

FALL HAWAI'I

OCTOBER 12-20, 2012

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The most remote archipelago in the world, the Hawaiian Islands offer a unique and dramatic view of nature. Hawai'i rivals the famed Galapagos as a living microcosm of evolution, as each main island harbors unique bird and plant species. And for a spectacular firsthand view of the life of volcanoes—past and present—Hawai'i has no equal.

The Fall Hawai'i tour leaves the standard Hawai'i tourist crowd well behind. In traversing three islands—Hawai'i, Kauai, and Oahu—we will encounter one of the largest assortments of endemic plant and bird species anywhere. Each of these islands harbors its own endemic Hawaiian "honeycreepers." We will search out a large proportion of these native land birds (many are endangered), from the Hawaiian Hawk and Nene to the Iiwi, Palila, Omao, Elepaio, Akepa, and Akiapolaau, to name a few. We have arranged special entry for the group into some of the best remaining tracts of native tropical forest in the islands, where we can enjoy these extraordinary birds at leisure.

Wonderful views of seabirds throughout the tour are a constant reminder that one is situated in the midst of the tropical Pacific. Sprite-like and immaculate White Terns (a.k.a. Common Fairy Tern) reside near our hotel on Oahu. At Kilauea Point on Kauai, we will see nesting Wedge-tailed Shearwaters literally at arm's-length, as Red-footed Boobies and Great Frigatebirds glide closely overhead. A distinctive form of the Black Noddy nests along the black lava cliffs on the Big Island. Gleaming White-tailed Tropicbirds fly effortlessly across Kauai's splendid Waimea Canyon and circle the rim of the Big Island's Halemaumau Crater. Even lustrous Red-tailed Tropicbirds are a good bet.

Migrant shorebirds and waterfowl include an abundance of Pacific Golden-Plovers and Wandering Tattlers. On most tours we see the much sought after Bristle-thighed Curlew. We'll find such endemic, endangered species as Koloa (Hawaiian Duck) and Hawaiian Coot, as well as the endemic forms of moorhen and stilt at several wetland sanctuaries. An assortment of introduced bird species adds variety to the bird life on these remote tropical islands, and we will search for a good sample of these although as a lower priority than the native species.

The equal of any birding wonders in the islands is the memorable experience of exploring the recent volcanic landscapes of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island (Hawai'i). Although one can't predict its likelihood for a given visit, some tours have had the great fortune of seeing an active lava flow in the park, an unforgettable vision in fiery orange, day or night.

Hawai'i's remote, tropical allure remains, and is redefined through this tour of the islands' natural riches. The warm temperatures, comfortable lodging, and excellent cuisine only complement its singular wildlife and volcanic marvels.

October 12, Day 1: Arrival in Honolulu, Oahu. Upon arrival in Honolulu, please take a taxi to The New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel, where a room will be reserved in your name. We will gather in the lobby at 6:00 p.m. before a get-acquainted dinner.

NIGHT: The New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel, Honolulu

October 13, Day 2: Birding Oahu. A busy day of birding on Oahu begins at Kapiolani Park, adjacent to our hotel. This is the best place in all the main islands to admire the lovely White Tern. Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers compete for feeding territories on the park's grassy expanses. A varied assortment of non-native landbirds of the island lowlands are likely here as well, such as Red-crested Cardinal, Red-vented Bulbul, Yellow-fronted Canary, Java Sparrow, Common Waxbill, Common Myna, and others. As we drive to several nearby areas on Oahu, we'll be on the trail of our first endemic Hawaiian landbirds—Oahu Amakihi and Oahu Elepaio (the elepaio was recently split as a distinct species). Along this same route we typically find the White-rumped Shama, an Asian thrush beautiful in voice and appearance, beautiful but shy Red-billed Leiothrix, as well as Red-whiskered Bulbuls and Common Waxbills.

As the day progresses, we will drive toward the northern tip of Oahu in search of Bristle-thighed Curlews and other shorebirds, as well as some first tour views of the endangered Hawaiian waterbirds: Koloa (Hawaiian Duck), Hawaiian Coot, and the Hawaiian subspecies of Black-necked Stilt and Common Moorhen.

