



Hello World Relay: The Ultimate Hawaii Island Itinerary

Car Hire: 7 days car rental. Pick up at Kona Airport – Drop off at Hilo Airport.

Flights:

(Insert Australian city) - to Kona (KOA) via Honolulu (HNL).

Fly into Kona (KOA) and out of Hilo (ITO), so the return flight is Hilo (ITO) to Honolulu (HNL) to connect home to (Insert Australian city).

NB: We recommend Hawaiian Airlines.

Day 1: Manta Ray Night diving

1:16PM - 2:00PM: Interisland flight Fly into Kona via Honolulu on HA148 Arrive Kona

6.30PM: Manta ray night snorkelling with Fairwind Cruises

The Travel Channel calls the manta ray snorkel “ONE OF THE TOP-TEN THINGS TO DO IN YOUR LIFETIME”. Experiencing the beauty of the manta ray up close and personal is an experience you will always cherish. The snorkel adventure is at night for the best viewing of the manta rays. Although you can view manta rays during daylight hours, they feed most actively at night when many plankton rise towards the surface providing one of the favourite foods on which mantas feed. Using lights that are safe for the manta, we are able to attract these plankton which attracts the mantas. Manta rays do not have stingers like the Sting Rays, mantas are completely safe to be around. We invite you to the ultimate manta ray snorkelling experience. Wetsuit mask, snorkel fins, underwater light and snacks will be provided.

N.B. Tour check-in is at Keahou Bay. Will need to drive there if you are staying unless you are staying at Sheraton Kona which is walking distance. You will need to wear your swimsuit, bring a towel, warm dry clothes and light jacket or hoodie and sea sickness tablets if you think you may need it.

Accommodation: Sheraton Kona, Royal Kona Resort, Kanaloa at Kona by Outrigger (apartment) and Royal Seacliff Kona by Outrigger (apartment)

Day 2: Snorkelling, stars and snow!

8.00AM – 1.15PM: Dolphin snorkel with SeaQuest Hawaii

Hawaii Island and its clear blue waters are truly a snorkelling and scuba paradise. South Kona’s calm and clear waters are perfect for snorkelling and spotting many species of tropical fish, honu (Hawaiian green sea turtles) and dolphins.

Pods of potentially hundreds of Hawaiian spinner dolphins can be found off of the Kona Coast regularly. Observe the dolphins in their natural habitat and, if the conditions are right, join them in the inviting waters of the Pacific Ocean and have the experience of a lifetime. The tour takes you to snorkel spots with pristine coral reef rich with marine abundance. You get the best of both worlds- the delight of a morning with the dolphins and the amazing underwater ecosystems.

N.B. Tour check-in is at Keahou Bay. Will need to drive there if you are staying unless you are staying at Sheraton Kona which is walking distance. Snacks plus a deli lunch included. Remember to bring a TOWEL, SUNSCREEN, & CAMERA. All snorkel gear is provided; however, you are welcome to bring your own.

3PM- 10PM: Mauna Kea Sunset & Stargazing with Hawai'i Forrest & Trail (7 hours)

Yes, it does snow in Hawaii. During winter months you may see the snow-capped peaks of the 4,205-metre Maunakea. Stargazing or taking a tour up Maunakea is just one example of the many unexpected attractions and activities you'll find on Hawaii Island. Hawaii Island is home to one of the most renowned astronomical sites on the planet. At this elevation, and because of the clear air and minimal light pollution, the stars can light the sky like glitter. The sunsets above the clouds can also be spectacular.

From sea level to the high alpine witness the dramatic diversity of our island's landscape. After a hot, picnic-style dinner we make our way to the summit of Hawai'i's most sacred mountain for a sensational sunset amidst the largest collection of telescopes on earth. As daylight fades we descend to a lower elevation where your Interpretive Guide will reveal the wonders of our Hawaiian night skies.

N.B. Arrange pick-up and drop-off from hotel. You will be provided with hooded parkas, but will need to bring a sweater or jacket; wear long pants and covered walking shoes with socks. It gets extremely cold atop Mauna Kea so please wear clothing that will keep you warm!

