

I'm Rod with a community comment on KINS.

What's your favorite vacation spot? We have two and I used to think they could not be more different, but the more I think about it, they are a lot alike. One is a Hawaiian island called Kauai. You know what I mean if you've been there. It's green, it's gorgeous, it's rural... In a good way! Steep mountainous terrain, incredible scenery, dense rain forest, hundreds of miles of primo hiking trails, endless sandy beaches... Once I was talking to a friend about Kauai and she said oh yeah, it's so great, it's like Humboldt only warm! I went yes, so true! And that brings me to our other favorite vacation destination. That's right, it's right here. It's Humboldt. Last year we went to Kauai, we've been several times over the years and it's always just drop dead, blow your hair back, knock your socks off fantastic. Actually we don't even wear socks there! This year, without plane tickets and a rental car in the budget, we'll be camping in the redwoods and we'll be just as happy. Maybe even happier!

Of course we don't camp anywhere we can't drive to and in recent years we haven't camped anywhere without toilets that actually flush. Our top spot for vacationing in Humboldt is a place called Hidden Springs in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Maybe you've been there or heard about it because it's an old campground. So Hidden Springs has large campsites in a heavily forested area providing for plenty of privacy. You turn off the cell phones, and of course no watches are allowed so you sleep when you are tired, eat when you are hungry and it doesn't matter when. Speaking eating we actually started following recipes while camping. Some of our best cooking happens with a little weber grill, a Dutch oven and a 45 year old Coleman gas camp stove.

Now, Kauai is superb, with the beachfront condo we stay at, the unlimited exploring and breathtaking scenery everywhere. You can just dive in and swim in the ocean anytime, every day. That's actually the big difference between Kauai and Humboldt. It's the same ocean, but there it is warm enough to swim in... Here, no way!

But the similarities are big. Let's see, gorgeous 80 degree weather, Humboldt has that, at least at Hidden Springs in the summer! Green, beautiful, rural... Yep that's Humboldt. Steep mountainous terrain, Humboldt has that. Incredible scenery, Humboldt has that. Dense rain forest, yep. Hundreds of miles of primo hiking trails, check. Endless sandy beaches, that too. Now I'm thinking the real difference is getting there. For Kauai we drive to Oakland, crash in a motel near the airport, and fly out early the next morning on Hawaiian air. I know we should fly Humboldt. But the last time we booked out of McKinleyville sure enough, the flight was cancelled; the united agent got us on a later flight, but never scheduled us past SFO, so our first night in Hawaii was actually at a motel in Milpitas. No thanks. Our Humboldt destination it's only a 45 minute drive to a place we absolutely love! How do you not love a beautiful campground that has a winery with a tasting room literally a four minute drive away!

Let me encourage you to vacation at a world class destination this year: Humboldt County. You won't be sorry. I'm Rod with a community comment here on KINS.