



Hawaiian Gardens

Polynesian Adventure Tours

**11 Days, August 31-
September 10, 2026**
Double \$6678; Single \$8607

- Kauai: • Kilohana Plantation
- Wailua River • Fern Grotto
- Allerton Garden • McBryde Garden • Limahuli Garden
- Hawaii: • Hilo • Akaka Falls
- Rainbow Falls • Liliuokalani Gardens • Tropical Botanical Gardens • Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary • Greenwell Farms Plantation • Volcanoes National Park • Kilauea • Luau



ALLERTON



ILLINOIS
PUBLIC MEDIA

Unique tours since 1986

JOIN YOUR HOSTS, John Steinbacher of Illinois Public Media and Zak Jones of Allerton Park, for an in-depth exploration of two of the Hawaiian Islands. Uncover the beauty and culture on the islands of Kauai and Hawaii. Experience tropical rainforests, breathtaking waterfalls, lovely gardens, powder-sand and black sand beaches, volcanoes, and

*Above: palm trees and beach on Kauai;
below: Fern Grotto*

breathtaking aquamarine seas, as well as the warm hospitality of the local island people. This custom tour is limited to a small group. Don't delay in reserving your spot on this one-of-a-kind tour to Hawaii, the islands of Aloha.





Above: Allerton Garden



**TOUR
GROUP
PLANNERS**

217 422-5002

**Your
Tour
Hosts**

**John
Steinbacher**

Director of Development at Illinois Public
Media



Zak Jones

Assistant Director
of Advancement
at Allerton Park

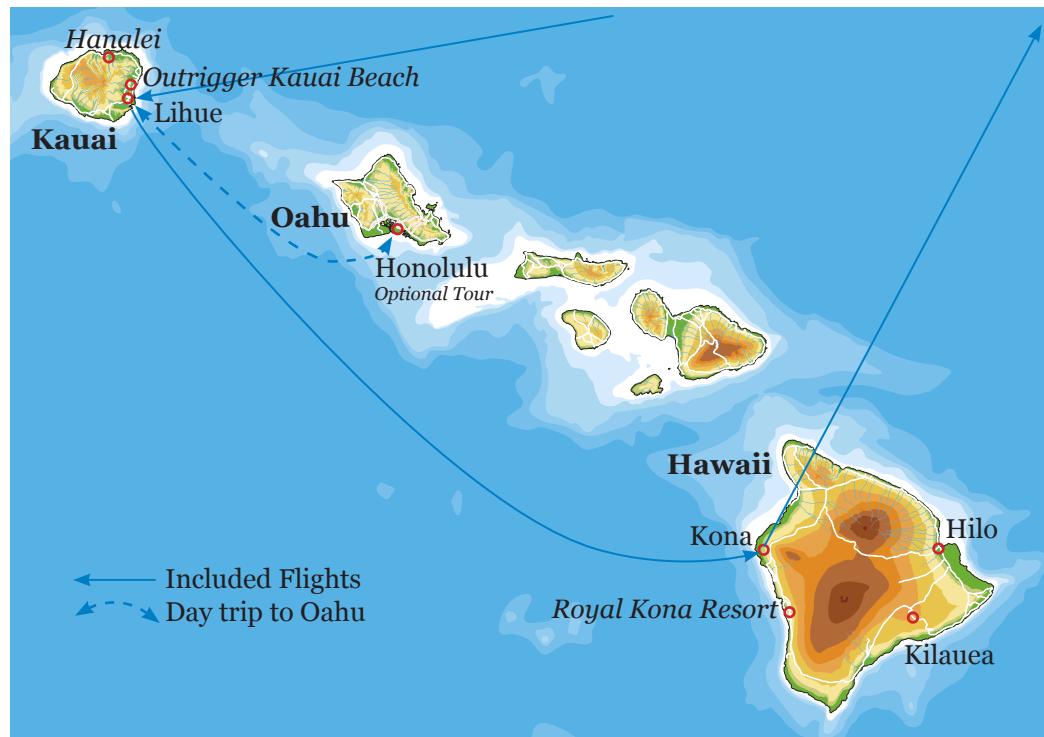


Itinerary

**Day 1 - Monday, 8/31/26
Central Illinois-Chicago-
Lihue, Kauai**

John and Zak welcome you
aboard our private motor coach
as we begin our journey together.

