



*Splendid
Isolation*

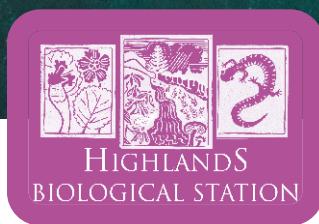
THE NATURAL WONDERS OF
Hawai‘i

November 28 –
December 5, 2026

Haleakalā National Park © Ganja

OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION
TO THE ISLAND OF

Kaua‘i DECEMBER 5-8



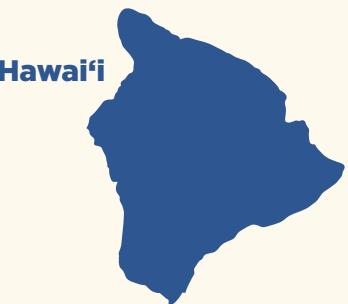
SEE HAWAI'I THROUGH THE LENSES OF GEOLOGY, ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND CULTURAL HISTORY AS WE EXPLORE THE INCREDIBLE FLORA, FAUNA, VOLCANIC LANDSCAPES, AND HISTORIC SITES OF MAUI AND THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, THE TWO LARGEST ISLANDS IN THE WORLD'S MOST REMOTE ARCHIPELAGO!

Join HBS Executive Director and evolutionary biologist Jim Costa on this travel adventure from the high volcanoes to the coast, where we will seek out such spectacular endemics as iconic high-elevation Silverswords, honeycreepers that rival Darwin's finches of the Galapagos in number and diversity, and giant bird-pollinated tree-Lobelias.

Birds and botany await us high and low, from the National Tropical Botanical Garden, Wailua Valley, and Kahanu Garden on the Road to Hana, to the majestic volcanic uplands! On the geological trail we will visit fabulous Haleakalā National Park and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park—home to the world's largest volcanoes, Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, exceeding Everest in total height as they rise up some 33,000 feet from the ocean depths. It is no coincidence that so many

volcanic terms come from the Hawaiian language: this is where the foundation of modern volcanology was established! With a base at the historic Volcano House Hotel, we will explore the stark beauty of the highest Hawaiian volcanoes guided by a professional volcanologist or geologist.

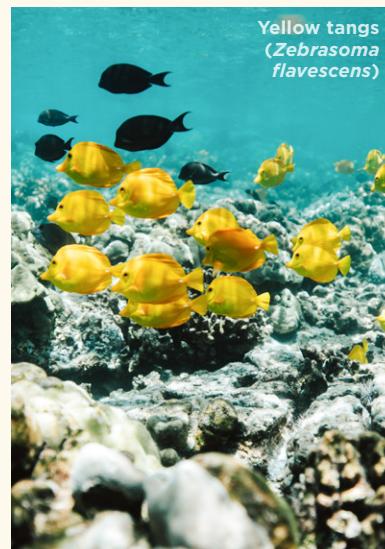
In our explorations, we will also learn about Hawaiian history and culture, including the art and science of Polynesian oceanic navigation, and visit such sites as Pu'uhonua O Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge) National Historical Park, and Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park, Captain James Cook's final resting place. Last but not least, we will have opportunities for stargazing under some of the darkest and clearest skies on earth, and view one of the world's great high-altitude astronomical observatories.



STUDY LEADER

Dr. James (Jim) Costa

Your study leader is Dr. James (Jim) Costa, professor and executive director of the Highlands Biological Station of Western Carolina University, where he teaches Darwin's Origin of Species, foundations of biogeography, a comparative temperate/tropical ecology field course (in Highlands & Ecuador), and for several years taught an island ecology and evolution field course in the Hawaiian Islands. Jim has written and lectured extensively on the explorer-naturalists Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, co-discoverers of evolution by natural selection — both of whom came to their insights through the study of islands. Jim's latest books include *Radical by Nature: The Revolutionary Life of Alfred Russel Wallace* (Princeton), *Darwin and the Art of Botany*, with Bobbi Angell (Timber Press), and *The Descent of Man: An Annotated Edition of Darwin's Classic Work*, with Elizabeth Yale (Princeton). He has held visiting fellowships at Harvard University, the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, the University of Hamburg, and the University of Toulouse. A Trustee of the Charles Darwin Trust and long-time Research Associate in entomology at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, Jim's honors include the Alfred Russel Wallace Medal and the Stephen Jay Gould Prize.





