

explorare

A TRAVELER'S GUIDE

Na Pali Coast: Vacation of the Year

Best Activities, Best Solitude, Best Price, Best View

In This Issue

Uncovered Roman Buildings in Spain

Mayan Ruins in Chichén Itzá

Visiting Vegas with No Cash

Shopping in Tokyo

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

This inaugural issue of *Explōrāre* is a journey to fantastic locations throughout the world. Our contributing authors will guide you through the crowded rail stations of Tokyo, and ancient Roman ruins in Santiponce, Spain. You will discover the architectural beauty of Mont Saint Michel in Normandy, France, and learn about Pueblo cliff villages in Mesa Verde, Colorado. The massive structures in Chichén Itzá and scenic landscape of Coole Park, Ireland will infuse your mind with wonder and imagination.

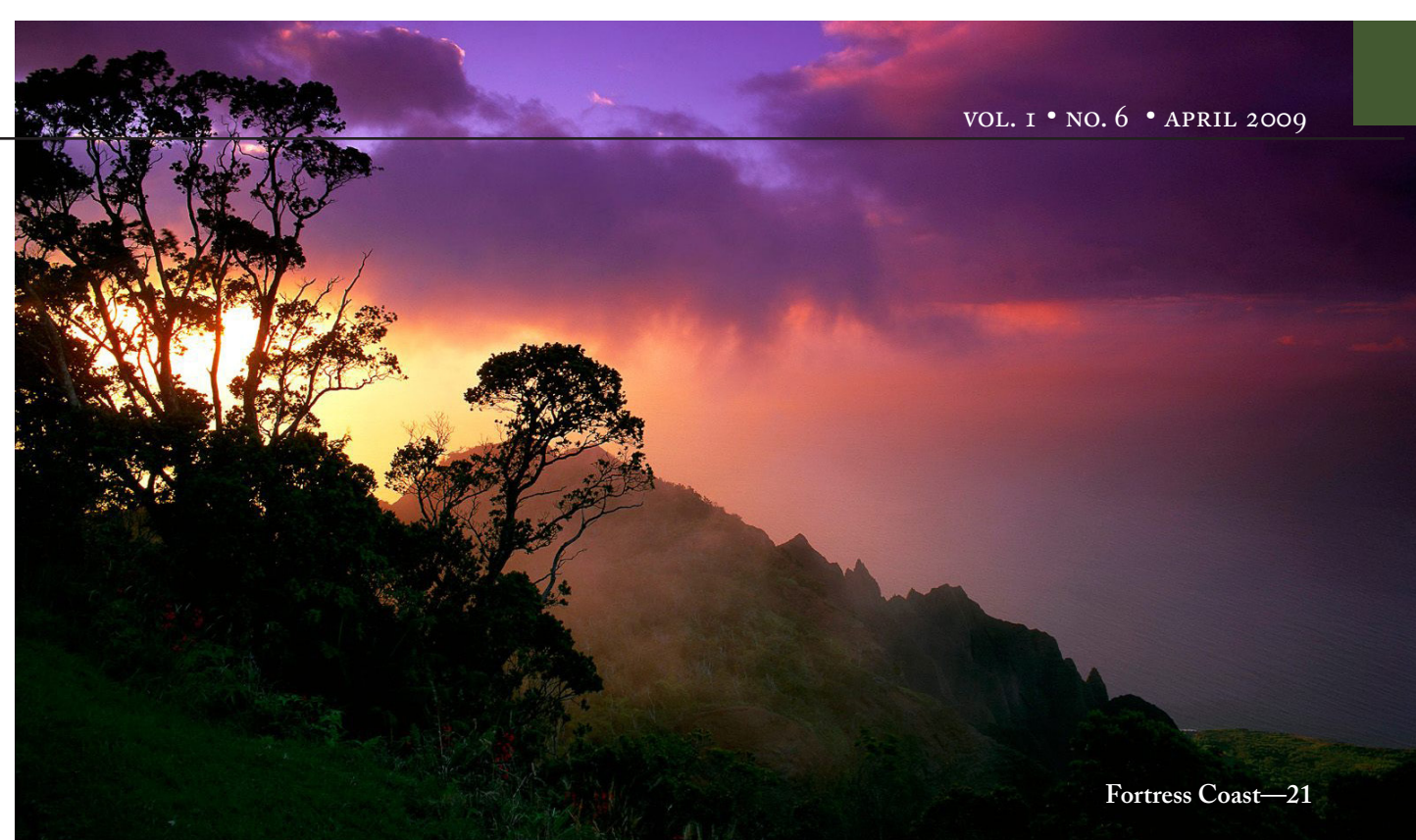
After reading *Explōrāre*, you will want to travel. Our highly-acclaimed staff writers have researched vacation spots throughout the world to select the best vacation of 2009. They found it. The Na Pali Coast on the Hawaiian island of Kauai offers the best possible mix of fun, entertainment, beautiful surroundings, and rich cultural environment of almost any place in the world. We are convinced that any person in the world would thoroughly enjoy a vacation to Kauai.

Through *Explōrāre*, you will see the planet with new eyes. The lenses of experience, history, and culture will alter your perception of the surrounding world. Every article and department is designed to inspire our readers to pick up and go. Our contributing authors simply provide you with the tools and orientation to do so.

Enhanced by amazing photography, our crystal-clear descriptive and informative writing helps our readers stay culturally and geographically aware. *Explōrāre* empowers our audience with information. It propels you from your comfortable couch, and into the world.

Enjoy.

J. Quincy Stott



Fortress Coast—21

FEATURES

- 6 Remember The Alamo** Started by the Mexican government, but finished by the U.S. Army. The history of the famous “humped” Alamo.
BY SHAUNNA BOOTHE
- 9 Chichén Itzá** A narrative tour of the ruins of an ancient Mayan civilization, consisting of temples, hieroglyphs, and deadly sports. How the civilization lived, and how it came to an abrupt end.
BY JULIANNA WILLIAMS
- 16 Andalusia Italica** An ancient temple buried under a new city. The Roman temple that stopped modern day construction indefinitely.
BY MATT DURRANT
- 21 The Na Pali Coast** Over 5 beaches, 40 miles of trails, hidden coves, and 5000 foot tall cliffs—why the Na Pali Coast is the best vacation of the year.
BY GIDEON PUBLISHING
- 37 Mont St. Michel** A small island, a town, the tide, and a surreal castle. One place you have to visit while in France.
BY DEANNE ALCORN
- 38 Coole Park, Ireland** Peaceful green gardens and tree with famous authors’ inscriptions. Coole Park sums up the culture and nature of the Irish.
BY TRISHA GRONENTHAL
- 42 Visit Mesa Verde** The cliff dwellings of the Anasazi in southwestern Colorado—an Native American architectural experience.
BY MATT BARKER
- 45 Viva Vegas** What to do in Vegas with no money. Experience Vegas the way it was meant to be—vagabond style.
BY AINSLEY FELTON
- 50 Old and New in Harajuku** A story of shopping in the inner-city Harajuku.
BY EMILY EYRING

STAFF

Editor: Quincy Stott

Layout: Sam Wood

Layout: Lindsey Cramer

Research: Rachael Lisonbee

Final Review: Rod Keller

Photo of the Month 41

Bibliography 52

THE COVER

Kalalau trail at the 8 mile look out, provides a beautiful cross view of Na Pali Coast.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SANDIN-GARDEBB,
EXPLORARE LOGO: STEVE DAVIS

© Cover printed on non recycled paper

FEATURED ADS

Sam	14, 29
Lindsey	31
Rachael	35
Quincy	53



[☺]
AUTO



10m [IN] 61

Nikon

The Nikon S60. Detects up to 12 faces.



Remember the Alamo

By Shaunna Boothe

Every year, over 2.5 million people trek through the streets of downtown San Antonio, Texas to visit Misión San Antonio de Valero, also known as the Alamo. But why is this small and worn-out ex-catholic chapel sitting on 4.5 acres of land so famous? What is the significance of the phrase “remember the Alamo”? Many people living outside of the state of Texas may not know the infamous history of the Alamo, but the millions of people who have lived in Texas will never forget why the Alamo is important not only to Texas, but to this country.

History

In 1724, construction on the Alamo began; the purpose of the structure was to be a home for Catholic missionar-

ies and converts living in the area. It served its purpose well for over seventy years until the Spanish military posted a cavalry unit there in the early 1800’s. The Spanish began to refer to the mission as the “Alamo” which is Spanish for “cottonwood” and the name of their hometown in Mexico.