We depart Chicago O'Hare for our
connecting flight to Lihue, Kauai.
Aloha and welcome to paradise! We
will uncover the world of ancient
Polynesia on the oldest island in the
chain. As we explore this luxuriant
tropical island, you'll soon come
to see why **Kauai** is known as the
Garden Isle.





The Outrigger Kauai Beach Resort and Spa, located on Nukolii Beach, will be your home away from home for the next five nights.

Day 2 - Tuesday, 9/1/26 Kauai: Kilohana Plantation, Wailua River & Fern Grotto

Wake up each morning to complimentary sunrise yoga on the beach, optional.

After breakfast, our first visit of the day is **Kilohana Plantation**, built by sugar baron Gaylord Wilcox in 1935. Step back in time aboard a narrated train ride through the plantation, passing fruit orchards, gardens, and farmland while learning about this historic plantation's sugarcane era. Time for exploring on your own and some shopping, then a special included lunch.

Next, we will step aboard an open-air boat and glide along the tranquil **Wailua River**. You'll hear stories and songs of days gone by before making a stop. A short walk through the rainforest brings you to the lush **Fern Grotto**. Feel the Hawaiian spirit as hula dancers join you to demonstrate this ancient art form, initially performed in honor of Pele, the

Volcano Goddess. Join the group for a welcome dinner tonight. (B,L,D)

Day 3 - Wednesday, 9/2/26 Kauai: Allerton Garden & McBryde Garden

We have a very special day planned for two of Kauai's National Botanical Gardens. **Allerton Garden**, also known as Lāwa'i-kai, was initially created by Robert Allerton and John Gregg Allerton and is located on the south shore of Kauai, a short distance from our resort. This architectural masterpiece garden covers 80 acres and is situated beside the Lāwa'i Bay. Many areas of this famous garden served as a backdrop for films, including *Jurassic Park* and *Blue Hawaii*. Allerton Garden was named by *National Geographic Traveler* magazine as "one of the 50 places to see in a lifetime."

A guide joins you on a leisurely walk to the Allerton House, where you spend time in the house and partake in

Above: Flowers at McBryde Garden; below: Hawaii Honeycreeper from Volcanoes National Park

Traveling Book Club

Travelers will be provided with a curated list of books and PBS programs designed to inspire and prepare you for your Hawaiian adventure.





Above: Na Pali coast



Day 4 Oahu optional tour

We are offering a day trip to the island of Oahu. Your visit will include Pearl Harbor & the USS Arizona Memorial, followed by free time in Waikiki for lunch and shopping, or a walk along the world-famous Waikiki Beach. We end the day with a visit to the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA), which houses a collection of art and a theater showing an assortment of films, documentaries and performances. Cost to be determined at a later date.

lunch as you awe at the beauty that surrounds you.

Our next visit takes us next door to **McBryde Garden**. Here you'll find the world's largest collection of Hawaiian native plants. Our guide takes us to see a waterfall, the Canoe Plant Garden, a Breadfruit Agroforest, and more. We return to our resort aglow with what we've experienced. Dinner is on your own to experience the Hawaiian cuisine. (B,L)

Day 4 - Thursday, 9/3/26 Kauai: Free Day

The day is yours for independent exploring. Being the oldest of the islands, Kauai is the most rugged and

lush. You may wish to go bird watching, swim with turtles, try mountain tubing, or snorkel in the crystal-clear waters. Enjoy a visit to the Grove Farm Museum or take a Kauai Rum Safari. Optional tours are available by air and sea to explore the rugged cliffs of the Na Pali coast, which are inaccessible by vehicle. Or relax and enjoy the soft white-sand beach, warm tropical sun, and ocean breeze right at our resort; be sure to check out the resort's weekly activities to participate in. Whatever you decide, make it a perfect day in paradise.

A **day trip to Oahu** will be available for those who wish to visit Pearl Harbor. See box to the left for





full itinerary. Return to Kauai for dinner on your own. (B)

Day 5 - Friday, 9/4/26 Kauai: North Shore touring

This morning, travel to the North Shore, where time moves with the tides. Our feature today is a visit to another of Kauai's National Tropical Botanical Gardens, **Limahuli**

Garden. Located in one of Hawaii's most biologically diverse valleys, it is home to endangered species within an authentic Hawaiian landscape. The American Horticultural Society rated this garden as "the best natural botanical garden in the United States". Ease back and perhaps hear Mynah birds calling in *pidgin* (Hawaiian Creole English, spoken by half a million daily). We enjoy dinner together tonight. (B,L)

Day 6 - Saturday, 9/5/26 Kauai: Free Day-Lihue-Kona, Hawaii

We have come to our last day on the island of Kauai. The morning is yours to relax poolside and soak up the sun or book an optional tour, perhaps to a chocolate farmer, or

to Waimea Canyon, known as the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific".

