

26 Feb ~ Tuesday, Waimea Canyon, Raven Lecture.

Kaua'i is aptly named the Garden Island. Bougainvilleas and other exotic blooms like the Cup of Gold line the roadside and in towns become hedges.

We have chosen to take a side trip to Waiema Canyon; the Grand Canyon of the Pacific. The bus is small. Nani (meaning beautiful), our driver, is very interesting and keeps up a steady chatter imparting her knowledge. She teaches us some Hawaiian words.

Hanapepe = Bay crushed by landslides

Wiki wiki = Quick

Pee pee = Cow

Poo poo = Hoers d'ouvre

Lū'au = Party

So if you are invited for beef snacks at a party it is a 'pee pee poo poo loo.' Sounds enticing.

The language has only 12 letters and only about 70,000 words. There is no word for temperature because it varies so little.

There are seven rivers on this island.



142.

A condo sells for \$2.6m so the young folks leave.

The medical center in Kōloa used to be situated next to the mortuary. The doctors decided that was not a good idea, so moved.

The tall slender Cooks pines, similar to Norfolk pines, were introduced by Captain Cook.

When a lady wears a flower in her hair to the right, it means she is looking for a man. To the left, she is taken.

At Kalāheo is a 4,000 acre coffee plantation. Coffee grows as a tall shrub.

Nani explains some of the old remedies. The red earth is iron oxide, but I'm not sure I want to eat it to cure an ulcer.

At the Hanapēpē Valley Lookout we admire the vista.

Taro is boiled to produce poi, a staple of the Hawaiian diet. Nani has a friend who makes (potato) chips from it. She stops at a rather nondescript house and returns with several packets of chips made from various fruits and vegetables. I think they are interesting, but prefer potato chips.

We drive through Ele 'ele which means black.

146. Hanapēpē Valley.



The town of Hanapēpē was used in the mini-series the *Thornbirds*. Pioneer seed corn produces and exports from here.

Our group strides across the Hanapēpē swinging suspension bridge over the Waimea River. If you get out of step with the movement of the bridge, it becomes quite disconcerting. The original suspension bridge was destroyed by Hurricane Iniki in 1992 but a new one was rebuilt in 1996.



151. Hanapēpē swinging suspension bridge.



152. Notice how the bridge buckles under our weight.

Captain Cook's statue gazes at us as we pass by.

The road rises steeply and begins a series of hairpin bends. Nani complains about trees encroaching on the road. These can scratch the coaches. Nani tells us to look right as she makes a sharp left turn. "Ahhh!"

We glimpse Kekaha Beach and Niihau Island 16 miles out, owned by the Robinson family. The family's ancestors bought the island in 1864 from Kamehameha V for \$10,000 in gold.

The canyon is a State Park. Locals voted against it being designated a National Park. That would have stopped all hunting and fishing. The waters are stocked with Rainbow Trout and Bass. The floor of the canyon is 2857ft above sea level. The walls of the canyon rise 3400ft. It is a mile across. The earth and rock, bright red contrasting with lush green vegetation. We gaze across the canyon from a look out point.



165. Waimea Canyon.



161. Waimea Canyon.

Time to descend. Nani makes an unscheduled stop at the Pu'u Hinahina lookout and directs traffic around our coach. This is where the canyon begins. To our right is a waterfall.

"Look, there's a goat."

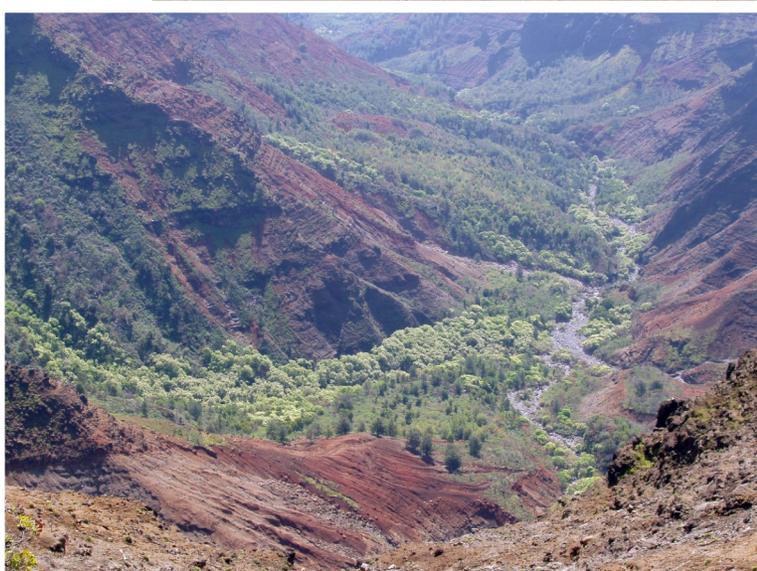
Ours is a small bus, so Nani drives us back along the Waimea Canyon Drive. A large bus could not navigate such a winding road. To our right the ocean splashes yellow beaches. To our left the canyon walls drop away as steep cliffs. It is breathtaking.



166. Jan & Nani.



168. Pu'u Hinahina.



172.



178. We look down at a farm on the valley floor.

It is just a short walk through the grounds of the Outrigger Kiahuna Plantation back to our hotel. The Outrigger resort is built on the grounds of what was the plantation manager's estate of Hawaii's first sugar plantation, Koloa Plantation. Moir Gardens was developed by Alexandra Moir while her husband was the company manager in the 1930s. The garden was first opened to the public in 1954 and includes rare cactus and succulents, bromeliads, orchids, mature drought tolerant trees, and water lily ponds.

We complete our descent into the town of Waimea and retrace our route to Po'ipū. Here we lunch on the veranda at Tropical Burgers in the small shopping center. The shops resemble individual huts linked by covered walkways, surrounded by tropical shrubs.



183. Lunch.



184. Kiahuna Plantation.



187. Pools and Cactus.

188. Bromeliads and Orchids.

Our group assembles outside the ballroom room in the Sheraton. The ladies receive shell leis, the men leis made from the Kukui nut. Shiny brown or black, these nuts were prized for their oil. When skewered on a stick and lighted, they provide candle illumination. The nut was also used as a purgative.



190. The Sheraton.

Hawaii, currently the largest island, began over a million years ago as five separate volcanoes. The islands furthest north have eroded down to atolls.

Kilauea has been erupting continuously since 1983. Much of Mauna Kea is below sea level, but from top to bottom it measures 33,000ft and if one counts what has sunk into the ocean floor, it is 56,000ft tall, whilst Everest is only 29,000ft.

The safe won't open. Security arrives with a small hand held computer.

"Sir, you should use a number you can remember."

"I do, it is my birth date."

Chuck Blay, a geologist, presents a slide show (A Raven Interpretive Lecture) illustrating the geologic history of the islands. The Hawaiian Islands are situated near the middle of the Pacific Tectonic Plate on top of a hot spot. This plate is moving northwest at about the same speed as fingernails grow. The result is the formation of a series of volcanic islands stretching from the Big Island of Hawaii for 1,500 miles towards Japan and the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.



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