In December 1835, Texans and Tejano volunteers (Texas residents under Mexican control) fought the Spanish military in the Texas Revolution, where they won and gained control of San Antonio and the Alamo. Two months later the Mexican General Santa Anna arrived at the Alamo, nearly catching the revolutionaries by surprise. For thirteen days the Texans fought off the Mexicans while only receiving the help of 32 soldiers, bring-

ing their ranks to about 200. Among these soldiers were William B. Travis, Jim Bowie, and David Crockett. On March 6th, Santa Anna led his troops to the Alamo for the final battle where Travis, Bowie, and Crockett, along with almost all of the other Texan soldiers, gave their lives to protect the city of San Antonio and their freedom. By midday, the battle had finished and Santa Anna and the Mexican army were victorious, only four days after Texas had declared their independence from Mexico.

Upon learning of the defeat at the Alamo, Sam Houston, commander of the Texas army, retreated with civilians, soldiers, and government officials to present-day Houston. Here he learned of Santa Anna’s advancement beyond

his troops to the camp of San Jacinto. On April 21st, Houston decided to attack the vulnerable Santa Anna at San Jacinto where the majority of the Mexican forces were either killed or captured within 20 minutes, while the Texan soldiers cried out “remember the Alamo!” Santa Anna was captured the next day, and on May 14, 1836, the Treaty of Velasco was signed, making Texas a republic separate from all nations. However, Mexico didn’t ratify the treaty until 1848, when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the Mexican-American war. Texas was officially named the 28th state to join the United States of America on December 29, 1846. Although the Battle of the Alamo was lost, it is remembered because of the brave soldiers who gave their lives for their freedom, and enabled the Texan Army to beat the Mexican forces.

Present-Day Attractions

After the Battle of the Alamo, the U.S. Army began repairs on the building where they added the first complete roof the chapel ever had and the famous “hump” on the top of the structure. While most of the Alamo was torn down, the long barracks and chapel still remain. The Alamo is preserved by the state of Texas and daughters of the Republic of Texas. The Alamo is now in the center of downtown San Antonio, surrounded by several hotels, museums, stores, and office buildings. The Tower of the Americas, a 750-foot tall building with a revolving restaurant, is within a mile radius of the Alamo, as is the Rivercenter Mall and Imax theatre, which are 350-feet away from the mission. The Alamo is within walking distance of the River Walk, a popular tourist attraction that offers shopping, barge tours of the river, and restaurants along the length of the river. The river is home to several floating parades throughout the year, and is decorated

with Christmas lights during the holiday season. The Alamo area and River Walk also host several events during Fiesta, the ten-day-long celebration commemorating the heroes who died at the Alamo. The two biggest events are the River Parade and the Battle of the Flowers Parade, which draw over three hundred and fifty thousand people each year.

While there are several fun and interesting attractions in downtown San Antonio, it is safe to say that the Alamo is the most significant and renowned. It is there that several Texans gave their lives defending its very walls, it is the source of the rallying cry of “remember the Alamo” which led to the defeat of the Mexican army, and it is where millions of people visit to pay their respects to those who died. Although many people will visit San Antonio and leave with several souvenirs, they will always “remember the Alamo.”




After the battle of the Alamo, the U.S. Army completed the roof on this building for the first time and repaired the famous “hump.”



Chichén Itzá

by Julianna Willams



Sunlight and humidity beat down on the hundreds of tourists walking along dirt paths lined with parched grass, their eyes wondering at the ancient stone buildings around them. Where did they come from? Who settled and built such beautiful architecture? What

—happened to the inhabitants? These are just a few of the many questions the tourists have for the guide. The tour guide informs them that this place was once inhabited by a group of Mayans known as the Itzá. Every building had a purpose and was placed according to astronomy. The tour guide leads the tourists to a large open field in front of a tall stone building. He begins to tell the story of the ancient civilization that dwelt here so long ago.

The builders of the city Chichén Itzá came from the northern Tabasco region, located between Yucatán and central Mexico (Phillips 96-97). When the Itzá first settled there is still under debate; some sources claim they arrived in the area about AD 1224 or even earlier. They were considered foreigners by the surrounding Mayan cities and were called “the fatherless ones, the motherless ones who speak our language brokenly” (Henderson 201). Some descriptions even went as far as calling them sinful and lewd (Henderson 201). When the Itzá arrived, they changed their name from Uucil Abnal (Seven Hollows or Seven Bushy Places) to Chichén Itzá (Openings of the Wells of Itzá).

Chichén Itzá control spread from the Yucatán center in the south to the Mayan highlands in the north. Their major crop was cotton and was considered central to the Itzá economy (Henderson 223). They also traded in salt (which was possibly their primary export), jade, Fine Orange pottery, turquoise, metal ornaments, obsidian from the highlands, cacao, feathers, and gold—the last three coming all the way from Honduras (Henderson 223-5).

The fall of Chichén Itzá was not peaceful. The Itzá was divided between two dynasties: Mayapán and Chichén Itzá. Chichén Itzá was overthrown by the Mayapán, which was led by the Cocom dynasty. Some records say the remaining Itzá went to Guatemala, while others claim the abandonment of the ancient city is

uncertain (Phillips 987).

The tourists listen to the tour guide, asking questions every time the tour guide stops for breath. Once he is done telling the tourists about the Mayans, he releases them to go explore the ruined city. The tourists scatter, discovering and to discover what truths they can for themselves from the ancient stone buildings and from the large well that lies within the city’s surroundings—each structure with its own history and stories.



A small group of tourists walks north on a dirt path. Vendors sell handmade goods along the sides, some calling out to the tourists to stop and purchase what they have. Some of the visitors remark that perhaps, in ancient times, vendors selling similar goods called to the people to buy their wares. Just like back then some tourist

think. The group of tourists reaches the end of the path. In front of them is a large well which used to be a stone ledge looks over the water. The Maya were intelligent people, considered experts in astronomy. The buildings of Chichén Itzá form alignments with astronomical events. They also have religious importance, along with the Mayan culture embodied within them. The city is located between two sinkholes, or cenotes—one in the north and one in the south. These cenotes were the source of water for the Mayan in the Yucatán areas. The citizens of Chichén Itzá depended on these cenotes for two reasons: one, water for daily uses; and two, religious rituals. Chichén Itzá received its name from these two cenotes (Henderson 218).

The Sacred Cenote was located to the north of what the Itzá called the Great Plaza. Here the citizens would pay tribute to the God of Rain and Thunder, Chac. Chac is considered the oldest of the deities, and there are still some Mayan societies that still worship him today (Laughton 76). During seasons of droughts, the Itzá would sacrifice men, women, and children by throwing them into the cenote to appease Chac. They would also throw jade and gold artifacts as offerings. Originally, there was a legend which claimed that beautiful virgins were sacrificed; but, further archeological studies proved this legend is false (Phillips 53).

Another group of tourists stays in the grassy field where the tour guide left them. In front of them is large stone



“The Great Ball Court: The object of the game was to get a ball made of wood, leather, or rubber through a hole no bigger than the ball itself.”

building that looks like a pyramid built with large steps indented in it. This is Chichén Itzá’s most famous building, El Castillo. El Castillo (The Castle) is known as the Temple of the Warrior, and was possibly used for religious rituals. On each of the four sides, there are nine stages which represent the nine levels of the Mayan underworld. The nine stages contain four stairways with ninety-one steps. All sides combined, the stairs represent the 365-day year, including the platform at the top (Coggins and Shane III 13). What makes this structure so interesting is its beautiful designs. The Maya worshipped their god-hero, Kukulcán. This god-hero was said to have settled the land along with the first settlers of Chichén Itzá and became the ruler after that. El Castillo is his monument. Kukulcán is represented in Mayan writings as a feathered serpent, the fertility of earth, heat and light of the sky, and the god of wind (Coggins and Shane III 17). On the stairways,

there are designs of snakes that run up the sides. El Castillo was aligned with the zenith passage of the sunset. During the spring and fall equinoxes, the descending light of sunset hits the snake designs just right, appearing to cause the snakes to slither down the stairway (Exploratorium). By this trickery of light and design, the Mayan civilizations at Chichén Itzá were able to keep track of the seasons through the summer and winter solstices, as well as the equinoxes. Utilizing this knowledge, the Itzá knew when to plant crops and when droughts would come (Exploratorium). It was their form of a modern calendar.

