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Circling the Island

When it comes to taking a road trip around the island of Hawai'i, the journey is truly the destination. This drive earned the island one of National Geographic's 50 Ultimate Road Trips in the World and Rand McNally's Best of the Road, the only road trip to make the list in the state. Rent a car or take a guided circle island tour and make sure to visit these eight culturally and historically significant heritage sites.

1. PU'UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

This 180-acre park was once a sacred burial site, royal grounds and a place of refuge.

2. KEALAKEKUA BAY STATE HISTORICAL PARK

This monument marks where Captain James Cook first set foot on the island of Hawai'i in 1779 and died only about a month later.

3. HULIHE'E PALACE

Once a favorite retreat of Hawaiian royalty, this palace features Hawaiian artifacts, original *koa* furniture and personal memorabilia of the royal family.

4. KALOKO-HONOKŌHAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Learn about early Hawaiian fishpond systems and see *ki'i pōhaku* (petroglyphs) and *heiau* (temples).

5. PU'UKOHOLĀ HEIAU NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Explore one of the largest *heiau* (temples) built in Hawai'i.

6. LAPAKAHI STATE HISTORICAL PARK

Take a self-guided tour of this traditional Hawaiian fishing village and learn about the lifestyle of early Hawaiians.

7. 'AKAKA FALLS STATE PARK

Take an easily accessible, self-guided walk to two amazing waterfalls, 'Akaka Falls (442 feet) and Kahuna Falls (100 feet).

8. HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

An International Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site, it is one of the islands' most popular attractions and home to Hawai'i's most active volcano.



PU'UKOHOLĀ HEIAU NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE