

ROAD SCHOLAR

Adventures in Lifelong Learning

Hawai`i's Humpback Whales and Marine Environment on Maui

Welcome Packet

Program # 12140
January – December 2012



PACIFIC
ISLANDS
INSTITUTE

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Table of Contents

ALOHA!	1
PROGRAM SUMMARY	3
PROGRAM GOALS	3
PROGRAM ITINERARY	3
PROGRAM STRUCTURE	3
HEALTH, SAFETY & PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS	3
REQUIRED INFORMATION FORMS.....	3
SUGGESTED READING	4
STUDY SITES	4
INDEPENDENT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES TO HAWAII.....	4
MAUI.....	5
ARRIVAL: KAHULUI AIRPORT (OGG).....	5
ACCOMMODATIONS: MAUI BEACH HOTEL.....	5
PRE- AND POST-PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS	6
GENERAL INFORMATION	6
PROGRAM REGISTRATION	6
ORIENTATION AND ACTIVITIES	6
ADDITIONAL HAWAII INFORMATION	6
ROOM ASSIGNMENTS	7
MEALS	7
SMOKING POLICY	7
PORTERAGE AND TIPPING	7
CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEMS.....	7
HAWAII CONTACT INFORMATION	8
PROGRAM SCHEDULE.....	10
PII ROAD SCHOLAR PROGRAMS.....	11
GENERAL ROAD SCHOLAR INFORMATION	14
INSURANCE.....	14
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	14
ROAD SCHOLAR MISSION STATEMENT	15
THE ROAD SCHOLAR SPIRIT	16
SUGGESTED READING LIST	17

ROAD SCHOLAR

Aloha!

Welcome to the **Hawai`i's Humpback Whales and Marine Environment Road Scholar Program**. During this program, we will explore Hawai`i's whales and marine environment through multiple boat-based whale watches, snorkeling, and tide-pooling. We are delighted that you will be joining us and believe that you will have a wonderful time in this "Paradise of the Pacific."

Please take the time to read the following information thoroughly, as we have tried to include everything that has proven helpful to our participants in the past. **You will receive one final packet of information 4 - 6 weeks prior to your arrival.** This welcome packet and forms are also available online on our website. To access them, open your web browser and type www.explorethepacific.com/12140.asp

This program is sponsored by Pacific Islands Institute. It will be held at the **Maui Beach Hotel** on the island of Maui.

Pacific Islands Institute has been offering Road Scholar group programs in Hawai`i and the rest of the Polynesia, Melanesian, and Micronesian parts of the Pacific since 1989. Through its educational programs, Pacific Islands Institute is dedicated to providing positive cultural interactions; to ensuring our programs are culturally and environmentally sensitive; to involving local people in decision making; and to protecting, sustaining and respecting indigenous cultures and environments. For more information, visit our website at www.explorethepacific.com

Should you have questions regarding this program, please contact the following organizations depending on the nature of your inquiry:

For registration and general questions:
(9 am – 6 pm eastern time, Monday – Friday)

Road Scholar
11 Avenue de Lafayette
Boston, MA 02111
Ph: (877) 426-8056
Fax: (877) 426-2166
www.roadscholar.org

Specific questions about program:
(8:00 am – 5:00 pm Hawai`i standard time
[2 – 6 hours behind than North American
time zones] Monday – Friday)

Road Scholar Program
c/o Pacific Islands Institute
3566 Harding Avenue, Suite #202
Honolulu, HI 96816
Ph: (808) 732-1999
Fax: (808) 732-9555
Email: info@pac-island.com
Explorethepacific.com

As we get closer to the time of your program, you will receive a final packet containing a sample itinerary of your program, emergency contact information, and other helpful information.