Some tourists head towards what was once called El Caracol. It considered the observatory for the Mayan to view the heavens. Caracol means “snail” in Spanish and it received this name because of the spiral staircase within the structure. This building is also aligned perfectly with the heavens. In its dome-like top, there are

three opening shafts aligned with the sun, the moon, and the planet Venus. The Maya did not consider Venus as a female goddess of love like the Greeks or Romans. To the Maya, Venus was considered masculine and baleful (Laughton 60). The Itzá went to him in spiritual or physical preparation, “for hunger, drought, or even war (Laughton 60). Some sources even called Venus the god of war. Venus was considered the planet of destiny (Laughton 60). For 260 days, Venus was seen as the Morning Star; for another 260 days, it was seen as the Evening Star (Laughton 60).

One group remained with the tour guide. He leads them in to an arena, almost like a football field. Massive stone walls rise on either side of the tourists in the open field. Intricate designs are blocked off on the far side wall. The tour guide informs the group that this structure is the Great Ball Court. The court is in a shape of the letter “I.” It is, almost two foot-



“The captives were usually prisoners of war playing against the home players. The losers were sacrificed to the gods.”



In this photo: The head of the sacrificial victim (presumably, the losing player) is held in one hand of someone presumed to be a winning player. (Gil)



In this photo: looking down the “I” shaped field of the ball court.

ball fields long and built with acoustics in mind (Coggins and Shane III 14). To demonstrate this, the tour guide asks everyone in the group to be quiet. He raises his hands and claps. It is a loud clap, but it is heard throughout the court. The echo sounds for a minute after his clap. Within this court, some of the most brutal religious rituals took place. The game was sometimes thought a “matter of life or death” (Laughton 118). The object of the game was to get a ball made of wood, leather, or rubber through a hole no bigger than the ball itself. Players were not allowed to use hands or feet; they protected their shins, forearms, and waist to move the ball (Laughton 121). The number of players on each team typically ranged from one to four, although there are records of even more players. Those playing were sometimes weakened by starvation or other means to help with the outcome of who won (Laughton 121). The captives were usually prisoners of war playing against the home players. The losers were sacrificed to the gods.

As the group leaves the ball court, they are reunited with the rest of tourists. The group follows to follow the tour guide back to the entrance gates. They look back in wonder at the intellect of the ones who builders of this magnificent city, realizing that the Maya were not as peaceful as the tourists many of them had been —taught in school. Who knows if any of them will return to see this mysterious place. The visitors are amazed at these intricately carved and architecturally sound buildings. Newfound appreciation swells within them as they climb back on the tour buses—gratitude that time was willing to preserve the ancient culture of the Itzá. Some of their questions were resolved, but new ones arise that may some day be answered or will have no answer at all. Those answers lie with the civilization that left Chichén Itzá over six hundred years ago.



ANDREW DOHENY

communication into a cyber level from stung to nu

GO TO VOLCOM.COM



Andalucia Italica

BY MATT DURRANT



The capital of southern Spain during ancient Rome's rule was located in Andalusia. It was a Roman city of great enough wealth and size that it supported a public amphitheater and coliseum among other things even now undiscovered. From this city, then called Italica, came at least one Roman Emperor and an untold number of masterpieces of art. Yet today it would be hard to believe it.

The small town of Santiponce had no idea that it was practically sitting on top of this gem of Roman culture until it began to expand. Like many building projects in southern Spain, this project uncovered a portion of the ruins and was halted until the ruins could be properly protected. To this day, that building project has been delayed indefinitely.

What construction workers dug up was the center of Roman culture for the Guadalquivir river valley of ancient times. Remains of a Roman bakery, several temples, and numerous statues were uncovered and are now on display. At the temple, you can still see the mosaic floor tiles representing each Roman god with its own day of the week. Of course the biggest buildings discovered are the amphitheater and coliseum which are surprisingly well preserved.

To get to Italica it's a fairly simple bus ride from nearby Sevilla and from the bus stop every major site is within walking distance and maps are free in gift shop on site. The coliseum is closest to the gift shop and is an

impressive first stop on the tour of Italica. Access to the coliseum is surprisingly open, allowing access to the hallways and even onto the arena floor. In the arena floor is the exposed basement chambers where gladiators and wild beasts would prepare for combat.

From the coliseum the rest of the ruins are open to wander through and enjoy. Scattered throughout are fine examples of Roman sculptures. Whether simple bas relief carvings or independent figures carved out of marble, these distinctly ancient artifacts act as guides back into the Roman world. Some might worry though about bringing children to see Roman statues, given that Roman modesty might spark an untimely birds and bees discussion. This is not so much a problem in Italica as it could be, due to the actions of one zealous catholic father whose name history does not record.

In a moving sermon, he urged his congregation to greater spiritual devotion and to cleanse themselves. Included in their necessary cleansing process, he urged them to remove the inappropriate parts visible on Italica's statues. They responded valiantly and to this day several statues discovered in that time bear the scars of modern chisels.

The amphitheater is within the actual town of Santiponce and has more restricted access depending on the time of year. Even if you cannot get into the actual amphitheater, the chain link fences do little to block a view of the tiered seats and segmented columns. All in all, it makes a fine capstone to a visit to Italica and the glimpse back into another time.

The Roman ruins and remarkable mosaics of Italica are located less than 9 kilometres to the north of the city, just outside the village of Santiponce. There is also a well preserved Roman theatre in Santiponce which is signposted from the main road.



SONY.



Capture the truth with a 24.6 megapixel α900.

