



Watch your step around these ficus roots at the Allerton Garden in Lawa'i. This tree is where they found the dinosaur eggs in the movie Jurassic Park.

of a large rectangular aperture to the left of the current blowhole opening.

The view from the guard-rail is quite interesting. Many people walk down and view the Horn and some of the other delightful offerings from the lava area itself. The power and forces in this area can only be experienced from this vantage point. Be forewarned, however, that while the experience is far more rewarding than the view from the guard-rails, it can be dangerous. There have been incidents where people have been swept to their deaths into the Horn. Unexpectedly large waves can even wash over the entire shelf, dragging you into the hole or over the edge into the open ocean.

There may be signs suggesting that you not go down, although county personnel we spoke with said it wasn't illegal. Use caution and common sense. If you go onto the bench, you do so at your own

risk. (For some odd reason, tour bus drivers sometimes authoritatively yell at people on the bench, but hey...they're just tour bus drivers.) In any event, *never* stand between the hole and the ocean. A very large wave would have no difficulty dragging you in. Some years ago two visitors from San Francisco were knocked in while they stood between the hole and the ocean. One was *on crutches* at the time. They were lucky—rather than being crushed inside the hole, they were immediately sucked out of the blowhole and into the open ocean where they were rescued by some phone workers on their break.

Just before Spouting Horn is the entrance to the **National Tropical Botanical Garden**. This incredibly beautiful garden consists of 252 acres called the **McBryde Garden** and 80 acres called the **Allerton Garden** (742-2623). Even if you normally wouldn't visit a garden, you'll probably like this one. See **LAND TOURS** on page 166.

Going back the way you came, just before the fork is a road leading to **Koloa Landing**. This is a popular SCUBA

shore dive. Until the 1900s this was Kaua'i's main port. Whaling ships used to winter here, and all goods brought to Kaua'i came through either **Koloa Landing** or Waimea.

Going back to the traffic circle, take the branch toward Po'ipu, which is **turtle** country. Look out at the water for any reasonable length of time, and you'll see green sea turtles swimming nearby. This area was developed in the '70s and '80s and has become a much sought-after visitor destination. Swanky hotels and condominium resorts line the road. (See **WHERE TO STAY** chapter for more information.) The beaches in this area are fantastic, with the best of the best located past the resorts at a place called **Maha'ulepu**.

This beach (see **BEACHES** chapter) sports lots of places to walk and some incredible sandstone cliffs. The dirt roads around here can be good places to ride mountain bikes. Horseback riding, snorkeling, fishing and more are all available in this area. The lithified cliffs from **Maha'ulepu** to **Shipwreck Beach** offer delicious shoreline hikes. See **HIKING** in the **ACTIVITIES** chapter.

One thing that totally escaped our attention until an alert reader pointed it out to us was the presence of a cool-looking **lava arch** at the shoreline between the Point at Po'ipu Resort and Makahu'ena at the southern tip of the island. Park at the Point and walk along the shoreline until you see a light beacon. The

chain link fence from Makahu'ena points toward the arch. Don't let the ocean smack you around here.

There's lots of cactus along this part of the island. It was imported in the 1800s because it made a perfect natural cattle fence—and you don't even need to repair it.

KALAHEO

After Lawa'i comes Kalaheo (which has the best pizza on the island—see **ISLAND DINING**). One of Kalaheo's lesser known gems is the **Kukuiohono Park and Golf Course** (see **GOLFING** in the **ACTIVITIES** chapter). This is the private course and garden donated by Walter

These lithified sand dunes of Maha'ulepu are a stunning testament to the power of the ocean.