NIGHT: The New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel, Honolulu

October 14, Day 3: Oahu to Kauai; Kauai North Shore Refuges. A morning flight takes us to Lihue on the island of Kauai, where today we will visit two of the islands' finest refuges, Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge and Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge. Some of the most spectacular of all seabirds can be found at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge: Red-footed Boobies, Great Frigatebirds, Brown Boobies, and White-tailed Tropicbirds fly close by the lighthouse, and young Wedge-tailed Shearwaters sit at the edge of their nest burrows. Red-tailed Tropicbirds, a winter nester here, have turned up on some but not all October tours. The Nene (Hawaiian Goose) is doing well on this mongoose-free island. Expect to see these handsome geese at Kilauea Point and Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge, where we'll also look for the endemic Koloa (Hawaiian Duck) and Hawaiian Coot, as well as the Hawaiian subspecies of Black-necked Stilt and Common Moorhen. The nearby countryside may also hold Japanese Bush-Warbler, White-rumped Shama, Hwamei, Chestnut Mannikin, Red-crested Cardinal, Western Meadowlark, Northern Mockingbird, and others.

NIGHT: Courtyard by Marriott Coconut Beach, Kapaa

October 15, Day 4: Kauai – Koke'e Forest and Alakai Swamp. This morning we traverse some incredible scenery, en route to the wet mountain forest of Koke'e State Park in the northwest corner of Kauai. Foremost among visual delights is Waimea Canyon, known as Hawaii's "Grand Canyon." The polychromatic canyon cleaves thousands of feet and can be viewed from several eye-popping overlook spots. The route up along the canyon is often a good area to see Pueo, the Hawaiian version of Short-eared Owl, an owl active during the day.

As we reach the 3500-4000 feet level, we will hike into the forest in search of forest songbirds endemic to the island of Kauai. A moderately strenuous hike of about 2 miles round trip takes us into one of the best remaining areas for these birds, which have declined markedly in recent years. In addition to the brick-red Apapane which occurs on several of the main islands, we have a good chance to see such Kauai specialty honeycreepers as Kauai Amakihi, Anianiau, and the distinctively plumaged Kauai Elepaio, a Hawaiian relative of the monarch flycatchers of other Pacific islands. Another endemic, the Akeke'e, has become very scarce in recent years, but we will do our best to locate one. Red Junglefowl are also well-established here, descendants of birds originally brought by the Polynesians to these islands over 1000 years ago. Some introduced birds are possible in the forest today too, including White-rumped Shama, Melodious Laughing-Thrush, and Japanese Bush-Warbler.

Nearby, we will visit a lookout on the Kalalau Valley for a stupendous view of the Nā Pali coastline and of the blue Pacific, 4000 feet below, and stop for further views of scenic Waimea Canyon. Near Kekaha, along the coastline, there are shorebirding possibilities. Introduced, established bird species that may be encountered today include Chestnut Mannikin, Red-crested Cardinal, Java Sparrow, and Black and Erckel's francolins.

NIGHT: Courtyard by Marriott Coconut Beach, Kapaa

October 16, Day 5: Kauai to Hawai'i; The Kona Coast. This morning we fly from Lihue to Kona on the west coast of Hawai'i, a.k.a. The Big Island. Hawai'i is the easternmost and largest island in the chain, and is well-known for recent periods of splendid volcanic activity. Leaving the airport area, we expect to drive south toward Kealahou, where we may have our first opportunity to sight an I'o (or Hawaiian Hawk), a species endemic to the Big Island. Time permitting, we may pay a brief visit to the shoreline north of the airport, which is a favorite wintering spot for Pacific Golden-Plovers, Wandering Tattlers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, and sometimes other shorebirds, as well as a good site for seeing Green Turtles in the shallows of the black lava shoreline. A number of introduced songbird species will likely be encountered in the Kona area, including Yellow-billed Cardinal, Saffron Finch, and possibly several estrildid finches such as Lavender Waxbill.

We will also visit other sites on the west side of the Big Island, particularly near Pu'uana'hulu, to look for such species as Black, Erckel's and Gray francolins, and introduced estrildid finches such as African Silverbill and Red Avadavat (the numbers of these very locally established birds vary a good deal from year to year). We may find Nenes here as well.

Our hotel for the next two nights is located in Waimea/Kamuela, which sits at 2500 feet above sea level on the hem of long-dormant Kohala volcano. Here the weather is comfortably cooler than near the hot coastline.

