

Hawai'i: A Birding & Nature Cruise With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures



Nov. 10 – 17, 2018

Big Island Ext. Nov. 17 – 20

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Join Naturalist Journeys and host Greg Smith on an unforgettable Hawaiian nature cruise. Sail between the four Hawaiian Islands of Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i to discover a new side of Hawai'i, far from the tourist crowds. Enjoy a trip that emphasizes marine life, snorkeling, and fun. Begin your journey as a smiling crew and glass of champagne welcome you aboard. Snorkel through coral gardens and sea turtle habitat. See Giant Pacific Manta Ray on a night excursion. Observe whales in the Humpback National Marine Sanctuary, and find endemic birds like Nēnē, a sample of Hawaiian honeycreepers, and Hawaiian Short-eared Owl. Optional Big Island birding extension is available after the cruise.

Tour Highlights

- Cruise between four islands: Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i
- Find endemic birds like Nēnē, Hawaiian honeycreepers, and Hawaiian Short-eared Owl
- Indulge in an evening pa'ina (feast) and Hawaiian jam session with Moloka'i locals
- Snorkel among coral gardens and at a sea turtle habitat
- Visit Moloka'i's ancient Halawa Valley
- Discover island history at the Lana'i Culture and Heritage Center
- Embark on snorkeling, kayaking, paddle boarding, and skiff excursions
- Opt to explore the Big Island's rarest habitats on a post-tour birding extension

Tour Summary

8-Day / 7-Night Hawaiian Nature Cruise with Greg Smith

Starting at \$3995 from Moloka'i, departing Kona

Arrival airport is Molokai (MKK), Departing airport is Kona International (KOA)



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Itinerary

Sat., Nov. 10

Moloka'i / Embarkation

Welcome to Hawaii! You arrive today (or a few days early if you want to enjoy a few extra vacation days ahead of your cruise) on the island of Moloka'i. Moloka'i is the fifth largest of the Hawaiian Islands at 38 miles long and 10 miles wide, and is in the middle of the Hawaiian Islands chain. This rural island is also home to the highest sea cliffs in the world, as well as the longest contiguous reef on the planet ... a perfect island from which to start our Hawaiian birding and nature cruise. On arrival, you are transferred to our cruise company's hospitality area. Later, the Captain and crew greet you with smiles and champagne as you board our awaiting yacht, the *Safari Explorer*. This evening, we settle in, get acquainted with our fellow travelers and your Naturalist Journeys host, and enjoy dinner aboard the yacht. After dinner there is a presentation about what to expect for our week ahead.



Sun., Nov. 11 Moloka'i

A warm Aloha spirit gives you a sense of Hawaii long ago. No stop lights, no high-rises, just a welcome slower pace. "Talk story" with locals and experience their land and traditions as few visitors ever do. We hear legends and lore, then take in a cultural lesson in taro patches and poi making, or hike to the towering Mo'oula Falls waterfall in Halawa's cathedral valley — one of the island's most historic places. At a half-mile wide and varying between three and four miles deep, a hike through this valley is spectacular. At the Moloka'i Museum and Cultural Centre, discover the history of this ancient homeland as you enjoy an evening pa'ina (feast), complete with a home-style Hawaiian jam session by local musicians.



Mon., Nov. 12 Lāna'i

Today we gear up for a day of play on Lāna'i, the "Private Island." Thousand-foot sea cliffs line the shore



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of Hawaii's smallest inhabited island, while ancient volcanic plugs sit both above and below the water's surface as host to a wide diversity of marine life. Snorkel, paddle board, kayak, explore by skiff, or stretch your legs on a hike — whichever activities suit your fancy. Take a stroll to Sweetheart Rock, a sea stack jutting 80 feet above the crashing surf, and discover the legend of the princess Puu Pehe. Learn about the island's plantation days with a visit to the quaint Lāna'i Culture and Heritage Center.

Tues., Nov. 13 Olowalu / West Maui

In ancient times, Olowalu was considered a place of refuge. Today, it delivers a treat of snorkeling among coral gardens teeming with underwater life and a known sea turtle habitat. The Humpback National Marine Sanctuary — located between Lana'i, Moloka'i, and Maui — provides front-row seats as we cruise through these productive marine breeding grounds searching for dolphins, whales, and other marine life.

Wed., Nov. 14 Captain's Choice Exploration

Leave it to your Captain and crew to seek out and unveil the best opportunities the islands hold in store today. Dramatic volcanic backdrops, marine life sightings, and chances for snorkeling, kayaking, and paddle boarding are all possible!



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Thurs., Nov. 15 Honomalino Bay

Fringed by coconut palms, Honomalino Bay, a secluded black sand beach on the big island, offers a morning of snorkeling, paddle boarding, and kayaking. The bay reveals a diversity of colorful corals, sponges, and tropical fishes. Lava tubes, kayaking, and skiff tours fill out our day of adventure — in an area known to be favored by marine mammals. This evening we anchor at an offshore location for a thrilling night snorkel with Giant Pacific Manta rays.



Fri., Nov. 16 Kailua-Kona

Skiff to Kealahou Bay State Park, where Captain Cook was slain in 1779, for some of the island's best snorkeling. The bay is a Marine Life Conservation District and we hope to see Spinner Dolphins and more. At the historic village of Kailua-Kona, once a retreat for Hawaiian royalty, stroll through town at your own pace, and uncover the charm of this historic town. This evening, celebrate with the Captain's Dinner and photographic recap of your adventure.



