

HAWAII: Origins

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

DAY 1: Depart to The Big Island, Hawaii. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel.

DAY 2: Full day excursion to the **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**. Notice that the island is diverse in its geography varying from warm sunshine day after day on one side to wet lush rainforest on the opposite side. Visit the **Observatory, the Jagger Museum, the Fern Tree Jungle and walk through the Thurston Lava Tube**. Stop at the Volcano House Hotel for a wonderful view of the crater. Peer deep into the **Kilauea Iki Crater**, smell the sulfur as it escapes the steam vents and a visit to the lava fields. Follow the route markers laid out by the park rangers to the most active site. See where the lava has flowed over the road making what was once passable, impassable, as well as where the lava has flowed into the clear blue waters of the South Pacific.



DAY 3: Depart for summit tour on **Mauna Kea**. Arrive at the Visitor Information Station to acclimatize to the high altitude where several videos about astronomy on Mauna Kea will be shown. Then depart on a half hour drive to the summit where participants will hear a description of the history and type of work done by all of the summit telescopes. An inside tour of one or two of the summit telescopes follows. Departure from the summit will be about 4:30 P.M.

DAY 4: The windward side of Kilauea with an annual rainfall of more than 250cm has a distinctive rainforest. The ohia lehua tree forms the canopy while the tree fern grows beneath it. The tree fern was important to the ancient Hawaiians. They used the pula, the brown silky hair covering the unfurled fronds to embalm the dead. In the mid 1800's pula was used to stuff mattresses and pillows. This morning hike along the Kilauea Iki Trail through lush rain forest along the rim of the Kilauea Iki and down to the still steaming crater floor. As you hike the trail listen to the soothing and tranquil forest sounds. Hear the birds sing, the insects buzz and the trees as they sway in the tropical breeze. Later cross to the **Kailua-Kona** side to your hotel for the evening.



DAY 5: Board your boat that will take you out onto the clear blue waters of the warm Pacific. **Kealahou Bay** is an outstanding snorkeling place with Technicolor reefs and an array of tropical fish species. The remainder of today will be free for you to explore the quaint city of Kailua-Kona. Kona today is a bustling resort town but traces of its interesting history dating back to when whaling was at its heyday are evident everywhere. Possible visit to the **Hulihe'e Palace**, a favorite summer getaway for Hawaii's monarchs in the heart of Kailua-Kona built in 1838. See Mokuauia Church, Hawaii's first Christian Church built in 1820.

DAY 6: Flight to **Honolulu**. Upon arrival, quick check in and then to the **Polynesian Cultural Center** for the rest of the day and evening. The Cultural Center is an idyllic setting for the customs, arts crafts and sports that are the heritage of the South Seas region. Tonight enjoy your evening **Luuu**, a Polynesian traditional feast in which a pig and native vegetables are cooked in an underground oven which is formed by heated rocks inside and surrounding the pig. Polynesian entertainment adds flavor to the colorful proceedings.



DAY 7: Today visit the **USS Arizona and Pearl Harbor Memorial**. Later visit the Punchbowl Cemetery. Remainder of the day to discover Waikiki. The area of Waikiki was once a retreat for Hawaiian royalty in the 1800s who enjoyed surfing there using early forms of longboards. A few small hotels opened in the 1880s. In 1893, one of the first beach resorts was created. Today, the area is filled with hotels and the beach hosts many events a year, including surf competitions, outdoor performances, hula dancing and outrigger canoe races. See the Duke Kahanamoku Statue (named after the legendary father of modern surfing) on Kalakaua Avenue. Tonight wander down Kalakaua Avenue to see the traditional torch lighting ceremony of 50 torches that occurs nightly at 6 pm.

DAY 8: This morning, check out of your hotel and bid aloha to Hawaii as you are transferred by coach to the airport for your flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Hilo return from Honolulu
- Coach transfers
 - o Hilo – airport transfer
 - o 3 days coaching from Hilo with stops according to itinerary
 - o Transfer to boat launch for snorkeling on Big Island
 - o Kona airport transfer
 - o Honolulu- return airport transfers
 - o Half day coach to Pearl Harbor and Punchbowl
- 6 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 6 breakfasts
- 3 dinners
- Entrances
 - o Hawaii Volcanoes National Park including the Observatory, the Jagger Museum, the Fern Tree Jungle and the Thurston Lava Tube.
 - o Summit tour Mauna Kea
 - o Hike along the Kilauea Ike Trail
 - o Snorkeling Kealakekua Bay
 - o Polynesian Cultural Center
 - o Luau
 - o Pearl Harbor
 - o Punchbowl