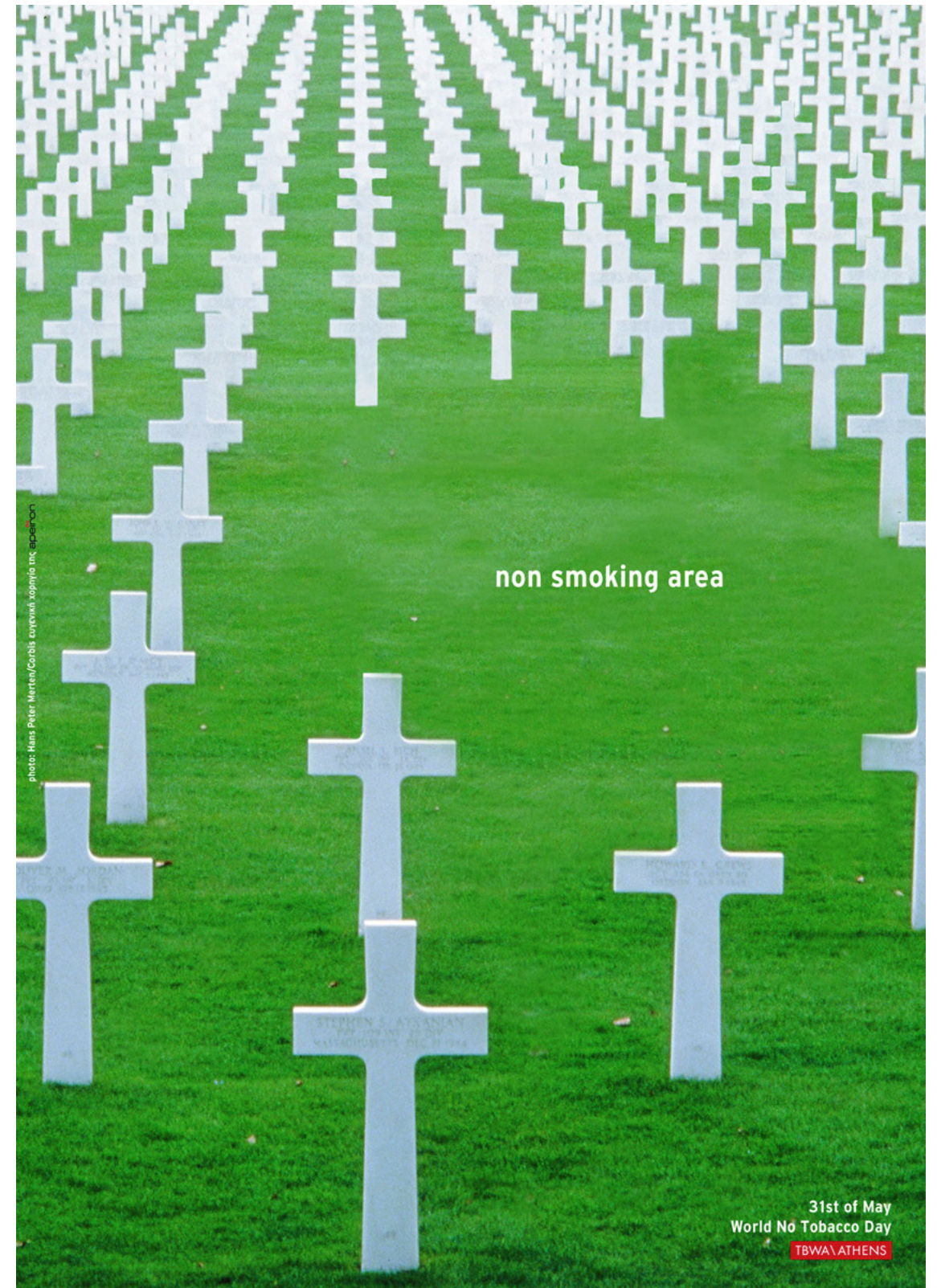


photo: Hans Peter Merten/Corbis Europe/vepajia inc. ipdpcn

non smoking area

31st of May
World No Tobacco Day
TBWA\ATHENS

The Na Pali Coast



Evening helicopter ride: Kalalau Beach and Kalalau Valley



When most people think of the best tropical vacations in the world, they often think of Cancun or Oahu, the main island of Hawaii. They are wrong. We have discovered one of the best-kept secrets in the world: an exotic, tropical vacation spot that is affordable and full of amazing activities for tourists. The landscape of this location is beyond compare in its beauty and majesty. For these reasons (and many more), Explorare has selected the Na Pali Coast of Kauai as the best exotic, tropical vacation of 2009.

Accessibility

Given the current sluggish state of the economy, many would-be travelers are encouraged not to take that exotic getaway. However, with gas prices down, a tropical vacation is easier to take than one might think. With the variety of travel-based web sites available, it is easier than ever to find a great deal on flights, hotels, and even rental cars. Travelocity.com searches flights and hotel bookings for you, allowing you to find the best deal possible on your total vacation package. This web site even shows you the price with taxes and fees included before you book. Kauai provides a great value; a vacation booked to Kauai is less expensive than other similar locations. There are no hotels on the Na Pali Coast itself, but there are many in nearby regions of Kauai. Staying in a neighboring area offers the benefit of having

access to the wonders of Na Pali while gaining the advantage of having a more hospitable beach on which to tan. Many travel web sites can offer discounts when flights and hotels are booked together. This provides travelers with an additional savings and makes a vacation that much easier to take. A rental car is necessary for those wishing to visit the Na Pali Coast, but as oil prices are still down from this time last year, gas is not likely to be a significant additional expense.

While many people may prefer to have these luxuries as before mentioned, we know that many of our readers prefer to take the “vagabond” route—which is a more affordable, adventurous alternative. The vagabond route is where you take nothing but the clothes on your back, a pair of hiking shoes, a little money, camping materials, and a strong spirit. For those who are interested in this alternative, we are delighted to inform you that the Na Pali Coast is an excellent location. This is because the highest temperatures never break 90 degrees and never drop below the mid 60’s; almost daily there is a short 1-2 hour rain fall, which provides a daily source of fresh water; there are numerous trails through Na Pali Coast that will delight those looking for adventure. Additionally, getting to the Na Pali Coast from Lihue Airport is only 29 miles, which takes about a day to hike or a half-an-hour for a hitchhiker. Either way, a vacationer will be greatly rewarded and renewed.



Nature fills this world everywhere with majestic scenery, but there are very few places on earth as unique and beautiful as the Na Pali Coast. It is a place that brings the adventurer out of the traveler, and evokes awe and wonder in the soul that no other place in the world can do.

Natural Surroundings

The Na Pali Coast is considered “paradise on earth” because of its magnificent natural surroundings that awe all who view it (Bourne). It is unique to the rest of world because of the eccentric valleys that are carved into lush vegetated cliffs, picture-perfect romantic beaches, paramount waterfalls, and the special way the coast was formed over thousands of years. It is these rare geographic features that help make the Na Pali Coast the best exotic, tropical vacation spot of 2009.

The Na Pali Coast is on the northwest side of the island of Kauai. Kauai is the oldest of the Hawaiian Islands, and the Na Pali Coast is made up of a series of valleys that crawl up 4,000 feet of cliffs. Although the Na Pali Coast is not technically considered a mountain, the coast dramatically rises out of the water; large, gaping cliffs make the area very mountainous. This entire tropical coast stretches fifteen miles and is only accessible by foot or boat (Na Pali Coast ‘Ohana).

For the vacationer, it is an extremely versatile spot because it caters to different types of tourists: those who prefer driving to locations, casual hikers, experienced hikers, and the rigorous tourists who have an extreme “human vs. nature” ideology. As hikers journey further along the coast, the travel becomes more difficult and

dangerous. These natural barriers keep casual tourists out of the rarest spots, rewarding dedicated hikers with solitude and making the Na Pali Coast an ideal vacation spot for those who want peace and quiet.

This heaven-like paradise was first formed almost 5.6 million years ago, making it the oldest island in Hawaii (Stevenson). It was formed when “magma from a hot spot beneath a floating tectonic plate burst forth spewing the volcanic lava, which formed the island of Kauai” (History of Na Pali). About thirty thousand years ago, the island became dormant, and massive rainfall falling on the mountains flowed down to the ocean. This rain flow started creating valleys on the north sides of tholeiitic basalts. Over years, this erosion eventually created the valleys in the Na Pali cliffs. One of the largest valleys is the “Spectacular Waimea Canyon, at over 2,500 feet deep” (Interesting Facts). It is the deepest canyon in Hawaii. The other significant part of the Na Pali Coast is the Kula Valley, which starts at the top of the Na Pali Coast at 4,284 feet and slides down into the ocean. These valleys give tourists some of the most amazing views, along with some of the best hikes.

There are five official beaches on the Na Pali Coast: Ha’ena Beach, Ke’e Beach, Hanakapiai Beach, Kalalau Beach, and Honopu Beach. In this

same order, these beaches become increasingly inaccessible and illusive by foot or boat, but also increasingly rewarding. When compared to the other Hawaiian beaches, the Na Pali Coast beaches stand out because of their scenic beauty and fine sand. Most Hawaiian beaches contain a mixture of sand, rocks, and pumice, which make them less enjoyable. The difference between other Hawaiian beaches and the Na Pali beaches, is that Na Pali’s are the oldest which means rocks have had more time to break down into fine sand (Stevenson).

The first two beaches, Ha’ena Beach and Ke’e Beach, are accessible by driving to the location, parking, and walking a few hundred feet for Ha’ena, and a few more hundred feet for Ke’e. These two beaches are great for surfing in both fall and winter, but surfing should only be attempted by expert surfers because the waves are large and dangerous. It is important to note that Ke’e Beach is home of “the largest, most noted hippie colony on Kauai” (Kauai Beaches). The colony was founded by actress Elizabeth Taylor. “[The] colony had up to 100 residents before the state condemned the land and evicted them,” but, one still may find a few poorly-dressed, semi-permanent campers hanging about (Kauai Beaches).

Hanakapiai Beach, Kalalau Beach, and Honopu Beach each have potential

swimming hazards; users should be extremely careful or not swim at all because there is “no reef to protect the shore, which leaves [the beaches] vulnerable to long shore currents caused by trade winds and tidal changes” (Kalalau Beach). Unfortunately, many people have died in these areas because of negligible swimming skills—usually tourists. Additionally, tourist only swim during the summer because fall and winter swimming will bring certain death—the park actually forbids swimming on these beaches during the winter season (Kalalau Beach).

Hanakapiai Beach is two miles down from the trail head, which makes it more exclusive. However, this area is dangerous for swimming because of undertows (which are underwater currents that flow conversely to the surface currents), sharp coral and rocks, and large, unpredictable waves. But despite these potentially dangerous hazards, the beach has beautiful surroundings, which makes it superb for a romantic walk. Unfortunately, Hanakapiai Beach does not offer any facilities (Kauai Beaches).

Rigorous hikers can travel eleven miles from the trail head to reach Kalalau Beach. The beach is one mile long and at the mouth of the Kalalau Valley. This is one of the truly beautiful areas of Kauai; only a picture can accurately portray a small portion of its tremendous beauty.

