

Unique “Three Days on the Big Island” Tour

Wednesday, March 28 : Bring an umbrella, jacket and old, comfortable shoes. It can be wet and cold in parts of our tour. Morning flight to Hilo via Hawaiian Airlines; bus to Volcano where Mark Wasser will give us an overview of the status of the battle against invasive species in the National Park; visit an actual experimental site; visit the Volcano’s Research Station where Patty Moriyasu grows native species for ‘out-planting’; time and weather permitting Patty will take us for a short walk through adjacent virgin forest. We have invited both Mark and Patty to join us for lunch at the excellent Kilauea Lodge. (Note that food and beverages are not part of your pre-paid tour package.) After lunch we move up the Hamakua Coast for a walking tour of John Mood’s unique Ninole Orchard and Botanical Garden. Then it’s off to Waimea where we will check into the Kamuela Inn. Restaurants are within close walking distance.

Thursday, March 29: After breakfast, around 9 a.m., our bus will pick us up for a tour of the Waimea Outdoor Circle’s Nature Garden where volunteer docent Leningrad Elarionoff will show us native plants, especially the collection of different o`hia lehua displaying a variation of colors, then to the new mala-a`i, the eating garden, at the nearby Intermediate School. Before lunch at Merriman’s we will tour Waimea to see the wonderful plantings of o`hia lehua. We have invited Smithsonian ‘Living Treasure’ Marie McDonald to join us for lunch so we can become acquainted before our afternoon session at Marie’s atelier where she and her daughter, Roen, will take us through the preparation of traditional kapa: plants, dyes, instruments. Kapa is one of traditional Hawaii’s finest art forms, totally plant based. At day’s end we will be bussed back to the Kamuela Inn.

Friday, March 30: after breakfast, around 9 a.m., we will board our bus for a tour of the Quindembo Bamboo Farm, a unique collection of over 50 non-invasive (not ‘running’) species. The owners, Peter Berg and Susan Ruskin, have imported tropical bamboos from around the world. They are generous about answering questions and are a treasury of practical information. We depart Waimea for S. Kona mauka to have lunch at the venerable Manago Hotel and Restaurant. Peter van Dyke, Director of the Bishop Museum’s Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden located just across the road will join us for lunch to ‘talk story’ before leading us on a tour of his excellent collection. After a fairly long day we will go on to the Keahole Airport for our return flight to Honolulu.

Tour escort: Paul Weissich

Tour cost: \$650 includes airfare, escort, bus, driver, gratuities, guides, hotel, all entry fees, guest lunches. A voluntary tax-deductible donation of \$100 to the Friends will help in defraying planning and office costs.

Deadline: March 1. Limited to 20 participants.

For additional information or to sign on, call Mary Lou Lewis at 440-9670 or email at mlewis@lava.net.