Mahalo (“thank you”) for selecting this program for your Road Scholar experience. As Pacific Islands Institute has sponsored Road Scholar programs since 1989, we are confident that you will have a wonderful time. We look forward to making your visit in Hawai`i relaxing, pleasurable, and intellectually stimulating.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew A. Lockwood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew A. Lockwood
PII Road Scholar Director

Enclosures: Health and Safety Form
 Housing and Transportation Form

PROGRAM SUMMARY

PROGRAM GOALS

Hawai`i's Humpback Whales and Marine Environment

The waters off Maui are home to many different kinds of marine life, including whales, dolphins, turtles, tropical fish, manta rays, corals, and numerous coral reef inhabitants. Participants will experience many different facets of Hawai`i's marine environment through whale-watches, tide pool exploration, snorkeling, fish rubbing (an art form), classroom study, and tasting Hawai`i's regional seafood cuisine. Field trips will include a guided visit through the largest tropical reef aquarium in the Western Hemisphere.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Independent arrivals by 3:00 pm in Kahului, Maui (OGG), 6 nights; independent departures from Maui hotel after breakfast on last day. All ground transportation in A/C buses.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Each year, humpback whales from the northern Pacific swim thousands of miles to spend the winter and spring in the waters off Maui, making Maui one of the world's great whale watching locations. Drawing on local whale research and conservation organizations, we will study Hawai`i's whales and marine environment through multiple boat-based whale watches, snorkeling, and tide-pooling.

Lectures are in association with Pacific Islands Institute (PII). Our lecturers are experts in their specific fields of interests, biologists, scientists, or docents. In most visits, you will be able to take photos and record your experience.

HEALTH, SAFETY & PHYSICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please consult with your physician about the physical demands of the program and your participation in it well before departure. If you have any questions or concerns about aspects of the program in regards to your health, please contact the PII Road Scholar office.

This program is rated Activity Level 3. Participants must be able to handle their own luggage, climb a few flights of stairs and walk on uneven surfaces from three blocks up to one mile at a 2.0 mph pace over the course of the day. This program requires walking 1 mile a day, on average, on field trips. Paths may be uneven or unpaved.

REQUIRED INFORMATION FORMS

Please be sure to fill out your enclosed Housing/Transportation and Health/Safety Forms. Those participants traveling together may complete one general Housing/Transportation Form. However, each program participant must complete a separate Health and Safety Questionnaire. **Please send these forms as soon as possible and no later than 4 weeks prior to your arrival.**

Please provide all details that would be important in the case of an emergency or that could affect your participation in the program. For your health and safety please understand that accurate and complete responses are essential. These forms will be kept on hand with your Group Leader during your program.

Please send the enclosed forms and any letters requesting further information to:

Road Scholar Programs
c/o Pacific Islands Institute
3566 Harding Ave., Suite 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816
Fax: (808) 732-9555
Email: info@Pac-Island.com

Do not send your travel and emergency information forms to Road Scholar in Boston, as this will significantly delay processing. We can also be reached by phone, fax, or e-mail as noted in the Welcome Letter of this packet.

SUGGESTED READING

A bibliography of recommended reading materials is included at the back of this packet to enhance your enjoyment of the program. We have included a list of books and publications on different aspects of Hawai'i we will study and explore. Please check your local library, bookstores, or the internet for additional titles.

STUDY SITES

INDEPENDENT ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES TO HAWAII

Important: Most of the major airlines fly to Hawai'i. If you are making your own plans, look for the best fare and schedule. Be sure to check for possible senior fares or discounts available through the different airlines.

Please remember that your program begins and ends on Maui. **You will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements to and from Maui.** For planning purposes, you should make flight reservations to arrive and depart from Kahului, Maui (OGG). Although Honolulu International Airport is the hub for flights to and from Hawai'i, some carriers do have direct flights between Kahului, Maui and the U.S. Mainland. We suggest that you schedule your flight departure from Kahului Airport (OGG) after 10:00 am if flying out that day. If you need a flight to Honolulu, there are three interisland airlines available: Hawaiian Airlines (800) 367-5320 (website: www.hawaiianair.com), Island Air (800) 323-3345 (website: www.islandair.com), and go! Airlines (888) 435-9462 (website: www.iflygo.com).

