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The Whales Of Kauai

By Daniel Thomas

Mount Everest, the Grand Canyon, and Niagara Falls are all marvels of the natural world. But one of nature's greatest spectacles lies in one of the planet's most remote areas.

The majestic Na Pali Coast of Kauai is a spectacular wilderness area that the typical tourist will never see. Located along Kauai's remote North Shore, the Na Pali Coast is an awe-inspiring 6,175 acres; and although it has been converted into a state park, and remains as isolated from civilization as it was many centuries ago. Practically inaccessible to vehicular traffic, the Na Pali Coast is ideal for adventurous hikers and campers. However, to truly appreciate the unmitigated view of the famous and breathtaking cliffs, your best bet is to travel by helicopter or boat.

If fate allows you to cruise the 15-mile stretch of Na Pali Coastline, you will witness an awesome view of the stunning 4,000-foot cliffs. The area was named for these rugged cliffs, as "pali" is the Hawaiian word for "cliffs". As you near the coastline, you will see these cliffs rising abruptly from the Pacific Ocean, occasionally giving way to gaps and revealing wide stretches of golden sand, deep jungle valleys and the mysterious sea caves between.

Winter is the best time to go on a cruise up and down the Na Pali Coast, as that is when the humpback whales frequent the Kauai waters. If you take a chartered ship, your captain will likely know exactly where these wonderful sea creatures can be seen. Truly fortunate sight-seekers will have the opportunity to take pictures and enjoy a spectacular show by these playful dirigibles of the deep as they perform with sea turtles, dolphins and other oceanic creatures.

Humpback whales can be measure 40 feet in length and can weigh up to 85,000 pounds. The fifth largest of the world's greatest whales, humpbacks are seen only in Hawaii over the winter months. Federal law protects these breathtaking creatures, so their population is rising. Plan a tour of the Na Pali Coast during humpback season, and you're sure to witness a fantastic spectacle of nature.

Na Pali boat tours are not necessarily restricted to the coastline. Both Hanakapiai and Kalalau Beach (named one of America's Top 40 Beaches by the National Geographic Traveler) are well-known Na Pali Coast State Park destinations. You can also visit the famous arch of Honopu, or the stunning

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fringing reefs of Nualolo and Milolii.

Depending on your itinerary and how adventurous you feel, the tour options you choose can be as wildly exciting as the Na Pali coastline itself. Most boat companies launch their charter tours from west side harbours. However, you can choose to sail from the quaint town of Hanalei if you choose to charter one of the smaller companies. Cruises to Ni'ihau are also available, providing you the opportunity to stop for a bit of snorkeling and scuba diving.

Tips to Successful Kauai Whale Watching:

- * Choose a professional boat company, with a captain who knows where to find the whales and more importantly, respects the safety and environment of the whales

- * Catamarans, cruise vessels, sailboats and rubber zodiac rafts are all good choices for whale

watching

- * Bring your camera so that you can preserve this incredible sight forever. You could be in for a wet ride, especially if you'll be riding in the bow area of the boat. Consider bringing waterproof, disposable cameras.

- * Binoculars give you a closer observation of whale behavior, but they can be tricky to use if the water is rough. Your best bet for binoculars is to choose a pair with 8 x 40, or 7 x 50 dimensions.

- * Keep a keen eye. You could see spinner dolphins, sea turtles, albatross and other sea birds and animals, in addition to humpback whales. Pay attention and see what you can spot in the air and in the water.

- * Dress accordingly. Wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Remember, you'll be in a boat, so be prepared to get wet. Wear your beach clothes, and bring a towel. If you decide to bring extra clothes to change into, make sure you keep them in a waterproof bag.

- * If you are prone to motion sickness, be sure to take homeopathic or non-prescription motion sickness prevention medication at least one hour before getting on a boat. Your trip will likely include the North Shore, where winter waves can swell to 10–30 feet, so the ride can get very bumpy at higher speeds. Medicated motion sickness treatments can make you drowsy and you don't want to miss a thing, so consider a non-medicinal alternative. Dry bread, crackers, ginger, papaya and avoiding alcohol can help reduce nausea.

