

destination

HAWAII

Turn the page for two of San Diego Style Weddings' favorite Hawaiian honeymoon destinations:
Kohala Coast on the Big Island and Po'ipu, Kauai

paradise found

Kohala Coast on Hawaii, the Big Island

PICTURE THIS: The perfect destination engagement, wedding, honeymoon and vow renewal location all rolled into one perfect coast on one perfect island, the Kohala Coast on Hawaii, the Big Island. Here's *San Diego Style Weddings'* "BEST OF" list of places to stay and things to do while on your trip.

WRITTEN BY *Holly Lafferty*

Best Spa Experience

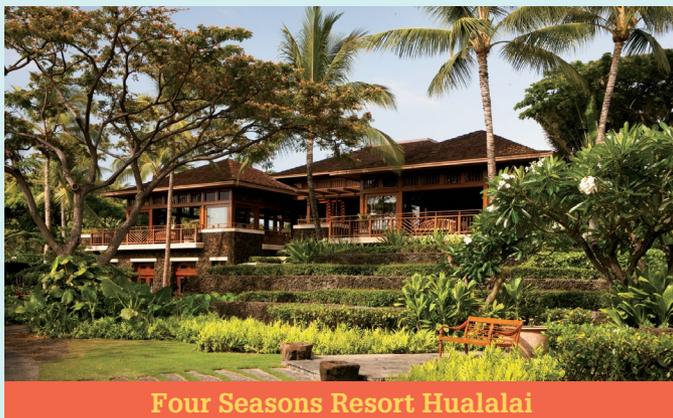
The Lomilomi Massage at **The Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii's Spa Without Walls** is a unique experience in that the technique is Hawaiian and while, like most massages, you won't want it to end, you'll know sadly that this dreamy version is not available back on the mainland. Not only that, the individual or couple's massages are offered by a waterfall or oceanside—neither view is too shabby. Request Tami and you're sure to get the best **The Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii** has to offer.

Another famous spa is found at **Hualalai Resort**, where guests of the **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** find the sense of place and peace difficult to surpass. **Hualalai Spa's** Apothecary is influenced by the local Hawaiian elders (the Kupuna), which means you are able to choose from more than 20 natural ingredients to create the ultimate personalized spa treatment.

Best History

Local treasure Danny Akaka is the Director of Cultural Affairs at the **Mauna Lani Resort**, a natural oasis of warmth and beauty. The cultural center at the Resort's **Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows** is filled with activities to educate and entertain about local Hawaiian culture; and the Mauna Lani has a real find in Akaka, whose knowledge of Hawaiian history, legend, and customs is unsurpassed.

The Mauna Kea Beach Hotel is another fabulous historical locale. The oldest hotel on the coastline, it is also the smallest and was founded by Laurance S. Rockefeller back in 1965. The hotel has the island's oldest and most diverse art collection, a perfect place to experience culture at its finest. The hotel is also an architectural revelation, because Rockefeller made certain the design would be innovative.



Four Seasons Resort Hualalai

Best Opportunities for Adventure Seekers

For the active and athletic couple, the hike to Puhiapele Crater on the slopes of Hualalai Volcano that the **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** offers its guests is the ultimate highlight. Ask for tour guide Eric Bonnici and receive the trip of a lifetime up the active volcano. Hike through lava tubes, stand on the top of the volcano and look down the "mouth of Pele". You and your man are bound to leave the experience changed profoundly.

Not a confident swimmer? No problem. Whether you are or aren't, the **Mauna Kea Beach Hotel** provides a guided snorkeling experience at Kaunaoa Bay along its distinctive coral reef that will stretch your capabilities while providing the ultimate scenery of the ocean. Guided patiently, you can push yourself farther out than you ever imagined to the ocean and experience glimpses of endemic sea turtles, octopuses, and numerous different fish and sea urchins.

Best Wedding Locations

The **Hilton Waikoloa Village** provides a charming white chapel set back off the edge of a seaside cliff. Working with

proposing to their potential fiancées. Consider this story shared by Jaisy Jardine, Director of Public Relations: "Recently, a couple was basking in the afterglow of an oceanfront couples massage in one of our ocean side cabanas when a canoe carrying one of our Orchid Beach Boys arrived along the shore bearing chilled champagne, chocolate covered strawberries, and a "Puolo" (a traditional gift bundle) wrapped in ti-leaves. The soon-to-be bride had no idea that inside the Puolo was a diamond ring. The canoe quickly departed and allowed the soon-to-be groom to propose."