Kaihalulu
red sand beach



'I'iwi or Scarlet
honeycreeper
(*Drepanis coccinea*)
© USFWS



Hawaiian honu
(*Chelonia mydas*)



'Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis*)
© Jordan Lerma, eBird

ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, November 28: Arrive Maui

Arrive at Kahului Airport (OGG) on the island of Maui. After transferring to the hotel, enjoy free time until we gather for a welcome dinner. ROYAL LAHAINA RESORT (D)

Day 2: Sunday, November 29:

Maui: Haleakalā Volcano

We'll begin early to make the most of our visit to Haleakalā National Park, an International Biosphere Reserve and a volcanic landscape sacred to the Hawaiian people. Scenic lookouts and visitor stations perched along the rim of the vast crater offer remarkable views and insight into the park's unique ecology, including endemic treasures such as the iconic 'āhinahina (silversword, *Argyroxiphium sandwicense*) and the nēnē, or Hawaiian goose (*Branta sandvicensis*), the rare state bird of Hawai'i. In the afternoon, we'll visit specialized facilities and venture into Hosmer Grove to search for more celebrated Hawaiian endemics, including the Maui 'Amakihi, the Maui 'Alauahio, and the brilliant red nectar-feeders 'I'iwi and 'Apapane, along with other sought-after bird species. Dinner will be on your own this evening.

ROYAL LAHAINA RESORT (B, L) [BOXED LUNCH ON HALEAKALA]

Day 3: Monday, November 30:

Maui: Road to Hāna

Today we drive the scenic "Road to Hāna," or Hāna Highway, the famed coastal route tracing Maui's lush northeast shoreline from Pā'ia to the historic town of Hāna. Renowned for its tropical rainforests, numerous waterfalls, and black-sand beaches, the drive offers countless natural and cultural highlights. Along the way, we'll stop at sites such as the Waikamoi Nature Trail, Wailua Valley State Wayside, Wai'ānapanapa State Park, and Kahanu Garden (National Tropical Botanical Garden), home to the extraordinary 14th-15th-century Pi'ilanihale Heiau—the largest temple in the Hawaiian Islands and a designated National Historic Landmark.

ROYAL LAHAINA RESORT (B, L, D)

Day 4: Tuesday, December 1:

Maui to Hilo, Big Island of Hawai'i / Volcanoes National Park

After breakfast, we depart for Kahului Airport (OGG) and fly to Hilo on the Big Island. Upon arrival at Hilo Airport (ITO), we transfer to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park to explore the geological wonders of the realm of Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire and volcanoes. What better place to witness extraordinary volcanic activity than atop one of the world's most active volcanoes—here, in the very place that gave the science of volcanology its lexicon! We'll spend the day exploring the park's remarkable volcanic phenomena, enjoying meals at the historic Volcano House's Rim Restaurant, overlooking Halema'uma'u Crater. VOLCANO HOUSE (B, L, D)

Day 5: Wednesday, December 2:

Big Island of Hawai'i: Hilo to Kona

After breakfast we'll check out of our hotel and explore the Chain of Craters Road, from the Kīlauea summit to the Hōlei Sea Arch, with stops at historical and scenic points along the way (Park conditions permitting). Afterward, we take the Belt Road south and west as we head to the Kona side of the island, stopping at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach to look for the endangered Hawaiian honu (green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*) and endemic birds. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

ROYAL KONA RESORT (B, L)



Mauna Kea Observatory

Day 6: Thursday, December 3:

Big Island of Hawai'i: Mauna Kea

This morning, we will enjoy a special lecture on Polynesian wayfinding by a Polynesian Navigator and participant on the Mālama Honua, the worldwide voyage of the Hōkūle'a Polynesian Voyaging Canoe. After free time for lunch on your own, we depart for Mauna Kea, the world's most massive volcano and the tallest mountain on Earth when measured from its oceanic base. Our first stop is the Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station, home to the Onizuka Center for International Astronomy, where we'll learn about the mountain's geology, unique ecosystems, cultural significance to Native Hawaiians, and the world-renowned astronomical facilities above, with the possibility of a special tour (pending confirmation). We'll grab a boxed dinner and head to the summit to watch the sun set above the clouds. Back at the Visitor Center, warm up with hot cocoa and cookies and enjoy some incredible stargazing before heading back to the hotel. ROYAL KONA RESORT (B, D) [BOXED DINNER ON MAUNA KEA]

Day 7: Friday, December 4:

Big Island of Hawai'i: Kona

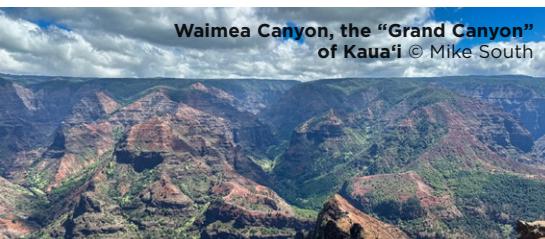
Today we set out to explore several of Hawai'i's most significant cultural and historical sites, including the remarkable Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge) National Historical Park and the scenic Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park—keeping an eye out for whales as our visit coincides with the start of their migration season. From Kealakekua Bay, we'll enjoy a snorkeling cruise in waters renowned for its diversity of coral and fish species, with views of the monument to Captain James Cook, who lost his life here in 1779 during his third voyage of exploration. This evening, we gather for a festive farewell lū'au at the Royal Kona Resort.

