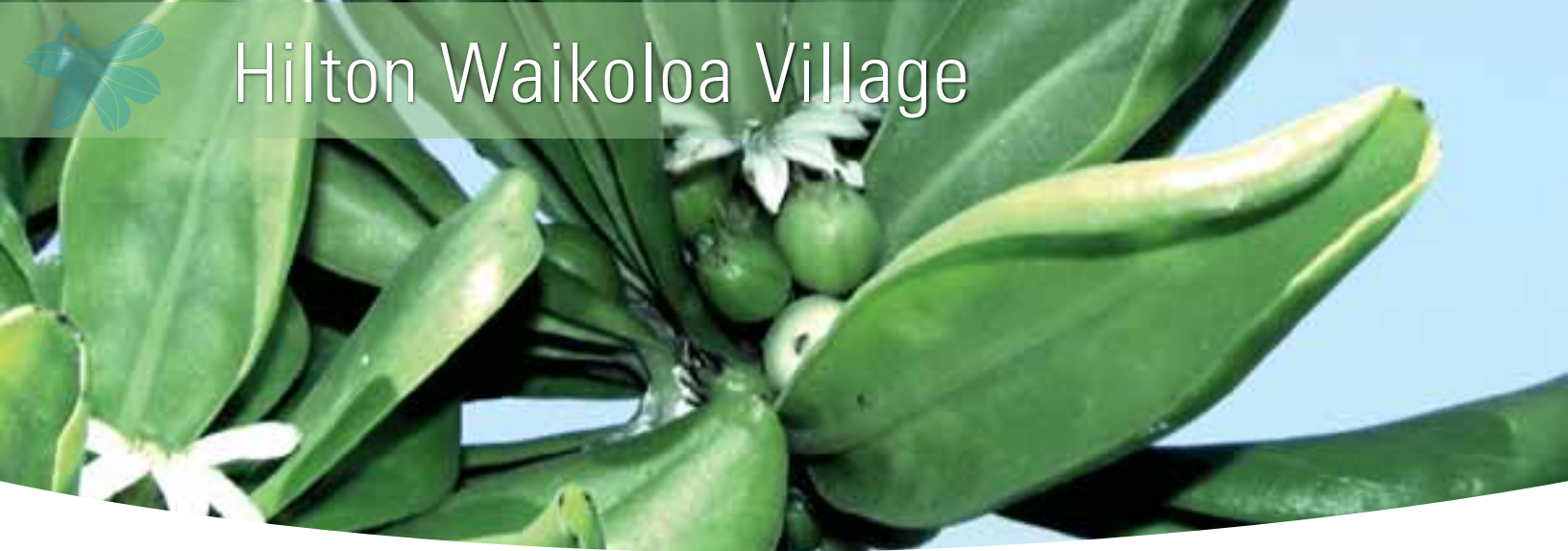




Hilton Waikoloa Village



Talk Story



Evolution of Hilton Waikoloa Village

As you look towards the ocean, you're overlooking Waiulua Bay here on the Kohala Coast of Hawaii's Big Island. In the summer of 1986, the 62 acres that is now Hilton Waikoloa Village was nothing more than black craggy lava from ancient volcanic flows. By the fall of 1988 this setting had been transformed into elegant tropical gardens, lush lagoons with waterfalls, and a stunning three-towered resort that brought life to the rugged landscape. It took thousands of workers more than two years to complete the metamorphosis... creating the largest and most magnificent resort in the Hawaiian Islands. Utmost care was taken to respect and preserve the rich Hawaiian heritage of this unique setting, including the careful preservation of ancient trails, burial sites and petroglyph

fields. Developer Chris Hemmeter envisioned a resort filled with authentic Hawaiian experiences to awaken the senses, free the mind and fulfill the soul. From the magical setting to the amazing collection of art treasures lining the Gallery Walk, we hope you'll agree he succeeded. Landscaping & Wildlife Paradise:

The rolling manicured lawns, gardens of blooming tropical plants and forest of hau trees, monkey pod and swaying palm trees you see from the tram were once 35 acres of stark, black, crumbling lava. However, once ground up, shaped and covered with topsoil, Waikoloa's mineral-rich lava became an organically perfect growing base for tropical vegetation... as you can see. The resort's landscape design centers around a gradual change from the dense jungle of banyans and bamboo trees at the Ocean Tower to an open airy, tropical mountain terrain of flowering canopy trees at Lagoon Tower. Hilton Waikoloa Village is now home to hundreds of varieties of plants and numerous species of wildlife and tropical fish. You'll even find the colorful Humuhumunukunuaopua, the Hawaii state fish, in our saltwater lagoon... and flocks of wild mynah birds in the trees who enthusiastically announce sunrise and sunset each day.

