While the Royal Grounds and Puʻuhonua provide a glimpse into ancient times, the 1871 trail shows the progression of daily life into more recent history. See the convergence of ancient and historical times as you step back in time, walk in the footsteps of ancestors, and explore the rugged lava shoreline of the South Kona coast.

### Trail Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length:</th>
<th>2 miles (3.2 km) round-trip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>1.5 hours - 2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailhead:</td>
<td>Along the Coastal Access Road, behind the Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hiking Safety & Information:**

- Sun Protection & Water Recommended
- Sturdy Shoes Recommended
- Audio Tour Available on NPS App
- Stay On Trail
- Clean Up After Pets & Use A Leash

### Footpaths to Roadways

In ancient times, a network of trails was constructed across this rugged lava landscape to connect people, places, and resources. The 175-mile-long corridor of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (NHT) preserves some of these ancient and historic trails. This section of trail is referred to as the 1871 Trail, due to improvements made in 1871.

The Ala Kahakai NHT generally follows the ancient coastal alahele, or long trail that formed the primary route of travel around the island. The alahele that the Ala Kahakai NHT follows is sometimes referred to as the “alahele aupuni,” the Hawaiian Kingdom government road, that you can still see as the “King’s Trail” in North Kona/South Kohala or the “Māmalahoa Trail” in North Kona which intersects our sister park, Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park. The ancient network of trails also included shorter more locally important trails like the alakele that ran laterally with the shoreline, and the mauka-makai trails, that ran from upland areas to coastal areas.

Over the years, many of these ancient trails were straightened and widened to reflect changes in transportation while others were simply abandoned. Some of the trails that survived the tests of time were preserved or even converted into roadways we know today. As you continue down the trail you will see evidence of this evolution as you will pass historic and ancient structures, see impressive geologic features, and immerse yourself in the kahakai (coastal) environment.

What remains in Kiʻilae Village today are abandoned house sites, stone walls, agricultural features, animal pens, and salt pans that can be seen from more recent times.
This tour of the 1871 Trail to Kiʻilae Village shows the progression of daily life into the modern era. As our modern world continues to transform and climate change threatens our homes and our lifestyles, we might need to look to the past for solutions to future problems and embrace a more traditional, sustainable way of life.

I ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope. The future is in the past.

What knowledge or lessons from the past can we apply to our world today?