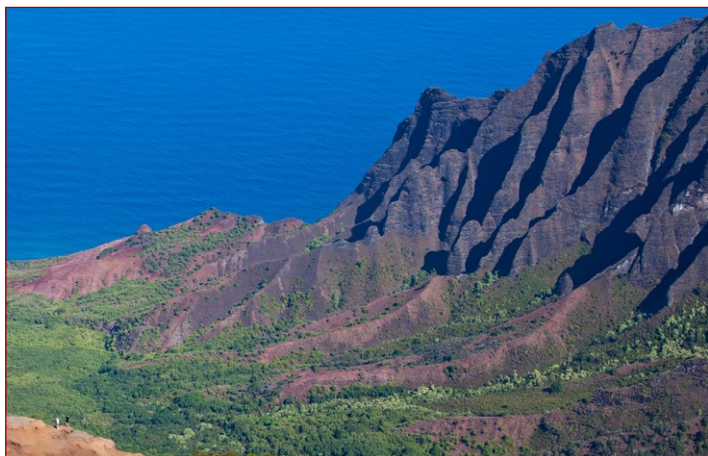


## Self Driving On Scenic Kauai



Many Kiwis are now opting to self-drive in the Hawaiian Islands—especially the repeat travellers who are really looking to explore, and Kauai is a great self-drive destination, even for those who aren't confident with driving on the 'wrong side' of the road.

Rental car operator Avis/Budget has noted a spike in its Kiwi car rental inquiry in Hawaii. "Backed by our coupon offers and our exclusive Makana gift book, Avis and Budget car rental have seen a significant uptake in car rental enquiry on Oahu (including convertibles) and the neighbouring islands where renters find it easy to navigate around the stunning and picturesque road ways of Hawaii," says Avis/Budget New Zealand's Guy Robinson.

There's a seemingly endless list of geographical wonders and scenic vistas across Kauai, as well as numerous hikes and trails to suit all abilities for Kiwis looking to really explore the island.



Waimea Canyon is coined the Grand Canyon of the Pacific and should be included on a self-drive itinerary. Hawaii Tourism New Zealand manager Darragh Walshe urges agents to tell their clients to make sure they drive all the way to the end of the Waimea Canyon road, and then take the five-10 minute walk to the vantage point over the the Kalalau Valley (pictured). "It's my favourite vista," adds Walshe.

### Top Five Events

Kauai now boasts a year-long calendar of festivals and events for clients looking for reasons to visit the so-called Garden Isle.

The 35th Annual Waimea Town Celebration is being held next Feb ([wkbpa.org/events.html](http://wkbpa.org/events.html)); the annual May Day celebrations are held each May ([kauaimuseum.org/](http://kauaimuseum.org/)) along with the annual Kauai Polynesian Festival ([kauaipolynesianfestival.org/](http://kauaipolynesianfestival.org/)). Other popular events include the Koloa Plantation Days held every Jul ([koloaplantationdays.com/](http://koloaplantationdays.com/)) and the annual Coconut Festival ([kbakauai.org/Pages/coconut-festival](http://kbakauai.org/Pages/coconut-festival)). For the island's full line-up, see [kauaifestivals.com](http://kauaifestivals.com)

### A Little Culture

The laid back, small town feel of Kauai is one of its key drawcards for Kiwi travellers. For clients in Kauai on a Fri, urge them to visit Hanapepe, one of Kauai's many charming plantation towns, says Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe. "Every Fri night they hold an art night where over 16 art galleries are open to the public; meet Kauai artists, enjoy local music and wonderful food," he adds. For details, see [hanapepe.org/#/friday-art-night/](http://hanapepe.org/#/friday-art-night/)

### GO Kauai Extended

GO Holidays has extended sales of its first ever stand-alone Kauai campaign, in response to high demand, says the wholesaler. Sales for the Kauai packages, offered in conjunction with Hawaiian Airlines and including Kauai add-on flights from \$49 pp are now valid through to 10 Jun. Accommodation options include two nights at the Sheraton Kauai (pictured) from \$399pp, for stays to 23 Jun, 14 Aug-15 Sep and 04 Oct-15 Dec. Extra nights are available.

### Captain Aloha's Top Kauai Trip Tips

Kauai is a favourite with Hawaiian Airlines New Zealand manager Russell Williss for its laid back pace, small town feel and stunning scenery. While he struggled to pick just three top tips, as Williss says there's so many things to do on the island, the so-called Captain Aloha has narrowed it down.

#### 1 A Holo Holo Napali Coast cruise.

The Napali coast is a definite must-see for Kauai-bound Kiwis and urge clients to pre-book a Holo Holo Napali Coast cruise. It's an experience they won't forget—especially during the whale watching season (Dec-May). There's afternoon snorkeling or sunset options. For details, see [holoholokauaiboatours.com/kauai\\_boat\\_tours/](http://holoholokauaiboatours.com/kauai_boat_tours/)

#### 2 Waterfalls a-plenty.

Kauai is home to Mt Waialeale said to be one of the

wettest places on earth. And with water—comes waterfalls, says Williss. Many are only accessible by helicopter or sea—but there's also some easily accessible options, he adds. Wailua Falls near Lihue will sort all ages as requires no hiking and the 24 foot high falls are a must-see. There's also the Opaekaa Falls, which are again easily accessible just a brief walk from the car park.

#### 3 Eating out.

There's a vast number of places from the local hole in the wall restaurants offering hearty fare through to beach front fine dining. But for clients looking for something a little different, send them to Merriman's Gourmet Pizza & Burgers Poipu. Tell them to order a bacon bloody mary and ahi poke pizza. See [merrimanshawaii.com/gourmet-pizza-burgers/menus/](http://merrimanshawaii.com/gourmet-pizza-burgers/menus/)



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