The Mauna Kea Beach Hotel's intimate and private property and unbeatable Kaunaoa Bay allows for the most private and romantic proposal your man can dream. **The Mauna Kea Beach Hotel's** small size and historic elegance create a perfect atmosphere for a romantic proposal that won't be topped elsewhere. Kaunaoa Bay is the perfect spot for a toes-in-the-sand proposal that any woman will treasure for the rest of her life.

Best Male Experience

Golf courses galore! Each property along the Kohala Coast has a famous golf course (it is the golf capital of the Hawaiian Islands). Try the course at the **Waikoloa Beach Resort**; although all are unbeatable for the views, challenge and delight factor.

The Hilton Waikoloa Village's outdoor activities are also sure to keep your man

Cheryl Shoemaker, the hotel's senior catering manager, you're guaranteed heartfelt and indescribable moments galore. From Hawaiian traditions to a sunset ceremony, you will re-create a moment with your husband that you'll never forget.

Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows is known for having both indoor and outdoor experiences for a variety of group sizes. With Danny Akaka doubling not only as a Cultural Affairs expert but also as a traditional Hawaiian musician, the spirit (or "mana") is enchanting and unforgettable. When he serenades you with the traditional Hawaiian wedding song on his ukulele, it is an occasion that will create magical memories.

Best Engagement Experience

The Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii is filled with creative stories and ideas for men

Mauna Lani Resort



entertained. Try something you'll both like, such as a glass-bottom boat tour, kayaking, or stand-up paddleboarding with Ocean Sports. You can always sun on the beach and enjoy the sight of his attempts at perfection with a mai tai in your hand.

Best Group Experiences

If you're planning a destination wedding and need a fun, active place to accommodate a large group, look no further than the **Hilton Waikoloa Village**. The open spaces, water slide, grotto and pet dolphin make for a good time to be had by all. **The Hilton Waikoloa Village** also offers a twice-a-week luau full of fantastic food and entertainment that will leave you amazed. It accommodates groups of various sizes for destination weddings, family reunions, and a variety of other events. Because the **Four Seasons Resort Hualalai** strives for the complete resort experience, couples and groups of 20 or 80 can be comfortable at one of their many pools or restaurants, depending on their social needs.

In short, you can't go wrong with virtually any of the properties along the Kohala Coast. Each resort has its own perfect niche that will serve couples or wedding parties in its own way. It is one of the most beautiful stretches of beach and land in the world.



My Wedding, Revisited

When I mentioned to Cheryl Shoemaker, the hotel's senior catering manager at the **Hilton Waikoloa Village** that my husband and I were celebrating our 5th wedding anniversary while on our trip to the Kohala Coast, she immediately offered the chance of a lifetime: She would put together a vow renewal ceremony for us virtually overnight. Naturally, we were overcome with her generosity and couldn't possibly refuse the offer.

We made a stop at **Tommy Bahama** at **The Shops at Mauna Lani**, where they generously provided us with beautiful white "casually elegant" attire for our special occasion. Everything seemed to be coming together perfectly. Then my husband and I realized that the next morning, our itinerary included a four hour hike to Puhiapele Crater before our vow renewals. No problem, we thought. We'd enjoy the experience and then enjoy the vow renewal.

Well, of course we got sunburned and were exhausted. But after showering and a little pampering for me from the **Hilton Waikoloa Village's Kohala Spa**, where they did a beautiful job putting my hair in an updo, we were ready to slip into our clothing from Tommy Bahama and meet the "crew" at the small white chapel on the beachside cliff for our vow renewals. Little did we know how completely special the event coming was to be. The wedding staff at **Hilton Waikoloa Village** had literally put a beautiful, intimate event together overnight. I was given a breathtaking bouquet courtesy of Nicco's Designs; the fantastic staff at **Hilton Waikoloa Village** had made us a small passion fruit cake (DELICIOUS); and they also surprised us with professional photographers from the talented **Photo Event Solutions**. In addition, we were blessed with **Pastor Keith Elliott from Aloha Kiss**, who took care to acknowledge our religion while incorporating special Hawaiian touches into the ceremony.