ROYAL KONA RESORT (B, L, D)

Day 8: Saturday, December 5:

Depart for flights home

Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll transfer to Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport (KOA) at Keāhole for return flights, bidding Hawai'i Aloha, A Hui Hou! (Farewell, until we meet again!) (B)



Optional POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Kaua'i: December 5–8, 2026

Continue your travels with an exploration of Kaua'i, the oldest and northernmost island in the Hawaiian chain. Named the "Garden Isle," Kaua'i boasts incredibly lush landscapes, from emerald valleys and tropical rainforests to cascading waterfalls and vibrant plant life found nowhere else in Hawai'i. After a short flight from the Big Island, we'll drop our bags at the hotel and visit Allerton Garden, a beautiful botanical retreat on the island's south shore, originally shaped by Hawaiian royalty and later transformed by architect

John Gregg Allerton and artist Robert Allerton into a masterpiece of tropical landscaping, featuring exotic plants, sculptures, and dramatic water features. The following day brings an excursion to Waimea Canyon, the spectacular "Grand Canyon" of Hawai'i, where vast red and emerald-hued valleys, rugged cliffs, and winding gorges unfold before you. Scenic overlooks offer breathtaking views shaped by volcanic forces and centuries of erosion. Our visit includes time in Kōke'e State Park, a museum visit, and a scenic picnic lunch. We'll also enjoy an immersive tour at a family-owned cacao farm, where the Lydgate family, farming in Hawai'i for five generations since the days of the Hawaiian kingdom,

produces award-winning, sustainably grown chocolate with a deep commitment to regenerative farming practices. Gather for a farewell dinner on our final evening before departing on flights home the next day.

OUTRIGGER KAUAI BEACH RESORT & SPA

Included on the Kaua'i Extension:

Inter-island flight from Kona, Hawai'i, to Lihue, Kaua'i • A private group transfer from hotel to airport • Three nights' accommodation • Land transport by private motor coach • English-speaking Tour Director • 3 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 farewell dinner • Baggage handling • Tips to local guides, drivers, service charges and taxes • Entrance fees on itinerary excursions and visits



Top left: Royal Lahaina Resort
Middle and bottom: Volcano House
Right column: Royal Kona Resort



ACCOMMODATIONS

ROYAL LAHAINA RESORT

The Royal Lahaina Resort offers a relaxed, oceanfront escape on Maui's famed Kā'anapali Beach, featuring spacious, island-inspired guestrooms with private lanais, modern bathrooms, and comfortable furnishings designed for unwinding between adventures. Guests can enjoy a wide range of resort amenities, including three swimming pools, lush tropical grounds, beach access with water activities, tennis courts, a well-equipped fitness center, on-site dining with fresh local flavors, and evening entertainment that brings Hawaiian culture to life.

VOLCANO HOUSE

Volcano House, perched on the rim of Kīlauea's caldera in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, offers a truly one-of-a-kind stay with panoramic views overlooking the steaming Halema'uma'u Crater. This historic lodge blends rustic charm with modern comforts, featuring cozy guestrooms with large picture windows, inviting common spaces warmed by a volcanic-stone fireplace, and on-site dining that showcases island-inspired cuisine. Its unbeatable location places guests steps away from crater trails, lookout points, and some of the park's most dramatic volcanic features, making it the ideal base for exploring this extraordinary landscape.

ROYAL KONA RESORT

The Royal Kona Resort, set along the dramatic lava-rock coastline of Kailua-Kona, offers airy, tropically styled guestrooms equipped with private lanais, mini refrigerators, in-room coffee makers, air conditioning, and comfortable furnishings designed for relaxation. Guests can enjoy a wealth of resort amenities, including a private swimming lagoon, oceanfront pool, a full-service spa, tennis courts, a fitness center, and on-site dining with sweeping views of Kailua Bay. With its central location and welcoming island ambiance, the Royal Kona Resort provides an ideal home base for your Big Island adventure.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The program is moderately active, with all walks rated easy to moderate and generally no longer than 1.5 miles. While distances are short, some terrain over volcanic rock can be uneven. A walking stick may be helpful for added stability.

