

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

OCT. 12-20, 2024

THE NATIONAL PARKS OF HAWAII

EXPERIENCE

THE WONDERS OF HAWAII'S
DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM

EXPLORE

TWO ACTIVE VOLCANOES ON
AN EXCLUSIVE GUIDED TOUR

LEARN

HOW NPCA IS DEFENDING
HAWAII'S NATIVE SPECIES

MAUI HILLTOP CRATER
Molokai, HI

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and an **International Biosphere Reserve** to experience the extraordinary intersection of Hawaiian culture and conservation
- Take a trip back in time when you visit the National Historic Site where **Kamehameha the Great** constructed the heiau (a place of worship) that helped him unite the Hawaiian Archipelago
- Travel across **four of the islands** that make up the breathtaking island chain of Hawai'i and experience all **eight national park units** in the state

NPCA EXCLUSIVES

- Take part in a **one-of-a-kind trip**, custom designed with NPCA's mission, work and partners at its heart
- Hike Devastation Trail and explore a 500-year-old lava tube with an **expert volcanologist** in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
- Spot **endangered Hawaiian green sea turtles** at the incredible **Punalu'u Black Sand Beach** and hear how NPCA is protecting precious marine habitats from climate change
 - Learn about NPCA's role in **preserving and illuminating deeply significant places of cultural history** to ensure a thriving national park system for future generations
 - Receive expert knowledge from **Native Hawaiian guides** as you gaze upon ancient settlements and get a **behind-the-scenes** look at why these historical sites deserve to be protected



FEATURED BIO: NEAL DESAI

Neal Desai serves as NPCA's senior program director for the Pacific Region, where he advances campaigns to protect our national parks in Hawai'i, California and Nevada and engages in community organizing around the designation of new national park sites.

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park, HI

BOOK ONLINE AT [NPCA.ORG/TRAVEL](https://npca.org/travel) OR CALL 1.800.628.7275



The National Parks of Hawai'i

AVAILABLE DATES: October 12-20, 2024,
with optional guided trip extension (October 20-22, 2024)

Min/Max: 12/18

Length of Tour: 9 days/8 nights, with optional extension of 2 days/2 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$7,850 per person double occupancy; \$9,650 single occupancy

NPCA Member Price for October 20-22, 2024 trip extension:

\$1,675 per person double occupancy; \$1,965 single occupancy

Deposit: \$500 due at registration

Arrive/Depart: Hilo (Island of Hawai'i), Hawai'i/Kahului (Island of Maui), Hawai'i

Reservations: Please contact NPCA's National Parks Experiences Program at **1.800.628.7275** or email **travel@npca.org**.

Activity Level: Travelers should be prepared for full-day adventures of walking, standing and sitting. This tour includes hikes and long walks on rugged terrain, sandy beaches and uneven lava flows. Hikes during our journey range from 0.5 to 3 miles. All hikes are optional. Our Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park hikes will be at an elevation of 4,100 feet with little elevation gain and descent. Vehicle transportation may take multiple hours and involve short rides on rough terrain and winding roads up to 10,000 feet elevation. Travelers will spend 6 to 8 hours in a wide range of weather conditions, from hot and humid to cold and misty.

Inclusions: All outlined accommodations, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner) and non-alcoholic beverages (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), interisland transportation and luggage handling between Kona/Moloka'i/Kapalua via chartered plane, all activities, standard gratuities for hotel porters, bus drivers and restaurants and entry fees for activities listed in the itinerary. **NOTE:** Baggage restrictions will apply, especially in the interisland transportation portion of the itinerary.

Exclusions: Airfare to arrival location and from departure location, luggage charges, excess baggage charges between islands, meals not included in the Itinerary, alcoholic beverages (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner and farewell dinner), travel insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed in Inclusions.

Welcome to the beautiful Hawaiian Islands. On this tour, you will travel to multiple scenic islands which are located in one of the most remote destinations in the world. Because of its remoteness, Hawai'i hosts one of the Earth's most diverse ecosystems. The state is home to over 10,000 native species and more than 90% of these can only be found here. Hawai'i is also considered the endangered species capital of the world. You'll gain a deeper understanding of NPCA's priorities in improving the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to safeguard threatened national park wildlife like the many unforgettable, yet fragile, native bird populations of Hawai'i.

