

The Big Island

Hawaii

# Wildlife Walking Adventure



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS™

## DAILY ITINERARY

Hawaii: The Big Island | Wildlife Walking Adventure



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

### From Hilo to the Kohala Coast

Scientists love to remind us that the Big Island gets bigger every day. You'll see the glowing bubble and splat of lava that proves their point. But the wonderful paradox of this fierce volcanic dot in the Pacific is how lush greenery and rich human history coexist. From our hotel home bases, we'll go deep into remote valleys where farmers cultivate taro and experience the surprising sweep of "cowboy country." Our walks take us into vivid botanical gardens...to a skyscraper-high waterfall...and into a sacred refuge where islanders could escape the wrath of a king. The locavore food scene is really exciting here, and you'll have chances to eat in some of the many great restaurants and cafés. There's also great shopping in Hilo Town and time to relax on the beach or by the pool. From the heights of Volcanoes National Park all the way down into the clear blue waters where you can snorkel with sea turtles, we'll offer you in-depth insights to help you appreciate all the miracles of life on the Big Island.

## DAY 1

### HILO

- Marvel at rainbows in the mist and the plunging waters of Rainbow and Peepee Falls
- Explore the connections between Hawaiian cultural traditions and astronomy
- Enjoy a welcome dinner in Volcano

The Big Island is known for its "kick back" style, and we get right into the tempo with a leisurely visit to Rainbow Falls and Peepee Falls (pronounced Peh-EH Peh-EH). Between hexagonal pillars created behind the falls by slowly-cooled basalt lava, your eyes will catch rainbows in the mist as the falls plunge 80 feet into the curving jungle pool.

Next up is the Imiloa Astronomy Center. We take in their spectacularly down-to-earth native gardens on a guided walk that includes many of the "canoe plants" that rode to the islands with the early Polynesians. We're welcomed into the state-of-the-art planetarium for a viewing of Imiloa's signature 3D experience, "Maunakea: Between Earth and Sky" and explore the connections between Hawaiian cultural traditions and astronomy.

This afternoon we make our way to the town of Volcano, just outside Volcanoes National Park. We check into our private cabins in the rainforest and relax before a festive dinner in the town of Volcano.

**Overnight:** Volcano

**Meals:** L, D

## DAY 2

### VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

- Walk amid the Sulphur Banks and steam vents
- Visit Lava Tree State Monument

Today we explore Volcanoes National Park – a fascinating blend of active volcanism, biological diversity and Hawaiian culture. You get a remarkable feel here for the rumble and hiss that signals the growth of two of the most active volcanoes on earth. On our walk from the Kilauea Visitor Center, we'll learn about the processes that gave birth to the islands – and how the still-growing Mauna Loa came to soar 56,000 feet from the sea floor (to be more than five miles taller than Mt. Everest). We'll take a trail where steam billows from vents in the ground too hot for trees to grow.

Later this afternoon we will explore the lava formations at Lava Tree State Monument and time a visit to a black sand beach to watch the sunset.

**Overnight:** Volcano

**Meals:** B, D

## DAY 3

### VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

- Descend through a lush rain forest to the floor of the solidified, however still steaming Kilauea Iki Crater
- Walk in a cave-like tube created by flowing lava
- Sip a cocktail while having dinner with vast views of billowing Halema'uma'u Crater

New experiences await our return to the park this morning. Our guided walk across a volcano crater will reveal more of the remarkable terrain created by millennia of flowing lava.

For an up-close look at volcanic forces, we'll enter the Thurston Lava Tube. Five hundred years old, it was formed by a river of lava that gradually built up walls and a ceiling. When the last of the lava flowed through, only the dark undulating surface remained. And for yet another perspective, we take a drive on Chain of Craters Road that winds through a terrain of pit craters, pahoehoe flows, pumice cones and a 1,100-year-old forest surrounded by lava.

We cap the day with cocktails and dinner at Volcano House, set in the warm, red glow of the nearby billowing Halema'uma'u Crater.

**Overnight:** Volcano

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 4

### KAHUA RANCH

- Browse the shops and farmer's market in laidback Hilo
- Learn about Hawaiian cowboy life and enjoy a cowboy cookout on a working ranch
- Enjoy a star show 3,200' above sea level in the Kohala Mountains

Today, we shift gears from the unstoppable forces of nature to the mellow human culture that lives at the volcanoes' edge. Back in Hilo Town, we'll visit Lyman Mission House, the island's oldest wood structure built by 19th century missionaries from New England. You'll have a chance to shop at Sig Zane's, known around the world for prints that honor ancient local traditions. And we'll browse the local farmer's market, recognized as one of the best in the United States! You can pick up lunch fixings or rest for a while in one of the town's small restaurants.