Hawai'i's weather is famously diverse, shaped by dramatic elevation changes and numerous microclimates. Elevation further influences conditions, creating temperature zones that range from tropical to sub-Arctic—(Mauna Kea)—10,000 feet.

Late November through early December, expect warm, tropical conditions with daytime highs in the low 80s°F and cooler evenings in the 60s°F, along with brief, refreshing showers.

At Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the weather is generally mild but variable, with daytime highs in the 60s-70s°F in lower areas, cooler temperatures at higher elevations (such as Kīlauea's summit at 4,000 feet), chilly evenings, and the possibility of rain.

Layered clothing is strongly recommended to ensure comfort across the wide range of climates encountered during the trip.

Portions of the itinerary travel through remote areas requiring flexibility with timing, meals, road conditions, and weather. Summit districts and visitor centers at Haleakalā and Mauna Kea may close due to unsafe weather conditions. Should this occur, we will make every effort to adjust the itinerary to preserve key experiences whenever possible. Transportation is by private coach and inter-island flight. A spirit of adventure and an appreciation for Hawai'i's remarkable natural beauty are essential to fully enjoy this unforgettable journey.

There are no plastic water bottles offered. Please bring a reusable water bottle to eliminate the use of single-use plastic on the island.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a \$1,000 deposit is required per person, plus \$200 per person for the post-trip extension to Kaua'i (if applicable). Please either mail, email, or fax your registration form. If you wish to submit your registration online, please visit royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/hbs-hawaii-26 or scan the QR code on the registration page with your smartphone camera. Initial deposits may be charged to a credit card. Final payment is due July 31, 2026, and must be paid by check or wire transfer only. Royal Adventures handles all invoicing. CST #2009579-40.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be received in writing by Royal Adventures. Until July 31, 2026: Your deposit will be refunded less \$500 per person. After July 31, 2026, there are no refunds of any deposits or payments. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features or for any part of the program on which you choose not to participate.

TOUR SIZE: This tour is exclusively designed for Western Carolina University/Highlands Biological Station and CLE members and friends on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum group size is 15. Should the minimum not be met, we reserve the right to levy a small group surcharge.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance as the cancellation penalty in this brochure will apply. Trip cancellation insurance can be purchased through our recommended provider Travel Insured International, [CLICK HERE](#) to get a quote or call 1-800-243-3174 and mention Royal Adventures #53140. Most insurance plans need to be purchased within 14 days of paying the initial deposit in order to waive pre-existing medical conditions as well as to purchase "Cancel for Any Reason" insurance. Neither Western Carolina University Highlands Biological Station, CLE, nor Royal Adventures accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the trip.

QUESTIONS: Please email Jim Costa (costa@email.wcu.edu) or phone: (828) 526-2602. Or contact Royal Adventures at (925) 820-6260 or email: info@royaladventures.com

RESPONSIBILITY

Royal Adventures, its owners, and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and the Highlands Biological Station/ Western Carolina University, CLE, and Royal Adventures and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns, accept no liability, therefore. The Highlands

Biological Station/Western Carolina University, CLE, and Royal Adventures assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or other irregularity that may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, pathogens, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, quarantine, *force majeure*, animal or insect bites, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. If this tour is canceled due to a *force majeure* event or other forces beyond our control, only the recoverable portion of unused services or accommodations, if any, will be refunded or credited on a future Royal Adventures tour. A *force majeure* event, in relation to this tour, shall mean any circumstances beyond our control, including, but without limitation, to acts of God, explosion, flood, forceful wind, fire or accident, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, sickness, epidemics, pandemics, quarantines, government intervention or other unforeseeable events. Limitations on travel arising from the COVID-19 pandemic or other pathogens shall be considered a *force majeure* event. Highlands Biological Station/Western Carolina University, CLE, and Royal Adventures reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary or to the trip leaders whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty. Any physical or mental health condition of a participant that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be disclosed in writing before booking so that the Highlands Biological Station/ Western Carolina University, CLE, and Royal Adventures may evaluate whether participation is feasible. Participants requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for providing such assistance. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, airfare, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. Neither the Highlands Biological Station/Western Carolina University, CLE, nor Royal Adventures accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features. I will not hold the Highlands Biological Station/Western Carolina University, CLE, nor Royal Adventures and/or its employees or agents responsible for any expense or loss caused by my/ our failure to purchase trip cancellation and evacuation insurance coverage. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release, assumption of risk, and hold harmless agreement.

