

Dartmouth 1968 Hawaii Tour

7 Nights in Hawaii - - March 12 – 19, 2022

**Arrive March 12 on Oahu
3 Nights in Honolulu at the Lotus Hotel**

**Travel to Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii
2 Nights in Volcano at Volcano House
2 Nights in Kona at the Royal Kona Resort Hotel**

Depart March 19 from Kona



3 Nights on Oahu

Highly Recommended - - Order "Oahu Revealed: The Ultimate Guide to Honolulu, Waikiki & Beyond" from Amazon. About \$19.00. Read it, and bring it with you. Go to the website from the Hawaii Visitors Bureau - - gohawaii.com



Overview

The Oahu portion of the trip begins and ends in Honolulu. Rooms are reserved for 3 nights at the **Lotus Hotel**, just outside of Waikiki, with views of Diamond Head and the Pacific Ocean. A tour of Pearl Harbor and the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl are scheduled, as is a cocktail party and dinner for the group hosted by the **Dartmouth Club of Hawaii**. One day is unscheduled, so the travelers can explore the island. The goal is to introduce everyone to the real history and beauty of Hawaii, while avoiding tourist traps.

Itinerary

Day 1, Saturday March 12

Arrive at Honolulu Airport. HNL

Transportation self-arranged to Lotus Hotel. Taxi, Uber, Lyft.



Lotus is a 100-room boutique hotel. Diamond Head Crater is next door. Beaches are 3-minute walk.



Get an oceanview room and watch the Pacific from the balcony.

Website - - <https://www.lotushonoluluhotel.com/>

Youtube video - - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZt6vR82yhk> (skip the ads)

Meet for cocktails and dinner next door at Hau Tree Lanai, part of the Kaimana Hotel. This is a beautiful setting, outdoors, just off the beach, with a sunset view. They quite often have music and hula during cocktails. Two Dartmouth 68s who live in Honolulu, Peter Diamond and Dan Tom, are currently planning to meet everyone there.



Dinner served inches from the beach at Hau Tree Lanai

Day 2, Sunday March 13

Tour of Pearl Harbor and National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Details are being worked out. This will probably be a morning trip. Oahu 68s will join the group.



The rest of the day - - at leisure. Do some exploring.

Cocktails and dinner arranged by and with the **Dartmouth Club of Hawaii**.
Cost unknown. Details are being worked out.

Day 3, Monday March 14

Day spent at leisure. Explore the island.

The Guide Book is full of information that you will find useful. Oahu 68s and **Dartmouth Club** members can also give advice during days 1 and 2.

Suggestions include - -

1. Rent a car and drive around the island counter-clockwise to the North Shore. 100 miles around. You follow the ocean much of the way, going past or through Laie, Chinaman's Hat, Pipeline, Sunset Beach, Waimea, Haleiwa. Stop at Dole Pineapple Plantation and walk through the world's biggest maze.



Winter surf at Pipeline, Oahu's North Shore

2. Visit the windward beaches of Kailua and Lanikai. 4 miles of white sandy beach, with gentle waves. Watersports rentals. Watch kite surfers. Swim. Body surf.
3. Snorkel at Hanauma Bay (beautiful, but crowded).
4. Drive from the hotel along the Windward Coast. Take Kalaniana'ole Highway East around Koko Head and continue north along the coast. Absolutely beautiful, including Hanauma Bay, Sandy Beach, Makapuu. On a clear day, you can see Molokai to the east. Go to Sea Life Park. Walk to the Makapuu lighthouse overlook. Go to the Pali Lookout as you return via the Pali Highway. Expansive views of Oahu's windward side and the towns of Kailua and Kaneohe.



View from the Pali Lookout

5. Climb Diamond Head.
6. Visit local cultural spots like Iolani Palace, the Honolulu Art Academy, the Bishop Museum, and the Honolulu Aquarium.



Iolani - - the only palace in the United States

7. Swim/snorkel at Kaimanu Beach.
8. Walk along Waikiki Beach. Take a surfing lesson. Be a tourist.



Waikiki Beach. Lotus Hotel is at top right.

Day 4, Tuesday March 15

Fly to Hilo on Hawaiian Airlines. One hour flight. Arrive sometime around noon or early afternoon.

