

Hawai'i to ingratiate himself with King Kamehameha and recover a lost ship's cargo. When Kamehameha eventually became suspicious of Scheffer, the German moved on to Kaua'i. There he found a receptive King Kaumuali'i who, although he had officially given his kingdom to Kamehameha, still resisted offshore rule. Kaua'i's king-in-name-only saw a chance to get the Russians involved and perhaps restore his power. The two men realized how much they could help each other and soon hatched plans to conquer the other islands using Russian ships. By this time Scheffer had become intoxicated by his status on Kaua'i and lost sight of the fact that he could not deliver on any of the promises he was making to Kaua'i's king. He even renamed Hanalei Valley, calling it Schefferthal, with the king's blessing.

As Scheffer began building the Russian Fort in honor of Elizabeth, a Russian consort, his sponsors back in Russia were beginning to get a hint of Scheffer's tactics. They sent a ship to Hawai'i to tell Scheffer that he was to pack and leave the island. Scheffer ignored the message and

continued building the fort. By this time Kaua'i's king was becoming suspicious, and a group of American businessmen saw an opportunity to rid the island of Scheffer and Russia. They started the rumor that Russia and America were at war. Kaua'i's king abandoned Scheffer, who fled the island in a leaky old ship and set sail for O'ahu. Once there, Scheffer was told he would be taken prisoner. He fled to Brazil where he changed his name to Count von Frankenthal and tried to lure colonists to his estate of the same name.

Why are we telling you all this? Because the story's more interesting than the actual site—little more than a perimeter of rocks from the foundation. (By the way, there are lots of bees here.)

If you drive through Fort Elizabeth and take the dirt road, you'll come to the **mouth of the Waimea River**. This can be a beautiful area to linger and watch the interaction of the ocean with the river, especially when the river flow is low. The dark, rich sand separating the ocean from the river is saturated with water from the river. White waves some-

times gently lap up and down the sand without sinking in, creating a delicate show of contrasts. You'll notice an olive green tint to the sand here. This is from a semi-precious gem called olivine, which the Waimea River tirelessly mines from its lava bed along with black flecks of lava, making the floor of the Waimea Canyon lower and lower in the process.

WAIMEA

Back on the main highway you come to the town of Waimea. This part of the island usually looks best (and greenest) in the winter. Off to your right you will see the **Captain Cook Monument**. It was in Waimea that the great explorer first set foot in Hawai'i in January 1778. (He was later killed on the Big Island in a petty dispute over a stolen rowboat.)

Travel 1½ mile up Menehune Road on the *mauka* side of the highway to see the **Menehune Ditch**, a smooth, lined irrigation ditch designed to bring water from the Waimea River to the taro fields. Only 50 or 60 feet are now visible. It's impressive to think that the rocks used for its construction came from a quarry more than six miles away. This is one of the few Hawaiian relics that almost certainly wasn't created by the current race of Hawaiians who came from Tahiti around 1,000 AD. *That* group didn't cut and dress stones—as is the case at Menehune Ditch—they simply stacked them. This irrigation ditch is much older and was probably built by the initial inhabitants—the original “native Hawaiians”—who came from the Marquesas Islands around 300 AD. These first settlers lived a peaceful though less structured life until the Tahitian invaders displaced them and their culture 700 years later, establishing the Hawaiian culture we know today.

Across from the ditch is the **Waimea Swinging Bridge**. Like the one in Hana-

pepe, it, too, is a replacement for the old one blown away in 1992.

The **Waimea** (meaning red water) **River** is full of sediment that dyes the water red. All the beaches in the vicinity of the river are murky due to river runoff, and the swimming is correspondingly poor. (In fact, you can see the runoff from the Space Shuttle photo on the cover.) According to legend, there was a beautiful chief's daughter named Komali'u who was sought after by many men in the village. One day a man named Mano asked her to marry him. When she refused, he killed her at a waterfall where her blood ran into the river. The chief named the village, canyon and river Waimea in memory of his daughter.

While in Waimea, **Jo-Jo's Clubhouse** (across from the 23 mile marker and not to be confused with Jo-Jo's Anuenue) serves some of the best shave ice on the island. (Yes—we've tried it everywhere else. It's our duty.) They offer a staggering 60 flavors and big portions at a cheap price. Only problem is the sometimes *sloooooo* service.

KEKAHA

From Waimea, most people go up the road to the Waimea Canyon, but we will get to that later. Assuming you are continuing along the coast, you arrive in Kekaha. This is the last town on this side of the island. Past the 25 mile marker the highway hugs the beach for 2 miles. It's a nice place to stop and enjoy views of Ni'ihau past the 26 mile marker, and beach access here is accomplished by simply falling out of your car onto the sand.

Waimea Canyon Plaza is the last area with food along here. The **Menehune Food Mart** has sandwiches, hot dogs and very good bread pudding. Things aren't as hideously expensive there as you'd expect given the remoteness of the location.

The dark sand at the mouth of the Waimea River beautifully contrasts the ocean foam slithering into the river.

