



PhotoFly Travel Club

Best of Big Island, Hawaii



April 1st - 8th 2021

This privately guided adventure to the Big Island will open your eyes to an exciting & magical Hawaii! Whether you have been to Hawaii or not, we know you will make lasting memories and discover this island in a brand new way. We offer an intimate, small group experience with two knowledgeable guides and our very own chef. This ***all inclusive adventure** includes meals and all you can drink non-alcoholic & alcoholic beverages throughout. Our attention to detail and carefully planned excursions to various off the beaten path locations makes this a truly unique experience.

**Meals all inclusive except for one restaurant dinner (see itinerary below)*

About our guides:

- **Steve Juba** is a Boston native whose bounced around the world quite a lot over the years. From Sydney, Australia to San Francisco, California to Greenville, South Carolina where he currently resides, he has over 10 years of experience leading and escorting tours in Hawaii and around the world. Steve's passion for travel, adventure, and people shines through on each journey. His attention to detail, kind demeanor, and ability to adapt to any situation make him an excellent adventure creator and tour director.



- **Andrew Skarvinko** leads and guides tours that are thought-provoking, experiential, and fun. Since 2016, he has taken members to more than 20 different countries on tours that range from the bustling megacities like Tokyo to the wide-open grasslands of the Serengeti. Because he is privileged to have one of the greatest jobs in the world, you can expect to share in his enthusiasm and passion for exploring all corners of the world. When he's not on the road (which is rare), he resides in Boston, Massachusetts where he spends his time running, attending concerts, and cooking with friends.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 (Thursday, April 1st)

- Arrival transfer from airport (Included) (*Arrive any time after 1:30 PM to the Kona airport (KOA)*)



Upon being picked up at the Kona Airport you will settle into our luxury home. Enjoy a Hawaiian welcome drink (or two) and snacks will be available at our accommodations. Relax for the rest of the day. Tonight we'll have a delicious welcome dinner in our awesome home prepared by our very own chef with local Hawaiian ingredients.

(Meals: L, D)

Day 2 (Friday, April 2nd) Departure time 8:15 AM

- Grocery Run for the week for those who want additional food/drinks, supplies, etc. (*optional*)
- Experience South Kona (Painted Church, City of Refuge)
- Return home for lunch
- Coffee Plantation Tour

After a hearty breakfast we will go over our itinerary for the week. Our days will be full of adventure so a packed lunch will be the norm throughout most of our trip (*but not today!*).

The day starts with a tour and tasting at one of Kona's great coffee plantations. Our home is located toward the south side of



Kona and not too far from the famous "Kona Coffee Belt". This world-renowned region is recognized as one of the best places in the world to grow coffee trees due to its ideal climate and rich soil. After a nice coffee buzz to start our journey, a delicious lunch awaits back at our private home.

This afternoon our adventure takes us to the southernmost region of Kona, locally referred to as Captain Cook & Kealahou Bay. First stop is the beautiful painted church, fantastic for photography. A picturesque and unique cemetery lies on the hill in front of the church and inside the colors are stunning. Next up, the City of Refuge. This ancient sanctuary



protected Hawaiians from alleged tribal transgressions. It was a place of shelter & penance and after spending a certain period of time working the land & sea the Kahunas (*sacred priests who run the refuge*) would decide your fate: freedom OR more captivity. We'll explore the lagoons, lava flows & sacred grounds and finish by the ocean just in time for a stunning sunset! Upon returning to home base, we'll enjoy an awesome dinner prepared by our very own chef.

Meals Included: (B, L, D)

What to Pack: sneakers or closed to hiking sandals, sandals, sunscreen, spending money, snorkels, bathing suit, towel, rain jacket



Day 3 (Saturday, April 3rd) Departure time 8:30 AM

- Akaka Falls
- Boiling Pots
- Botanical Gardens

This morning we will head straight to Hilo on the other side of the island, but it might as well be the other side of the world. The wonders among this lush, "Garden of Eden" are endless.

First stop will take us to the best botanical gardens in the state of Hawaii. This ocean side paradise is filled with native & international flowers, trees, birds, and even a pretty little waterfall.

Down the road is the natural phenomenon known as the "boiling pots": rounded, volcanic rocks flowing with mountain rain water which gives an illusion of boiling water as it descends from one pot to the next.



Our last stop will be a real highlight where we discover the most beautiful waterfall on the island: Akaka Falls. The sheer size and beauty of this waterfall is closely matched by the lush paradise full of bamboo groves, streams, tropical flowers, and trails leading to it. Dinner tonight will be back at our luxury home.

What to Pack: Hiking shoes, Sandals, Bathing suite. Pack Lunch. Spending Money.