Finally, the last (and most dangerous, yet rewarding) beach is Honopu. It features two small, crescent-shaped beaches that are divided by a beautiful arch; the background to both beaches consists of a large cavern. The safest way to access these beaches is by boat—assuming one has both the time and necessary skill to do so. The other way is to hike eleven miles to Kalalau Beach, and then swim about a third of a mile to the shore. A permit, which is only available in the summer, is required to do this (Na Pali Coast State Wilderness Park).

Also, one could not do justice to the Na Pali Coast without mentioning the hundreds of waterfalls hikers experience—many of which have no names because of the vast quantity. Kauai has one of the wettest spots in the world: Mount Waialeale. Due to mass amounts of rain, random waterfalls are formed every day on the Na Pali Coast; it is also what makes the Coast dangerous (Na Pali Coast State Wilderness Park). These random and frequent waterfalls give a large amount of variety to the Na Pali Coast, keeping tourists’ visits fresh and exciting the their first time and for many more times to come.

BEACH HIKING DISTANCE

Hanena	0 miles
Ke’e	0 miles
Hanakapiai	2 miles
Kalalau	11 miles
Honopu	11.5 miles

SUGGESTIONS & REQUIREMENTS FOR KALALAU TRIAL

Day permit or camping permit
Broken-in hiking shoes
Plenty of water & food
First aid kit





Right: Haena Beach located at the trail head—this is the most tourist friendly beach because it is much safer than the others.



Right: The lovely dangers of swimming on the Na Pali Coast: Rip Currents, Slippery Rocks, Strong Currents, Sudden Drops, & Wave Breaks.



In this picture: Enjoying the pristine view, two honeymooners relax on Kalalau Beach.

Activities

There are many activities in Kauai. Some examples include: biking, kayaking, riding the zip line, camping, garden tours, health spas, garden markets, snorkeling, attending luaus, whale watching, hiking, horseback riding, sailing, touring the island by taking helicopter rides, and much more. Because the activities in Kauai are not limited, Kauai is able to entertain the interests of its many diverse tourists. We have chosen to highlight the following activities in order to inform and provide a sample of what the activities will offer.

Snorkeling

The best place to snorkel on the north side of Kauai is Ke'e Beach. This is a beach near Na Pali Coast. It is very important to have the correct gear to secure the best experience. Kauai offers many different shapes and sizes of masks and goggles to give individuals the best fit. Kauai also gives tourists the opportunity to either buy or rent the product.

It is important to know the safety regulations of snorkeling. There are seven safety tips to consider: first, never snorkel alone; second, stay close to shore; third, be aware of your surroundings; fourth, retain your energy; fifth, do not touch marine life; sixth, be aware of seabed; and seventh, learn first-aid and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Following these safety regulations will help you avoid accidents and have a good time. While snorkeling, individuals are able to experience what goes on under the water and also find his or her vacation at Kauai educational, as well as entertaining.

Attending Luaus

Attending luaus "is an ideal event for the entire family. [Luaus feature] award winning entertainment, an extensive menu for all tastes, and numerous cultural facets" (Kauai). Some types of food that may be served at these luaus



include fresh pineapple, pigs, salmon, and large amounts of ethnic foods.

Hiking

Because many of the beaches are only accessible through hike or by boat, hiking gives tourists the opportunity to see many of the mountain and ocean views. Tourists have the opportunity to have a guided hiking tour or simply go alone. Hiking will also bring tourists to unseen waterfalls and swimming holes that cannot be seen from the foot of the island. Though these hikes are breathtaking, it is important to be educated in safety. Try to drink lots of liquids to stay hydrated and have a specific destination that can be found through mapping. A permit is required for day-hikes. "Day-use hiking permits are required when continuing beyond Hanakapi'ai valley, even if overnight camping is not planned. Permits can be obtained from the State Parks office in Lihue" ("Kauai's State Park"). There are different hikes at different levels of intensity to accommodate tourists in their wide ranges of fitness.

Tubing Tours

After a day of hiking in the sun, a fun and leisurely activity in which one may participate is tubing tours. Tubing tours provide a relaxing, scenic float through different waterways. A notable attraction guide explains that these waterways consist of open ditches, tunnels, and flumes. These tubing tours are guided and allow a picnic and opportunities for swimming after the tour is over.

Helicopter Tours

Many who visit Kauai may find it hard to experience or see everything that the island has to offer. To receive a clear view of the surroundings, Kauai offers helicopter tours. Helicopter tours are about fifty minutes in length and provide a comfortable and spacious ride. The tour flies individuals over canyons and waterfalls and shows sites where Hollywood movies have been filmed. One area in particular includes the famous "Jurassic Park Falls" from the film *Jurassic Park*.

Culture

Besides its rich ecological surroundings and stunning geography, thousands visit Kauai each year to experience native Hawaiian history and culture. World-class resorts featuring authentic luaus and Polynesian customs are available through much of the Kauai ("Six Days" M11). But, this area features other attractions that are unparalleled throughout the rest of Hawaii. The Alekoko Fishpond, dams, ditches, and heiau (sacred place of worship) on Kauai's Na Pali Coast reveal sophisticated archi-



BLUE-HAWAIIAN-HELICOPTER 1-800-745-BLUE
www.bluehawaiian.com



texture and feats of engineering that are unmatched by later settlers of Hawaii. These human-made structures have helped create a rich mystical culture that is unique to this northern region of Kauai. The Na Pali Coast is the legendary home of the mythological Menehune, the builders of these special structures.

Evidence of Menehune structures, and the rich cultural traditions that surround them, are some of the most significant locations of the Na Pali Coast. When tourists hike in the nearby mountains or visit some of the Menehune sites, they hear “lurid tales of supernatural inhabitants of this valley reminding us civilization is rather new here” (Carpenter F5). In Hawaiian folklore, the Menehune are sometimes considered a pygmy forest people that lived in caves along the Kauai cliffs and planted hollows (Beckwith 324). Other native Hawaiians indicate that the miniscule Menehune lived in the trees (Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau par. 2). Folklore authorities find common ground in a number of different areas. Across the board, the Menehune are considered master builders “who were very small, but very skilled, and had supernatural strength ... Each Menehune was a master of a certain craft and had one special function they accomplished” (Harrington par. 1-2). They used their supernatural strength to master their environment and create structures and edifices with precision and care. Many of these structures stand today. According to legend, the Menehune would only work at night to build their structures; by working in the dark, they would avoid detection by other human races. If the Menehune were unable to finish their projects in one night, the project would be abandoned and never finished (Beckwith 328).

Local researchers have a number of different opinions on the origin of the Menehune. According to Daniel Harrington says, “Some speculate the word Menehune [means] ‘common people,’ referring to the early Marquesan settlers of Hawaii who were later dominated by Tahitian settlers, and made to perform the hardest work, including stonework” (par. 3). Whether or not this people were eventually suppressed by new colonists does nothing to denigrate the quality or significance of their work. The speculation about the true nature of the Menehune has enriched the cultural fabric of Kauai’s North Shore and rendered it a truly satisfying place to visit.

There are two main Menehune sites that are particularly significant. First, is the Menehune Ditch. Consistent with Menehune legend, the entire ditch was built in a single night. Unfortunately, only a small section of this canal remains today. But, “The aqueduct originally spanned several miles and had walls that were an estimated 24 feet high, with a footpath along the top” (Harrington par. 3). The stones, from which the ditch is formed, are cut and dressed in a way that cannot be found anywhere else in the Hawai-

ian Islands. Researchers cannot specify the origins and methods used in the construction of the Menehune Ditch, but can estimate that it was built before A.D. 1200 to bring water to taro crops (Harrington par. 5).

The second significant Menehune site is the ‘Alekoko Fishpond, which represents one of the finest examples of ancient Hawaiian aquaculture (Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau par. 1). The nine hundred foot levee was built to trap and raise fish.

According to Na Pali legend, rows of Menehune passed rocks to each other over twenty five miles to construct the fishpond in a single night (Harrington par. 2). Actually, the Menehune had been commanded to build two fishponds, but the king who ordered the project looked at their work before it was completed; when the king looked, the Menehune stopped immediately and left (Beckwith 324). The ‘Alekoko Fishpond is one of the great cultural treasures one may find near the Na Pali Coast. Whether or not these stories of the Menehune are based in fact or completely fabricated, tourists undergo an amplified educational experience when visiting these sites.

