-seater planes. Many believe this is the best way to get a look at the Na Pali coast, Waimea Canyon, Wailua Falls, and deserted north coast beaches.

Speaking of deserted beaches, you absolutely must do a trip by boat along the Na Pali Coast. Sign up with **Kauai Sea Tours**, and you can choose the traditional catamaran ride, which glides you along this unspoiled stretch of ragged cliffs, hidden beaches, rushing waterfalls, and historic fishing villages, virtually unchanged for centuries. If you’re lucky, you’ll also see some cavorting dolphins or humpback whales along the journey. They also offer a rafting tour along the coast, which brings you closer to the caves, beside cliffs, and under waterfalls, than a standard boat can do. With **Holo Holo Charters** you can add in a snorkeling trip to **Niihau**, the “forbidden island,” which is closed off to the public.

For a tree-top view of the island, zip-lining is the way to go with lines strung in several locales for you to soar above the scenery as you hang in a little belt contraption from the forest canopy cable. One unique take on this experience is the Ride ‘n’ Glide offered by **Princeville Ranch Adventures**, on the north coast, which combines zip-lining with horseback riding for two distinct ways to see the scenery.

For an old-fashioned type like me, nothing beats my own pedal power. So I pick up a pair of wheels from the nice folks at **Coconut Coasters Bike Rental** and set out on the newly designed Ke Ala Hele Makalae, a bicycle/walking trail along the eastern, or coconut coast (so named for the large amount of palms planted there). I take off from the town of Kapaa, gliding past ferns and sea hibiscus, the highway on my right, mountains off in the distance. I’m joined on the path by the occasional fellow biker, a few walkers, and, of course, chickens. This is the only bike trail I’ve ever been on where the introduction includes how to deal with chickens crossing the road!

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Hanalei Colony Resort**, 5-7130 Kuhio Highway, Haena. Tel: 808-826-6235. Two-bedroom condo units from \$255-\$440. Laidback, charming spot right on one of Kauai's prettiest stretches of ocean. [www.hcr.com](http://www.hcr.com)

**Koa Kea**, 2251 Poipu Rd, Koloa. Tel: 808-828-8888. Doubles \$329-\$800. Kauai's first design hotel is a stunner, a boutique experience nestled among the mega-resorts. [www.koakea.com](http://www.koakea.com)

**St. Regis**, 5520 Ka Haku Road, Princeville. Tel: 808-826-9644. Doubles \$415-\$2,055. The island's luxury leader, with fancy restaurant and spacious, lovely rooms. [www.stregisprinceville.com](http://www.stregisprinceville.com)

**Waimea Plantation Cottages**, 9400 Kaunualii Highway, Waimea. Tel: 800-9-WAIMEA. 1-3 bedroom cottages \$225-\$443. A special little resort in the southwest, with cottages scattered across the oceanside landscape. [www.waimea-plantation.com](http://www.waimea-plantation.com)

**RESTAURANTS**

**22 Degrees North**, Kaunualii Highway, Lihue. Tel: 808-245-9593. Farm to table means freshness at this alluring restaurant at Kilohana Plantation. [www.22northkauai.com](http://www.22northkauai.com)

**Hamura Saimin**, 2956 Kress St., Lihue. Tel: 808-245-3271. Amazingly affordable noodle shop with its signature dessert, liliko'i (passionfruit) chiffon pie.

**Hanalei Juice and Taro Stand**, 5-5070 Kuhio Highway, Hanalei. Tel: 808-826-1059. Simple lunches from lau lau chicken to kalua pig, with the freshest poi on island. [www.hanaleitaro.com](http://www.hanaleitaro.com)

**Josselin's Tapas Bar and Grill**, Kukui'ula Village, Poipu. Tel: 808-742-7117. One of the founders of the Hawaii Regional Cuisine movement, Jean-Marie Josselin, provides a series of taste delights in this amazing new restaurant. [www.josselins.com](http://www.josselins.com)

**Kalaheo Café and Coffee Company**, 2-2560 Kaunualii Highway, Kalaheo. Tel: 808-332-5858. Long a breakfast/lunch favorite, this winning café now serves dinner as well. [www.kalaheo.com](http://www.kalaheo.com)

**Kauai Grill**, 5520 Ka Haku Road, Princeville. Tel: 808-826-9644. Jean-George Vongerichten's Kauai outpost gives you favorites from his many restaurants. [www.stregisprinceville.com](http://www.stregisprinceville.com)

**Mediterranean Gourmet**, 5-7132 Kuhio Highway, Haena. Tel: 808-826-9875. Chef Imad Beydoun combines his Lebanese background with fresh Hawaii ingredients for a winning menu. [www.kauaimedgourmet.com](http://www.kauaimedgourmet.com)

**Merriman's**, Kukui'ula Village, Poipu. Tel: 808-742-8385. Fine dining in this new locale by the famed Big Island restaurateur, another one of the "godfathers of Hawaii Regional Cuisine." [www.merrimanshawaii.com](http://www.merrimanshawaii.com)