NIGHT: Kamuela Inn, Kamuela (Waimea)

October 17, Day 6: Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. A visit to Hakalau Forest NWR is always among the highlights of the tour. With an early start from Waimea/Kamuela, we will head for the refuge on the eastern slope of Hawaii's most massive older volcanic peak, Mauna Kea. We have arranged special permission for the group to visit Hakalau, a critical refuge of koa and ohia forest established for the protection of Hawai'i's declining forest bird species. From our parking area at over 6000 feet, we'll hike down into the forest and traverse a series of trails down along the slope into the best forest habitat on Hawai'i. This moderately strenuous hike takes us into the best remaining tracts of forest and populations of forest birds in the Hawaiian Islands. Brilliant scarlet liwis, perhaps the most admired bird in the islands, can be downright common here. Such Big Island endemics as Akepa, Hawai'i Creeper, and the astounding Akiapola'au are possible here. The Akiapola'au, or Aki' for short, is a unique marvel of special adaptation, with a straight short lower mandible that serves as a chisel and a long, flexible, decurved upper mandible that works like a probe and nutpick. This is a bird well worth a careful and persistent search, and we have had very good success in seeing it. A different species of Elepaio resides here, and Omao (or Hawaiian Thrush) call constantly. We'll watch for Hawaiian Hawks gliding over the canopy. On the drive up toward the refuge, we typically pass quite an array of gallinaceous birds (turkeys, francolins, pheasants, possibly Chukar), and pass through some otherworldly volcanic landscapes. Expect a full, long, and exciting day.

NIGHT: Kamuela Inn, Kamuela (Waimea)

October 18, Day 7: Mauna Kea and Saddle Road; On to Hilo. Today's birding takes us to a second type of tropical forest on the Big Island, east of Waimea and along the lower, western slopes of Mauna Kea. Near Pu'u La'au ("Pu'u" translates as hill or cinder cone), we enter a dry forest ecosystem of mamane/naio, the remaining home range of the endangered Palila. The Palila, a striking-looking finch-like member of the Hawaiian endemic "honeycreepers," is unique to the Big Island. A thorough search for Palila should also turn up one of the Big Island forms of the wren-like Elepaio, more widespread honeycreepers such as Common Amakihi, introduced birds like Sky Larks, as well as a host of gallinaceous birds. The immense grassy expanses along the Saddle Rd.

are often the best place to spot a Pueo, the Hawaiian form of Short-eared Owl. After birding the west side of Mauna Kea, we continue on east to Hilo, where a visit to some local ponds should turn up some new species of waterfowl for our Hawai'i compilation. The next two nights are in Hilo, a laid-back tropical setting with some great restaurants and in close proximity to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

NIGHT: Castle Hilo Hawaiian, Hilo

October 19, Day 8: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. This morning we drive up to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The Park reaches from the 4000-foot rim of Kilauea Caldera to the black volcanic sea cliffs at the sea level end of the Chain of Craters Road. A leisurely day of exploring the multi-faceted Park is in store, looking for some special birds and learning about the grand and sometimes eerie volcanic landscape that surrounds us. Specific spots to visit today include Thurston Lava Tube (a great spot for Omas), Devastation Trail, and the 1980's lava fields of Mauna Ulu, where one can get a firsthand look and feel for pahoehoe and a variety of lava and search for Pele's hair. A walk in Bird Park often turns up such fancy exotics as Kalij Pheasant, Red-billed Leiothrix, and Hwamei. The Jaggar Museum, Volcano Art Gallery, Visitor Center, and many possible hikes and walks are among several other facets the Park has to offer. And if the previous day's weather has treated us unkindly, there may be the option of returning to forested areas outside the Park. If there is a nearby active lava flow – best viewed at night when the red glow is much more vivid – we will make an effort to pay a sunset visit.

NIGHT: Castle Hilo Hawaiian, Hilo

October 20, Day 9: Departure Day. We bid farewell this morning after breakfast, then transfer to the Hilo Airport in time for 9:00 a.m. departures to Honolulu, which typically arrive in Honolulu at 10:00 a.m., allowing time for connections to various mainland-bound flights. Those with later homeward flights from Honolulu may want to plan ahead for activities in Honolulu or Hilo during the day. Nearly all flights to the mainland connect in Honolulu.

TOUR SIZE: This tour will be limited to 12 participants.

TOUR LEADERS: Bob Sundstrom and Barry Zimmer

Bob Sundstrom has led VENT tours since 1989 to destinations including Hawai'i, Mexico, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Iceland, Papua New Guinea, the Southwest Pacific islands, Antarctica, the Bering Sea, and many destinations throughout North America. Bob takes a strong interest in both the natural and cultural settings of his tours. He earned his doctorate at the University of Washington. Bob and his wife Sally live in the rural Scatter Creek Valley south of Olympia, Washington. Bob lived in Seattle for more than two decades, continues to teach birding workshops, and leads a program of short, regional tours that begin in the Seattle area. During two seasons of work in the Pribilof Islands, he helped chronicle the occurrence of North American bird rarities. A skilled birder with a special interest in bird song, Bob has served on the boards of several nature and conservation organizations, as well as the Washington State Bird Records Committee. He is a co-author of *The National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest*. When not on tour, Bob keeps busy as the lead writer for the daily public radio program *BirdNote*, which is archived at www.birdnote.org.