Conclusion

Based on the total costs of airfare and accommodations, a trip to the Na Pali Coast is more affordable than other similar locations. Fortunately, this great variety does not come at the expense of breathtaking views and activities to interest the relaxed sunbather and adventurous vagabond alike. A trip to this region can offer family luaus or solitary snorkeling expeditions. It also offers scenery unlike anywhere else in the world. The changing landscape offers an ever-fresh view of this location—no matter how many times one has been to see Na Pali. The Na Pali Coast also has a culture that is unique to this small region of Hawaii alone. The remnants of an ancient civilization offer a chance to wonder whether the rich legends connected to the area are based in fact. The Na Pali Coast offers a range of activities, unique and breathtaking views, and rich culture for a relatively small price, which makes it the best value in a tropical location.



Get the Better Deal

Kauai*
Airfare \$607.00

Base Vacation Package to **Kauai**
\$887.00

Cancun, Mexico*+
Airfare \$658.00

Base Vacation Package to **Jamaica**
\$876.00 Plus the cost of a US passport

**Fares booked on Travelocity.com, including taxes and fees + Airfare to Cancun does not include a US passport.*



Honopu Beach: Only accessible by boat or swimming from Kalalau Beach. It is the most rewarding and solitary beaches in the world.

**WARNING:
WHOLE SOY
MAY INCREASE
appetite for life.**



Brace yourself for the positive effects of SOYJOY. Made from whole soy and undiluted optimism. Choose from six flavors at a store near you!



fortified with
optimism™

soyjoy.com

Want to get away?

Direct flights to Rome from 10 U.S. Cities



<http://www.delta.com/>

1-800-221-1212

 **DELTA** AIR LINES

Mont St. Michel

Normandy, France



By DeAnne Alcorn

When most people think of visiting France, Paris is probably one of the first locations that come to mind. A less-known, but amazing setting to visit while in France is Mont Saint Michel, a small city built on a rock that becomes an island when the tide comes in. It is located in Normandy, France in the northwest region of the country. The closest airport to Mont Saint Michel is the Rennes Saint Jacques Airport, which is located about 56 miles south (World). When you reach the outside of Mont Saint Michel, parking your car and walking in is the only option since there are no vehicles allowed. Mont Saint Michel is not large in size, but when there, quite a bit of walking is required; this may include walking up stairs and steep inclines to get to some places on the island. Viewing the tides there can be very interesting. The Normandy Tourist site describes “the rising tide advances as a wave over 50 cm high, covering a distance of over 15 miles at the speed of a galloping horse” (Mont par. 6). In order to see this phenomenon occur, it is suggested to be there two hours prior to the time on the tide table chart (Le Mont par. 7). The feeling of traveling back in time to what looks like an enchanted castle on the ocean makes the trip worth it.

Mont Saint Michel has a long interesting history that dates back to the year AD 709 when a bishop built a small church there. It wasn't until AD 966 that Benedictines finally stayed on the rock and built a bigger church (Le Mont par. 1). In the 11th and 12th centuries, Mont Saint Michel became a monastery; an abbey church and many monastery buildings were constructed during this time. The abbey church was replaced in the 15th century by a bigger and more gothic church. During the French Revolution, the abbey was used as a prison (Le Mont par. 2-6). Today, visitors can come to Mont Saint Michel and enjoy the beautiful views, experience French cuisine, and can even stay on the rock itself.

While on Mont Saint Michel, the main attraction is visiting the abbey. It is open everyday except January 1st, May 1st, and December 25th. Rates to get in range from 5 to 8.50 euros, depending on age; children under 18 are admitted free (Le Mont par. 5). If shopping sounds like a great activity, Mont Saint Michel has plenty of

shops that accommodate many different wants. Shops line the streets with places to buy chocolates and local pastries, jewelry, clothing for sailors, and the usual souvenirs of key chains and magnets. Most of the restaurants on Mont Saint Michel have indoor and outdoor seating. Take advantage of the outdoor seating. These restaurants often have beautiful views overlooking the water. The more expensive places have times when they serve dinner, and will usually have menus located outside to see what is available to eat that night. There are also places where that serve snacks, or have an a la carte option. Since Mont Saint Michel is off the beaten path of typical tourists, expect that some of the menus will not be in English. Have a French to English Dictionary handy, or be prepared to be surprised by your order.

Mont Saint Michel may not be the trip to France most tourists imagine, but it is definitely a wonder that should not be overlooked when planning a trip to France. Walking down the streets can be a step into the past. The roads are so tiny and everything looks natural there. It isn't as busy or as fashionable as Paris, but it gives visitors a look into a more medieval France. When looking for a vacation that is different from most, Mont Saint Michel could be a perfect escape.



Coole Park, Ireland

By Trisha Gronenthal

Coole Park used to be an estate owned by Lady Augusta Gregory, a dramatist, folklorist, and one of the leaders of the Irish Literary Revival in the early 20th century. She invited many literary characters such as William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, and John Millington Synge to join her at Coole Park and participate in the events there. The gardens and Seven Woods surrounding the estate were places where these artists could gain inspiration for their own works. Today, aspiring young authors and veterans alike can still visit this beautiful piece of land to receive the same kind of inspiration many others did so many years ago.

The house in which Lady Gregory lived was torn down in 1941, but parts of the estate remain, including the beautiful walled garden. In this garden, there is a

large copper beech tree, still standing tall and proud. As if the tree wasn't extraordinary enough by itself with its red glow from the outside and the greenish tinge of the leaves from underneath, it has also been signed by visiting authors and many others who adored this magical place. Although the tree is healing itself over these scars, many of the initials can still be seen with the assistance provided by the plaque next to the tree. The plaque shows a list of the autographs and their positions on the tree.

The gardens are gorgeous with their many hedges and unique trees, but the real magic lies beyond their walls in the Seven Woods, one of the few remaining forests indicative of the ancestral glory of the Emerald Isle. Before I had visited the park, I had longed all my life to walk among these tall, deciduous trees, thick, luscious undergrowth,

and vine-covered rock walls. I could not hold back the tears from entering my eyes as I finally made that dream a reality. At one point, I felt as though I had been swallowed in the green, the air itself being so. At once, I became a believer in faeries and leprechauns, for how could I not being inundated in the same magic that had entranced the inhabitants of this land for thousands of years? I will never forget that feeling, nor the closeness to the nature that so many prestigious men and women had dearly loved before me. Some of the many works written about Coole Park include "Coole Park and Ballylee," "In the Seven Woods," and "The Wild Swans at Coole" by Yeats. Coole Park is located about 2 miles northwest of the town of Gort in Co. Galway off of the N18 on the west side of Ireland. It's about 20 miles from Galway, 42 miles from Limerick, and 128 miles from Dublin.

Top Right: Famous 20th century authors names and initials engraved into a Irish copper beech tree.

Below: Coole Park lawn, portraying the essence of Ireland



Editor's photo choice:
Snake River, Idaho during
the summer.

Visit Mesa Verde



Cliff Palace

Cliff Palace is the largest of the dwellings, containing about 150 separate rooms. This impressive residence is thought to have served as the social and administrative center for the area with great ceremonial significance. On the tour, guests will climb 102 steps, ascending 100 feet up the cliff side. You will also scale a series of five eight-foot ladders. Although this tour requires your family to climb ladders, it provides an experience for children of all ages. Tours cost \$3.



Spruce Tree House

Of all the sites in Mesa Verde, Spruce Tree House is the easiest to access, having a paved path accessible to both wheelchairs and strollers. It is the third largest dwelling, consisting of 130 rooms. It is also the only location open throughout winter, for those visitors who would brave the cold weather.

By Matt Barker

With the summer months fast approaching, it is now time to plan your upcoming family vacation. The list of possible destinations is, well, quite endless. You could take your kids on the typical Disneyland vacation or try something new. The many national parks, spread throughout nearly every state, provide great destinations for any family to experience America.

The Mesa Verde National Park offers a unique experience and memorable vacation. You will find Mesa Verde in southwestern Colorado, near the city of Cortez. You will not find thrilling roller coasters or Disney characters, but you will have a chance to explore the cliff dwellings of the Anasazi or the ancestral Pueblo people. At Mesa Verde, you and your family will climb 35-foot wooden ladders, descend into underground ceremonial rooms, and crawl through narrow passages as you explore through these impressive structures and learn the history of these people.

