

Car break-ins can be a problem anywhere. They seem to be more frequent in the summer due to school vacations. The places usually hit are those that require you to leave your car in a secluded place for an extended period of time. Contrary to popular belief, locals are targeted nearly as often as tourists. To protect yourself, don't leave anything valuable in the car. (Well...maybe the seats can stay.) At secluded spots that have recently been robbed, savvy locals will often leave their doors unlocked and the windows partially open to prevent having their windows smashed, but doing so *might* negate your rental car insurance. If you park in a secluded spot and notice several piles of glass on the ground, it's evidence that some juvenile has a new hobby. Don't kid yourself into believing that trunks are safe—they are often easier to open than doors. One place thieves rarely look is under the hood. But don't put something there after you arrive at your destination since someone might be watching. We once drove up to the parking area at Secret Beach, and there was a suspicious looking guy there. Mr. Slick acted busy by spending considerable time checking the oil in his car—but *the rusted hulk had no wheels all the way around*. Be alert and you should be OK.

All of this is not meant to convey the impression that car break-ins are rampant. In fact, the opposite is true. You could probably spend your entire life here and never experience one. (We haven't.) But if you lose your brand new \$1,000 auto-everything digital SLR camera to some juvenile dipstick because you were one of the few...well, won't *you* feel sick?

4-Wheel Drive

With its many rugged roads, one of the best ways to see Kaua'i is by four-wheel drive. These can be difficult to come by at times. Ask the rental car

company if they have disabled the 4WD mechanism. If you use a gold credit card for the automatic insurance, check with the card carrier to see if you are covered when you're on unpaved roads. Another tip is to avoid deep, soft sand. Even 4WD vehicles can get stuck in sand if they have the wrong tires. If you must drive on sand, let much of the air out of the tires to get more sand traction. (We'll leave it up to you how to get the air back in.) If you already *are* stuck in sand, try pulling the carpet from the trunk and driving on it to get out. (Oh, the car companies will love us for *that* one.) Rental car companies are always changing the vehicles to keep them new. At press time, all the *big* companies we list had SUVs or other 4WD vehicles. Expect to pay up to \$60–\$90 per day for the privilege of cheating the road builders.

Buses

Kaua'i has a bus system called the **Kaua'i Bus** (clever, eh?). It goes from Kekaha to Hanalei, and fares are \$2. A monthly pass is \$25, and most have bike racks. There are stops all along the main highway, but they aren't always marked as well as they should be. For a bus schedule or more information, call 241-6410.

Less Than 4 Wheels

If you really want to ham it up, try renting a HOG. (*Note:* The Supreme Court recently ruled that publishers cannot be held liable for bad puns.) **Kaua'i Harley-Davidson** on the highway in Puhī (241-7020) rents HOGs and other bikes. Good selection. Rates are \$139 for 8 hours and \$179 for overnight for HOGs. Expensive? You bet! But nothing else feels like a genuine Harley.

Scooters/mopeds are also available. We've seen some pretty close calls and consider them too unstable to rec-

Hey, I Recognize That Place...

When Hollywood wants to convey the impression of beauty, lushness and the exotic, it's no contest what location they choose. Kaua'i has long been the location of choice for movie directors looking for something special. As you drive around the island, keep an eye out for the locations of scenes from some of these movies: Pirates of the Caribbean 4, The Descendants, Just Go With It, Soul Surfer, all three Jurassic Park movies, Tropic Thunder, Dragonfly, To End All Wars, Six Days/Seven Nights, Mighty Joe Young, George of the Jungle, Outbreak,



Harrison Ford rehearsing at Maha'ulepu for the movie, Six Days/Seven Nights.

North, Honeymoon in Vegas, Hook, Lord of the Flies, Flight of the Intruder, Throw Momma From the Train, The Thorn Birds, Uncommon Valor, Body Heat, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Fantasy Island, King Kong, Acapulco Gold, Islands in the Stream, The Hawaiians, Lost Flight, Hawai'i, Paradise Hawaiian Style, Girls! Girls! Girls!, Donovan's Reef, Blue Hawai'i, South Pacific, Miss Sadie Thompson and many more. Hollywood discovered Kaua'i years ago.



It's cool when you literally stumble across movie props, as we did with this shipwreck from Tropic Thunder, local resident Ben Stiller's film.