Barry Zimmer has been birding since the age of eight. His main areas of expertise lie in North and Central America, but his travels have taken him throughout much of the world, including such exotic locales as Japan, Russia, Madagascar, Africa, and New Zealand. Barry is a longtime member of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee, and served on the Texas Bird Records Committee for 12 years. He has co-authored three books: *Birds of the Trans-Pecos*, *A Birder's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley*, and *Birds and Birdfinding in the El Paso Area*. Barry has a keen interest in nature photography, having captured over 1,000 species of birds on film. His other interests include sports (a diehard Red Sox fan), cooking, and movies. He received his degree in psychology at the University of Texas in El Paso. Barry resides in El Paso with his wife, Yvonne, and their daughter, Alexandra.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The fee for the tour is **\$3,695** per person based on double occupancy from Honolulu (tour ends in Hilo). This includes all food from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 9, all lodging for eight nights during the tour, ground transportation during the tour, the commercial flight between Honolulu and Lihue, the commercial flight between Lihue and Kona, and guide services provided by the tour leaders. It does not include airfare from your home to Honolulu and return from Hilo, alcoholic beverages, special gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or items of a personal nature.

The single supplement for this tour is **\$565**. You will be charged a single supplement if you desire single accommodations, or if you prefer to share but have no roommate and we cannot provide one for you.

The **Fall Hawai'i** tour is an exception to VENT's guaranteed domestic departure policy. VENT reserves the right to charge a small-party supplement or cancel the tour due to low enrollment.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact the VENT office. The deposit for this tour is **\$300**. If you prefer to pay your deposit by check, your tour space will be held for 10 days to allow time for the VENT office to receive your deposit and completed registration form. If you prefer to pay your deposit using a credit card, your deposit must be made with MasterCard or Visa at the time of registration. The VENT registration form should then be completed, signed, and returned to the VENT office. Full payment of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to the tour departure date.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Refunds are made according to the following schedule: If cancellation is made 120 days or more before the tour departure date, a cancellation fee of **\$150** per person will be charged unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be **\$50** per person. If cancellation is made between 120 and 90 days before departure date, the deposit is not refundable, but any payments covering the balance of the fee will be refunded. If cancellation is made fewer than 90 days before departure date, no refund is available. This policy and fee schedule also applies to pre-trip and post-trip extensions. *We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance for your protection.*

| <u>If you cancel:</u> | <u>Your refund will be:</u> |
|--|--|
| 120 days or more before departure date | Your deposit minus \$150* |
| Between 120 and 90 days before departure | No refund of the deposit, but any payments on the balance will be refunded |
| Fewer than 90 days before departure date | No refund available |

*Unless the deposit is transferred to a new registration for another VENT tour that will operate within the next 12 months, in which case the cancellation fee will be \$50 per person.

FUEL AND FUEL SURCHARGES: In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult – if not impossible – to predict fuel costs over the long term, and more specifically, at the time of operation of this departure. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of itinerary publication. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE: A brochure and application form for optional coverage for baggage, illness, and trip cancellation can be obtained through the VENT office. **We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance as soon as possible to protect yourself against losses due to accidents or illness. VENT recommends Travel Insured International as our preferred insurance provider.** Check with your insurance agent regarding coverage you may presently have via other insurance policies that may cover illness during your trip. **Waiver for pre-existing conditions is available; however, stipulations apply, usually requiring the purchase of the insurance soon after**

registering. Optional expanded insurance coverage is available and includes items such as work-related cancellation, medical upgrade, and a "Cancel for Any Reason" clause among others. **Contact Travel Insured International prior to registration for details.** Not all insurance providers provide the same levels of coverage. If you purchase insurance through a company other than Travel Insured International, please be advised that rules and stipulations may be different.

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours is not a participant in the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a bond issued by Travelers in the amount of \$50,000. CST #2014998-50.

AIR INFORMATION: Victor Emanuel Travel is a full-service travel agency and wholly owned subsidiary of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT). Victor Emanuel Travel will be happy to make any domestic or international air travel arrangements from your home and return. Please feel free to call the VENT office to confirm your air arrangements.

