

5 DAY TRIP

Explore Hawaii Island

Day 1



Welcome to Hilo and Hawaii Island, where an abundance of natural splendor and adventure awaits. Upon arrival to Hilo International Airport (ITO), we'll meet our transfer and make our way to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This is the home to Kīlauea and Mauna Loa, which are both active volcanoes. As a matter of fact, since 1952, Kīlauea has erupted 34 times and from 1983 to 2018, eruptive activity was nearly continuous along the volcano's East Rift Zone. During our visit, we will see geological wonders such as steam vents, Kīlauea's caldera, lava tubes and sulphur banks. We'll have lunch inside the park overlooking Kīlauea before departing.

Take the short drive to Punalu'u Black Sand Beach, where the sand is made of basalt and created by lava flowing into the ocean which explodes as it reaches the ocean and cools. In addition to admiring the unique color of the sand and coastline, this is a great location to view the endangered Hawksbill Turtles and green turtles. We'll spend some time at the beach walking a short coastal trail, photographing the turtles or even go for a dip in the ocean. Before we return to Hilo, we'll stop for some coffee and macadamia nuts at a coffee mill that grows and harvests its own coffee beans. The coffee mill offers samples of different varieties of coffee as well as different flavored macadamia nuts. (L,D)

Day 2



Today's adventure takes up above the treetops, as we're ziplining along seven amazing lines. You'll see amazing landscapes, ocean views, banana fields and soar above a 250 foot Kolekole waterfall. In addition to the excitement of "flying," our guides will share the history of Hawaii and teach us about the flora and fauna on the agricultural farm where we zipline.

Fortunately, 'Akaka Falls is just minutes away. The falls consist of two waterfalls, Kahuna Falls at 100 feet and 'Akaka Falls cascading down 442 feet. There is a short 0.4 mile loop that affords us views of both falls and is nestled among a lush rainforest filled with wild orchids, bamboo groves and draping ferns. We'll visit Honomu for lunch, a former sugar plantation town for a casual bite before heading south.

Hawaii Tropical Bioreserve is more than just a garden - it's home to 2,000 species of flora and fauna which grow beautifully thanks in part to the fertile volcanic soil. During our visit, we can hike some of the many trails, visit Onomea Falls, view the ocean and meander through the various gardens. Shop in downtown Hilo at one of the many boutiques or enjoy the afternoon at Carlsmith Beach Park which has some great lagoons for swimming and snorkeling. (B,L,D)

Day 3



Today we depart Hilo, but not before visiting some more incredible landmarks. Our first stop this morning is to Rainbow Falls, which is best visited in the morning hours as it's the best time to catch a rainbow above the falls. The falls are a broad waterfall in the Wailuku River that is actually located within town. The Rainbow Falls cascade 80 feet over a lava cave that, according to legends, is home to the ancient Hawaiian goddess Hina, the goddess of the moon.

Did you know chocolate comes from a tree? Lavaloha Chocolate Farm are growers and makers of 100% Hawaiian chocolate. The 1,000 acre farm sits on the slopes of Mauna Kea, where rich volcanic soil helps develop great tasting cocoa beans. We'll take a tree to chocolate tour and walk through cacao orchards, see chocolate pressing facilities and learn about the chocolate journey. At the end of the tour, we'll sample a variety of different chocolates.

Now that we've had something sweet, it's back to Hilo for lunch. There are many restaurants to choose from in downtown Hilo to satisfy every craving. On our way out of town, our last stop is at Kaumana Caves. This park offers a quick diversion into a lava tube. You can descend on a metal ladder into a skylight in a lava tube that was created by an 1881 flow from Mauna Loa.



Now we're off to travel the Saddle Road and traverse Hawaii Island. Slicing across the Big Island from east to west, through a high valley or "saddle" between the mountains of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, Saddle Road (also known as Hawaii Route 200) is 54 miles (87 km) of pure adventure. Along the way, you'll pass dried lava flows, rolling pastureland, desert- and moonlike fields, lush rainforests and trailheads that lead to several hiking trails. Once we're over the Saddle Road, we will arrive in Kona, where the next two days of adventure await us.

Day 4

We'll start things off a little slow today, because the real adventure is this evening. After a leisurely breakfast, we'll travel to Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area to truly enjoy a day at leisure. Hapuna Beach is ideal for swimming during calm seas, bodysurfing during periods of shore breaks, sunbathing and other beach-related activities. We'll experience the true Hawaiian beach day before returning to Kona.



This evening we'll experience something few have ever dreamed of-manta ray night snorkeling. We'll first experience a beautiful sunset off the Kona coast. Then, we'll get in the water for an unbelievable adventure. The Kona mantas, hahalua, are gentle giants, in many instances, are 16 feet from wing to wing. The mantas come to feed on an accumulation of plankton near the shoreline. We will snorkel around a lighted raft and allow these magnificent creatures to swim around us while we admire them. You'll be able to return home and tell friends and family about the amazing and unique experience you had on Hawaii Island.

Day 5

Today is all about enjoying Kona and it's local flavor. We'll stay close to home and partake in a lei making workshop. Flowers will be brought to us and we will make our very own lei that you can take home and share the spirit of Aloha. Explore Kailua-Kona and all the shops along Ali'i Drive. It's a perfect opportunity to find the perfect souvenir for everyone back home. Enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants along the coast with an outdoor setting and indulge in some fresh, local seafood.



Tonight's final dinner is a Paniolo BBQ Dinner at Kahua Ranch, a working ranch steeped in history. Legends of Kahua have Kamehameha I training his armies that would then go on to conquer all of the islands. A little known fact is that Kahua was an R&R site for the military during World War II. A welcome talk story of the history of Kahua Ranch introduces us to the century old working ranch. Dinner tonight is a feast of BBQ beef, chicken, vegetables, salads and dessert. Live country music and dancing, a roping demonstration, horseshoes, S'mores and songs around the campfire are part of the overall experience. Take in the sunset over the pastures and think back to the amazing week spent on Hawaii Island. (B,D)