

HAWAII

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP TO CANADA / HAWAII | 17TH OCTOBER 2016

Island time

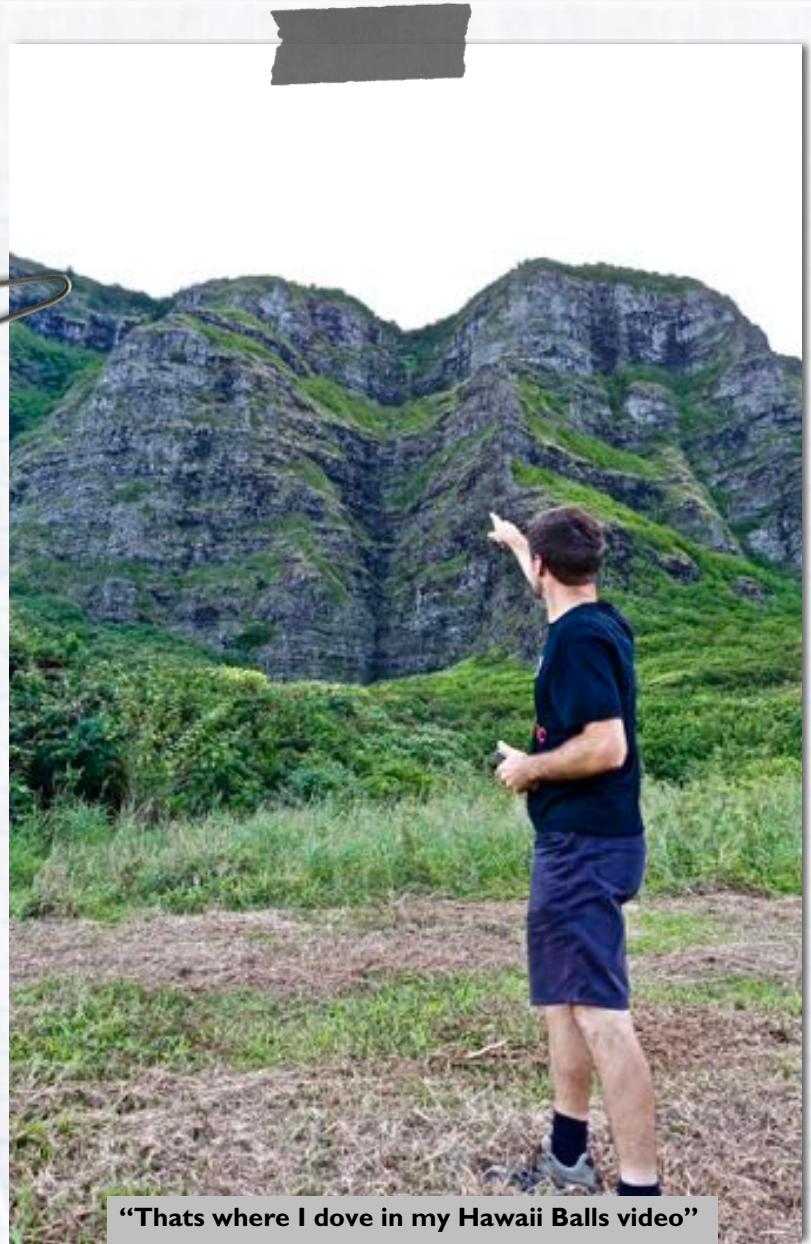
Oahu is not a large island. We drove around it today. That took around 4 hours. We were on the hunt to find the biggest pineapple farm in the world. Kathleen really wanted to see how pineapples are grown.

We woke late and went for a walk on the "beach". The weather here has been overcast with occasional showers and lots of blue sky in between. The coast just across the road from our B&B has very little sand. The water laps at the very edge of the properties. We imagine what it must be like when the seas are heavy. There is little protection except some rocks or a low rock wall and sandbags. We don't think houses here will exist in 10 years time. Looks idillic with palms hanging over the edge of the water but locating so close to the water, to me, would be very worrying. Most of the "houses" are old shacks that are in a dilapidated condition.

Further up the beach we came across a warning sign, some yellow restriction tape and a volunteer standing guard. Before us, lying like an outcrop of rock, was one of 300 remaining Hawaiian monk seals left on earth.



