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APRIL 9, 2006

## GOING PLACES



### Celebrate Rembrandt by land or sea

The Netherlands is celebrating the 400th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth July 15, 1606 with several events. All International Corp. has two programs in its Atlantic Campus. **Rembrandt Cruise** is a 12-day land tour starting at \$1,000, including airfare, transfers, 10 night accommodations, three meals daily and even a graduation ceremony. Travel dates are May 20 through June 6. **Cross the Majestic Waterways and Canals of Holland & Belgium** consists of eight days aboard the 120-passenger MS *Serenity*, also with stops and talks that focus on Rembrandt's art and the scenes that inspired him. The all-inclusive trip is priced from \$2,000, depending on departure city. Travel dates are Friday through April 20 and April 29 through May 7. Information: (800) 328-1212, [www.alltravel.com](http://www.alltravel.com). — The Boston Globe

## THIS & THAT

### BlackBerry balm

Thanks to your BlackBerry, you can get a special message to your BlackBerry device. The BlackBerry treatment comes on hand and arm massages, specifically for BlackBerry and overworked wrists. It finishes with a special rub made of BlackBerries, which are rich in antioxidants. Cost begins at \$95. It was developed at the Royal Berkshire and is now available at nearly two dozen locations. Contact: [www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com). — The Dallas Morning News

## CLOSE TO HOME

### Balloon festival

Off Interstate 15 between San Diego and Riverside, the 19th Tri-county Valley Balloon & Wine Festival celebrates the colorful spectacle with hot air balloons from the valley and elsewhere in Southern California. Entertainment includes Berlin, Loretta, the Gas Showroom and Peter Propp. The event runs from June 2 through 4 at Lake Skinner County Park. Information: [www.tvalley.com](http://www.tvalley.com). — The Associated Press

## LIST DU JOUR

The top "up and coming" destinations for 2006, from the staff of *Forbes*'s travel guide:  
Annapolis County, Ontario, Canada  
Charleston, S.C.  
Chappa, Scotland  
Gua, India  
Kananis game park, Mauritius, Vanuatu  
Mokai, Hawaii  
Ramat, N.H.  
Tennessee, Australia  
— Chicago Tribune

This week's exchange rates chart may be found on Page D13.

## SPECIAL HAWAII SECTION



STEVE HAGGERTY PHOTOS

There's barely room for two kayakers in the channel leading to the Hanalei River on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

# TWO IF BY SEA

Kayakers of all levels can enjoy the **Kauai** experience

By ANNE Z. COOKE  
and STEVE HAGGERTY  
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

‘E’ everything OK?’ asked our guide, Wyatt Godinez, resting his paddle across the bow and waiting for us to catch up. He smiled, that Hawaiian-style “hang-loose and chill out” smile that makes you glad you’re there.

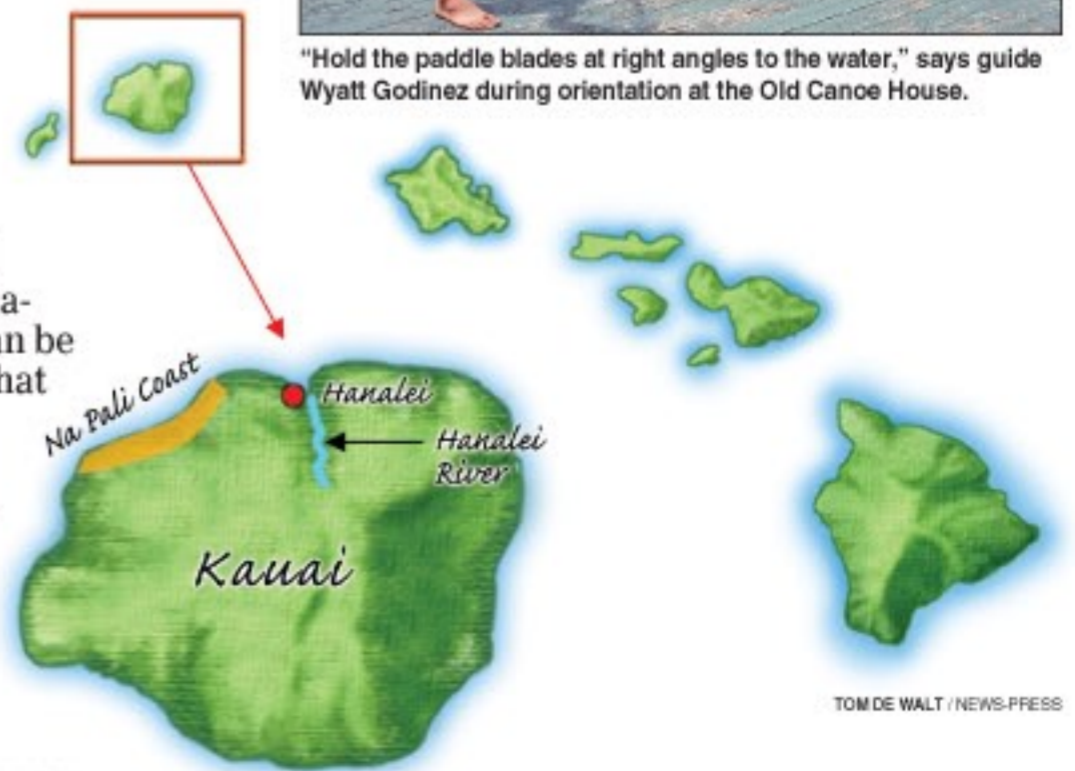
In fact, we were a tad anxious about kayaking in Hanalei Bay off the northern shore of Kauai. We shouldn’t have been: The day was perfect for paddling, with warm sun, a mild trade wind ruffling the palms and a few puffy clouds floating overhead.