Estimated Costs

Airport to Lotus Hotel - - \$30/couple each way

Lotus Hotel, 3 nights, choice of rooms

Partial Ocean View 380 s.f. - - (\$180/night) \$540 + 15% tax

Ocean View, 380 sq. ft. - - (\$210/night) \$630 + 15% tax.

Premium Ocean View, 380 sq. ft. - - (\$240/night) \$720 + 15% tax

Pearl Harbor and Punchbowl Tours - - \$75/person

Total estimated for 2 people on Oahu for 3 nights

$\$30 + \$30 + \$800 + 150 = \$1,000 + \text{meals} + \text{extra sightseeing}$

4 Nights on Hawaii Island

Highly Recommended - - Order "Hawaii The Big Island Revealed" from Amazon. About \$17.00. Read it, and bring it with you.

Go to the website from the Hawaii Visitors Bureau - - gohawaii.com



Overview

The trip starts in Hilo, and then follows Highway 11 south to Volcano for 2 nights, and then around South Point to Kona for 2 nights.

The first 2 nights are in Volcano, at 4,000 feet, staying at the historic **Volcano House**, with rooms overlooking Kilauea Caldera and Halemaumau Crater, where lava is bubbling. Currently, there is an active eruption, with the nighttime skies bursting with red, pink, orange, and yellow. See photo below. Rooms have similar views.



The second 2 nights are in Kona, oceanfront, at the **Royal Kona Resort Hotel**, on its own lava peninsula, with grand ocean views and stunning sunsets.



Itinerary

Day 4, Tuesday March 15

Arrive at Hilo Airport. ITO. Sometime around noon or early afternoon. 1-hour flight.
Hawaiian Airlines.

Pick up rental car at airport. Easy. Next to arrival terminal.

Drive to Volcano, Hawaii - - 40 minutes, one road, easy. Exit airport, turn left onto
Route 11, 30 miles to Volcano National Park. Turn left into park entrance.

Between mile markers 28 and 29.
National Park Fee \$25 per vehicle. Good for 1 week. If you already have a National Park Pass, just show it.

Check in at Volcano House inside park - - <https://hawaiivolcano.com/>

Short walk to Volcano Park Visitor Center. Go inside, get orientation and maps. If you have time, take the Sulphur Banks trail. Easy walk.

Dinner at Volcano House, overlooking active crater.

Dartmouth 68 Gerry Hills who lives on Hawaii Island will join group in Volcano.

Authentic hula in the lobby of Volcano House, next to fireplace, during cocktails.



Day 5, Wednesday March 16

At leisure in Volcano National Park.

Hike easy trails near hotel. Driving tour within park.

Recommended - - Take Crater Rim Drive to coast and back. 10.6 miles, 45 minutes each way. Incredible panoramic views of coast, and tons of lava. See Guide Book.



Recommended - - Thurston Lava Tube (if open). See Guide Book.



Day 6, Thursday March 17

Take Route 11, a scenic drive to Kona along Hawaii South Shore. Kona is at approximately mile marker 122. 1 hour and 45 minutes, if you drive without stopping. Mauna Loa, the world's biggest mountain in terms of land mass, is on your right.

Stop at leisure for lunch and sightseeing.

Recommended - - Punaluu black sand beach. Approx. mile marker 56 (28 miles away). Take left turn towards ocean. Drive on access road about 1 mile to the second full ocean view (1/4 mile past right bend). Park in small parking area and go to overlook.



Lunch spots - - Naalehu. Approx. mile marker 64. Punaluu Bake Shop, which claims to be the southernmost bakery in the U.S. Don't blink in the center of the town, or you'll

miss it. Look right. Deli-type lunches. Next lunch stops are in Captain Cook, another 35 miles. Plenty of small eateries along the road in Captain Cook.

Suggestion - - South Point. The southernmost point in the U.S. Mildly interesting. Sea-side cliffs that people jump off. A fun drive if you've got time, but little of interest there except that you are very far south. Left turn towards the ocean past Naalehu between mile markers 69 and 70. About 9 miles to South Point. 15 minutes each way.



Highly recommended - - Historic Hawaiian Sanctuary Puuhonua - - Approx. mile marker 104. Take left turn onto route 160 and follow to coast. See Guide Book. Plan on about one hour for the visit, plus the driving detour of 10-15 minutes each way. <https://www.gohawaii.com/islands/hawaii-big-island/regions/kona/puuhonua-ohonaunau-national-historical-park>



Recommended - - The Painted Church. On Painted Church Road, of course, between Puuhonua Sanctuary and Route 11. See Guide Book. Worth it.