PROGRAM COSTS

MAIN PROGRAM

Double Occupancy . . . **\$7,890**, per person

Single Occupancy **\$9,570**

(Limited availability)

ROYAL ADVENTURES
Exceptional Educational Journeys



OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION TO KAUAI

Double Occupancy . . . **\$2,950**, per person

Single Occupancy **\$3,750**

(Limited availability)



SAMPLE COACH AIRFARE

Atlanta (ATL) to Maui (OGG) /
Big Island (KON) to Atlanta (ATL): **\$675**

(Not included, quoted separately, subject to change)

AIRFARE: Airfare from Atlanta, Georgia to Lahaina, Maui (OGG) with return from Kona, Hawai'i (KON) is not included. Estimated airfare is approximately \$675 (coach class) as of February 2026. Airfares are subject to change. A recommended flight itinerary will be made available to registered passengers departing and returning from Atlanta.

PROGRAM COST INCLUDES

In-tour airfare Kahului, Maui (OGG) to Hilo, Hawai'i (ITO) (not to exceed \$145 per person) • services of a Guide/Tour Director throughout the tour • expert local and specialized guides • lectures • accommodations and meals as outlined in itinerary • wine with welcome and farewell dinners • transportation by private motorcoach • group airport transfers on suggested flight itinerary • baggage handling • tips to guides, drivers, and wait staff for all group activities and meals • all activities and entrance fees per the itinerary • service charges and taxes • coordination and administration

PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Mainland to Island airfare (quoted separately) • passport fees (if applicable) • individual/private transfers • room service • alcoholic beverages aside from welcome and farewell drinks • beverages not included as part of included meals • meals not indicated in itinerary • personal items such as medical or quarantine expenses • COVID-19 testing and immunizations • laundry, fax or telephone calls • medical expenses • snacks • travel or evacuation insurance • excess baggage charges • deviations from the scheduled tour • airport taxes, security fees, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program • tip to the guide/tour director is not included and is at the passenger's discretion

Splendid Isolation THE NATURAL WONDERS OF Hawai'i

RESERVATION FORM

For the ease of registering online, please visit royaladventures.intellibook.co/site/#/hbs-hawaii-26.

If you prefer to mail your registration, please complete the form below and return it to Royal Adventures with deposit check (if applicable) payable to "Royal Adventures" at: 9 Crow Canyon Ct, Ste 205; San Ramon, CA 94583

Enclosed is my deposit of \$_____ \$1,000 per person, plus \$200 per person for the post-trip extension to Kauai (if applicable), to hold _____ place(s) on *Splendid Isolation: The Natural Wonders of Hawai'i*, departing November 28, 2026, with Highlands Biological Station/Center for Life Enrichment. Final payment is due July 31, 2026, and must be paid by check.

NAME AS ON PASSPORT _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

NAME AS ON PASSPORT _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION

I/We wish to join the Kauai post-tour optional extension

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay by check made payable to "Royal Adventures"

Please charge my deposit for a total amount of \$_____ to: AMEX Visa MasterCard Discover Card

CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____ SEC. CODE _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Double 1 Bed Double 2 Beds Single (limited availability)

I will share accommodations with: _____

I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



Splendid Isolation

THE NATURAL WONDERS OF **Hawai‘i**

HIGHLIGHTS

Native Flora and Fauna

Thanks to its splendid isolation, an astounding diversity of species found nowhere else on earth have evolved in the Hawaiian archipelago. We will seek out endemic Hawaiian honeycreepers and other iconic birds, as well as remarkable endemic trees and other flowering plants.

Volcanic Wonders

Experience sunrise landscapes and rare endemic species on Haleakalā, plus a sunset above the clouds and stargazing atop Mauna Kea—the tallest volcano in the world. At Volcanoes National Park, view the

dynamic landscapes shaped by Kīlauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, from craters and steam vents to dramatic lava fields.

Lectures

Program of lectures on Hawaiian ecology, evolution, geology, and cultural history by study leader Jim Costa and others.

Coastlines, Coral Reefs, and Sea Life

Snorkel the vibrant marine sanctuary of Kealakekua Bay, keeping an eye out for whales beginning their migration,

and visit black-sand shores where Hawaiian green sea turtles nest.

Legendary Road to Hana

Wind along Maui's lush northeast coastline, stopping for waterfalls, black-sand beaches, rainforest trails, and the awe-inspiring Pi'ilanihale Heiau—the largest temple in Hawai‘i.

Hawaiian Cultural History

The Hawaiian Islands have nurtured a rich cultural heritage since the arrival of seafaring Polynesian peoples around the 12th-13th century. We will discover sacred sites, learn about Polynesian wayfinding traditions, and more.