Traveling is a great way to witness nature's most impressive sites firsthand, but the truly adventurous travelers go to where others only dream of. When planning your next journey, plan on cruising the Na Pali coastline with humpback whales. It will be an experience you'll never forget.

Daniel Thomas contributes to several online magazines, such as

<http://bivec.com>

and

<http://kesaw.com>

Soaring Sights In Kauai Found Only By Helicopter

By Gina Sarento

Kauai helicopter tours are a great way to see the island of Kauai, especially parts that are not as accessible by foot or car. This is a fun and adventurous way to explore the beauty of the island of Kauai. Kauai helicopter tours are a lot of fun and they are also educational. For people who have never been on Kauai helicopter tours before or who may not have been in a helicopter before, you may feel uneasy and wonder about the safety of the helicopter. Not to worry, though, because Kauai helicopter tours are extremely safe. Will Squyres Kauai helicopter tours have been in business for more than twenty years. During this time they have a perfect safety record.

Will Squyres Kauai helicopter tours is a family owned business that has been giving tours of the island for over twenty years. They take pride in their personal touch and family feel to ensure all people on the tour feel safe and secure during the trip. Since 1984 the Kauai helicopter tours have a perfect safety record. They take FAA standards to a new level and surpass the minimum standards required to make sure you have the safest trip possible. During their tenure in business, they have received many awards for excellence in safety as well as customer satisfaction. They are a member of the Tour Operators Program of Safety, also known as TOPS, and have a dedication to making sure each tour is a safe one. Families and individuals alike will take comfort in knowing that this business is second to none when it comes to safety procedures. National Geographic Traveler, Kauai Underground and The New Yorker Magazine have all featured articles on these Kauai helicopter tours.

The island of Kauai has been home to many movie scenes including Jurassic Park. The Kauai helicopter tours have scouted locations and are well known for finding the ultimate in beautiful scenery. While on the Kauai helicopter tours, you may just see some familiar terrain while exploring. The terrain itself is magnificent. During the Kauai helicopter tours you will see vast mountains that are simply breathtaking to observe. Kauai also boasts many caves that have a fascinating history. Waterways abound in the area and the beauty of the water is second to none. For those who are interested in the foliage, there is unique flora and fauna as well as rich red dirt and pristine green vistas. These sights and more will be explored during the Kauai helicopter tours.

The pilots on Kauai helicopter tours are knowledgeable about the history and origins of the island. This extra bonus will take an already enjoyable sight seeing tour and take it to a new level. You will also get an education on myths, legends and the history of the area. While on one of the Kauai helicopter tours, you will be able to see fascinating sights and get the history behind each area. This full accounting of the island is sure to leave a lasting impression on anyone who participates in it. Kauai helicopter tours can be especially fascinating for people who are looking to purchase a second home or a regular vacation rental on the island. They can get to know the island intimately and learn all there is to know

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about the wonders that exist there. Making a decision such as buying an expensive home on an Hawaiian island is not something one goes into lightly. So, knowing as much as possible about the area is a wise decision. Kauai helicopter tours can help accommodate this both visually and intellectually.

When participating in Kauai helicopter tours, you should make sure to bring a camera or a video camera. This is especially true if you are on vacation and taking a one time trip that is not likely to recur again anytime soon. You will be able to memorialize your trip and look back on it for years to come. When you return from your vacation you can regale family and friends with your tales of the adventure

you took and show them visuals in the form of pictures or video as to how you enjoyed your trip and what sights you saw. You may even be able to convince others to take a trip there to see first hand the beauty you encountered.

Kauai helicopter tours cost one hundred eight nine dollars per person. The tours will last approximately one hour and will take you to all the majestic sites that can be found on the island. The tour is a great way to have fun and is also a very safe way to tour the island.

More information on Kauai Helicopter Tours can be found at our site. We recommend booking your tour as soon as possible as flights can fill up. Enjoy the island by air Helicopters Hawaii

<http://www.helicopters-hawaii.com>

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