Meals Included: (B, L, D)

Day 4 (Sunday, April 4th) Departure time 8:30 AM

- Kiholo Bay
 - 1 Mile Hike to Lagoon (Level: Moderate—flat easy hike along beach with rocky areas & uneven terrain (Sand))
- Lagoon Water Safari to Turtle Island (Level: Moderate to Difficult— 250 ft hike across water to island. waist → chest high depending on your height)
- 4:00 PM Depart for traditional Hawaiian Luau (*Optional: additional costs apply*)

After breakfast, we're off to Kiholo Bay to explore this magical secluded lagoon teeming with sea turtles! To get to the bay we will hike 1 mile along lava rocks and a black sand beach. From here we will do a water safari 250 ft across the lagoon to the island filled with sea turtles.



We can eat our lunch, relax, and snorkel with the turtles until our hearts content. The lagoon area is also perfect for exploring by foot. Amazing photography opportunities here! At the end of the day we will head back to our home to relax and enjoy the beautiful sunset views from our lanais.



Tonight there will be an optional luau for those interested in this iconic Hawaiian experience. The Luau features an all you can eat & drink buffet of traditional Hawaiian food while watching an authentic Polynesian culture & dance review (*Cost: TBD*). Dinner will be available at the house for those who want to stay in for the evening at no extra cost.

Meals Included: (B, L, D)

What to Pack: Hiking shoes, Water Sandals, Socks, Bathing suit, towel, dry bag (if you have), **ZIP LOCK BAGS, SUNSCREEN.**

Day 5 (Monday, April 5th) Departure time 8:30 AM

- Hike and Harvest at Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture
- Stunning Pololu Valley (Optional difficult hike to the valley floor: 1 mile round trip)

Today is going to be special. After a hearty breakfast we'll head off to North Kohala to visit a nonprofit bio diverse, sustainable farm. We will learn about farming practices that have the potential to literally save the earth while harvesting a few delicious organic vegetables. After our own mini "harvest", we'll go on a short hike through the private farm, witnessing a variety of flora and



fauna. After, it's time to enjoy a locally sourced lunch prepared with love from the volunteers at the farm.

From here we'll head to Pololu lookout with a scenic view peering down to a massive valley and beach below. It's so stunning, we won't be able to stop taking pictures! With great shots from up top we'll have the option to embark down into the valley for more breathtaking viewpoints. Reaching the valley floor, a river running into the ocean and a beautiful black sand beach greets us. Time pending, we'll stop by a famous surfing spot that only the locals know about. Watch and photograph as surfers ride the huge waves. As the sun goes down and the stars come out, we'll arrive home for another delicious dinner.



Meals Included: (B, L, D)

What to Pack: : Hiking shoes and/or closed toed hiking sandals, flip flops, Rain jacket, Spending Money, sunscreen.

Day 6 (Tuesday, April 6th) Departure time 7:30 AM

- En route stops to Volcano Park (*Time pending*):
 - Turtle Beach (Black Sand Beach)
 - Sweet Bread Bakery
- Volcano National Park
 - 4 Mile Crater Hike (Level: Moderate)
 - Thurston Lava Tube



○ *Time pending option*: Thermal Pools

- Dinner at local restaurant enroute back to Kona (*not included*)
- Return to units between 9:30-10:30 PM

After another fresh island breakfast, we'll make our packed lunches for the day from a sandwich bar and make our way to Volcano National Park. First stop is the Sweet Bread Bakery for a sampling of this

delicious Big Island specialty. Moving on, we go to one of the Big Island's famous black sand beaches, Punaluu, also known as Turtle Beach. The name doesn't lie, we almost always see some beautiful sea turtles resting by the tides.

Alas, Volcano National Park comes into view. Upon arrival, we'll have a picnic lunch and start on a short walk through the Thurston Lava Tube. This famous and enormous lava cave formed when underground lava flows through the earth and into the ocean. This warm up lava tube walk gets the blood flowing before starting the main event: the crater hike. This awesome 4-mile moderate trek down through a tropical jungle and across a massive volcanic crater is one to remember. Enjoy great views and take fantastic images traversing the *still* active crater floor. Steam vents and lava bridges abound! After the hike we'll top the day off in warm thermal pools overlooking the ocean (*time pending*). Dinner will be at a local favorite on the way back to our private home in Kona.



Meals Included: (B, L)

What to Pack: Hiking sneakers/shoes & sandals, Bathing Suit, Rain jacket, Pack Lunch for picnic in Volcano Park (included), sunscreen, Towel, Spending Money.

