



THE ISLAND OF KAUA'I
"Hawai'i's Island of Discovery"
Fact Sheet

Land Mass:	552 square miles (1380 square km)
Population:	58,303 (2000)
Principal City:	Līhu'e
Flower:	Mokihana
Color:	Purple

GEOGRAPHY

Northernmost, first populated and geographically oldest Kaua'i is the fourth largest of the Hawaiian Islands. It was built by a massive volcano, of which Mt. Wai'ale'ale, at 5,148 feet (1,569 m), is the eastern rim.

The island has 90 miles (145 km) of coastline and is remarkable for its spectacular and widely varied landscape, from desert-like Waimea Canyon, "The Grand Canyon of the Pacific," to the velvety green Napali Coast, with cliffs rising 2,700 feet.

CLIMATE

Average temperature ranges from 71° F (22° C) in February and March to 79° F (26° C) in August and September. Cooler temperatures in the mountain areas offer a pleasant contrast to warmer coastal areas. Rainfall varies in different sections of the island, with a comfortable average of 20 inches a year in the most populated sections.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES

Sugarcane, fruit, vegetables, taro, beef, and tourism.

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RECREATION

Swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, fishing, golf, helicopter tours, tennis, hiking, camping, horseback riding, museums, gardens, sightseeing, cultural exhibits, and attractions.

BRIEF HISTORY

The first settlers came to Kaua'i around 200 A.D., about 500 years before the rest of the Islands were settled. The Islanders enjoyed a balanced environment and followed the social codes of the day, sometimes rigid, sometimes quite liberal. Through a succession of kings, the island prospered. Captain James Cook landed on Kaua'i first, coming ashore at Waimea in 1778, forever changing the status of this isolated group of islands.

Kaua'i is distinguished as being the only island that resisted takeover attempts by King Kamehameha during his quest to unify the islands under one rule. King Kaumuali'i on Kaua'i finally conceded that upon his death, the island would fall under Kamehameha's rule. The island remained an independent kingdom until 1810.

FASCINATING FACTS

- Kaua'i has more miles of beach per coastline than any other island.
- Kaua'i has more hiking trails than any other island.
- Today, no building is permitted to be built over 4 stories (roughly the height of a palm tree).
- Kaua'i is home to four of the top-ranked 12 golf courses in the state.
- Kaua'i has the only navigable rivers in the state.

TOP-RATED ATTRACTIONS

- Waimea Canyon State Park
- Kōke'e State Park
- National Tropical Botanical Gardens
- Napali Coast State Park
- Spouting Horn
- Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge
- Po'ipū Beach
- Hanapēpē Town