Experience the unique cultural and natural beauty within Hawai'i's national parks by joining expert biologists, naturalists and cultural interpreters who will share their extensive knowledge and perspectives of this remarkable place. Meet with park rangers to learn more about the work being done to protect vulnerable ecosystems and endangered animals and plants which are found nowhere else on earth. Access locations that are off the beaten path and not readily accessible to the general public. Leave with a greater appreciation of the islands, their natural and cultural history and the ongoing challenges to preserve this unique biodiversity.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate



ITINERARY

DAY 1 OCT 12: Hilo to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i

Arrive late afternoon in Hilo on Hawai'i Island and meet your NPCA hosts and trip leader in the lobby of the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. Once the entire group has met, we'll drive to **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park**. We'll check-in at the historic Volcano House, the only hotel located within the vast boundaries of the national park. Enjoy a group welcome dinner in the **Rim Restaurant** overlooking the **Halema'uma'u Crater** of the volcano and learn how NPCA is protecting this cherished and sacred place. [Volcano House \(D\)](#)

DAY 2 Oct 13: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i

After breakfast, head out to explore the wonders of the youngest of Hawai'i's main islands. Spend the day exploring **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park** with an expert volcanologist. Drive through the **Steam Vents** area, then visit the overlook into **Kilauea Caldera**. Continue onto **Devastation Trail**, which was formed in 1959 as a result of an eruption from the Kilauea Iki crater. Walk through the surrounding 200-year-old forest which was buried by ashes and see how much (or how little) growth has come back. Walk through a lush rainforest to **Nāhuku (Thurston) Lava Tube** before exploring on your own before a group dinner. [Volcano House \(B, L, D\)](#)

DAY 3 OCT 14: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i

After breakfast, an expert guide will take you on a hike through a native rainforest down to the floor of **Kilauea caldera** and back, a distance of 1.5 miles. View the park's efforts on non-native plant eradication and see how well the native pa'iniu (lily) and endemic ferns are coming back. There is an optional 0.5-mile detour via **Sandalwood Trail**, which includes passing active steam vents enroute back to the Volcano House hotel. After the hike, everyone will have time to have lunch and rest or explore before we travel in vans to traverse the 20-mile long **Chain of Craters Road** — an extraordinary scenic



Petroglyph at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

route through some of the park's recent eruptive activity. We still stop along the way to see notable remnants from these eruptions, including a walk to the **Pu'uloa Petroglyphs**, before heading to the spectacular coast, learning about NPCA's efforts to save magnificent views like these from the threat of haze pollution. We will have dinner at a local restaurant in **Volcano Village**. [Volcano House \(B, L, D\)](#)

DAY 4 OCT 15: Volcano to Kona, Hawai'i

Today, we will head out by bus to **Kona**. We will stop at **Punalu'u Black Sand Beach**. If we're lucky you may see the endangered Hawaiian green sea turtles sunning themselves on the warm volcanic black sand. Here, your NPCA expert guide will share how they're protecting precious marine habitats from the detrimental effects of ocean warming and sea level rise. We will stop for lunch in **Na'alehu**, the southernmost town on Hawai'i Island (and the United States). After lunch, we will continue to **Pu'uhoonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge) National Historical Park**, which contains one of the most sacred heiau in the islands. After our visit, we will continue to Kona and check into the hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening, either at the hotel or one of the many local restaurants within walking distance. [Courtyard by Marriott King Kamehameha Hotel \(B, L\)](#)

DAY 5 OCT 16: Kaloko-Honokōhau National Park & Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site, Hawai'i

Today we will learn about Hawaiian culture from Native Hawaiian experts. First, we will visit **Kaloko-Honokōhau National Park**. The park protects the site of an ancient Hawaiian settlement, encompassing portions of five different ahupua'a (traditional Hawaiian land divisions, typically extending from the mountains to the sea). Learn from a native Hawaiian cultural expert about the resources within the park, such as loko i'a (fishponds), kahua (house site platforms) and ki'i pōhaku (petro-

glyphs). Next, we continue on to **Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site**. This fortress-like heiau was constructed by Kamehameha the Great between 1790 and 1791. You'll also learn about NPCA's commitment to secure critical protections for extraordinary cultural sites like the ones you'll encounter on this day. We will enjoy a picnic lunch at a nearby beach, and then spend some time with local community members who are working to preserve and incorporate cultural practices in their communities. The group will enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant. [Courtyard by Marriott King Kamehameha Hotel \(B, L, D\)](#)

