Hawaii
Island Hopping for Endemics

Tour Leaders: Rob Ripma and Mandy Talpas
October 25 - November 2, 2023
Hawaii might be best-known for its incredible beaches but, for birder’s, its known for its incredible list of endemic birds. These amazing species can only be found in the islands, and many are endangered and threatened with extinction. On this tour, we will work to find the endemic species on Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island. Each island will offer new and exciting birds to see as many of the endemics are island specific. Some of our highlights for the tour could include, Oahu Amakihi, Oahu Elepaio, Bristle-thighed Curlew, Laysan Albatross, Kauai Amakihi, Apapane, Anianiau, Kauai Elepaio, Akiapolaau, Hawaiian Hawk, Omao, I’iwi, Hawaii Amakihi, Apapane, Palila, and much more!

**Itinerary Overview:**

**Main:**
- October 25: Arrival in Honolulu, Hawaii and Welcome Dinner
- October 26: Birding Oahu
- October 27: Birding Oahu
- October 28: Flight to Big Island and Birding Saddle Road
- October 29: Birding Big Island
- October 30: Pelagic Birding out of Big Island
- October 31: Flight to Kaua’i and Birding Kaua’i
- November 1: Birding Kaua’i
- November 2: Departure from Lihue, Kaua’i

**Detailed Itinerary:**

**October 25: Arrival in Honolulu, Hawaii and Welcome Dinner**

Upon arrival in Honolulu (HNL), transfer to the Queen Kapiolani Hotel in Waikiki, where we have reserved a room in your name. We will gather for a welcome dinner that evening.

- **Overnight: Queen Kapiolani Hotel - Waikiki**

**October 26: Birding Oahu**

This morning we will begin our day in Kapiolani Park, next to our hotel, to admire visiting Pacific Golden-Plovers and Honolulu’s city bird, the beautiful White Tern. While exploring the park we are sure to encounter a myriad of introduced species among the banyan and rainbow shower trees, such as Common Myna, Red-crested Cardinal, Red-vented Bulbul, Yellow-fronted Canary, Java Sparrow, Common Waxbill, Spotted Dove, Zebra Dove, and Rose-ringed Parakeet.

After breakfast we’ll leave the city behind and enter the rainforests of the Koolau Mountains in pursuit of Oahu’s endemic honeycreeper, the Oahu Amakihi, before we transcend down into the valleys to search for the endangered Oahu Elepaio. While on our endemic bird adventure we will most likely encounter White-rumped Shama, noisy flocks of Red-billed Leiothrix, an occasional Red-whiskered
Bulbul, and chattering Warbling White-eyes.

-Overnight: Queen Kapiolani Hotel - Waikiki

October 27: Birding Oahu

Today we journey up the picturesque windward side of the island to experience the serenity of Oahu’s North Shore in search of visiting shorebirds, such as the Wandering Tattler and the highly sought-after Bristle-thighed Curlew. While cruising the coastline, famous for world class surf beaches and secluded coves with basking sea turtles, we are sure to find some flashy finches, such as the Saffron Finch and Chestnut Munia. The North Shore is also home to some of the last family farms on Oahu with crops of coffee, cacao, eggplant, papaya, pineapple, apple banana, and even scattered shrimp farms with Black-crowned Night Heron, the endemic Hawaiian Coot, Common Gallinule (endemic subspecies), and Black-necked Stilt (endemic subspecies).

-Overnight: Queen Kapiolani Hotel - Waikiki

October 28: Flight to Big Island and Birding Saddle Road

We will fly to the Big Island after breakfast and spend the day birding Saddle Road for Short-eared Owl (endemic subspecies), Eurasian Skylark, Chukar, California Quail, Wild Turkey, Erckel’s Spurfowl, Black and Gray Francolins, and more. From the high elevations of Pu`u La`au along the slopes of Mauna Kea, we will drive through Waikoloa in search of more introduced species, like Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, African Silverbill, and Red Avadavat.

-Overnight: Royal Kona Resort or similar

October 29: Birding Big Island

Today we’ll get to experience Hakalau, known as Hawaii’s honeycreeper heaven! Hakalau Forest NWR is a publicly restricted cloud forest reserve and is home to many of Hawaii’s endangered plants, native arthropods, and endemic birds. We will search for the unique Hawaii Creeper, the gorgeous day glow orange Akepa, the stunning long billed Akiapolaau, Hawaiian Hawk, Omao (Hawaii Island’s endemic thrush) with beautiful I`iwi, Hawaii Amakihi, and Apapane all over the blossoms of ancient ohia trees enshrouding us.

-Overnight: Royal Kona Resort or similar
October 30: Pelagic Birding Big Island

Today, we embark on a pelagic birding charter out of Honokohau Harbor with an experienced local captain for Black Noddy, Brown Noddy, Sooty Tern, Brown Booby, White-tailed Tropicbird, Great Frigatebird, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, and Bulwer’s Petrel with hopes of finding: Masked Booby, Hawaiian Petrel, Black-winged Petrel, Mottled Petrel, Juan Fernandez Petrel, White-necked Petrel, Newell’s Shearwater, Christmas Shearwater, Leach’s Storm-Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, all three jaeger species, South Polar Skua, incidental cetacean sightings, and more!
- Overnight: Royal Kona Resort or similar

October 31: Flight to Kaua‘i and Birding Kaua‘i

After breakfast, we fly to Līhu‘e and discover the beauty of Kaua‘i’s north shore in pursuit of impressive seabirds along Kīlauea Lighthouse NWR’s stunning coastline and more endemic water birds amongst Hanalei NWR’s historic lo‘i ponds. While scanning the rugged cliffs of Kilauea covered with Red-footed Boobies and surveying the skies for Brown Booby, spectacular Red-tailed and White-tailed tropicbirds, majestic Laysan Albatross, and soaring Great Frigatebirds, we will enjoy up-close views of Hawai‘i’s state bird, the Nene (Hawaiian Goose). We will then explore Hanalei valley’s lush important bird area for more of Hawai‘i’s endangered water birds, such as the Hawaiian Duck.
- Overnight: Sheraton Coconut Beach Resort

November 1: Birding Kaua‘i

We’ll embark on a rainforest adventure with astounding views of Waimea Canyon, the Pacific’s Grand Canyon, on our journey into Kokee State Park to find Kauai’s endemic Kauai Amakihi, Apapane, Anianiau, and Kauai Elepaio with hopes of a glimpse of the rare Akekee. Other forest birds we should encounter in Kokee include Red Junglefowl, the skulky Japanese Bush Warbler and melodious Chinese Hwamei.
- Overnight: Sheraton Coconut Beach Resort

November 2: Departure from Lihue, Kaua‘i

On our last morning on Kaua‘i we will search for the rare Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush and any of Kaua‘i’s specialty species we haven't already found before we check out at 11am. You can fly out of Lihue anytime in the afternoon.
Trip Details:

Cost:
Main Tour:
Price per person (double occupancy), to Honolulu and from Kona, Hawaii: $8,299
Single Supplement: $1,300

Minimum Participants: 6
Maximum Participants: 6

Price Includes:
2 Expert Guides
Ground Transportation in Hawaii
All flights within Hawaii
All Lodging
All Meals including
Park Entrance Fees

Price Does Not Include:
Airfare to Honolulu and from Kona
Airport Taxes
Passport and Visa Fees (if applicable)
Alcoholic Beverages
Personal Items
Travel Insurance
Tips

Deposit:
A deposit of $500 per person is required to hold your spot on this tour. The remaining balance is due no later than 3 months prior to the scheduled start date of the tour (July 27, 2023).

If you have any questions about this tour or would like to sign up for it, please contact us at info@sabrewingnaturetours.com, by phone at 317-324-8505, or register through our website at sabrewingnaturetours.com.

Responsibility/Disclaimer Statement:
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