

# NPCATRAVEL



THE TRAVEL PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

APRIL 19-27, 2025

## THE NATIONAL PARKS OF Hawai'i

### EXPERIENCE

THE WONDERS OF HAWAI'I'S  
DIVERSE ECOSYSTEM

### EXPLORE

TWO ACTIVE VOLCANOES ON  
AN EXCLUSIVE GUIDED TOUR

### LEARN

HOW NPCA IS DEFENDING  
HAWAI'I'S NATIVE SPECIES

KILAUEA ERUPTION  
*Hawai'i, HI*





## PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and an **International Biosphere Reserve** to experience the extraordinary intersection of Hawaiian culture and conservation
- Tour 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 breathtaking Hawaiian Islands** 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 **Punalu'u Black Sand Beach** and learn about NPCA's work to protect marine habitats
- Gain expert knowledge from **Native Hawaiian guides** as you explore ancient settlements
- Engage in meaningful conversations with experts to learn about NPCA's mission to **preserve and highlight culturally significant sites**



### FEATURED BIO: KIRA DAVIS

**Kira Davis** is the Great Lakes Senior Program Manager in NPCA's Michigan Field Office in Suttons Bay. She brings over two decades of experience in conservation with an emphasis on water quality, wetlands, wildlife protection, and Tribal and federal policy work. Her skills and advocacy help protect national parks in perpetuity across the nation, including the eight national park units in Hawai'i.

Moloka'i, HI

# The National Parks of Hawai'i

**AVAILABLE DATES:** April 19-27, 2025,  
with optional guided trip extension (April 27-29, 2025)

**Min/Max:** 12/18

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

**NPCA Member Price:** \$7,885 per person double occupancy; \$9,610 single occupancy

**NPCA Member Price for April 27-29, 2025 trip extension:** \$1,675 per person double occupancy; \$1,980 single occupancy

**Deposit:** \$500 due at registration

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

**Reservations:** Please contact NPCA's National Parks Experiences Program at **1.800.628.7275** or email [travel@npca.org](mailto: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. Our Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park hikes will be at an elevation of 4,100 feet with little elevation gain and descent. All hikes are optional. 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.

Join us as we explore one of the most remote destinations in the world, home to over 10,000 native species, with 90% found nowhere else on Earth. Our adventure will take us across four Hawaiian Islands, each boasting distinct and extraordinary environments. Here, expert biologists, naturalists and cultural interpreters will offer their extensive knowledge and perspectives of Hawai'i's national parks. Local guides

and park rangers will take us to hard-to-access locations, speaking to critical efforts to protect vulnerable ecosystems, endangered animals and plants, and places of deep cultural importance. NPCA experts will provide a deeper understanding of NPCA's priorities in Hawai'i, especially our work to improve the Endangered Species Act. This journey will leave you with a greater appreciation of the islands, their natural and cultural history, and the ongoing challenges to preserving their unique biodiversity.

### ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate





## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 APRIL 19: Hilo to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i

Arrive by 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. We'll enjoy a group welcome dinner in the **Rim Restaurant** overlooking the **Halema'uma'u Crater** and learn how NPCA is protecting Hawai'i's cherished and sacred places. [Volcano House \(D\)](#)

### DAY 2 APRIL 20: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i

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



### DAY 3 APRIL 21: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i

After breakfast, an expert guide will lead us on a hike through a native rainforest down to the floor of **Kilauea Caldera** and back, a distance of 1.5 miles. We'll discuss the park's efforts to eradicate non-native plants and see how well the native pa'iniu (lily) and endemic ferns are returning. There is an optional 0.5-mile detour via **Sandalwood Trail**, which includes passing active steam vents en route back to the Volcano House hotel. After the hike, we'll have a break for lunch before we travel in vans to

traverse the 20-mile-long **Chain of Craters Road** — an extraordinary scenic 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. We will have dinner at a local restaurant in **Volcano Village**. [Volcano House \(B, L, D\)](#)

### DAY 4 APRIL 22: Volcano House to Kona, Hawai'i

Today, we will head out by bus to **Kona**. We will stop at **Punalu'u Black Sand Beach**, where, if we're lucky, we may see endangered Hawaiian green sea turtles sunning themselves on the warm volcanic black sand. Here, our NPCA expert guide will share how we are 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 in the United States). After lunch, we will continue to **Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge) National Historical Park**, which contains one of the most sacred heiau (a place of worship) 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 APRIL 23: Kaloko-Honokōhau National Park & Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site, Hawai'i