Sat., Nov. 17 Departures | Big Island Extension

As the *Safari Explorer* docks at Kawaihae Harbor, you are transferred to the Kona Airport. If you wish to stay on and explore on your own, please let us know — we're happy to help make arrangements or recommendations.



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Hawaii Big Island Birding Extension

We have designed an extension to our Hawaii Birding Cruise to add depth to the birding experience on this journey for our keen birders and naturalists. The Big Island has some of the best remaining native habitat on the archipelago, with precious lush Ōhi'a and Koa forest providing a stronghold for native and endemic species at Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge can only be visited by permit at this time and these permits are very limited. We have booked an outing to the higher elevations, including time on the refuge, well in advance to allow for a visit. While we are here, we pair our refuge excursion with a Dry Forest day afield to give you the best mix of birding possible. We partner with a local birding company that we have worked with for many years, and they have top-rate local guides. Greg Smith is also along to assist.

We have booked rooms at the Sheraton hotel; they pick us up and each day breakfast and lunch are included with the outings. Dinners are at your leisure, after gorging on the cruise, you can eat lightly or continue the trend and seek out Kona's fun restaurants.

Sat., Nov. 17

Disembark | Afternoon at Leisure

As we disembark and say good-bye to the staff and crew, we arrange taxis to the hotel. For the remainder of the day we relax and enjoy the hotel, beach, and pool or do some local sightseeing or birding. Dinner tonight is at your leisure, though we do recommend you retire early; tomorrow we have an early start.

Accommodations at the Sheraton

Sun., Nov. 18

Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge

We start early today, 6:30 AM; breakfast is provided by our local operator. We spend the entire day today enjoying exclusive access to Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Hakalau means "many perches," and although Hakalau was named long ago, the area is still recognized as critical bird habitat. Hakalau was the first National Wildlife



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Refuge in the country that was established for forest bird. Once part of a cattle ranch, the refuge is home to some of the rarest plants and animals in the world. The Pua Akala tract we explore today is not open to the public and is an fantastic example of successful conservation practices. As we explore, we search for fascinating birds like Akepa, Akiapolaau, Amakihi, Apapane, Hawaii Creeper, Iiwi, Elepaio, Omao, Io, and Pueo.

Our excursion ends at around 6:30 PM, and from there you are off to dinner at your leisure, and then again, early to bed.

Accommodations at the Sheraton, (B,L)

Mon., Nov. 19 Sub-Alpine Dry Forest | Cloudmist Kipuka Rainforest

We start at 6:30 AM again this morning, and again breakfast is provided by our local operator. Today we spend the day exploring two rare habitats: the sub-alpine dry forest of Puu Laau on Mauna Kea and the cloudmist kipuka rainforest on Mauna Loa. These two special habitats are places that represent Hawaii before human contact; places where plants and birds found nowhere else on earth showcase the evolutionary epic of the islands. As we work our way through these two habitats, we watch for birds like Nēnē, Palila, Akiapolaau, Amakihi, Apapane, Hawaii Creeper, Iiwi, Elepaio, Omao, Io, and Pueo.

We end again today at 6:30 PM before you enjoy dinner at your leisure.

Accommodations at the Sheraton, (B,L)

Tues., Nov. 20 Departures

We say goodbye today after a spectacular cruise and two beautiful land excursions. We certainly have incredible memories to take home. *(B)*

Cost of the Journey

Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. Their website will show a grid of tour cost and your age category for you to make selections. As of January 2017, Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

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Cost of the Journey

Cost of the cruise is \$3995 – \$7045 per person, based on double occupancy, or \$4895+ single occupancy from Moloka'i, Hawaii. This cost includes: Onboard meals; premium spirits, wine, beer; non-alcoholic beverages; transfers and baggage handling between airport/vessel on embark/disembark days; entry fees to national parks/preserves; all from-the-ship adventure activities and equipment; wellness amenities: fitness equipment, yoga mats, and a complimentary massage. Cost does not include: round-trip airfare to Moloka'i and from Kona.

Cost of the three-night extension is \$875 per person based on double occupancy / \$1250 SGL. Cost includes three nights lodging plus the resort fee and tax, three breakfasts (two in the field, final day at hotel), and two picnic lunches on field days. It includes two full-day field trips with operator Hawaii Forest and Trail and taxi from the boat dock to hotel. It does not include dinners or items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone, portage, or drinks from the bar. Since people have different flight times going home, the taxi return to the airport is not included on the final day, but you can certainly ride-share with others if times match up.

Travel Information

Plan to arrive in Moloka'i, Hawaii's Molokai Airport (MCK) by 2:30 PM on November 10, 2018. Please plan your departure flights from Kona International Airport (KOA) after 1:00 PM on November 17, 2018 or at your leisure on November 20, 2018 if you opt for the extension.



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Photo Credits

Booby in Flight, Tom Dove (TD); Lava, courtesy USGS; Liwi, TD; Hawaiian Short-eared Owl, TD; Nēnē, Naturalist Journeys Stock (NJS); Dolphins, Greg Smith (GS); Hike in Hawaii, NJS; Island Scenic, NJS; Sea Turtle Observation, NJS; Kayaking, NJS; Whale, GS; Beach NJS; Red-tailed Tropicbird, NJS; Nēnē Sign, NJS; Coastline, NJS; Red-crested Cardinal, NJS; Hawaii Scenic Overlook, NJS; Hawaiian Coot, NJS; Itinerary Map, courtesy Un-Cruise; Laysan Albatross, TD; Kalij Pheasant, TD; Nēnē, NJS; Iiwi, TD; Pueo, TD; Palila, TD.