Over 40 animals, each with their own distinct personality call Hilton Waikoloa Village home. The majority of the wildlife is in the Avian (or Bird) Species. While exploring the resort, one may discover Chilean flamingos, or a nene (Hawaii's state bird and the only goose native to the Hawaiian Islands. Additionally silver pheasants, reeves' pheasants, and African crowned cranes can be found on the islands scattered about the lagoon canal and boatway. The African crowned cranes are famous for their "Bug Dance," as they hop and frolic, shaking up the dirt so the bugs will surface for a quick snack.

Patricia (a triton cockatoo), Butterscotch (a salmon crusted cockatoo), and Iniki (a goffin's cockatoo) greet guests with a squawked "Aloha" or "Hello." The birds can also say their own names, due to the great repetition of these words from previous guests and visitors. Butterscotch is a favorite among guests and also a known jewelry thief! Cockatoos are very affectionate and gentle creatures.





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The Naupaka Flower

As you explore the resort, you're certain to see a beautiful "half flower" called the Naupaka. There are actually two varieties of naupaka, one growing near the sea, the other upcountry on the slopes of the Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Kohala volcanoes. Each flower has what appears to be a half-blossom, but when placed together, they magically form a perfect flower. Hawaiian folklore tells of two lovers, forever separated by the jealous wrath of Pele, the volcano goddess. Upset that the young man spurned her advances, she pursued him into the mountains, hurling fiery lava after him.

But Pele's gentler sisters took pity on him, and to save him from death they transformed him into

the mountain naupaka. When the still-angry volcano goddess chased the young woman to the sea, Pele's sister goddesses intervened, saving her by changing her into the beach naupaka. When the two naupaka flowers are brought together, true love is renewed. Perhaps you'll discover both naupakas and their mythical powers as you travel about our island home.

Waikoloa

Like so many words in Hawaii, the name "Waikoloa" has a special meaning. Born from the lava flows that marched to the sea from the towering Mauna Loa volcano, "Waikoloa" is the name Hawaiians gave to the gentle winds of the region. Today, Waikoloa... which stretches from upcountry to the stunning coastline this resort sits upon... commands panoramic views of the pastoral Kohala Mountains to the north, the majestic volcano Mauna Kea rising in the east and moonscape-like lava coastline to the south. As you look across the ocean to the north, you'll see our neighbor island of Maui.

Spectacular Artwork throughout the Property

Here at Hilton Waikoloa Village, one of the most extensive collections of art in Hawaii is on display for your enjoyment on our museum walkway. Overseen by our own professional art curator, there are more than 18,000 pieces to see... many of them visible from the tram. Expression through various art forms is an integral part of the Hawaiian culture we're pleased to share with you during your stay. A reflection of the cultural cross section of many of Hawaii's earliest settlers, our multi-million dollar collection showcases beautiful works from Asia, Oceania and even Western Europe along with splendid examples of ancient Hawaiian origin. Here in our island home, we celebrate our rich heritage, cultural diversity and colorful traditions. Through the art we display, we hope you'll gain a greater understanding and insight into life in Hawaii.





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Talk Story



Mauna Kea & Mauna Loa

The two massive volcanoes that pushed Hawaii's Big Island from the sea are named Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. The nearest to Waikoloa is called Mauna Kea... which mean "white mountain" in Hawaiian. True to its name, Mauna Kea is capped with snow much of each year. Mauna Kea was a landmark for the ancient Polynesian voyagers who navigated the Pacific by following stars in the night sky. The summit is now one of the best spots in the world for studying the universe, and is home to 13 telescopes. Mauna Loa, the earth's largest volcano, means "Long Mountain" in Hawaiian. This name is apt, for Mauna Loa covers half of The Big Island of Hawai'i and its land mass amounts to about 85 percent of all the other Hawaiian Islands combined!