Note - - Very few gas stations. You need at least 100 miles of gas. Fill up in Volcano Village (2 miles back on Route 11 towards Hilo), or in Naalehu, around mile marker 65.

Note - - Infrequent restrooms. Punaluu black sand beach, Punaluu Bake Shop in Naalehu, Puuhonua Sanctuary.

Check in at Royal Kona Resort Hotel, oceanfront, Kona.

<https://www.royalkona.com/>

Dinner at hotel or at one of the many restaurants in Kona. Kona Inn and Huggo's are oceanfront and upscale. Huggo's On the Rocks is casual. Many others. Suggestion - - Go to Kona Inn in the afternoon and try to reserve oceanfront tables.

Dartmouth 68 John Russell lives nearby (Kamuela/Waimea) and may join the group in Kona.

Day 7, Friday March 18

At leisure in Kona.

Fishing charter, golf, museums, drive to beaches, drive to upscale shopping at Waikoloa, explore Kona town, Parker Ranch in Waimea, pool at hotel. The Guide Book has an extensive list.

Dinner choice of restaurants in Kona. Luau's are available several nights per week at King Kamehameha Hotel (1 mile) or at Royal Kona Resort. Check schedule at the desk.

Should be about \$100/person for the show, open bar, and buffet. Fun, but very touristy.

There are a number of beautiful, almost deserted beaches north of Kona. See Guide Book. The hotel should be able to give recommendations. Mauna Kea Beach, Hapuna Beach, and Waialea Beach are all beauties.



Hapuna Beach

The golf is spectacular, and can be very expensive. PGA-caliber courses. Probably need to reserve well ahead of time. There are a few courses that are moderate.

Day 8, Saturday March 19

Drop car off at Kona Airport. KOA.

Extend trip by visiting another island, or fly home. Direct flights available from Kona to Mainland, or Kona-Oahu-Mainland. Or spend a few more days on Hawaii Island, visiting Kamuela/Waimea and Hilo.

Estimated Costs

Volcano House - - \$270 - \$320/night depending on room, plus 15% tax.

Car Rental - - \$250 - \$300 for 4 days.

National Park Fee - - \$25 for 1-week pass

Royal Kona Resort Hotel - - \$205 - \$305/night depending on room, plus 15% tax

Flight Honolulu to Hilo - - \$60/person. Hawaiian Airlines. Fly back from Kona.

Hula at Volcano - - \$150 - \$200 for the performance. \$20/couple.

Total estimated for 2 people on Hawaii Island for 4 nights

$325 + 325 + 250 + 25 + 300 + 300 + 60 + 60 + 20 = \$1,665 + \text{meals}$

Notes

1. Guests will do their own bookings, with guidance. It will be easy. A Reservations Guide will be made available with all the instructions.
 - Volcano House Hotel - - select room type.
 - Crater View (only 11 of these) - - \$270/night + 15% tax
 - Deluxe Crater View (only 8 of these) - - \$320/night + 15% tax
 - Royal Kona Resort Hotel - - select room type. (discounted rates for us)
 - Ocean View - - \$205/night + 15% tax
 - Oceanfront - - \$265/night + 15% tax
 - Oceanfront Corner King - - \$305/night + 15% tax
 - Car Rental - - Pick up at Hilo, drop off at Kona.
 - Plane Oahu to Hilo, Hawaiian Airlines.
2. Hotel reservations should be made 6 months prior to arrival. Late reservations might still be okay up to about 3 months prior.
3. Cars are necessary on the Big Island for flexibility and independence from tour operators. Either one car for couple, or double up with friends. Guests will make their own car reservations through rental agencies at Hilo airport. Driving is on Hawaii County paved roads, through rural and suburban areas. SUV or 4-wheel drive is not needed, unless you plan to do some off-road explorations.
4. Temperature - - Oahu will be in 70s and 80s. Volcano should be 60-70 daytime, and can go down to mid 50's at night. It is at 4,000 feet. You will probably be inside at night. Everywhere else will be tropical. Kona will be hot and sunny. If you take Crater Rim Drive, the temperature at the bottom (coast, sea level) will be at least 15 degrees warmer than at Volcano.
5. Contact Gerry Hills direct at 340-642-3360 phone or text, or email at stjohncaptain@aol.com if you have any questions.