**Merriman's Downstairs Cafe**, Kukui'ula Village, Poipu. Tel: 808-742-2856. A casual outpost downstairs from the fine dining restaurant, offering fresh, local cuisine. [www.merrimanshawaii.com](http://www.merrimanshawaii.com)

**COFFEE/LIGHT BITES**

**Blue Planet Café**, 3900 Hanapepe Rd., Hanapepe. Tel: 808-335-5100. Sweet little coffeehouse with entertainment on Friday nights and "Java, wifi, and love" at all times. [www.blueplanet.net](http://www.blueplanet.net)

**Java Kai**, 5-5183C Kuhio Highway, Hanalei. Tel: 808-826-6717. Also at 4-1384 Kuhio Highway, Kapaa. Tel: 808-823-6887. Laid back coffeehouse is perfect for espresso, pastries, and people watching. [www.javakai.com](http://www.javakai.com)

**Kilauea Bakery**, Kong Lung Center, Keneke St., Kilauea. Tel: 808-828-2020. The best baked goods on the island, from breakfast pastries to pizza.

**Living Foods Market**, Kukui'ula Village, Poipu. Tel: 808-742-2323. Nice little market in this upscale shopping mall has great baked goods and coffee to enjoy there as well as a range of gourmet groceries for the perfect picnic. [www.livingfoodskaui.com](http://www.livingfoodskaui.com)

**Na Pali Art Gallery & Coffee House**, 5-7130 Kuhio Highway, Haena. Tel: 808-826-1844. This coffee-house/gallery is a favorite both for guests at Hanalei Colony Resort and locals grabbing morning caffeine. [www.napaligallery.com](http://www.napaligallery.com)

**ACTIVITIES**

**Air Ventures Hawaii**. Tel: 866-464-7864. Family run by lifelong Kauai residents, this company provides a unique overview of the island from six-person planes. [www.airventureshawaii.com](http://www.airventureshawaii.com)

**Allerton Gardens**, 4408 Lawai Rd., Koloa. Tel: 808-742-2623. Spectacular plantings just a few minutes from the heart of Poipu Beach. [www.ntbg.org](http://www.ntbg.org)

**Coconut Coasters Bike Rental**, 1586 Kuhio Highway, Kapaa. Tel: 808-822-RENT. Pick up a bicycle from these friendly folks and head down the coastal bicycle/walking path, several miles of oceanside beauty just steps from Coconut Coasters' headquarters. [www.coconutcoasters.com](http://www.coconutcoasters.com)

**Holo Holo Charters**, Tel: 800-848-6130. Boat trips along the Na Pali coast and over to Niihau, the "forbidden island." [www.holoholokauaiboattours.com](http://www.holoholokauaiboattours.com)

**Jack Harter Helicopters**. Tel: 888-245-2001. Seeing the island from the air gives you a whole new perspective on its beauty. [www.helicopters-kauai.com](http://www.helicopters-kauai.com)

**Kauai Sea Tours**. Tel: 800-733-7997. Explore the Na Pali coast by catamaran or raft for an unforgettable experience. [www.kauaiseatours.com](http://www.kauaiseatours.com)

**Kilohana Plantation**, 3-2087 Kaunualii Highway, Lihue. Tel: 808-245-5608. A working farm/plantation, best toured on the vintage steam railway. [www.kilohanakauai.com](http://www.kilohanakauai.com)

**Koloa Rum Company**, T3-2087 Kaunualii Highway, Lihue. Tel: 808-246-8900. Tasting room for Kauai's new and estimable rum producer. [www.koloarum.com](http://www.koloarum.com)

**Limahuli Garden and Preserve**, 5-8291 Kuhio Highway, Haena. Tel: 808-826-1053. Dedicated to local flora, this stunning garden shows you the botanical wealth of Kauai. [www.ntbg.org](http://www.ntbg.org)

**McBryde Gardens**, 4425 Lawai Rd., Poipu. Tel: 808-742-2623. Streams, waterfalls, and lush plantings make this a cornucopia of Hawaiian fertility. [www.ntbg.org](http://www.ntbg.org)

**Na Aina Kai Botanical Garden**, 4101 Wailapa Road, Kilauea. Tel: 808-828-0525. Whimsical sculpture scattered throughout 240 acres of gardens. [www.naainakai.com](http://www.naainakai.com)

**Photo Safari Hawaii**, Tel: 888-565-3185. A combination of island exploration and photo tips from a pro. [www.photosafarihawaii.com](http://www.photosafarihawaii.com)

**Princeville Ranch Adventures**, Tel: 888-955-7669. Ziplining, horseback riding, hiking, and all combinations thereof. [www.kauaiadventures.com](http://www.kauaiadventures.com)

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**

**Kauai Visitors Bureau**. [www.kauaidiscovery.com](http://www.kauaidiscovery.com)



View to Bali Hai