You may want to check the websites of specific airlines, travel websites such as orbitz.com and expedia.com or your local travel agent for flights to Hawai'i. If you need assistance making your air travel, you may contact the Road Scholar Travel Coordinator Office at: **Road Scholar Travel Services, 800-854-3418, Monday through Friday, 9AM to 6PM Eastern Time or via email to travelinfo@roadscholar.org**

Please check with your specific air provider as to what the luggage restrictions are for your flights to and from Hawai'i and if any additional fees are associated with them. Participants are responsible for paying these fees.

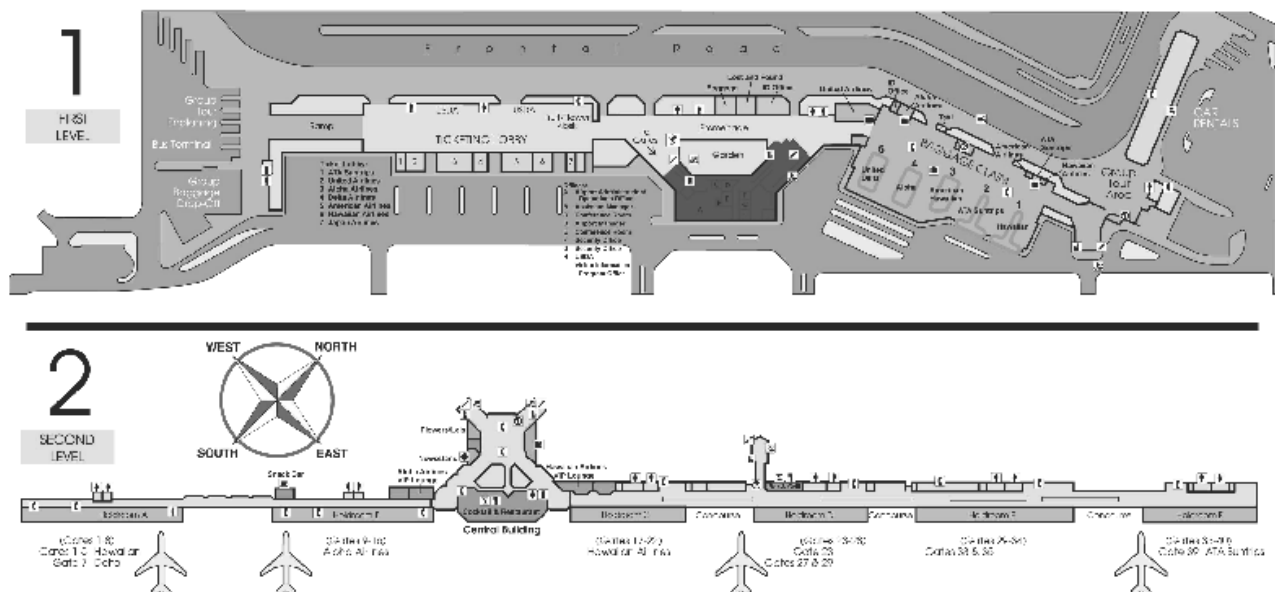
Should you plan to arrive early or to stay longer after your program concludes, we have included, for your convenience, hotel information, rates, and booking information in the pre-post program accommodations section of this packet.

MAUI

Maui, the “Valley Isle”, produces sugar, pineapple, cattle, and horses. The 10,023-foot Haleakalā is the largest dormant volcano crater in the world. Lahaina was Hawai‘i’s capital before 1845 and retains the atmosphere of an old whaling town. Nearby are the Kā’anapali and Wailea resort areas and golf courses. Hāna and Īao Valley draws many visitors. The island has a population of almost 150,000 people.