Later this afternoon, we will be transferred back to Lihue Airport for our short flight to Kona.

Welcome to Hawaii, or "The Big Island" as it is fondly called. The youngest and largest island, Hawaii, is renowned for its volcanoes, producing the rocky landscape you'll see throughout the island. Our private motor coach will be waiting to take us to the Royal Kona Resort for a four-night stay. Dinner is on your own tonight. During our stay here, you may be interested in reserving a night swim with manta rays. (B)

Above: Limahuli Garden; below: Wallua River

Physical Requirements

To ensure this trip is right for you, please note that it will involve a lot of walking and uneven surfaces, including inclines that could be difficult or impossible for those with physical limitations. Mobility devices are not desired; however, canes and walking sticks are welcome.





Above: Rainbow Falls; below: Coffee beans at Greenwell Farms Plantation



Hawaiian Vocabulary

ali'i = chief
aloha = love, hello, good-bye
a hui hou = until we meet again
ala = trail
hono = turtle
hula = the dance of Hawai'i
kai = sea water or seaward direction

lanai = balcony
mahalo = thank you
mahalo niu loa = thank you very much
mele = melodic song for hula dancing
moana = ocean
niu = coconut
nui = big or important
pū-pū = appetizer

Day 7 - Sunday, 9/6/26 Big Island Hawaii: Hilo touring

After breakfast, we will set off for **Hilo**, a vibrant town on the island's lush and rainy eastern coast. Known for its tropical rainforests, waterfalls, and volcanic landscapes, Hilo serves as the island's commercial and cultural hub with a thriving arts scene. While on the east coast of Hawaii, we visit **Akaka Falls**, a 442-foot waterfall, and **Rainbow Falls**, 80 feet tall and almost 100 feet in diameter.

You will have free time for lunch and to wander through **Liliuokalani Gardens**, the largest authentic Japanese garden outside Japan. This peaceful garden features Japanese stone lanterns, a teahouse, rock gardens, pagodas, and arched bridges over fishponds.

We return to our Kona hotel and enjoy dinner together. (B,D)

Day 8 - Monday, 9/7/26 Big Island Hawaii: Kona touring

This morning, we begin our day with a tour of the **Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary**, where we learn about its important role through immersive experiences, including educational eco-tours. This passionate reforestation project flourishes as a biodiverse jungle and a sanctuary of transformation.

Next, we visit **Greenwell Farms Plantation**, where we learn about the Kona Coffee process. Take a tour of the fields and enjoy a tasting of this gourmet specialty that only grows on the slopes of two local active volcanoes. (B)

Day 9 - Tuesday, 9/8/26 Big Island Hawaii: Volcanoes National Park

Today we "rocket" to a moon-scape, **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where **Kīlauea**—the planet's most active volcano—writes new earth in real time. The park births a genesis of unique species, preserving a rich cultural history deeply connected to the Native Hawaiian people. The climate here ranges from desert to tropical rain-



forest. A boxed lunch will be provided today, so we have plenty of time to wonder in awe.

We complete our Hawaiian holiday at a **Luau** tonight, where we will savor Polynesian delicacies, sip tropical drinks, and be entertained by Hawaiian performers. (B,L,D)

Day 10 - Wednesday, 9/9/26 Big Island, Hawaii-Free Day- Flight departs

Spend the day as you please. Stroll along the coast, drinking in the tropical views, or shop for last-minute souvenirs. A list of optional tours will be available to choose from for your last day in paradise.

After time for dinner, we are transferred to the Kona Airport for our overnight connecting flight home. We say, "A Hui Hou", meaning until we meet again. (B)