The ancient Puebloans settled the area around 550 CE when farming replaced their nomadic lifestyle that largely consisted of hunting and gathering. They first built small dwellings on top of the mesas (flat-topped hills with steep sides, resembling a table), but eventually moved into the alcoves that sometimes formed on the mesa cliff. Eventually, they replaced their simple, wood-framed structures with dwellings constructed of sandstone brick. There are nearly 600 cliff dwellings, ranging from single room structures to large communities of multi-level buildings built in the cliff side. These cliff dwellings are the attractions for which the park is best known, but you will also experience breath-taking scenic of peaks, canyon and valleys.

The five major dwellings—Balcony House, Cliff Palace, Long House, Spruce Tree House, and Step House—are magnificent structures that invite guests to walk through and explore this ancient lifestyle. The Balcony House, Cliff Palace, and Long House require a paid ranger-guided tour, but the Spruce Tree House and Step House are free for guests and self-guided. The guided tours last for 1 hour and offer the best experience to learn about Mesa Verde. Tours cost \$3 per person. Since Mesa Verde is a national park, a \$10 to \$15 fee is required for a seven-day park entrance pass. Each site offers a unique adventure and learning experience.

You can reach each cliff dwelling by car and a short walk,

or if your family prefers a different experience, Mesa Verde has numerous walking and hiking paths which lead to the sites. Other trails provide impressive views of the dwellings from across the canyon or valley. You will also experience the beauty of the local botany and wildlife.

Besides the native architecture and hiking paths, you can also visit the museum, visitor center, sun temple, or one of the many other archeological sites. The entire park focuses on providing your family with a great adventure: exploring the lives of the ancient Pueblo people. A vacation to Mesa Verde will provide your family with an interesting, unique experience through exploring cliff dwellings and a part of America's rich cultural history. For more information visit the park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/meve>.



Above: Long House

The Long House dwelling is the second largest in the park. The tour of the site lasts 90 minutes, during which you will climb two 15-foot ladders. A free tram and a footpath that descends 100 feet over a half-mile distance provide access to the site. This area in the park, the Wetherhill Mesa, provides a more relaxing experience with its many walking paths. Your children of all ages will enjoy the tram ride and unique experience of this dwelling. Tours cost \$3.

Viva Vegas

By Ainsley Felton



Viva Vegas

Making the most out of the March mess

The weekend is approaching and your dating possibilities all have a significant other. Looks like another weekend spent with the roommates, right? Little do you realize there's an entire world at your fingertips. A quick search online at <http://www.allegiantair.com> and you can be in beautiful Sin City for a weekend at only \$107, round trip. The warm weather awaits you!

37 million people visit Las Vegas each year, and seventeen of the twenty largest hotels in the world are located in this city. The welcoming glow of Vegas Vic

and Vegas Vicky, who have been around since 1951, are ready to greet you to the oasis in the desert.

Surprisingly there's a lot to do in Las Vegas for those who are not fans of parting with their money. Some personal favorites are the Bellagio Hotel and Casino on the famous Las Vegas Strip. The dancing fountains of the 8-acre lake located in the front of the hotel are synchronized to classical music. This awing experience can be seen every evening beginning at dusk on the hour. Afterwards, take a stroll inside to see the world-renowned hand-blown ceiling, *Fiori di Como* by artist Chihuly. This 40,000 pound piece of art is suspended from the ceiling of the lobby. Adjacent are the Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. The gardens are renovated five times a year by a team of 140 horticulturists who keep the gardens breathtakingly beautiful 365 days a year. It is open 24 hours a day, 7

days a week. Celebrating the holidays, Chinese New Year, spring, summer, and fall, this display of living art is sure to amaze.

Another free-of-charge activity on the Strip is the Volcano Eruption at The Mirage. Every fifteen minutes after dusk, the volcano located in front of the hotel, right next to Las Vegas Blvd, erupts, accompanied by a soundtrack. The spectacular simulation of geological forces uses 119,000 gallons of water per minute during the explosion.

In the morning hours, those who are looking to adventure into the wild of the Las Vegas Valley will be pleased with exploring Red Rock National Conservation Area. It is \$5 for car entrance, but free for bicycles and those walking into the park. The 13-mile loop is ideal for all kinds of bikes, but around mile seven, many riders hit "the wall." Around that time is

the physical peak of the ride, but after that point, it's downhill. Blind turns and oncoming traffic can be a hassle, but many local riders enjoy the adrenaline rush that accompanies the ride.

A delicacy that cannot be found in most college towns (unless you happen to be living/going to school on the West Coast) is In-N-Out. Las Vegas is home to three establishments of this amazing restaurant. It's easy on the budget (approx. \$6 for burger, fries, and shake) and you get a good meal as well.

Depending on the season, different events and concerts are booked on the Strip as well as in the surrounding area. A cheap venue frequently used for beginning, underground bands is Jillian's Las Vegas on Freemont Street in downtown Vegas. The Killers began playing here and bands from the university down the street (UNLV) will usually be playing weekdays. Weekends are reserved for bigger bands. Tickets usually run around \$7-\$16.





**If you decide
to get in a fight,
please do so in
our Irish pub.**

Old and New in Harajuku

By Emily Eyring

Seven hundred thousand square-meters: the size of the tranquil forest surrounding an ancient Shinto shrine.

Two city blocks: the area of a cutting-edge mall home to Dolce & Gabbana, Jimmy Choo, and Harry Winston.

Four Hundred yards: the length of the most bizarre and fascinating street down which a tourist will ever walk.

Harajuku: the only place to find it all.

Tokyo, Japan, is a tourist's paradise of shops, temples, parks, and castles, but Harajuku (a city within Tokyo) is one of the few places where the old and the new captivatingly coexist within minutes of the Harajuku train station. Just behind Harajuku Station, visitors travel back to the early 1900s as they step under the majestic tori (gates) made from 700-year-old cypress trees and approach Meiji Jingu Shrine. Meiji Jingu Shrine is a Shinto shrine dedicated to the souls of Emperor Meiji and Empress Shokan who ruled Japan until 1912 ("Introduction"). Stepping through the gate purifies visitors' hearts and minds as they enter the evergreen forest containing more than 120,000 trees ("Introduction").

Visitors stroll down an immaculately kept gravel path enclosed by a canopy of lush leaves and approach a hand-wash-

ing station; here, they cleanse their hands and purify souls with cool water from the wooden ladles. As cleansed visitors approach the altar, they toss coins into the low troughs, clap their hands twice, and bow to awaken the gods. Tourists can enjoy the serenity of the surroundings and also witness Shinto wedding ceremonies and snap photos of children in traditional kimonos.

Inside the peaceful forest, worshipers of emperors gather, while just down the street fashion-worshipers flock to Omotesando Hills. Omotesando Hills, a shopper's paradise by all accounts, draws thousands of people daily; its structure and shops make it not merely a mall but a destination. The window-covered building spans two blocks, and its interior is a marvel in architecture as all the shops are located on the outer walls and are connected by a ramp that snakes up six floors ("Facilities").

Frequenters of Macy's and Dillard's beware: this is not a typical shopping experience. The upscale stores in Omotesando Hills range from Dolce & Gabbana to Porsche Design, and sales assistants wearing white gloves discourage even the boldest of shoppers from touching the merchandise. The crystal chandeliers, cotton-candy hues, velvet couches, lush leather, and marble staircases keep the senses constantly enthralled—and hopefully engaged enough to prevent less wealthy visitors from taking on the second mortgage needed to make a purchase.

Across the street, shoppers can stop in at Prada, Louis Vuitton, and Gucci. While most Americans would be too embarrassed to meander around and gawk in upscale shops like these in their native countries, gawking is perfectly acceptable at Omotesando Hills and expected of a typical foreigner sporting jeans and a sweatshirt.

Between the ancient tranquility of the shrine and the upscale hubbub of Omotesando Hills, sits the bizarre and circus-like Takeshita-dori (Takeshita Street). This street is the focal point of Japanese teen culture. Takeshita-dori is lined by fashion boutiques, crepe stands, used-clothing stores, and trendy shops geared toward supposedly fashion-conscious Japanese teens.

The real attractions on this street, though, are teens who gather after school and on weekends and engage in "cosplay" (costume play) by dressing like anime (Japanese cartoon) characters, pop stars, and gothic versions of fairytale characters ("Harajuku Basic Information"). The scene is a visual cacophony of neon hair, black lacey dresses, obnoxious patterns, mile-high platform boots, and frilly bonnets.