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"That's where I dove in my Hawaii Balls video"



LIFE GUARD Its great to see this - a one-to-one security detail with a genuine interest in the welfare of an endangered animal. He was a great teacher too.



JURASSIC PARK? The sheer steepness of these cliffs is amazing. Its only when you get up close and personal do you realise how mammoth they are and how easily you could lose a quad if it crashes on the way up/down.



SUBTLE COLOURS Could not believe the beautiful colour of the trunk of this gum tree at the pineapple farm. If you painted it people would say the colour was all wrong. Shades of green, pink and grey. Gorgeous.

Holidaying on Oahu

We had a chat to the “guard” - a retired guy who now gives his time to the seals. He told us many facts about this particular seal. This particular species on the brink of extinction. He pointed out a huge lump on its back where it was gashed by a ship propellor. Interesting to see that Hawaii is very serious about preserving its last few remaining wild animals. Maybe the seal population could learn lots from the island “chooks” about how to survive and thrive?

We had offered to chauffeur Chad and Kathleen today so we quickly packed up our goodies and cleaned our AirB&B place. We are shifting in with them to our Lanakai house swap house today.

Chad flew his quad very early this morning and was “assaulted” by 2 burly gentlemen who did not like him flying his drone on the beach. Luckily he was not hurt and his quad did not land in the water. When Chad put the episode on Facebook the locals wanted to send out a vigilante group to “get” the two guys “put away.”

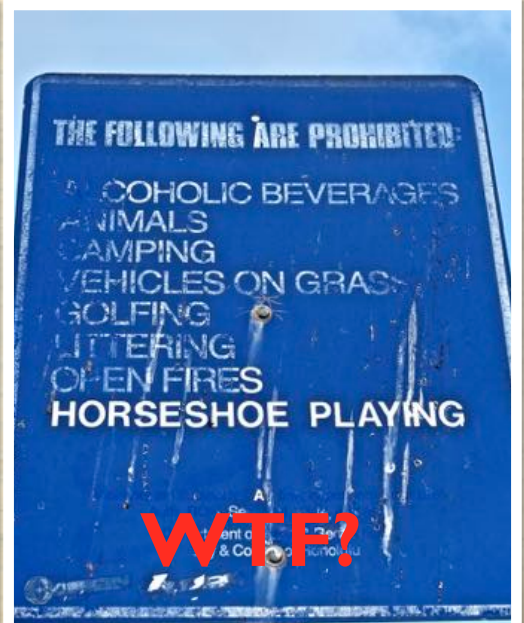
We transferred our gear up the many stairs to our new abode. The view is to die for but the house, being on a steep slope, has 2 separated levels with master bedroom on the top level. This place is sooooo much better than the tiny dump we left.

After a frustrating hour trying to find a shoe shop to buy some light shoes for Chad, we headed in the direction of the pineapple farm. It is located in the centre of the island - a part we had not seen before. The farm was crammed full of tourists. Kathleen paid for us all to have a train ride through the property with commentary about the history of the place. Very interesting. They grow a wide variety of tropical fruits including cocoa beans (chocolate) but we could not see many acres in pineapple. We sampled pineapple ice-cream and drove on. It was then that we realised why this is called the largest pineapple farm in the world. The other side of the road is where the real farm is located - thousands of acres of land under pineapple for as far as the eye could see.

The idea was to drive north and see some of the coast we had missed. The north shore area is where many of the more prestigious resorts are located. Its also a surfing mecca. The narrow two lane road hugs the beach and is extremely busy. There is nowhere to park. We drove on and received a text from the Rotor Riot boys. We found them in a nearby park and spent an hour talking as they tested their quads.

We ambled on to where the World Drone competition is to be held and Chad showed us where he “dived” the steep cliffs a year ago. Reliving his memory made us realise how far his life has turned around from hating his job with a ghastly boss, to living a dream with “the best boss in the world.” We are so, so delighted to see our son so genuinely happy. Kelly is happy also, so life is good.

This next week will not be given over to supporting him in a race (he has decided not to complete) but to help him have the first real holiday he has had in a long, long while. We really enjoyed his and Kathleen’s company last night.





PHOTOS