Day 7 (Wednesday, April 7th) Departure time: 9:30 AM

- Best of Big Island Beaches
- Mauna Kea for sunset

A trip to the Big Island isn't complete without a one of kind beach hopping day. We'll go to the most famous & hidden beaches in Waikoloa, the warmest and sunniest area on the whole island! After relaxing, swimming, boogie boarding, snorkeling, and anything else you like to do at the beach we'll head onto Hawaii's largest volcano to see the sunset. Mauna Kea reaches 13,800 feet into the clouds and those who've been lucky enough to witness the sunset here will tell you it's an absolute must when coming to the Big Island. After lounging in 85 degree weather all day we may get to see snow at the top of the volcano! The temperature at the summit can range from 25-40 degrees Fahrenheit! Hold onto your camera's because we'll get some keepers along the way and, of course, at the top. After the sun goes down stargazing is in order at the Mauna Kea Visitors Center before heading back to our accommodations for a delicious final night dinner.





Meals Included: (B, L, D)

What to Pack: Hiking shoes, Water Sandals, Bathing suit, towel, flip flops, winter jacket/sweatshirt (for Mauna Kea Sunset), gloves, winter hat, warm socks, pants. Pack Lunch. Spending Money. *(Essentially today you will be packing for Summer AND Winter!)*

Day 8 (Thursday, April 8th) Departure Day

- Transfer to airport

Today we bid farewell to the magical island of Hawaii. We'll transfer you to the Kona airport (KOA) only 20 minutes from our luxury home for your departure flight back to the mainland. *(Departure flight should leave no later than 2:00 PM from Kona Airport (KOA))*

Meals Included: (B)



Prices & Inclusions Below

Accommodation:

Luxury Homes w/ Internet/Wi-Fi, Private pool & hot tub & Gourmet Kitchen. Beautiful views of the island & ocean 850 Ft above sea level. Conveniently located 10 minutes from the airport & 15 minutes to downtown Kona.

What's Included:

- 7 Nights luxury home accommodations
- Airport Transfers
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner every day (Including welcome dinner, & last night group BBQ) **excludes 1 restaurant dinner*
- Unlimited alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages (wine, spirits, and a variety of fresh island tropical juices/mixers)
- Privately guided tours throughout

- Snorkel & Mask (feel free to bring your own snorkel & fins if you prefer)
- All Entrance Fees & Taxes

What's Not Included:

- Personal items & equipment
- 1 restaurant dinner
- Airfare to and from the Kona Airport (KOA) on the Big Island
- Gratuity for guides and chef (Recommended 15.00 USD per day for guides, 10 USD per day for chef) **We recommend budgeting 200-250 USD for tipping.*

Price: \$2395.00

Single Supplement: 995.00 **Limited # of single rooms available*

**For our solo travelers we will pair you up with someone of the same sex unless single occupancy is requested.*

Final Payment- due 65 days prior to departure date. Credit Cards via paypal or checks are accepted. Pay online via paypal here: <https://photoflytravel.org/tour/big-island-hawaii-group-tours/>

Checks are preferred to avoid paying the 3% paypal fee. Please make checks out to Local Planet Travel and mail to:

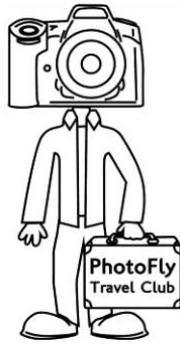
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Fine Print

All Travel Arrangements handled and booked by Local Planet Travel Services, LLC (CST # 2101181-40)
Your payment for a reservation on this trip constitutes consent and acknowledgement of all the provisions in this Fine Print below. Make sure you read the information and call with any questions and to sign up for this trip. Per our tour operator, hotels are always subject to change. Reservations required and subject to availability; please email steve@photoflytravel.com with any questions • All breakfast, lunches, and dinners are included except one restaurant dinner • Airfare not included • Alcohol supplied as gift from outside vendor • PhotoFly Travel Club Cancellation and Refund Policy applies on and after the date any other Cancellation and Refund Policy is no longer valid • Operator CST # 2101181-40 • Other conditions apply

Cancellation Fees and Refunds: There is a \$100.00 administrative fee for all cancellations. Cancellations made 145 days (11/07/20) or more prior to trip departure date are fully refundable except for the \$100 fee. Cancellations less than made 145 days (11/07/20) prior to the trip departure date will receive no refund of the full amount due. No refunds on unused portions of the tour. Credit card fees and paypal processing fees cannot be refunded. After airline tickets are issued, airline cancellations are per the airline's policy and are usually non-refundable and changeable with a fee plus new ticket price. **Travel insurance is highly recommended! Travel insurance will be offered to all participants and feel free to contact us anytime if you want the coverage information before it is sent out.**

**Accommodations subject to change based on availability*



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