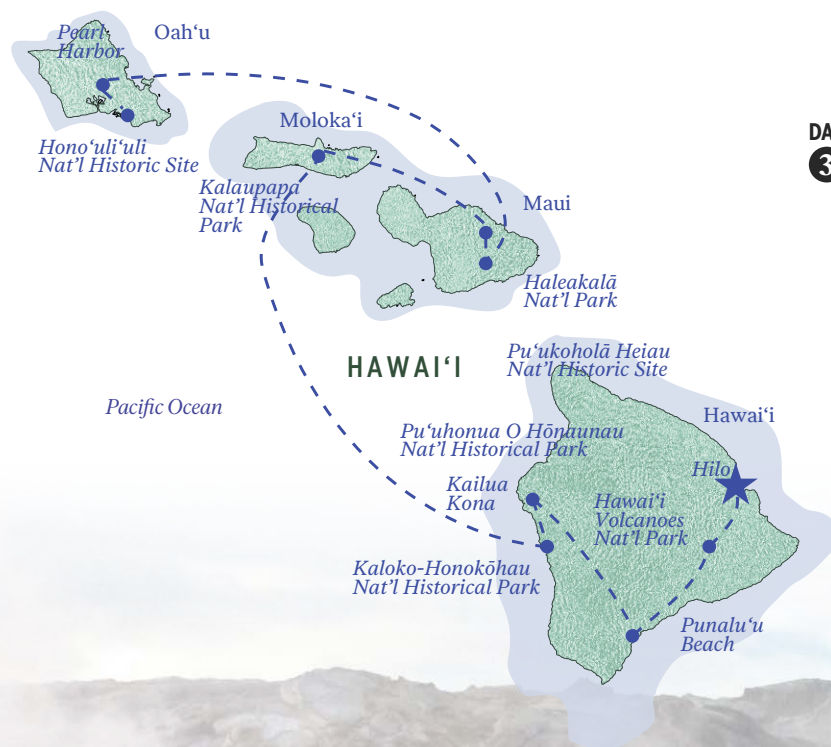
DAY 6 OCT 17: Moloka'i

After breakfast this morning, the group will check out of the hotel and proceed to Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport to board a short charter flight to the island of **Moloka'i**, where you have a rare opportunity to visit **Kalaupapa National Historical Park**. Surrounded by the tallest sea cliffs in the world (measuring 3,600 to 3,900 feet), Kalaupapa is home to a former Hansen's Disease (also known as Leprosy) settlement to which the Hawaiian government exiled more than 7,000 persons with the disease from 1866 until the 1940s. An expert guide will lead you on your tour, which includes a picnic lunch. The group will board another chartered flight in the late afternoon to Kapalua Airport on **Maui**. Upon arrival, a private shuttle will transfer you to the hotel to check-in. The remainder of your evening is unscheduled, and dinner is on your own. [Sheraton Maui \(B, L\)](#)

Please note Kalaupapa is tentative as of summer 2023 due to COVID-19 related closures. If the park does not open, we will visit other areas on Moloka'i.

DAY 7 OCT 18: Free Day in Maui

Enjoy breakfast before heading out to explore the island at your leisure. Your trip leader will be available to make suggestions of things to see and do. Popular options are to explore the local area by snorkeling below Black Rock, walking the famous 3-mile Kā'anapali Beach or visiting the Hawai'i Wildlife Discovery Center. Lunch is on your own. The group will gather in the evening to board a private shuttle to the **Old Lahaina Lū'au** for dinner and a fabulous **Polynesian show**. A private shuttle will be available to bring you back to the hotel. [Sheraton Maui \(B, D\)](#)



Kilauea Volcano, HI

DAY OCT 19: Haleakalā, Maui

8 This morning, we will depart on a field trip to **Haleakalā National Park**, an **International Biosphere Reserve**. Towering over the island of Maui at 10,023 feet above sea level, **Haleakalā Crater** is the place for an amazing range of landscapes and skylines. The name Haleakalā means “House of the Sun” in Hawaiian Legend. While taking in the breathtaking views, you’ll learn how NPCA is protecting endangered and vulnerable species in Haleakalā, a park with significant climate concern. After a visit to the summit and the visitor’s center, we will head down to **Kula** where we will enjoy lunch. Next stop: **‘Īao Valley State Park** — a lush green valley and a sacred site to the Hawaiian people. It is the historic location of a fierce battle between Maui warriors and the army of Kamehameha the Great. A Hawaiian Cultural expert will share their knowledge of the valley. We will return to the hotel to freshen up before gathering to depart for our final group dinner together at a local restaurant. *Sheraton Maui (B, D)*



Japanese Garden, ‘Īao Valley State Park, Maui, HI

DAY OCT 20: Departure Day – Base Trip

9 Enjoy breakfast at your leisure and check out of the hotel. You may store your luggage with the bell desk if your flight departs later in the day. Your trip leader will be able to assist you in setting up airport transfers.

OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSION

DAY OCT 20: Maui to O‘ahu & Pearl Harbor

9 If you have selected to participate in the additional two days on **O‘ahu**, you will check out of your room after breakfast and depart via private shuttle for Kahului airport to catch a flight to O‘ahu. Upon arrival on O‘ahu, we will drive to **Pearl Harbor National Memorial**, stopping for lunch along the way. At the Memorial, we’ll learn about the events on and surrounding December 7, 1941, the “date which will live in infamy”, when a surprise air attack by the Japanese plunged the United States into World War II. At the visitor’s center, we’ll learn about the history and events which led up to the attack, then watch a short film. Afterwards, we’ll board a U.S. Navy vessel to take us to the memorial built over the **USS Arizona**, which is the final resting place for over 900 sailors and Marines. After your visit, we will take our private shuttle to **Waikiki** and check into the hotel. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore Waikiki and dinner is on your own. *Queen Kapiolani Hotel (B, L)*

DAY OCT 21: Hono‘uli‘uli, O‘ahu

10 This morning after breakfast, we will visit the **Hono‘uli‘uli Education Center** at the **Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i**. **Hono‘uli‘uli National Historic Site** preserves the history of the largest and longest-used confinement site during World War II.

The U.S. Army ran the camp, which held approximately 400 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Designated by President Obama, NPCA and their supporters spent many years advocating for the preservation of Hono‘uli‘uli to reside under National Park Service management. We will have lunch at a local restaurant and enjoy a presentation from the National Park Service on the developments of the new **Hono‘uli‘uli National Historic Site**. The group will have free time until our farewell dinner in the hotel restaurant overlooking **Diamond Head** and **Waikiki Beach**. *Queen Kapiolani Hotel (B, L, D)*

DAY OCT 22: Departure Day

11 Enjoy breakfast at your leisure and check out of the hotel. Store your luggage with the bell desk if your flight departs later in the day. Your trip leader will be able to assist you in setting up airport transfers.

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change based on weather conditions and park closures related to COVID-19.

Travel Insurance: To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

Traveler Responsibility: Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their NPCA waiver of liability, personal information form, flight form, and accept Pacific Islands Institute’s Terms and Conditions before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing appropriate clothing and gear.

Trip Cancellation Policy: Cancellation notice must be submitted in writing and is effective upon date of receipt.

121+ days prior to departure	June 14, 2024	120-91 days prior	90-0 days prior
Deposit is refundable minus a \$250 processing fee	Final payment is due	25% of trip cost is refundable	No refund

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Each of our travel partners has developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. Please contact us for details.



Haleakalā Crater in Maui, HI



Why Travel with NPCA?

Our goal is to offer premium itineraries in educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

For over 100 years, NPCA has worked to protect places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance and cultural value. Now we want you to experience them firsthand. Our curated itineraries offer more than just sightseeing. With NPCA, you'll delve into the cultural and natural history of each destination, guided by passionate experts who bring these stories to life. We believe that true appreciation for our parks goes hand in hand with awareness of the conservation efforts being made to protect them. Engage with park rangers, NPCA partners and local communities as they share their invaluable insights and discuss the challenges and triumphs of safeguarding these natural treasures. Leave with a deeper understanding of the critical role we all play in the future of our parks.

ACCESS NPCA STAFF EXPERTISE

Embark on extraordinary adventures led by our team of knowledgeable staff who represent a wide range of backgrounds. With expertise spanning environmental conservation, cultural heritage, wildlife biology and more, our staff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to each journey. Delve into engaging discussions and gain unique insights into the issues that shape our parks, including land preservation, climate change and Indigenous perspectives. Together, we'll explore the multifaceted aspects of these remarkable landscapes.

Haleakalā National Park, Maui, HI

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

When you choose to travel with NPCA, you're not just embarking on an incredible journey – you're making a meaningful impact. Our commitment to conservation runs deep, and we are proud to share that a portion of every trip's fees directly supports NPCA's vital work. Your choice to travel with us helps protect and strengthen the National Park System for generations to come.

ENJOY PERSONALIZED AND INTIMATE EXPERIENCES

Escape the crowds and embrace the beauty of small-group travel, where personal connections and tailored experiences take center stage. Our trips offer a more intimate setting, allowing you to forge meaningful connections with fellow travelers who share your passion for adventure and conservation.

CONNECT WITH NPCA PARTNERS AND LOCAL EXPERTS

Collaborate with key NPCA partners and local experts who are deeply connected to the destinations we visit. Engage in dialogue with scientists, community leaders and Tribal members who are at the forefront of conservation and preservation efforts. Their firsthand accounts and valuable perspectives will deepen your understanding of the challenges and successes in protecting our national parks.

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Embrace the spirit of responsible travel as you embark on a journey that leaves a positive footprint on the planet. At NPCA, we prioritize partnering with responsible tour operators who share our commitment to sustainability and conservation. With their expertise and dedication, we ensure that every step of your trip aligns with our shared values.

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. Over 70% of our funding comes from donations from individuals like you. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. One traveler per group must be an NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at npca.org.