Accommodation: Sheraton Kona, Royal Kona Resort, Kanaloa at Kona by Outrigger (apartment) and Royal Seacliff Kona by Outrigger (apartment)

Day 3: Explore Hawaii's rich history

8:00-11:00AM: Drive to Pu'uuhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park and Explore

Located on the coast of Honaunau Bay in south Kona, Puuhonua o Honaunau immerses you in Hawaiian culture. This 72-hectare national historic park was once the home of royal grounds and a place of refuge for ancient Hawaiian lawbreakers. Hundreds of years old yet beautifully restored, Puuhonua o Honaunau remains one of Hawaii's most sacred historic places. Follow the park and map and take a self-guided walking tour and explore the grounds including the Great Wall, standing 3 metres high and 5 metres thick. Fierce kii, or wooden images of gods, guard the Hale o Keawe Heiau, a sacred temple that housed the bones of 23 alii (chiefs).

Beyond the puuhonua, explore the nearby Royal Grounds, which were the sacred home of alii. See Keoneele Cove, the royal canoe landing; the Keoua Stone, the favorite resting place of the high chief of Kona, Keaoua; as well as halau (thatched work house), fishponds and a heiau (sacred temple) that is one of the oldest structures in the park. Beautiful at sunset, this sacred place gives visitors an important glimpse into early Hawaiian culture.

12:00 PM: Drive to Historic Kailua Village (Kailua-Kona), have lunch and explore.

Historic Kailua Village (Kailua-Kona) is a lively seaside town in the heart of the sunny Kona Coast. Once a sleepy fishing village and a retreat for Hawaiian royalty, Kailua Village is now a destination for affordable accommodations, great shopping, dining and learning about Hawaii's rich culture.

Stroll down the main road of Alii Drive and you'll find a variety of shops and restaurants. But look closer and you'll also discover some very important Hawaii Island historic spots. Hulihee Palace and the Mokuaikaia Church are both located right on Alii Drive. King Kamehameha I spent his later years living near the current site of King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Resort until his passing in 1819. The Ahuena Heiau, located on the grounds of the hotel, is a reconstructed temple rebuilt by Kamehameha himself and is on the register of National Historic Landmarks. Kailua Pier is a great place to watch the sunset and is also the starting and finishing point of the Ironman World Championship (October).

3:00PM: Kona Coffee roasting drive to Ueshima Coffee (UCC Hawaii) Corp

Roast your own coffee! Visit a beautiful Kona Coffee Estate overlooking Kailua Bay and sample some freshly roasted Kona coffee. Free coffee farm tours are offered daily. For the more adventurous, try your hand at roasting your own private label 100% Kona Coffee. It's a 45 minute tour plus 2 private labeled bags of 3.2 oz Kona coffee that you roasted yourself.

5:00PM: Drive up to the Kohala/Waikoloa scenic drive

As you drive north of Kona on Queen Kaahumanu Highway, you'll marvel at the rugged lava fields surrounding you. Nestled amongst the jet-black and rust-red lava rock fields, a result of eruptions from Hualalai volcano centuries ago, are green oases full of world-class accommodations, fine dining and some of Hawaii's best golf courses.

Accommodation Options: Hapuna prince, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Waikoloa Beach Marriott, Hilton Waikola Village and Fairmont Orchid.

Day 4: Experience Hawaii's unexpected cowboy culture and hit the beach

9:30AM – 11:30AM: drive to Kahua Ranch for horse-back riding tour

Hawaii Island has an unexpected heritage, a rich “cowboy culture” more than a century old, centered in the upcountry ranchlands of Waimea and North Kohala. The paniolo (Hawaiian cowboy) culture is a big part of the lifestyle and history of Hawaii Island. Hawaii Island offers a variety of fun ways to saddle up for an unforgettable paniolo experience. Enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the mountains, coastlines, stately cinder cones, and lush pastures on horseback at Kahua Ranch.