I must say that the vow renewal experience nearly overshadowed my large 200-guest church wedding five years prior. Perhaps it was the vows taking on a whole new meaning the second time around; perhaps it was the generosity and loveliness of everyone involved in putting the event together for us; and perhaps it was just the unbeatable location, but it was truly an experience my husband and I will never forget.

There is no possible way to say enough about our vow renewals. There is nothing quite like feeling like a bride for a second time but knowing what you're getting into on this occasion. All I can say is that if you are looking for the ideal place to get engaged, married, or renew your vows, look no further than the Kohala Coast. Our time with the wonderful staff at the **Hilton Waikoloa Village** was absolutely overwhelming in the best possible way.

The Wedding Professionals

Pastor Keith Elliott
alohakiss.com

Photo Event Solutions
photoeventsolutions.com

Nicco's Designs
niccosdesign.com

Tommy Bahama
tommybahama.com

Hilton Waikoloa Village
hiltonwaikoloavillage.com/weddings/

Kohala Coast Resort Association
KohalaCoastResorts.com



The garden spot of the garden island

Po'ipu, Kauai

Po'ipu truly embraces the word Aloha. It's a mantra for them and they wish to share their affection and love for their island with all who visit. Po'ipu does not disappoint!

WRITTEN BY *Bob Brichmann*

Whether you are planning a destination wedding, enjoying a honeymoon getaway or simply vacationing for a few days...the beauty of the Garden Island is incredible. Outdoor activities, glowing romantic sunsets, creative foods to satisfy even the most ardent foodie...the #1 thing you'll take back with you is the hospitality and warmth of the people of Po'ipu.

Where to Stay

After flying into Lihue, Kaua'i and collecting your sweet-smelling lei, take a short, scenic drive through the lush countryside, through the legendary "Tunnel of Trees," and beautiful Po'ipu will unfold before you along the south side of the island.

The Parrish Collection Kaua'i offers beautiful island vacation homes throughout the island, but those on the south shore are incredible. **The Maikalani** at Po'ipu Kai, for example, is a beautifully appointed, modern, island themed, 1400 sq' villa with two bedrooms and two baths, private lanais, a spacious family room area, flat screen TVs, outdoor grill, washer & dryer, a private garage and all the kitchenware a vacationing chef could ever need.

Situated on a nicely landscaped garden community along a Greenbelt walkway, it's a short stroll to Shipwreck Beach and Makawehi Point. Sunbathing, boogie boarding and surfing are ideal for this beach. Enjoy the scenic views, fishermen surf casting and brave locals jumping into the sea from the cliff just as Anne Heche and Harrison Ford did in the movie *Six Days, Seven Nights*.

The Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort at Po'ipu

Beach is a stunning boutique beachfront property. With a contemporary design, they offer 121 spacious guestrooms and suites, each with a private lanai. Impeccable and friendly service shines throughout this resort. From the poolside lounge staff to the valet and from the front desk to the wait staff at the cutting edge restaurant Red Salt, this hotel gets it!

One can paddle out to sea and surf or snorkel. Couples can frolic in the pool or jacuzzi and bask in a gorgeous sunset. Indulge in the Spa at Ko'a Kea. Why not just lounge on your private lanai with a Mai Tai and then crash in your plush king bed as the waves lap and lull you to sleep?

Kukui'ula is the first major new luxury residential community in decades for the Garden Island. This gorgeous stretch of 1,010 acres is situated between Po'ipu, the National Tropical Botanical Garden and historic Old Koloa Town.

Their collection of custom ocean view home sites and Hawaiian plantation-style cottages are a dazzling concept. In addition, check out the stunning centerpiece to the community ~ a \$100 million clubhouse known as the Plantation House. There is a spa, the Golf

Clubhouse, a Tom Weiskopf-designed 18 hole championship golf course and an elaborate array of swimming pools. There is a community farm of rich and tasty flowers, fruits and vegetables and a 20-acre, peacock bass stocked, catch & release fishing lake.