Today we'll connect with Native Hawaiian experts to gain insights into Hawaiian culture. 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 (petroglyphs). Next, we continue to **Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site**. This fortress-like heiau was constructed by Kamehameha the Great between 1790 and 1791. After enjoying a picnic lunch at a nearby beach, we'll then spend some time with local community members who are working to preserve and incorporate cultural practices in their communities. We'll enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant. [Courtyard by Marriott King Kamehameha Hotel \(B, L, D\)](#)

### DAY 6 APRIL 24: Moloka'i

After breakfast, we 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 we'll 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 from 1866 until the 1940s. An expert guide will lead us on our tour, which includes a picnic lunch. We will board another chartered flight in the late afternoon to Kapalua Airport on **Maui**. Upon arrival, a private shuttle will transfer us to the hotel to check in. The remainder of our evening is unscheduled, and dinner is on your own. [Sheraton Maui \(B, L\)](#)

**Please note:** Kalaupapa is tentative as of summer 2024 due to Department of Health related closures. If the park does not open, we will visit other areas on Moloka'i.



Black Sand Beach, HI

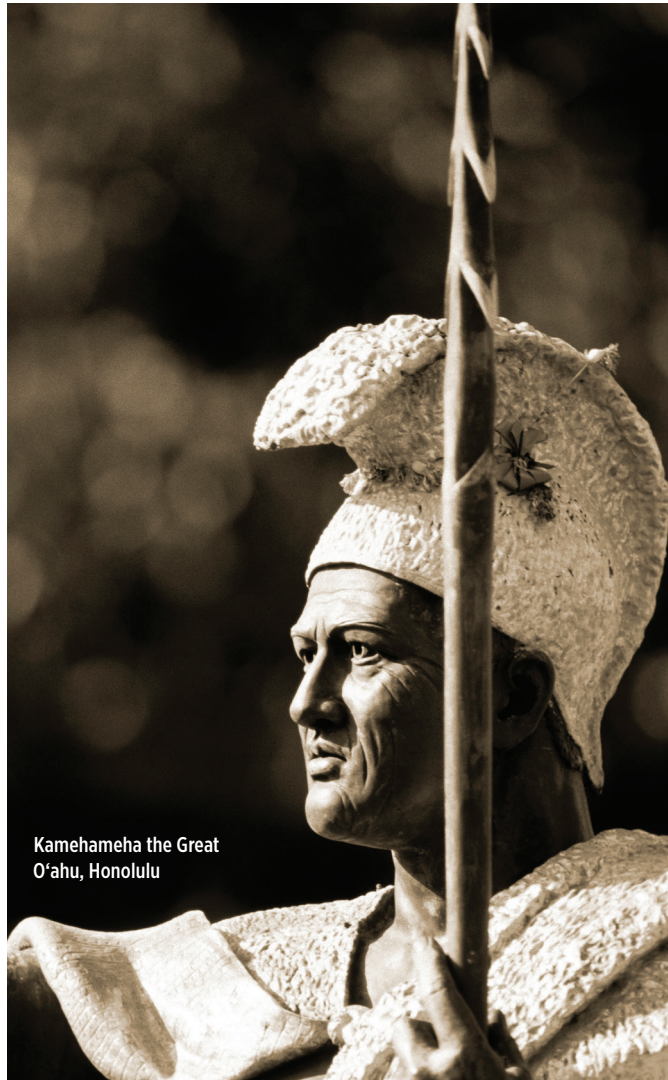


Lava Tubes and Shoreline, HI





Haleakalā National Park, Maui



Kamehameha the Great  
O'ahu, Honolulu

**DAY 7 APRIL 25: Free Day in Maui**

We'll enjoy breakfast together before heading out to explore the island at your leisure. Our 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. We 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 take us back to the hotel. [\*Sheraton Maui\*](#) (B, D)

**DAY 8 APRIL 26: Haleakalā, Maui**

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 has an amazing range of landscapes and skylines. The name Haleakalā means "House of the Sun" in Hawaiian legend. Here, we'll learn how NPCA is protecting Haleakalā's endangered and vulnerable species. After a visit to the summit and the visitor center, we will head down to **Kula** to enjoy lunch. Next stop: **ʻĪao Valley State Park** — a lush green valley that holds historical significance as the site of a fierce battle between Maui warriors and the army of Kamehameha the Great, making it a sacred place for the Hawaiian people. Following a discussion of the valley with a **Hawaiian cultural expert**, 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)

