

HAWAII, MORE FIRST WEEK

Today we took a home tour that we signed up for on the recommendation of a friend back home. The tour started at 8:00am and we went to a total of three homes, each different for different lifestyles. The first was an oceanfront home of 4,000 sq. ft. It would rent for \$2,300/week. It had a magnificent view of the rocky lava shore beach. A swimming pool was fashioned from the shore lava and was quite large and filled with sea water.

As we toured the home the guide, who was a registered chef, prepared delicious breads of different kinds, guava juice, along with real Kona coffee @ \$57/lb! It was such a shame to add Baileys or Kahlua to it. We forced ourselves!



The next home was at 1200ft on the mountain. It was ½ mile off the highway, deep into a coffee plantation and avocado orchards. All around were papayas, mangos, guavas and passion fruit. It was a small home built with a lot of recycled items, including a porch grabbed out of a river in Oregon! It was 400sq.ft. with a loft and an outside shower in the trees. The downside, on stilts, had a view of the water. Here, Chef Anne prepared mango gazpacho, with taro chips and salsa. Here we watched as six or seven geckos were fed mango soup on the table, as the photo depicts. Doors and windows wide open to the breezes. Passion fruit could be picked by reaching over the railing! They had solar panels for electricity to power the TV, and LP gas for the refrigerator.

The last home was a rather conventional home owned by a woman that raised exotic flowers, and stocked and arranged them in large estate homes when the owners come to live in them for a week or two. The large property was planted and groomed as a showplace, complete with a Koi pond with \$10,000 Koi residing in it. Here we were served stuffed papaya, stuffed avocado, shrimp salad, passion fruit cheese cake, tropical ice cream in mocha. The wonderful tour is over. We recommend this tour for everybody.

Dave, Bonnie, Marti, Nancy

5/29/2011