Leaving Hilo, we head north into historic "cowboy country." We'll enjoy a major change of scenery as we enter a region of vast, open pastures where cattle still graze. We're headed to Kahua Ranch, a working sheep and cattle spread where we get a look at the paniolo (cowboy) life. And we linger here as the day comes to an end. A panoramic sunset is followed by a big country dinner, plus a chance to try your hand at lassoing, horseshoe pitching and dancing. With clear skies we'll end our evening with a star show on the ranch.

**Overnight:** Kohala Coast

**Meals:** B, D

## DAY 5

### KONA COFFEE FARM / PLACE OF REFUGE

- Learn the traditional art of baking Portuguese bread
- Visit one of the island's renowned coffee farms

Take breakfast at your leisure and enjoy the resort's fine facilities. Then we're off to Kona, to learn the skill of baking Portuguese bread in a stone oven—and sampling the results! Of course a visit to Kona is not complete without a coffee plantation visit. At one of the island's fine plantations, we'll walk in the coffee fields and get a firsthand look at how the coffee "cherries" are harvested and processed. Of course, we'll save time for a tasting of the legendary Kona brew.

There's a serene spiritual theme to our afternoon. First, stepping back into the life of the old kingdoms of Hawaii, we visit an official place of refuge known as a puuhonua, surrounded by palm trees and situated on a scenic peninsula. Guarded by giant tiki statues and frequented by sea turtles that swim in the clear waters and sun on the lava rocks, the site was a sanctuary for defeated warriors or those who violated sacred laws. The site encompasses 400 years of Hawaiian history, including steep slopes where the royal class raced downhill on toboggan-like sleds.

Later this afternoon we return to our oceanfront resort for free time to relax by the pool or beach.

**Overnight:** Kohala Coast

**Meals:** B

## DAY 6

### KONA COAST

- Take a snorkel cruise along the Kona coast with a chance to try stand up paddle boarding
- Enjoy an ocean view farewell dinner

This morning we hit the water! We board a catamaran for a full day of sun and snorkeling. We are outfitted with snorkel gear and spend the day on the lookout for sea turtles and tropical fish. We also have the opportunity to try stand up paddle boarding.

Back on land, we have time to relax at the hotel before a festive farewell dinner.

**Overnight:** Kohala Coast

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 7

### DEPARTURE

---

Flights leave the Big Island in the morning or in the evening for the red-eye back to the mainland. You can arrange your departure from either Kona—the nearest airport—or Hilo. If you leave at day's end, you're welcome to enjoy the resort's facilities and soak in a last day of Hawaiian fun.

**Meals:** B



## Tour Hotels



### **Volcano Rainforest Retreat**

Just outside of Volcanoes National Park, Volcano Rainforest Retreat features four distinct cottages. Created with elegant simplicity in harmony with the rainforest, the retreat offers a unique setting for romantics, nature lovers and world travelers.

**OVERNIGHT:** Volcano | **NIGHTS:** 3



### **Westin Hapuna Beach**

Overlooking a white sand beach, this hotel is part of a 2,000-acre Rockefeller development. All rooms face the ocean and have private lanais. The property includes landscaped gardens, an 18-hole Arnold Palmer golf course and a fitness center.

**OVERNIGHT:** Kohala Coast | **NIGHTS:** 3

## Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

## Trip Essentials

- TRIP LENGTH** 7 Days, 6 Nights
- START** Hilo hotel lobby, Hilo, Hawaii
- END** Westin Hapuna Beach hotel lobby, Kohala Coast, Hawaii
- TERRAIN** Easy to moderate on coastal paths and national park trails

## What's Included

- 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- Privileged Access Events
- Invisible Check-In

**READY TO BOOK?**  
**CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION**

## Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST  
[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Hawaii...

- Exploring Volcanoes National Park
- Meeting farmers, coffee growers, artists and cultural preservationists
- Overnighting in a secluded rainforest retreat
- Soaking in the sunset at our oceanfront resort
- Walking through other-worldly landscapes

"Sue is a fantastic guide! Her insights into Hawaiian language and culture are marvelous."

-Alan B.,