

This is a selection of favorite writings and images from the now-defunct TBRP, which was very active from 1995 to 2003, and sort of half-active from 2003 to 2007. Now it is gone.

The Tiki Bar Review Pages site was replaced by the book [Tiki Road Trip \(in 2003\)](#).

[The second edition of TRT \(2007\) is available NOW.](#)

This is an archive - these pages are no longer updated!

Some information will be out of date. Some of this writing goes back to 1995.

See [Tiki Road Trip \(2007 edition\)](#) for the most up-to-date information.

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Kahiki

Columbus, Ohio

errr... if you haven't heard, the Kahiki is gone.

Here's the old review pages regarding this dearly missed Tiki Temple.

Summer, 1998

Scroll down for update on the final weeks of the Kahiki (Autumn 2000)

It was a great coincidence that Tiki Bar Review Pages contributors (and fellow Chicagoans) David Carter and Amy Flammang were planning a trip to Kahiki the same weekend I was. We arranged to meet there on a Friday evening that, as fate would have it, offered us a real-life monsoon which only served to increase the South Seas ambiance. Plowing through the rain-drenched streets of Columbus, after a seven hour drive, we finally arrived at the awe-inspiring Kahiki. In spite of the torrential downpour soaking everything in sight, the flames atop twin 15-foot high Moai burned mightily.



We made it inside without getting too soaked, and soon found Amy and David waiting. As Amy and my companion got to know each other, David and I ran around like crazed children, snapping pictures of every square inch of the enormous Tiki paradise. Kahiki must be seen to be believed. It is huge, although not quite as huge as Jardin Tiki, but nothing can compare to the 30-foot high Moai fireplace that stands at the back of the room, observing all festivities. I could fill volumes gushing on about of the wonderful Polynesian decor, but let me whet your appetite by mentioning saltwater aquariums next to each booth along one wall, and a glass-enclosed waterfall/terrarium running along

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[Road Trip](#)
Marty Nickel
New \$0.99
Best \$0.99

[Tiki Road Trip](#)
James Teitelbaum, ...
New \$12.71
Best \$10.33

[CollecTikiBle](#)
Mr. G.
Best \$39.99

[Road Trip](#)
Breckin Meyer, Sea...
New \$9.98
Best \$0.44

[Flip Flops Light Set - Tiki Beach Bar Lights](#)
Tikizone
New \$9.35
Best \$4.55

the opposite wall.

There are fountains, there are Tikis, there are blowfish, lights, masks, and anything else you might want to see, and barely an inch is left uncovered by some Polynesian relic. A three-piece band plays in the corner consisting of marimba, steel drums and bass guitar.

We decided that the ambiance is worth paying for, and apparently the management agrees: finally sitting down to dinner, we found the prices to be a bit expensive. The food was good, but not great, and the portions were pretty small. We agreed that the food presented to us was pretty much identical to what one would be served in any inexpensive Chinese restaurant at one third the price. The drinks were also expensive, and really weak as well. Granted, several drinks come in mugs that you can keep, but the ones that don't are no less costly and no stronger. Our waitress was very friendly and gave us great service. She did her best to accomodate our every need. Her name was Beth.



Amazon.com



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Guy Fieri, Ann Vol...

New \$12.65

Best \$6.30

[College Road Trip](#)

Raven-Symoné, Mart...

New \$12.99

Best \$0.23

[Road Trip USA](#)

Jamie Jensen

New \$19.77

Best \$13.48

[The Most Scenic Drives in America](#)

Robert J. Dolezal,...

New \$19.80

Best \$12.79

[Eurotrip / Road Trip](#)

Breckin Meyer, Sea...

New \$11.99

Best \$2.17

On the advice of Tiki Bar Review Pages correspondent Al Atchison, I tried a Smoking Eruption. The drink was served up with a cup of dry ice that soon engulfed our appetizers in a cloud of mist, slowly crawling across the table. We also sampled the Zombie, which comes in a skull-shaped mug that you may keep. The mug was cool, as was the drink, but for all their refreshing chill, both drinks were very weak. The Headhunter comes in a more traditionally styled Tiki Mug, and is no more potent. A moderate dinner (with three drinks split between the two of us), a 20% tip, and tax set us back almost \$85. I imagine Amy and David's bill was similar.



The gift shop, conversely, has surprisingly good prices, and we found ourselves stocking up on more mugs, table lamps, and other goodies. If you ever decide you want to try to meet an Asian man with a Scandinavian accent working in a Polynesian restaurant, the gift shop is the place to find him! We noticed that the Tiki Mugs for sale in the gift shop have far superior sculpting and detail than the ones given away with drinks. It is fairly obvious that they were running out at some point and the original mold had been lost. A new mold must have been made from one of the mugs, resulting in a slightly larger size, and a noticeable loss of detail. The "Kahiki" inscription on the bottom is barely perceptible on the "free" mugs, but is sharp and clear in the gift

shop version. Sculpting on the Tiki Man's ears, face, and other small details are severely diminished on the "free" version. So, serious collectors might want to stick with other drinks for the night and simply buy their souvenirs at the gift shop. Make sure you inspect the mugs before you buy them if getting an original is important to you!

After getting absolutely soaked while running to and from the car to drop off our booty, we then took more pictures and ended up at the bar for further libations. The local version of the Suffering Bastard is decent, and when I lamented to our bartender that the drinks served to our table had barely any hootch in them, he attempted to make amends by giving us a double dose of the cheap rum they use in their fruity concoctions. An improvement to be sure, but to really make these things swing, they need to stop using Castillo and get with the Demarara or Myers scene. Yeah, I know, that runs into more scratch, and these things are expensive already.



In closing, all I can say is that I plan to make Kaihiki a regular detour on my bi-annual trips to Cleveland. I guess the best endorsement I can give it is to say that it is well worth a three-hour

detour (a three hour detour - and the weather started getting rough).

Thanks to David and Amy for meeting us out there and for providing some of the pics!

[More Kahiki Pics](#)