BAGGAGE: Baggage space is limited throughout the tour. Please do not bring rigid-sided suitcases. **Please limit baggage to one checked luggage piece and one carry-on.** If couples can combine some of their gear in one bag, it would be much appreciated. Duffel bags or lighter material bags/roll-ons are okay.

CLIMATE/CLOTHING: Casual, informal clothing will be fine throughout, including in restaurants. Most daily temperatures will fall in a very comfortable range, but you must be prepared for a variety of potential weather conditions and temperatures. Our time in this tropical region will cover quite a span of elevations, from sea level to at least 8000 feet, and one should expect at least some precipitation over the nine days. Temperatures typically range from a sunny 90°F to a misty 50°F, depending on elevation and weather. Slacks or jeans will suffice at any altitude, shorts will be comfortable lower down, and a mix of short- and long-sleeved shirts is advised. A layered approach is suggested to be comfortable under all potential conditions, to include a lightweight but effective waterproof jacket (like a Gore-Tex parka), together with a light fleece jacket, light sweater, or the like (two such layers if you get cool easily). You may expect some rain during the tour. A hat for protection from sun/precipitation will come in handy, as will a pair of rain/wind pants in your daypack in case of a sudden rain. A collapsible umbrella is highly recommended.

FOOTWEAR: We will be doing a fair amount of light hiking and walking, sometimes over uneven or unforgiving terrain. In addition, several fairly extensive hikes are included in the itinerary, up to three miles over irregular terrain. You will need proper footwear to walk into several key natural areas. Lightweight (or heavier) hiking boots that provide good traction and solid ankle support are essential. They should be moisture-proof as well. Tennis or walking shoes will be fine for other activities.

LAUNDRY FACILITIES: The New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel (Oahu) and Courtyard by Marriott Coconut Beach (Kauai).

OTHER ITEMS TO BRING: You will find a light daypack very useful on many outings, as well as a plastic water bottle. Binoculars will be essential. The leader will have a spotting scope, although additional scopes are welcome. The basic field guide to carry along is H.D. Pratt, et al., *A Field Guide to the Birds of Hawai'i and the Tropical Pacific*, 1987. There will be many photo opportunities, so you may well wish to bring along a camera and ample digital storage media or film. Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat should be part of your basic kit.

Few, if any, biting insects are to be expected. There are no venomous snakes, the tap water is potable, no inoculations or special travel documents are required, and a wide variety of foods to suit all diets and special needs are available.

HEALTH: If you are taking prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine, be sure to bring an ample supply that will allow you to get through the tour safely. Please consult your physician as necessary. Remember to pack all medication in your carry-on baggage, preferably in original containers or packaging. As airline

baggage restrictions can change without warning, please check with your airline for procedures for packing medication.

As standard travel precautions, you should always be up to date with tetanus shots, and strongly consider inoculations against Hepatitis types A and B.

In addition to your physician, a good source of general health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded Travelers' Information Line (800) CDC-INFO (232-4636). You can check the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/travel. Canadian citizens should check the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/new_e.html (click on travel health).

SUGGESTED READING: Our website at www.ventbird.com offers an affiliated online store that carries a wide variety of items for birding and nature lovers including over 6,000 books. A portion of the sales from the store benefits the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You might also want to visit such other online stores as www.amazon.com, and for those out-of-print and hard-to-find titles, www.abebooks.com or www.buteobooks.com, which specializes in ornithology books.

Birds:

Berger, Andrew J. *Hawaiian Birdlife*. 2nd ed. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1981. [The standard home reference "state bird book." Includes quotations from much older literature that make fascinating reading.]

Harrison, Craig S. *Seabirds of Hawai'i: Natural History and Conservation*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1990. [A very readable scientific overview.]

Harrison, Peter. *Seabirds: An Identification Guide*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. [A world-wide reference.]

Harrison, Peter. *A Field Guide to Seabirds of the World*. Lexington, MA: Stephen Green Press, 1987. [A smaller and more portable guide by the previous author. Illustrated with photographs.]

Hayman, Peter, John Marchant, and Tony Prater. *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. [A definitive, well-illustrated reference.]

Olson, Storrs L. and Helen F. James. *Prodromus of the Fossil Avifauna of the Hawaiian Islands*. Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, No. 365. Washington, D.C., 1982. [Hawai'i's fossil bird record is astounding; this is the original scientific summary of the data.]