Teens clad in this unusual apparel are happy to stop and take photos with tourists and are harmless despite their night-

marish appearance. Whether they engage in "cosplay" simply to relax or to rebel against the demanding expectations of their culture, the entertainment teens on Takeshita-dori provide for locals and tourists is unmistakable.



Three: the number of years I lived in Tokyo.

Weekly: the frequency with which I visited Meiji Jingu Shrine, Omotesando Hills, and Takeshita-dori.

A Heartbeat: the time it would take me to say "yes" if given the opportunity to return. One: the minimal number of visits anyone should ever make to Harajuku.

Bibliography

Shaunna Boothe

"History." The Alamo. 2009. 12 March 2009. <<http://www.thealamo.org/history.html>>. Meg. The Alamo. 12 March 2009. <<http://twoliablog.com/meg/files/2008/04/thealamo.jpg>>.

Rendon, Al. The River Walk Christmas 04. 2004. 12 March 2009. <<http://www.travel-watch.com/images/RiverWalkChristmas04-AllRendon.jpg>>.

"San Antonio River Walk Attractions." The River Walk Guide. 2008. 12 March 2009. <<http://www.riverwalkguide.com/attractions.asp>>.

"The Alamo." Google Maps. 12 March 2009. 12 March 2009. <[http://maps.google.com/maps?li=d&hl=en&cf=d&iwstate1=dir:to&daddr=419+Broadway+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205+\(At%26T\)&geocode=CRSXCSJ1ZaNjFdURwQE.dHzshg&iwloc=1&dq=AT%26T+san+antonio&cid=29430229,98485473,12474130791361594665&ei=yfO5SZjACJea jQOS54W3Bg](http://maps.google.com/maps?li=d&hl=en&cf=d&iwstate1=dir:to&daddr=419+Broadway+St,+San+Antonio,+TX+78205+(At%26T)&geocode=CRSXCSJ1ZaNjFdURwQE.dHzshg&iwloc=1&dq=AT%26T+san+antonio&cid=29430229,98485473,12474130791361594665&ei=yfO5SZjACJea jQOS54W3Bg)>.

"The Battle of San Jacinto." Texas State Library and Archives Commission. 06 March 2009. 12 March 2009. <<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/republish/san-jacinto.html>>.

DeeAnn Alcorn

Le Mont Saint Michel. 2009. Office of Tourism. 13 Mar 2009 <http://www.ot-montsaintmichel.com/accueil_gb.htm>.

"Mont Saint Michel." Nomandy Toursim. 2008. CRT Normandie. 13 Mar 2009 <<http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/normandy-tourism-109-2.html>>.

"World Guide to Mont Saint Michel." Travel Smart LTD: World Guides. 09 Mar 2009. 13 Mar 2009 <<http://www.mont-saint-michel.world-guides.com/index.html>>.

Julianna Williams

Coggins, Clemency Chase and Orrin C. Shane III. *Cenote of Sacrifice: Maya Treasures from the Sacred Well at Chichén Itzá*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1984.

Exploratorium. Ancient Observatories: Chichén Itzá. 7 March 2009 <<http://www.exploratorium.edu/ancientobs/chichen/flash.html>>.

Gill, N.S. "Chichén Itzá Sacrifice at the Ball Game." About.com. 25 March 2009 <<http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/reenactlife/ig/Mesoamerican-Ball-Game/Chichen-Itz--Sacrifice.htm>>.

Henderson, John S. *The World of the Ancient Maya*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1997.

Laughton, Timothy. *The Maya: Life, Myth and Art*. London: Duncan Baird Publishers, 1998. Phillips, Charles. *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Aztec and Maya*. London: Anness Publishing Ltd., 2008.

Gideon Publishing

"Activities." *Kauai Hawaii Vacation Information*. 2008. 23 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.kauai-hawaii.com/activities.php>>.

"Aloha and Thank You for visiting." *Kauai Information Guide*. 2008. 23 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.livekauai.com>>.

Beckwith, Martha. *Hawaiian Mythology*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1970.

Bourne, Joel K. "Na Pali Coast." *National Geographic* April 2008 <<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/04/napali-coast/joel-bourne-text>>.

Carpenter, Sandra. "Sailing to, and among, the Hawaiian Islands :[ALL Edition]. " *Telegram & Gazette* [Worcester, Mass.] 19 Nov. 2000, F5. *ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry*. ProQuest. David O. McKay Library, BYU-Idaho, Rexburg, Idaho. 18 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.proquest.com/>>.

"Hanakapiai Beach." *Kauai Beaches*. 2008. 20 Febraury 2009 <<http://www.hawaiiweb.com/kauai/beaches/HanakapiaiBeach.htm>>.

Harrington, Daniel. "Alekoko (Menehune) Fishpond." *Hawaiian Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Guide to the Hawaiian Islands History, Culture, Native Species, Science*. Mutual Publishing: Honolulu, 2009.

---. "Menehune Ditch—Kiki-a-Ola." *Hawaiian Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Guide to the Hawaiian Islands History, Culture, Native Species, Science*. Mutual Publishing: Honolulu, 2009.

---. "The Menehune." *Hawaiian Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Guide to the Hawaiian Islands History, Culture, Native Species, Science*. Mutual Publishing: Honolulu, 2009.

"Hawaii's Real Outdoor Guide." *Kauai Explorer*. 2008. 23 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.kauaiexplorer.com>>.

Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau. "Menehune Fishpond, Kauai." *Hawaii: The Islands of Aloha*. January 2009. Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau. 18 February 2009 <http://www.gohawaii.com/kauai/plan/things_to_do_on_kauai/attractions/points_of_interest/menehune_fishpond>.

History of Na Pali. 2007. 20 February 2009 <http://www.napali.com/na_pali_coast/history.html>.

Interesting Facts about the Island of Kuaia and Hawaii. October 2008. 20 Febraury 2009 <<http://www.teok.com/KauaiFacts.html>>.

Kalalau Beach. 2008. 20 February 2009 <<http://www.kauaiavacationsecrets.com/kalalau-beach/>>.

"Kauai Activities." *Kauai Discount Activities*. 2008. Hawaii Web. 23 Feb. 2009 <http://www.hawaiiwebdesign.com/kauai_activities.htm>.

"Ke'e Beach." *Kauai Beaches*. 2008. 20 February 2009 <<http://www.hawaiiweb.com/kauai/beaches/Ke'e-Beach.htm>>.

"Kauai's State Park Hiking Trails." *Hawaii State Parks*. Department of Land and Natural Resources. 25 Feb. 2009. <<http://www.hawaiistateparks.org/hiking/kauai/index>>.

Na Pali Coast 'Ohana. February 2009. 20 February 2009 <<http://www.napali.org/aboutnapali.html>>.

Na Pali Coast State Wilderness Park. 2009. 20 February 2009 <<http://www.hawaiistateparks.org/parks/kauai/napali.cfm>>.

"Oil rises amid report of growing demand." MSNBC. 23 Feb 2009. MSNBC. 25 Feb 2009 <<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12400801>>.

"Six days in Kauai." *India Abroad*. 9 July 2004, M11. *Ethnic News-Watch (ENW)*. ProQuest. David O. McKay Library, BYU-Idaho, Rexburg, ID 18 Feb. 2009 <<http://www.proquest.com/>>.

Stevenson, Jeani. *The Geology of the Garden Island*. December 2003. 20 February 2009 <<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~jeanstev/Kauai/index.html>>.

Travelocity Travel. Travelocity. 24 Feb 2009 <<http://travelocity.com>>.

Refuse to be confined by ordinary travel destinations.



ReynoldsTravel

www.reynoldstravel.com | 800.354.6978 | Rexburg, Idaho



With intelligent Face Detector. **LUMIX**

**7 WONDERS
OF PORTUGUESE
ORIGIN IN THE
WORLD**

27 MONUMENTS IN 16 COUNTRIES. AND ALL WITHOUT E.U. SUBSIDIES.

They are not stories, they're facts. Portugal is the only country in the world with classified heritage in three separate continents. The 27 chosen monuments are situated in 16 countries and are a reason of pride for all Portuguese people. They represent our courage, our ingenuity and dedication. Choosing the New 7 Wonders of Portugal is to divulge and protect a heritage that belongs to us but also to all of humanity. Participate, the results will be revealed in a ceremony that will happen on the 10th of June of 2009, the Portugal Day.

