



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.

200 feet into the air. But on an early Sunday morning back in the 1920s a sugar company manager ordered one of his workers to drop blasting powder into the hole to widen it so the plume wouldn't shoot into the air. The reason? The salt spray from the geyser was stunting the growth of 10 acres of cane (among the company's many thousands of acres), and the manager would not stand for that. From down on the lava shelf you can see its remains in the form 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 reward-

ing 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. A while back 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.

The vendors you see there selling cheap jewelry and such have been evicted by the county, and have until 2013 to leave. (Hey, at least they can't complain that they weren't given adequate notice.)

Just before Spouting Horn is the entrance to the **National Tropical Botanical Gardens**. This incredibly beautiful garden consists of 252 acres called the **McBryde Garden** and 100 acres called the **Allerton Garden** (742-2623). Even if you normally wouldn't visit a garden, you'll probably like this one. Rich and lush with remarkably varied plants and abundant birds, tours here are guided and last about two hours. The fee for the tour is \$20 per person for McBryde, \$40 for the more desirable Allerton. Reservations are required. Kids must be at least 10 years old on the Allerton tour.

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 to the fork again, take the left (eastern) fork. (Or, as Yogi Berra used to say, "If you come to a fork in the road, *take it.*") Po'ipu 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, windsurfing, 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 for information.

One thing that totally escaped our attention until an alert reader pointed it out



A REAL GEM

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