2:00PM: Beach time Hawaii’s white sand beaches

With less than 230 millimetres of annual rainfall, you can soak in the sun and relax at Hapuna Beach State Park, one of Hawaii Island’s largest white sand beaches. The largest of Hawaii Island’s white sand beaches, Hapuna Beach has consistently been rated on numerous international Top Ten lists. Hapuna also offers consistently good conditions for swimming, bodyboarding, sunbathing and snorkeling.

Located adjacent to the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel and nearby its sister hotel, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, you’ll find ample parking, along with food vendors, picnic areas, restrooms and showers. Beat the South Kohala heat by taking a dip in the warm waters of Hapuna Beach.

Accommodation Options: Hapuna prince, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Waikoloa Beach Marriott, Hilton Waikoloa Village and Fairmont Orchid.

Day 5: Explore the Lush side of Hawaii Island

7:00AM: Drive Hamakua Coastal drive morning

On the northeastern side of Hawaii Island, just north of Hilo, lies the Hamakua Coast. With 2133 millimetres of rainfall a year, this area is known for the Hamakua Heritage Corridor drive, a road trip along the coastline that passes by lush tropical rainforests, waterfalls and lovely seaside views. As you drive along the scenic coast, you’ll see deep water-carved gulches (ravines) and valleys, thick with tropical foliage.

10:00AM – 3:00PM: Ziplining Akaka Falls with Skyline Adventures

The Skyline Akaka Falls Tour offers an exclusive chance to experience flying over the 250 foot KoleKole waterfall. Located just downstream from world famous Akaka Falls, the Akaka Falls Skyline tour offers a 7 line course that accommodates ages 10 and up. The course traverses areas of tropical farmland, waterfalls, and deep ravines with each zipline progressively building on the prior until the ultimate breath taker that is the longest zipline in the state. The lush scenery, dramatic ocean views, and world class guides will make this 2.5 hour tour one to remember for a life time. Be sure to check out the local shops and restaurants surrounding the check in location of historic Honouliuli before or after your zipline tour! New for summer 2015 - Skyline Akaka Falls Zip n' Dip Tour. Experience the thrill of our 7-line Zipline tour followed by a dip and relaxation at Skyline's private waterfall location.

6.30PM: Dinner at Volcano House and watch the lava glow

One of the best ways to see the lava flow of Kilauea Volcano. Drive to Volcano House Hotel and watch the lava glow during dinner. You will have dramatic caldera vistas at the summit of Kilauea, one of the world’s most active volcanoes in the world. The only hotel within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Volcano House is nestled on the rim of Kilauea Caldera, a short walk across Crater Rim Drive from the Kilauea Visitor Center.

Accommodation: Volcano House Hotel (an Aqua and Aston property). N.b. this is the only hotel located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Day 6: Explore Hawaii Volcano’s National Park

9:45AM – 3:00PM: Walk to Visitor’s Center at Hawaii Volcanoes National park and go on an amazing guided bicycle tour of Kilauea Volcano with Bikevolcano.com Inc.

Explore the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on a Full Day or Half Day Bike Adventure. Also, we offer an Active Lava Flow Bike Adventure (volcano depending). Lastly, you can island hop from Honolulu to the Big Island on a Fly, Bike, & Volcano Tour. We will provide you with all the equipment necessary, lunch/dinner, snacks, beverages, a Professional Guide, and van support. See the main highlights of Kilauea Volcano all on mostly downhill and level paved roads and trails. From lush ancient Hawaiian rainforests to dynamic lava landscapes, you will experience a variety of microclimates, huge craters, stand by steaming vents, walk through a lava tube, and if Madame Pele (the Volcano Goddess) allows, you’ll see active lava flows pouring into the Pacific Ocean. Bike as much or as little of this majestic tour, our support van will always be close by.

Children are welcome. N.B. Tour leaves from the Visitor's Center at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Inclusion: All Equipment, Lunch {Fresh Deli Sandwich & Drink}, Snacks, Beverages, a Professional Interpretive Guide, Van Support

Accommodation: Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

Day 7: Departure - Drop off rental car at Hilo and fly out of Hilo Airport