**DAY 9 APRIL 27: DEPARTURE DAY – Base Trip**

We will enjoy breakfast at our leisure and check out of the hotel. You may store your luggage with the bell desk if your flight departs later in the day. Our trip leader will be able to assist you in arranging airport transfers. (B)

**OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSION**

**DAY 9 APRIL 27: Maui to O'ahu & Pearl Harbor**

If you have selected to participate in the additional two days on **O'ahu**, you will check out of your room after breakfast and we will 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 center, we'll learn about the history and events that 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 10 APRIL 28: Hono'uli'uli, O'ahu**

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-run camp held approximately 400 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Before former Presi-

dent Obama's official designation of Hono'uli'uli as a national historic site, NPCA and our supporters spent many years advocating for it 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**. Then we 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 11 April 29: Departure Day**

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure before we check out of the hotel. You may store your luggage with the bell desk if your flight departs later in the day. Our trip leader will be able to assist you in arranging airport transfers.

*Accommodations and activities are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond NPCA's control.*

**Travel Insurance:** NPCA strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. Information on a recommended comprehensive travel insurance coverage plan will be provided. However, travelers may purchase any travel insurance of their choosing provided it meets any applicable tour operator minimum requirements. NPCA's tour operator partners may require travel insurance for certain trips as a condition of participation; all travelers must adhere to any such requirements. Should you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npc>.

**Traveler Responsibility:** Travelers are responsible for selecting an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. Before joining a trip, all travelers must commit to adhering to the tour operator's Terms and Conditions; completing and submitting all required documentation provided by the tour operator; conducting themselves safely and appropriately; following instructions from the tour operator and NPCA staff; and adhering to the laws of the destination(s) visited on the trip. Additionally, travelers are expected to familiarize themselves with all pre-departure materials and ensure appropriate clothing and gear for the journey. Travelers should report any conditions or limitations requiring special attention, diet or treatment to the tour operator when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

**Trip Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation notice must be submitted in writing to Pacific Islands Institute's sales office and is effective upon date of receipt.

**Cancellation charges will be as follows:**

121+ days prior to departure	December 20, 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

**TRAVEL SAFELY WITH NPCA**

NPCA is committed to ensuring the well-being and safety of our travelers. NPCA's tour operator partners institute emergency policies and procedures and any specific measures, such as health screenings, as necessary and appropriate, for each trip departure.





# Why Travel with NPCA?

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

NPCA has worked for over 100 years to protect places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance and cultural value. Now we want you to experience them firsthand. Our curated itineraries are crafted to showcase the very best of our national parks and NPCA's collaborative endeavors to protect them. Join us for an unforgettable adventure.

## EXPERTISE

Embark on extraordinary adventures with our knowledgeable staff who represent a wide and diverse range of backgrounds. With expertise spanning environmental conservation, cultural heritage, wildlife biology and more, NPCA staff bring a wealth of experience to each journey. Delve into engaging discussions and gain unique insight into the issues that shape our parks, including land preservation, wildlife protection, climate change and Indigenous perspectives.

## STEWARDSHIP

When you choose to travel with NPCA, you're not just embarking on an incredible journey — you're making a meaningful impact. 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 preserve our national parks for generations to come.

## CONNECTIONS

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. Engage with park rangers, NPCA partners and local community members as they share their invaluable insights into the challenges and triumphs of park preservation. Leave with a deeper understanding of the critical role we all play in the future of our parks.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Embracing the principles of responsible travel, NPCA prioritizes minimizing our environmental footprint while maximizing our contributions to local communities. Partnering with like-minded tour operators, we source locally whenever possible, abide by Leave No Trace principles, and emphasize wildlife protection, responsible waste management and the respect of local cultures.

## SMALL GROUPS

Escape the crowds and embrace the advantages of small-group travel, where personal connections and tailored experiences take center stage. The intimate size of our trips enables you to forge meaningful connections with like-minded travelers and readily engage with trip staff, partners and guides. Recognizing that each traveler is unique, our small group sizes also allow us to provide personalized attention and accommodate individual needs and interests.

Halema'uma'u Crater, HI

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 active 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](https://www.npca.org).