But as anyone who’s read the fine print in the watersports chapter of a Hawaii guide will remind you, the Pacific Ocean deserves respect. In some seasons, the currents between the Hawaiian Islands can be treacherous. Even more sobering was the thought that the Kauai Channel, between Kauai and Oahu, is more than two miles deep.

Please see **KAUAI** on D16



“Hold the paddle blades at right angles to the water,” says guide Wyatt Godinez during orientation at the Old Canoe House.



TOM DE WALT / NEWS-PRESS

## Stay inside (wink, wink, nudge, nudge) at these Hawaiian hotels

By GARY A. WARNER  
TRAVEL WRITER

It’s beautiful. It’s tropical. It’s oh, so pink. The Royal Hawaiian Hotel, aka “The Pink Palace of the Pacific,” is just one of my favorite romantic getaways in that most romantic of places, Hawaii.

With all that natural beauty and a little sport around, you can even find romance in a remote forest in Haleakala. But if you are looking for that special in-the-moment experience, here’s my very short, very personal list of spots close to my heart.

It’s a small collection of places for after your soul has been healed by the island’s natural beauty, or just a place to say “Aloha to you!” if you want to that special someone.

**Waimea Plantation Cottages, Kauai** Let’s play house, Hawaiian style. This collection of colorful former sugar plantation houses is my favorite spot on the island. About four dozen early-20th-

century Craftsman-style cottages are arranged around a central tree grove and to a black sand beach great for strolling, leaping for swimming. There’s a movie theater on the premises, but the real fun is strolling up at the market and looking for a few days. They also rent a large plantation house and a small plantation cottage on the beautiful beach at Hanalei on the island’s north shore.

**Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Oahu** OK, guys, be prepared. Everything here is pink. Pink walls, pink wallpaper, pink towels. But the Royal Hawaiian has been a romantic favorite since 1927. The rest of Waikiki has grown up around it, but the hotel remains a quiet oasis within the bustle. Take a stroll down the beach to the Moana Surfside Hotel, which dates to 1926. With its wedding cake architecture, it’s a favorite for Japanese couples tying the knot. You’ll see young brides in full Western-style wedding gowns nearly every day.

Please see **HOTELS** on D16



Waimea Plantation Cottages on Kauai features refurbished former sugar-plantation houses.

WHERE I'VE BEEN



The architecture of Antoni Gaudí was a highlight of Adela Rosas's September trip to Spain. These unusual chimneys are on the roof of La Pedrera, an apartment building in Barcelona.

Adela Rosas of Santa Barbara says September was the best time to go to Barcelona. She shares her experiences from her recent trip to Spain, including visits to Gaudí's architecture, the Sagrada Família, and the beach.

World Heritage Site is "a fairly decently renovated hotel that looks like a piece of paradise." The Madrasan architecture of Antoni Gaudí is found in many places around the city and was a highlight for Ms. Rosas. "From the Sagrada Família cathedral, begun over 100 years ago and still under construction by the 'Cassà Batlló' with its curved shapes and unusual motifs like the Gaudí Park, the city is dominated by modern and the stark use of public materials such as granite, red brick, steel and different kinds of earth stone."

Nonstop flights to Barcelona

On May 17, Continental will introduce the only year-round non-stop service between the United States and Barcelona. Flights from Newark (N.J.) Liberty International Airport (LGA) will depart at 11:55 a.m. and arrive at Barcelona's El Prat airport (BCN) at 10:30 p.m. on the next morning. Return flights depart at 11:35 a.m. and arrive at 1:35 p.m. on the next day.

Demand drives disparity in rates for rental cars

As the rental car industry continues to grow, the disparity in rates between different companies is becoming more pronounced. Budget and Hertz are offering lower rates, while other companies are charging significantly more.

But most rental car companies don't operate that way. Hertz's Web site advertises a U.S. midsize car for a week in March, while a British midsize car is charged \$200 a week. The disparity is not just in rates but in services offered, such as insurance and other amenities.