Hula to Introduce Luau

One of the most recognized Hawaiian words in the world is "Hula." The modern hula, where dancers tell stories through graceful moves, subtle eyes and expressive hands, evolved from ancient Kahiko dance. In ancient Hawaiian days, kahiko and hula... accompanied by chanting and drum beating... were important ways of communicating with the gods. Here at Hilton Waikoloa Village, you can enjoy a luau feast and see hula and other Polynesian dance.. including exciting fire knife dancing... performed to live music under the stars at our own "Legends of the Pacific" show every Tuesday and Friday evening at Kamehameha Court, just past the Lagoon Tower end of the tram line.



Pau Hana

Here in Hawaii, the happiest time of day may be "pau hana." Pau hana is the Hawaiian phrase that literally mean "end work," but for those lucky enough to be vacationing here in paradise, it loosely translates to "happy hour" too. If you're interested in finding the perfect spot to kick back after a day of golf, tennis, water slide riding or just relaxing in the sun, check out the laid back setting and cool pau hana drink specials at the Kona Pool Bar... the blue tile-roofed Lagoon Grill... the Malolo Lounge near the main lobby, or the Boat Landing at the Ocean Tower end of the tram. And remember... no "pau hana" is complete without "pupus." That's the Hawaiian word for appetizers or snacks.

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Hawaiian Green Turtles - Honu

One of the most loved residents of Hilton Waikoloa Village's protected natural salt water lagoon is the gentle "honu" or green sea turtle. The Federal Endangered Species Act and Hawaiian regulations forbid touching or harming honu, but up close visits with these graceful swimmers seem to be enjoyed by both our guests and our hard-shelled friends. The lagoon and local waters offshore are populated mostly by green sea honu, with an occasional visit from a loggerhead or endangered honu'ea or hawksbill. Snorkels, masks and flippers are readily available to rent at the lagoon's edge if you'd like to get acquainted with a honu.

Humuhumu

One of the longest Hawaiian words belongs to Hawaii's official state fish, the Humuhumunukunukuapua'a... also known by its nickname,

simply "humu humu." You'll see many examples of humu humu in our canals and lagoons - they're easily spotted by their diamond-shaped body, pale blue fins, armor-like scales and a dark stripe that crosses their silver sides and belly. Humu humu is known outside of Hawaii as a triggerfish because of their sharp, spike-like dorsal fin. Humuhumukununuapua'a means "fish with a pig's nose" in Hawaiian.

Mauka and Makai

Here in Hawaii where everyone lives on an island, giving directions is often reduced to two words..."mauka" and "makai." In Hawaiian, "mauka" means "mountain" or "towards the mountain"... which is always towards the center of the island. "Makai" on the other hand, means "ocean" or "toward the ocean."

If you were driving up the coast to Waikoloa, a Hawaiian person would advise you turn "mauka" to go upcountry towards the volcano... or to turn "makai" to head down to the ocean and Hilton Waikoloa Village. Mauka and makai... so much more descriptive than left and right or north and south. Don't you agree?

Akamai (hotel facts)

If you'd like to impress your family or friends with how "akamai" you are... incidentally, akamai is the Hawaiian word for "smart"... see if you can remember these facts about Hilton Waikoloa Village. There is enough flagstone throughout the resort to stretch 75 miles if you lined up each stone. There are 41 chandeliers in the hotel with a total weight of 50,000 pounds... that's 25 tons of chandeliers! Every minute, 10,000 gallons of salt water are pumped from the ocean into the lagoon and canals to ensure water quality and clarity. There are 68 steps on the Grand Staircase. Each night at sunset a Hawaiian torch lighter runs the entire perimeter of the property to light each torch along the way. He starts at KPC and ends at Buddha Point. And just in case you wonder how the staff transports luggage, food and merchandise across the resort... it's done through one and half miles of underground tunnels known as "Ke Alanui" or "heart of the house." Now you are officially "akamai."

Akamai – More Fun Facts

- Over 1 million gallons of water fill the three swimming pools.
- Over 14,000 meals are served per day to our guests and team members.
- The marble urns in front of Palace Tower weigh 2 tons each.