Brides and grooms, beginning in December 2011, have an opportunity to rent one of the cottages in a boutique lodge environment for either a destination wedding or for a honeymoon. As a major plus, you'll have access to all of the wonderful amenities described above. A truly dream one-stop honeymoon!

Outdoor Adventures

WOW! Where to begin? For an outdoors enthusiast to a thrill junkie or from a casual hiker and lover of all things nature...the Garden Island of Kaua'i packs a punch.

Outfitters Kaua'i offers spirited, humorous, informative tours of various parts of Po'ipu and the island. Start a morning off with an invigorating bike tour of the Koloa Heritage Trail. If you're lucky, Auntie Stella, director of culture at the **Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort & Spa**, may meet and greet you along the way and share some fascinating insight into the history of Po'ipu and Prince Kuhio Park.

Outfitters Kaua'i offers a breathtaking Hidden Valley Falls Kayak Adventure that is perfect for all ages and abilities. Your half-day trip includes a roughly two-mile downwind paddle on the gentle and scenic Hule'ia River. The National Wildlife Refuge you experience amidst your trip is gorgeous.

Be prepared for a hungry mosquito or two, lots of sunshine and lush jungle trails as you hike to perfect Kodak moments in front of fern covered valleys and secluded ponds and waterfalls. Take some time to enjoy a swing on the

rope that Harrison Ford enjoyed in the Indiana Jones movie or dive into the waterhole Johnny Depp "walked across" in *Pirates IV*.

Arguably, one of the can't miss outings on a trip like this is in a helicopter. The Kaua'i Eco-Adventure Helicopter Tour from **Blue Hawaiian Helicopters** is fantastic. Talk about a way to truly see the emerald beauty of this island...the Napali Coast and it's gorgeous beaches and seaside cliffs; Manawaiopuna Falls (the "Jurassic Park Falls"); or perhaps the heart of the ancient volcano at Mt. Wai'ale'ale.

Their streamlined helos are gentler than a flight across the Pacific. The myth of a rollicking, motion sensitive outing is just that ~ not true. The engaging narrative from the pilot is funny and informative. You can even get a video, with audio, copy of your adventure.

Offering a serious cloud-riding memory is a "doors off" tour provided by **Inter-Island Helicopters**. Zooming about the island at an average speed of 140 mph and in a more intimate helo, you can really score some great photos. Be prepared for some wind, but it's a small trade-off for the up-close and personal bird's eye view of the Koke'e State Park, the Hanepepe Valley and the incredible valleys of Wainiha, Lumaha'i, Hanalei and Princeville.

Talk about waterfalls and scenic, mountain greenery! Most of the island can only be seen by air. It's truly a once-in-a-lifetime outing. Staff, from the office, ground crew and pilots, are professional, friendly and polite. Most importantly...it's always safety first! Don't scrimp on this activity!

Kaua'i ATV are a very cool and collected group of fun-loving, outdoor pros who clearly love Kaua'i and want to share its beauty with everyone.

The **Koloa Bass Boat Fishing** offers

Mauna Lani Resort





Kukui'ula



The Beach House Restaurant

serious fun for either novice or seasoned fishermen (or women). Venturing out onto the Waita Reservoir, the largest body of fresh water in Hawaii, it's a sunny and rewarding morning dialed in on Tilapia, Peacock Bass, Catfish and Big Mouth Bass. It's not open to the public. Your guide is helpful and super friendly. They supply everything. It's tropical paradise, catch and release.

The **Waterfall Mauka Tour** is a muddy, dusty, barrel of laughs. Whether on a Mud Bug or an ATV, be prepared for a fun, rollicking, scenic and dirty outing. With loads of Kodak moments of waterfalls, tropical landscapes and a half-mile tunnel through the heart of the Ha'upu mountain range, be prepared for serious, but safe off-roading. Their guides place safety first, but you get a great trail run. Their guides share great island tales with a refreshingly dry wit. Fun for the whole family!

Foodie Heaven

Now don't misunderstand, there are delicious food trucks and small cafés offering simple but tasty food everywhere. If you truly want to embrace island sustainability, local culinary artistry and (bottom line) a deliciously lasting memory of the island, try these options.

The Beach House Restaurant takes great pride in both their sustainable approach to serving local fish and produce from the islands and in their service and the quality of their food. The menu is updated seasonally and is always fresh and expertly prepared. The service is consistently fantastic. I highly recommend the seared island fresh Ahi Poke and their signature Macadamia Buttered Local Mahi Mahi entrée.

For those of you staging destination, oceanfront weddings or renewals of vows, this is one of the best locations to choose from, especially for photos. In-

credible sunsets and the closest restaurant to the ocean, they offer unbelievable views and memories. Remember them for rehearsal dinners, romantic honeymoon outings and other special occasions.

The Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort & Spa offers Kaua'i's only true Four Diamond Award Winning Restaurant, Dondero's. They have been honored as Kaua'i's Best Italian Restaurant. The décor is modern Italian villa. The service is excellent. You can wine & dine amidst murals indoors or romanticize under the stars on patios overlooking the inviting ocean. Your dining experience starts with deliciously prepared appetizers ranging from sautéed calamari with pancetta to grilled eggplant with Burrata cheese or a dreamy Fontina cheese and Parmesan fondue with toasted rustic bread. One can then easily transition into a fresh salad, soup or pizzelle stage.

An incredible array of risottos and pastas are offered as a first course. The Tortellini Ai Quattro Formaggi definitely stands out. The second courses are equally impressive and range from beef and veal to various seafood entrees, also with a seasonal and sustainable thought in mind, paying forward for the environment.

Red Salt at Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort features a cool Hawaiian ambience with a flair for upscale contemporary cuisine. Their chefs embrace the sustainability concept and proudly offer a diverse menu celebrating fresh seafood and produce found throughout Hawaii.

Red salt is not just a restaurant name, but also a key island ingredient in many of their dishes. The short story on red salt is that it is salt crystals colored by the red soils of Hawaii. Obviously, there is more to it, but trust me, it's a wonderful flavor for meats, seafoods and assorted culinary delights.

How about starting with some Red Salt poke or a colorful salad plate of Kalaheo baby greens? Grilled Ono on a bed of king crab home fries is a great choice as an entrée. Displaying just as much creativity and satisfying the palate are dishes such as vanilla seared Mahi and prime New York steak with red salt fries.

Pamper Yourself in Paradise

The Anara Spa at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i offers a step into tranquility and relaxation. The multitude of spa treatments and salon services will keep a honeymooning couple happy and at peace for their entire trip.

The Lomilomi is a traditional Hawaiian massage that will melt away any stress or aches from other island activities. There's nothing like a massage that embraces you with flowing strokes to release your body, mind and spirit.

While you visit, be sure and indulge in the lap pool, hot tub, sauna, iced lemon water and, upon wrapping up your trip to nirvana for a couple of hours, shower in private in a lava rock outdoor shower under crystal clear skies. The staff is grade A on customer service. This is a memorable visit that will turn you into jelly for the rest of the day.

The Kukui'ula Spa provides a unique sense of tranquility that becomes a refreshing adventure for the body and soul. The warm ocean breeze that accompanies an outdoor massage is memorable. It's almost impossible to stay awake amidst a soothing deep tissue massage.

They offer indoor/outdoor treatment rooms, a secluded outdoor yoga area, an impressive lap pool, steam and sauna facilities, hot and cold plunge pools and a state-of-the-art fitness room. Check out the Stimulight machine in the fitness room for a special, cutting edge workout treat.

The whole experience is welcoming, relaxing, exciting and soothing. The staff is extremely friendly and accommodating. You and yours could spend a whole day enjoying what this spa has to offer and still come back for more.

Po'ipu, Kaua'i - so much beauty, so inviting, so much to do, so little time!

Red Salt at Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort





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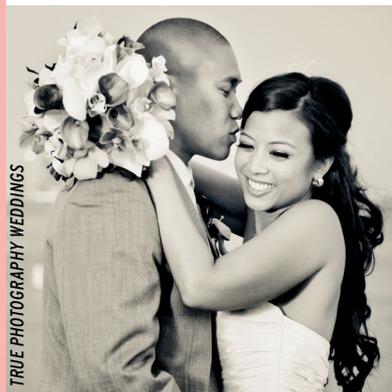
  



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