



# Natural Hawaii

## Pearls of the Pacific

**Saturday 25 February – Saturday 10 March 2012 (15 days)**  
**Pre-tour Oahu extension from Thursday 23 February 2012 (2 days)**  
**Saturday 23 February – Saturday 9 March 2013 (15 days)**  
**Pre-tour Oahu extension from Thursday 21 February 2013 (2 days)**

*Aloha! We're off on a superb trip to Hawaii, a fascinating group of mid-Pacific islands offering breathtaking volcanic scenery, a range of fascinating endemic birds and huge seabird colonies, and probably the best place in the world for a chance of (safely) seeing an active lava flow. Join renowned expert Doug Pratt on this delightful, comfortable and exciting tour for an amazing experience, and a greater understanding of the forces that shape our planet.*

Take a journey to the mid-Pacific Ocean, where the idyllic islands of Hawaii offer breathtaking scenery, impressive seabird colonies, fascinating endemic birds and plants, rich Polynesian culture, and a chance to see the world's most active volcano. Hawaii is more than golden beaches, swaying palm trees and luxury resorts. It is a land rich in history with a great variety of landscapes including snow-covered mountains, luxuriant forests, extensive lava flows and semi-deserts, lovely beaches, cascading waterfalls, pounding surf and calm turquoise waters.

The tour will be led by Doug Pratt who is a world-renowned authority on Hawaii. This is not just a birding tour, although we have a good chance of seeing all the birds that anyone can reasonably expect on the islands we visit. Book now – this special tour is limited to 7 participants and Doug.

The Hawaiian archipelago consists of over 120 seamounts, islands and atolls, spreading across the Pacific Ocean from Midway in the northwest to Hawaii in the southeast. We will visit three of the seven inhabited islands: Hawaii (the Big Island), Maui, and Kauai. We will learn the history of the islands from their development over a 'hot spot' in the Pacific Plate, to the heavily forested and sculpted landscapes we see today. We will explore how plants and animals colonized and evolved into many species. As we visit historic and pre-historic sites, we witness the changes brought by man, starting with the influences of the early Polynesians over 1,000 years ago, through the arrival of Europeans with Captain Cook 200 years ago, to the vast and ongoing changes wrought by modern life. Hawaii has become the poster child for conservation efforts worldwide, and our tour will highlight what has been lost, what has been learned, and what is planned for the future.

Our journey begins in Maui and ends in Kauai. In Maui, the second largest island, we visit Kealia Pond

National Wildlife Refuge to look for migrant shorebirds and waterfowl, the spectacular aquarium at the Maui Ocean Center, and the dormant volcano Haleakala. We then move to Hawaii, the youngest and largest of the islands, where several recently active volcanoes have produced impressive lava flows. We have five nights on this island; three in Kona, whence we will journey with Hawaii Forest & Trail to the Saddle Road and Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, and two nights at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, where we have a chance to see an active lava flow and to learn about the earliest stages of island formation. Finally we will travel to Kauai, the 'Garden Isle', one of the world's lushest and most beautiful tropical islands, where Jurassic Park was filmed. All too soon, we must connect with our flights to the mainland and home. For those that wish to try for some of the Oahu endemic birds, this year we add a pre-trip extension.

### Outline Itinerary

**Day 1:** We catch our scheduled flight from London, via San Francisco and Honolulu, arriving in Maui during the evening, or the following day.

*Overnight Honolulu or Maui depending on flight times*

**Day 2:** *Overnight Maui (D)*

**Day 3:** *Overnight Maui (B)*

**Day 4:** *Overnight Maui (B,L)*

**Day 5:** We fly to the Kona Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii.

*Overnight Kona Seaside Hotel (B,D)*

**Day 6:** *Overnight Kona Seaside Hotel (B,L)*

**Day 7:** *Overnight Kona Seaside Hotel (B,L)*

**Day 8:** Today we loop around the southern end of the Big Island, a fantastic drive with much to see. We climb upward eventually reaching Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

*Overnight Hale Ohia Cottages (B,L)*



liwi and, top, Apapane (Photos: Tom Dove)



### TRIP DETAILS

**ACCOMMODATION** will be as described with all rooms en suite.

**LEADER:** Doug Pratt

**NUMBERS:** Max. 7 clients

#### PRICES:

**Main tour:** 2012: £ 5,795

2013: £ tbc

**Single supp.:** 2012: £ 995

2013: £ tbc

**Deposit:** £ 500 per person

The price is per person and includes return scheduled flights London/Hawaii, internal flights, airport taxes, accommodation as detailed above, meals as detailed above (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), transport admissions, incidental tips, and the services of the leaders.

The price excludes the cost of meals not listed, travel insurance, drinks, and other personal expenses.

*This trip will be operated in conjunction with Naturalist Journeys of the USA.*

*Please note that we require full payment 18 weeks before departure on all USA tours.*

**Day 9:** Kilauea Volcano.

*Overnight Hale Ohia Cottages (B,L)*

**Day 10:** Mid-day, we catch a flight from Hilo airport to Lihue on Kauai.

*Overnight Kauai (B)*

**Day 11:** *Overnight Kauai (B,D)*

**Day 12:** *Overnight Kauai (B,D)*

**Day 13:** (FULL MOON) : *Overnight Kauai (B,L,D)*

**Day 14:** We depart Kauai today and return via Honolulu & San Francisco, arriving in London early on **Day 15**.

### Oahu Pre-trip Extension

**Day 1:** Scheduled flight from London, via California and Honolulu, arriving in Honolulu during the evening or the following day.

*Overnight Honolulu depending on flight times*

**Day 2:** *Overnight New Otani Hotel, Honolulu (D)*

**Day 3:** Doug has designed a route today that is highly scenic and highly productive for finding species unique to Oahu.

*Overnight New Otani Hotel, Honolulu (B,D)*

**Day 4:** We arrive at the airport mid-day for our short flight to Maui and the start of our main tour. (B)