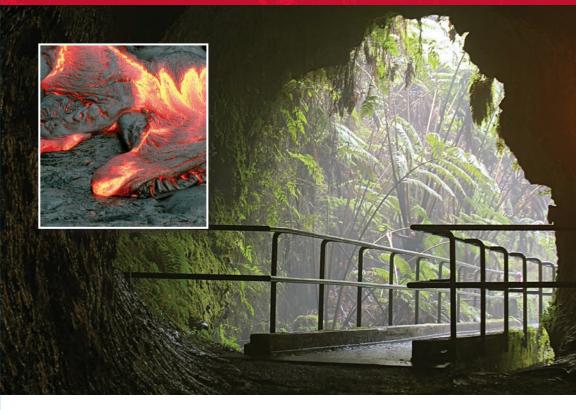


TRAVELS 2

HAWAIIAN STARS

World-Class Observatories & Natural Wonders With Christine Pulliam, Public Affairs Specialist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory January 15–23, 2014

HAWAIIAN STARS: World-Class Observatories & Natural Wonders January 15–23, 2014 (8 nights/9 days)



Walk through the Thurston Lava Tube, a 500-year-old lava cave in Volcanoes National Park. Lava continues to flow to the sea from Pu'u O'o on the east rift of Kilauea Volcano.

FLOCKED to Hawaii's volcanic mountaintops to probe the heavens: the skies are dark the air is clean

STAR-GAZERS HAVE LONG

the skies are dark, the air is clean, the weather is good, and the equatorial location is an important astronomical reference point.

During this program enjoy special access to a variety of Hawaii's observatories and research facilities, accompanied by study leader Christine Pulliam, a specialist in conveying the excitement and importance of astronomical and astrophysical discoveries to the public. Visit the Mauna Kea Observatory Complex on the Big Island and Project Pan-STARRS at the summit of Haleakala on Maui, where an array of astronomical cameras, telescopes, and computing facilities searches the sky for new asteroids, comets, variable stars, and other celestial objects.

At the Imiloa Museum in Hilo, observe fascinating exhibitions relating to the history of astronomy in Hawaii.

This itinerary also provides plenty of time to explore the many natural wonders of Hawaii. Learn about the islands' teeming tropical marine life on a whale-watching cruise during the humpback whale migration and a tour of the Maui Ocean Center. Observe the ongoing forces that continue to shape the islands during a volcanologist-led excursion to Kilauea volcano. Enjoy easy walks to view thundering waterfalls and unspoiled panoramas as you search for forest birds with local naturalists and diverse endemic plants such as Silversword and Sandalwood.

From the skies above to the ocean depths, Hawaii is a magical place to marvel at the wonders of planet earth.

Visit the observatories atop Mauna Kea (cover), where powerful instruments look deep into the mysteries of the universe.

HAA STUDY LEADER



Christine Pulliam is a public affairs specialist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. She works with more than 300 of the world's top space scientists to bring their

discoveries to the public. She is also a published author, with articles in *Sky & Telescope* magazine, and was a contributing writer for the National Geographic book *Planets, Stars & Galaxies* with David Aguilar.

Christine has traveled to observatories in Texas, Arizona, Hawaii, and Russia. Her fondest memories include working at Kitt Peak National Observatory the summer that a comet hit the planet Jupiter, and watching Comet Hale-Bopp rise over the horizon from the catwalk of the 107-inch telescope at the University of Texas' McDonald Observatory.

In her spare time, Christine is an avid recreational pilot. She is president of a local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association. She also volunteers for the Airport Support Network of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

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An orange-hued sunrise above the volcanic crater at Haleakala National Park creates an other-worldly panorama. Green sea turtles, found throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago, are considered a threatened species.







Marvel at the diversity of flora and fauna in Hawaii, including humpback whales, scented plumeria, colorful tropical fish, exotic Silversword

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

Home / Maui

Fly to Maui and transfer to the Makena Beach & Golf Resort at the base of Haleakala. Enjoy an evening welcome orientation and dinner. Makena Beach & Golf Resort (R,D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Makena, Maui

Join a whale-watching cruise along the shoreline of Maui with the Pacific Whale Foundation to observe humpback whales that migrate from Alaska to Hawaii each winter. Also enjoy a private tour of the Maui Ocean Center, a three-acre tropical reef aquarium and marine science center with thousands of marine species that can be viewed in living coral reefs. Makena Beach & Golf Resort (B,L)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Makena, Maui

This morning you can participate in an optional bike ride 6,500 feet down to the base of Haleakala mountain before joining a group tour of Haleakala National Park with a local naturalist. Search for native birds and endemic plants such as Silversword and Sandalwood. At the summit, marvel at the moon-like volcanic crater and visit Project Pan-STARRS (Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System). Makena Beach & Golf Resort (B,D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii

Fly from Maui to the Big Island of Hawaii. During a curator-guided tour of the Imiloa Museum, explore exhibits relating to Hawaiian astronomy and watch a planetarium show about the night skies from the perspective of a native Hawaiian. Drive from sea level to Volcanoes National Park at 5,000 feet, observing the dramatic change in botanic and volcanic scenery. *Kilauea Lodge (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Volcanoes National Park

Accompanied by a local volcanologist, explore Volcanoes National Park, including Steaming Bluff, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, Jaggar Museum, Halemaumau "fire pit," and Thurston Lava Tube. Descend the Chain of Craters Road, noting the pioneer plants colonizing the huge lava-draped mountainsides. *Kilauea Lodge (B,L)*

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Waikoloa

Drive from Volcano Village to the scenic Kona coast with a stop at a black sand beach to observe green sea turtles. Enjoy a typical Hawaiian lunch at the Manago Hotel overlooking Kealakekua Bay. Check in at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort, perched atop an old lava flow with ancient petroglyphs on the property. Waikaloa Beach Marriott Resort (B.L)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Waikoloa

Board four-wheel-drive vehicles for the ascent to the Observatory Complex at the 13,796-foot summit of Mauna Kea. Enjoy a private guided tour of one of the telescopes and stargaze through powerful 11-inch Celestron



plants, and native l'iwi birds (below).

Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes at the Visitor Information Station. Waikaloa Beach Marriott Resort (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Waikoloa

Enjoy a backcountry excursion in the heart of the Kohala countryside. Explore the extraordinary natural history on an easy walk that includes a series of waterfalls and magnificent views. This evening, celebrate the adventure at a festive farewell dinner. Waikaloa Beach Marriott Resort (B.L.R.D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Waikoloa / Home

Transfer to the airport in Kona for your flights home. (B)





DETAILS

Activity Level: Moderate Co-sponsors: Harvard exclusive Group size: 21 maximum

RATES, PER PERSON

Double Occupancy: \$6,550 Single Occupancy: \$7,490

WHAT TO EXPECT

January is generally a cool month—clear days alternate with showery episodes. Temperature variations in Hawaii are largely elevation-based, with higher elevations noticeably cooler than at sea level. Precipitation varies greatly throughout the islands, even at similar elevations. For example, Hilo averages more than 120 inches of rain per year, while Kona averages only about 15 inches of rain per year—both are approximately 30 feet above sea level. This is a moderately active program that involves extended periods of walking on uneven terrain. Participants with medical issues and/or dietary restrictions must make them known to us well before departure, and impairments regarding mobility must be disclosed prior to booking. If you have any questions about the level of activity of this program or your ability to participate, please call HAA at 800-422-1636.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Attend a lecture series by Christine Pulliam for an overview of the goals and challenges of modern astronomy and the wonders of observing the night sky from Hawaii.
- Enjoy special access at some of Hawaii's renowned observatories on the summits of Mauna Kea and Haleakala.
- Relax in three of the diverse environments that comprise Hawaii two premier resorts set on white sand beaches and a mountain lodge just outside Volcanoes National Park.
- Experience Hawaii's unique natural history, including a whale-watching cruise during the migration season for humpback whales and an excursion to the ongoing volcanic activity of Kilauea volcano.



GENERAL INFORMATION

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary; All excursions as specified in the itinerary; Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations; Wine with welcome and farewell receptions; All ground transportation and the on-tour flight within program itinerary; Bottled water during daily excursions; Group arrival and departure transfers; Baggage handling for one checked piece and one carry-on piece per person; Entrance fees; Airport and hotel taxes; Gratuities to housekeeping, porters, escorts, drivers, and guides; Professional tour manager; \$500,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation Insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS: Airfare to and from Hawaii; Medical expenses and immunizations; Arrival and departure transfers/baggage handling for those traveling independently of the designated schedule; Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour; Excessbaggage charges; Travel and trip cancellation insurance; Meals not specified in the itinerary; Dishes and beverages not part of the included meal; Personal items such as telephone and fax calls, laundry, room service, alcoholic or other

beverages not specified as included; Gratuities for non-group services; Other items of a personal nature.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a \$1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Final payment deadline is September 17, 2013, 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. Cancellations within 14 days of booking; full refund; cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure will be assessed a cancellation fee of \$1,000 per person. Cancellations received within 120 days prior to departure are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments.

ITINERARY CHANGES: The itinerary contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing. We reserve the right to change the program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

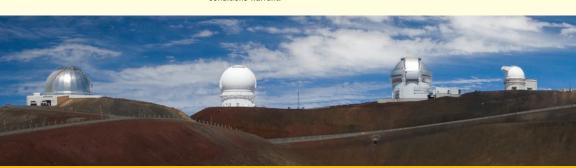
INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by HAA upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/hawaii-2014. If you are not able to access the internet, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither HAA nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

QUESTIONS: Please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806; email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

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DOURO RIVER ON

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REGISTRATION FORM

To register. fill out this form and return to HAA Travels with your deposit of \$1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:

HAA Travels, Harvard Alumni Association 124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th floor, Cambridge, MA 02138 Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:

800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

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