

How to Lean Into Hawai'i's Culture



For Kiwis looking to learn more about both Hawaiian culture and its nature, Hawai'i Tourism has created a list of the best learning experiences in the islands.

On Oahu, the *Mānoa Heritage Center* is described as a living classroom focussed on Hawai'i's natural and cultural heritage. The last intact early Hawaiian temple is here and gardens with a diverse collection of native and Polynesian-introduced plants.

Downtown Honolulu's *Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site & Archives*, a National Historic Landmark, is ideal for history buffs. It holds 80,000 digital pieces and is home to one of the world's largest collections of Hawaiian-language printed materials.

... Maui

On Maui and Lanai, the *Lāna'i Culture & Heritage Center* houses exhibits exploring the natural

New To IMP

The International Market Place in Waikiki has a new addition, *Golden Trip by Bikini Bird*. The locally-owned store offers high-quality, Hawaiian-inspired beachwear, accessories, and lifestyle pieces. Find out more [HERE](#).

world. While there's scheduled weekly community volunteer work days at *Maui Cultural Lands*, which is reforesting West Maui's Honokowai Valley with native and endemic plants.

For the Kaua'i bound, add *Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge* to the itinerary, home to various seabirds, monk seals, green sea turtles, humpback whales and the Hawaiian goose. Pair it with a trip to *The Kaua'i Museum*, which delves into the island's natural history, as well as Hawaiian history, its sugar-plantation culture, and its monarchy, suggests Hawai'i Tourism. The museum also offers weekly classes in Hawaiian arts for those who like to get hands-n, from hula to lei pōo.

On Hawai'i Island, the STO highlights *The Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site* which preserves a temple built on the orders of King Kamehameha I, and *Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail*, a centuries-old island coastal trail.

After a day exploring these parks, send clients to the *'Imiloa Astronomy Center*, which offers interactive exhibits and planetarium shows that detail the early Hawaiian studies of the stars. See more details and itinerary inspiration [HERE](#).

Diamond Head Closure



The Diamond Head State Monument will be closed over select dates in Mar and Apr for work to stabilise loose rocks around Kahala Tunnel.

The park will be fully closed 04-07 and 11-14 Mar, as well as 01-04, 08-11 and 14-17 Apr. During these full closures, access to the park will be restricted and no visitors will be allowed entry.

Over Spring Break, 17-28 Mar, the park will remain open 0600-1800, with works taking place overnight. The park will also close early, at 1400, on 03, 10 and 31 Mar as well as 07, 14 and 18 Apr. Curt Cottrell, administrator of the DLNR Division of State Parks says that while the closures may cause some inconvenience, the rockfall mitigation work is critical to maintaining a safe and enjoyable experience for those who visit. Keep up to date [HERE](#).

Maui Marathon



The *Maui Marathon*, the oldest marathon west of the Mississippi River, is taking place on 27 Apr. There are full marathon, half marathon, 10K and 5K options, which start and end in Kaanapali with ocean views enroute. See [HERE](#).

Volcanoes New Centre



Clients bound for the Island of Hawai'i are advised that the Kilauea Visitor Center in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park will close this 17 Feb for extensive renovations.

During this time, the centre's restrooms, sidewalks, water station and about half of its parking will be unavailable. Agents are urged to suggest clients plan ahead and be prepared for limited services and parking.

Volcano House and the *Volcano Art Center Gallery* will remain open, and park rangers and the Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association store and staff will continue to serve visitors from a temporary welcome center at Kilauea Military Camp's accessible *Koa Room*, located some two kilometers west of the park entrance.

Some ranger programs will continue, however, park films and programs like *After Dark in the Park* and *Nā Leo Manu* are suspended until KVC re-opens.

... The Renos

Upon completion, the centre will feature a new covered pavilion, new and improved restrooms, full accessibility and expanded visitor space, as well as a larger Hawaii Pacific Parks Association store and new bilingual exhibits in English and 'olelo Hawai'i. There is no current finish date, but National Park Services warns the project could take up to two years to complete. Keep up to date [HERE](#).

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