Pratt, H. Douglas. *Enjoying Birds in Hawai'i*. Mutual Publishing, 1993. [Site guide.]

Pratt, H. Douglas and Jack Jeffrey. *A Pocket Guide to Hawai'i's Birds*. Mutual Publishing, 1997. [A handy informal bird guide with excellent photos. A better, more modern choice as an informal guide than Hawai'i Audubon Society's *Hawai'i's Birds*.]

Pratt, H. Douglas, Phillip L. Bruner and Delwyn G. Berrett. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Hawai'i and the Tropical Pacific*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1987. [The only field guide to illustrate all Hawai'i birds; color plates by Pratt. The serious field guide of choice for the islands.]

Scott, J.M., S. Conant, and C. Van Riper, III, editors. *Evolution, Ecology, Conservation, and Management of Hawaiian Birds: A Vanishing Avifauna*. Studies in Avian Biology No. 22, Cooper Ornithological Society, 2001. [Current scientific articles.]

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Mammals, Reptiles & Amphibians:

McKeown, Sean. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians in the Hawaiian Islands*. Diamond Head Publishing, 1996.

Van Riper, Sandra G. and Charles Van Riper III. *A Field Guide to the Mammals in Hawai'i*. Honolulu: Oriental Publishing Co, 1982. [The best guide for field use. Scarce, but try www.abebooks.com.]

Plants:

Kepler, Angela Kay. *Hawaiian Heritage Plants*. Honolulu: Oriental Publishing, 1983. [An excellent guide to plants of significance to the history of Hawai'i. Out of print, but try www.abebooks.com.]

Lamoureux, Charles H. *Trailside Plants of Hawai'i's National Parks*. Booklines Hawai'i, Ltd., 1996 (revised edition). [Useful in any forest area.]

Pratt, H. Douglas. *A Pocket Guide to Hawai'i's Trees and Shrubs*. Mutual Publishing, 1998. [A very handy pocket-sized guide.]

Sohmer, S.H. and Robert Gustafson. *Plants and Flowers of Hawai'i*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1987. [Well-written and well-illustrated. Not exactly a field guide, but recommended to anyone interested in native plant communities.]

Geology, Geography and Archaeology:

Blay, Chuck and Robert Siemers. *Kauai's Geologic History: A Simplified Guide*. TEOK, 1998.

Cox, J. Halley and Edward Stasack. *Hawaiian Petroglyphs*. Booklines Hawai'i, 1970.

Decker, Robert and Barbara Decker. *Volcano Watching*. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park: Hawai'i Natural History Association, 2000.

Hazlett, Richard W. and Donald W. Hyndman. *Roadside Geology of Hawai'i*. Missoula: Mountain Press, 1996.

MacDonald, Gordon A. and Douglass H. Hubbard. *Volcanoes of the National Parks in Hawai'i*. 6th ed. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park: Hawai'i Natural History Association, n.d. (10th ed.).

General Natural History:

Culliney, John L. *Islands in a Far Sea: Nature and Man in Hawai'i*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988. [An excellent, worthwhile reading for anyone interested in Hawaiian natural history and conservation.]

Mitchell, Andrew and James A. Michener. *The Fragile South Pacific: An Ecological Odyssey*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991. [Covers the entire South Pacific region and helps to place the Hawaiian Islands in proper ecological perspective.]

Rauzon, Mark J. *Isles of Refuge: Wildlife and History of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2001. [Excellent, readable natural history with a lot of relevance to the main islands of the Hawaiian chain, too.]

Wagner, Warren L. and V.A. Funk. *Hawaiian Biogeography: Evolution on a Hot Spot*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995. [Cladistic analyses of flora and fauna.]

Ziegler, Alan C. *Hawaiian Natural History, Ecology, and Evolution*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002. [The best single natural history guide to the Hawaiian Islands, with entries on nearly every topic of interest.]

TIPPING: As noted in our itineraries, tipping (restaurants, porters, drivers, and local guides) is included on VENT tours. However, if you feel one or both of your VENT leaders or any local guides have given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are not expected and are entirely optional.

RESPONSIBILITY: Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc. (VENT) and/or its Agents act only as agents for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, or airplane and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. VENT and its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute leaders on any tour. When this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The prices of the tours are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on January 23, 2012, and are subject to adjustment in the event of any change therein. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned and their agents and affiliates are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger. The services of any I.A.T.A.N. carrier may be used for these tours, and transportation within the United States may be provided by any member carrier of the Airline Reporting Corporation.