Day 11 - Thursday, 9/10/26 Flight Arrival-Chicago-Central Illinois

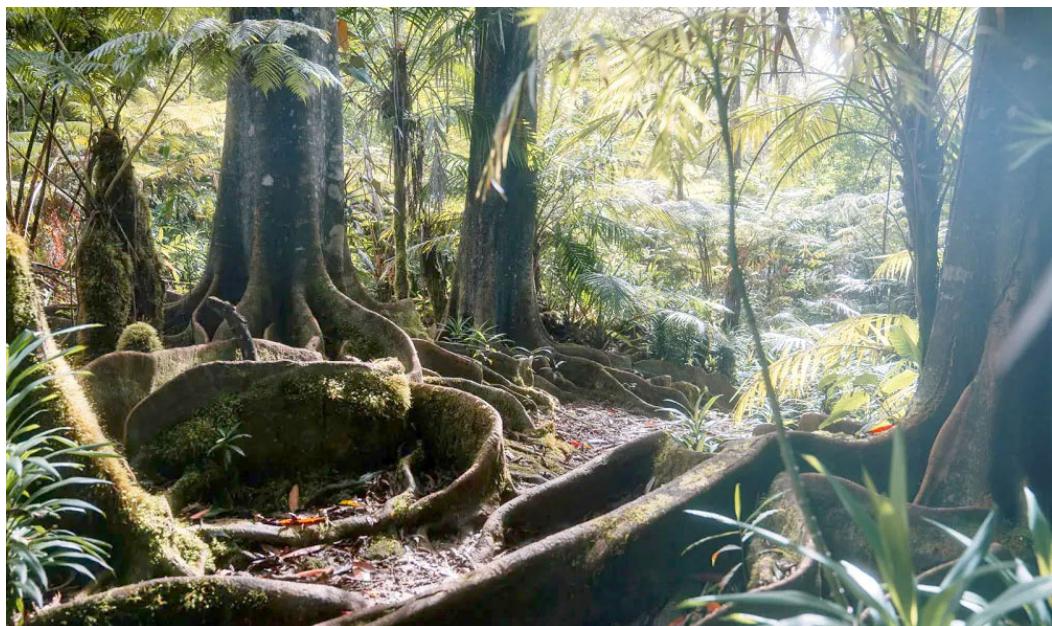
Upon our arrival at O'Hare, our private motor coach will be waiting to return us to central Illinois. We will take home memories of our experiences exploring two Hawaiian islands and their many gardens.

The initials of Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner show which are included each day.

Above: Kilauea Crater at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; below: Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary

Charitable Donation

This trip is designed as a fundraiser for **Illinois Public Media** and **Allerton**. A non-refundable donation of at least \$250/person is included in your trip cost. The more people who travel in the group, the more funding they receive. After the trip, you will receive a charitable donation receipt to use as a tax deduction. Thank you for your support!





What's Included: • Round-trip motor coach from central Illinois to Chicago • Round-trip flights • Sightseeing • Admissions • Baggage handling at hotels • 16 Meals: 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners • Current taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel accommodations • Resort fees • Driver tips

Your Hotels

Nights in parenthesis show the length of the stay. See the numbered photos:

1. **Kauai** (5) Outrigger Kauai Beach Resort
2. **Hawaii** (4) Royal Kona Resort

What's Not Included: • Airline checked bag fee • Optional tours • Meals not included in itinerary • Tips to guides • Optional travel insurance

All amounts are per person. • Document required for US citizens is either a valid Real ID or a valid passport. • Travel insurance coverage for cancellation, medical, baggage, and more is the Vacation & Cruises Plan from Travel Guard at a cost of 7.2% of the trip cost. For coverage details, see tourgroupplanners.com/insurance. Other terms at tourgroupplanners.com/terms are incorporated by reference. • Price is based on a group size of 24 or more. If fewer than 24 people book, a small group surcharge of \$130 applies. Price and details are subject to change. Acct#260831r

Tour Coordinators:
Amy@TourGroupPlanners.com or
Becky@TourGroupPlanners.com

Call **217-422-5002** to charge your credit card for the \$2,000 per person deposit; or mail a check (payable to **Rio Grande Travel**)

to **Tour Group Planners**
363 S Main St Suite 307,
Decatur, IL 62523

Final payment due:
April 29, 2026.

Join us from • Urbana • Springfield
• Decatur • Chicago O'Hare, or call
for a quote from other cities.



Optional Upgrades

- Upgrade to ocean view room \$227 for each double traveler or \$454 for a single
- Flight upgrade



1

Outrigger Kauai Beach Resort & Spa is a tropical paradise nestled directly on Nukoli'i Beach on the Garden Isle's East shore. Experience the warmth of Hawaiian hospitality across 25 lush tropical acres



2

Royal Kona Resort
Watch ocean waves crash against lava rock shores. Savor cuisine from award-winning chefs at our oceanfront restaurant & our Voyagers of the Pacific Luau.