River is for rookies; coast is for old hands

SPECIAL HAWAII SECTION

KAUAI

Continued from Page D14

Still, for a couple of amateur paddlers, we'd bested some equally edgy waterways in less forgiving climes. We'd kayaked in Alaska's mountainous Wood-Tikchik State Park on Beverley Lake, a wilderness jewel utterly inaccessible except by float plane.

So it was with mixed feelings that we headed for Kayak Kauai, located in a bungalow-style wood structure called the "Old Canoe House," in the town of Hanalei (meaning "where leis are made"). The 22-year-old company is owned by the Godinez brothers, Micco, 53, and Chino, 55, whose outdoor credits include climbing Mt. McKinley and kayaking from Seattle to Skagway, Alaska.

On the official tourist map, the Hanalei River is drawn as a wide blue line, snaking down from the slopes of 5,148-foot Mount Waialeale and running north for 14 miles. It looks as if it was made for kayaking. In reality, the upper 9 or 10 miles of the river are too shallow to be navigable.

"But you can paddle from here for two or three miles into the Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge," he said. "It's a peaceful trip, idyllic, with easy paddling." Though there's nothing really technical about recreational kayaking — "anybody can do it," said Micco — paddling is less effort and consequently more fun if you do it right.



There's enough room in the Hanalei River for bird watchers, novice paddlers and beginners.



Wyatt Godinez's experience as a guide belies his 20 years.

Wyatt Godinez's experience as a guide belies his 20 years. He is a professional guide and has been kayaking for decades. He offers tips for beginners and describes the beauty of the Hanalei River.

IF YOU GO

Kayak Kauai, in Hanalei, rents its kayaks for 24-hour periods. Double kayaks are \$52 and single kayaks are \$28. On-site facilities include showers, bathrooms and a changing room. Guided three-hour trips, including a lunch stop and snorkeling, are \$60 per person.

At the Princeville Resort in Princeville (near Hanalei), garden rooms for two start at \$395. (800) 826-4400 or (808) 826-9644; www.princeville.com.

At the Waimea Plantation Cottages in Waimea on the west side, a restored 1930s-style cottage with equipped kitchen, with two bedrooms (sleeps four) starts at \$243 per night. A pool overlooks the ocean; a good swimming beach is a mile away. (800) 922-7866, (866) 774-2924 or (808) 338-1625.

The Hanalei Dolphin serves fresh fish, steaks and hamburgers al fresco, overlooking the Hanalei River. (808) 826-6113. Moderate.

The Lighthouse Bistro in Kilauea serves an Asian-European fusion menu, with music at night. Call (808) 828-0480. Moderate.

The Ball Hai in the Hanalei Bay Resort offers fine dining with nightly entertainment. The menu includes Pacific and Hawaiian fish and beef dishes with island-grown vegetables and herbs. (808) 826-6522. Expensive.

slow down the breakers that roll toward the shore, making it an ideal place for kayaking. So for the next two hours we paddled steadily, then pulled into the beach on the eastern shore. "This is a good place to look for kahoelani shells, like the ones they find on Niihau to string for necklaces," said Wyatt, kneeling down in the sand and searching at the waterline. "If the colors are good, a film canister of these can go for as much as \$80," he said, dropping a few of the pin-head sized pink and tan shells into my hand.

turning back. Even the biggest, strongest guys can get seasick. When you're puking all over it's hard to have fun. Fortunately, the outfitters that guide Na Pali Coast trips make sure that prospective customers know they're in for a 13-hour day and a rigorous experience. "But it's not a do-or-die thing," said Mr. Belt. "The guides are definitely sympathetic. If somebody gets sick, or thinks they'll be sick, they drop them off at Ke'e Beach where the van picks them up."

Romantic retreats feature solitude, scenery

HOTELS

Continued from Page D14

Waimea Valley Inn, Waimea 1100 Waialeale off the tourist path, and this is the closest thing you will find to Hawaii. The tropical theme continues throughout in every detail. The resort is a beautiful retreat with a large swimming pool and a spa.

Waimea Beachfront Cottages, Waimea 190 Pali Place, Waimea, Hawaii. This is a popular place for weddings. The Waialeale Beach Hotel has been a romantic favorite since 1927.

Waimea Valley Inn at Waipahoehoe 1100 Waialeale off the tourist path, and this is the closest thing you will find to Hawaii. The tropical theme continues throughout in every detail. The resort is a beautiful retreat with a large swimming pool and a spa.



The Waialeale Beach Hotel, known as "The Pink Palace of the Pacific," is a popular place for weddings. The Waialeale Beach Hotel has been a romantic favorite since 1927. It features a large swimming pool and a spa.

IF YOU GO

Waimea Plantation Cottages 1900 Kilauea Highway, Waimea. This is a popular place for weddings. The Waialeale Beach Hotel has been a romantic favorite since 1927.

Royal Hawaiian Hotel 1100 Kilauea Ave., Honolulu. This is a popular place for weddings. The Waialeale Beach Hotel has been a romantic favorite since 1927.

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