Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park

Kahuku Unit Guided Hike Schedule

Enter the Kahuku Unit of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park on the mauka (uphill) side of Highway 11 near mile marker 70.5, and meet near the parking area. All activities are free to the public, no advance registration is required. Sturdy footwear, water, raingear, sun protection and a snack are recommended.

People and Lands of Kahuku is a moderate two-mile, three-hour guided hike that loops through varied landscapes to explore the human history of Kahuku. Emerging native forests, pastures, lava fields, and other sites hold clues about ways people have lived and worked on the vast Kahuku lands – from the earliest Hawaiians, through generations of ranching families, to the current staff of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. Learn about the powerful natural forces at work here and how people have adapted to, shaped, and restored this land.

Dates: July 17, August 21, & September 18, 2016
Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Palm Trail is a moderately difficult 2.6-mile loop traversing scenic pastures along an ancient cinder cone, with some of the best panoramic views Kahuku has to offer. Highlights include relics of the ranching era, sections of remnant native forest and amazing volcanic features from the 1868 eruptive fissures.

Dates: July 24, August 27, & September 11, 2016
Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

‘Ōhi‘a Lehua. Learn about the vital role of 'ōhi'a lehua in native Hawaiian forests, the many forms of the 'ōhi'a tree and the lehua flower. Visitors will be able to identify the many differences of the most prominent tree in Kahuku on this program which is an easy, one-mile (or less) walk.

Dates: July 10, August 14, September 3, & September 25, 2016
Time: 9:30am to 10:30am

Pu'u o Lokuana is a short, moderately difficult 0.4-mile hike to the top of the grassy cinder cone named Pu'u o Lokuana. Learn about the formation and various uses of this hill over time and enjoy a breathtaking view of lower Ka'ū.

Dates: September 4, 2016
Time: 9:30am to 10:30am

Hi'iaka & Pele. Discover two fascinating Hawaiian goddesses, sisters Pele and Hi'iaka, and the natural phenomena they represent. Visitors will experience the sisters coming alive through the epic stories depicted in the natural landscape of Kahuku on this moderate one mile walk.

Dates: July 16, August 28, & September 10, 2016
Time: 9:30am to 11:00am

The Birth of Kahuku Join us in exploring the rich geologic history of Kahuku. Traverse the vast 1868 lava flow, see different volcanic features and formations and identify many parts of the Southwest Rift Zone of Mauna Loa. Learn about the Hawaiian hotspot and the creation of Kahuku.

Dates: August 7, 2016
Time: 9:30am to 11:00am

Realms and Divisions of Kahuku is a moderately-difficult two-mile, two-hour guided hike on Kahuku Unit's newest trail, Pu'u Kahuku. Experience the sense of place that evolves through the inter-relationship of nature and culture. Explore the realms and divisions of the traditional Hawaiian classification system at Kahuku.

Enter the Kahuku unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on the mauka (uphill) side of Highway 11 near mile marker 70.5, and meet near the parking area. Sturdy footwear, water, raingear, sun protection, and a snack are recommended.

Dates: August 6, 2016
Time: 9:30 am to 11:30 am