

Island of Hawai'i



Circling the Island

Those who say “the journey is the destination” may be talking about a drive around the island of Hawai'i. This drive earned the island one of National Geographic's 50 Ultimate Road Trips in the World and Rand McNally's Best of the Road, the only road trip to make the list in the state. Rent a car, or guided circle island tours are also available.

Make sure to visit these eight Heritage Sites. These special places provide significant historical, cultural and environmental contributions to the island of Hawai'i.



PU'UKOHOLOĀ HEIAU NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

1. HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

It's an International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site and one of Hawai'i's most popular attractions.

2. 'AKAKA FALLS STATE PARK

A self-guided walk leads to two amazing waterfalls, 'Akaka Falls (442 feet) and Kahuna Falls (100 feet).

3. LAPAKAHI STATE HISTORICAL PARK

Take a self-guided tour and explore traditional Hawaiian lifestyles.

4. PU'UKOHOLOĀ HEIAU NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

This site features one of the largest *beiau* (temples) built in Hawai'i.

5. KALOKO-HONOKŌHAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Find out about life in early Hawai'i by learning about fishpond systems, viewing *ki'i pōhaku* (petroglyphs) and *beiau* (temples).

6. HULIHE'E PALACE

Once a favorite retreat of Hawaiian royalty, this palace features original *koa* furniture, Hawaiian artifacts and personal memorabilia of the royal family.

7. KEALAKEKUA BAY STATE HISTORICAL PARK

This is where Captain James Cook first set foot on the island of Hawai'i in 1779, and died only about a month later. A monument stands here in his name.

8. PU'UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

This 180-acre park was once a sacred burial site, royal grounds and a place of refuge.