ARRIVAL: Kahului Airport (OGG)

Kahului Airport is Maui’s main airport and is the landing place for all direct U.S. Mainland flights to Maui. The program site is approximately 5 minutes (2 miles) from the airport. After you have claimed your luggage, call the Maui Beach Hotel to arrange a free shuttle to come pick you up by calling from the Maui Beach Hotel Courtesy Phone located in the Baggage Claim Area. If you have trouble finding the phone, please go to the Customer Service Booth located at the exit of the Baggage Claim Area. You can also rent a car at the airport or take a taxi to the program site if you prefer.



ACCOMMODATIONS: Maui Beach Hotel

This “kama`āina” (local) property is located on the harbor side of Ka`ahumanu Avenue in Kahului, Maui. The hotel has two stories and offers air-conditioned guest rooms with one queen or two double beds, private bathroom, color television, direct dial telephone, a refrigerator, and an in-room safe. The hotel has a swimming pool and pool deck. As it is located on a “harbor” beach, swimming is not recommended here. The town of Kīhei (a 30 minute drive) has several swimming beaches. There is free parking at the hotel, daily housekeeping service, a coin operated laundry, and a sundry shop. There is a large shopping mall across the street. For additional information on the Maui Beach Hotel, visit www.mauibeachhotel.net.

PRE- AND POST-PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

Maui:

If you wish to stay extra nights after your program at the Maui Beach Hotel, please call 1-808-877-0051. To qualify for the following special Pre- and Post-program rate, please state that you are attending the PII Road Scholar Program and be prepared to give your program dates. Please have a credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club) handy to guarantee your reservation. The special Road Scholar room rates are as follows:

Standard	\$125.00 + taxes
Deluxe *	\$160.00 + taxes

* At the Maui Beach Hotel, your program uses deluxe rooms. You may want to consider booking a deluxe room for your post-program stay to avoid having to change rooms. The Maui Beach Hotel also currently provides free shuttle service to and from the airport.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

On the first day of your program, there will be an Road Scholar registration from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at the Maui Beach Hotel. Earlier hotel check-in may be possible if rooms are available. Upon arrival, please proceed to the hotel's front desk to check in. You will then be directed to the Road Scholar registration desk. You will receive a program booklet, which will detail your daily schedule when you register with your Group Leader. Dinner is scheduled for 5:30 pm

If you arrive after 5:00 pm and miss the Road Scholar program registration, the hotel's front desk will be holding your program materials for you. These program materials will tell you where to find the group when you arrive. You can join the group at that time. If you arrive after the dinner and introductions, please leave a message for the Group Leader that you have arrived.

ORIENTATION AND ACTIVITIES

At your program registration, you will receive a Road Scholar Daily Schedule which will detail your daily activities. Introductions will take place the first evening after dinner and the program orientation will take place the next morning.

Please note that our program does include some free time for you to explore areas of interest on your own. If you have particular sight-seeing or other things you want to do, we recommend you consider arriving early or staying after the program as free time during the program is limited. You may also check with the hotel's activities desk for more information on things to do during your free time.

ADDITIONAL HAWAII INFORMATION

If you would like additional information on hotels, sites of interest, and optional activities, please contact your local travel agent or the Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau at 1-800-GOHAWAII (1-800-464-2924) or visit their website at www.gohawaii.com.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Participants traveling together will be housed together. Those traveling independently will be paired with a roommate of the same gender and housed two to a room unless registered for a single room. You will, of course, be with your requested roommate. Couples will generally be assigned a room with one bed unless otherwise specified on the Housing & Transportation Form. All others will be assigned a room with two beds unless otherwise specified. Please note that we will do our best to obtain your preferred bedding arrangements, however, there are no guarantees.

MEALS

With the exception of those meals included on our field trips, our program meals on Maui will be served in the hotel or local restaurants. Breakfast and dinner are mostly buffets or a set pre-planned menu at the hotel. Lunches during field trips typically offer a choice among 2 – 3 options and are picnic-style.

You may purchase alcoholic beverages on your own when available. Please inform us of any food allergies on your Health/Safety Form and we will try our best to accommodate you if possible.

SMOKING POLICY

Hawai`i is the 14th U.S. state to enact a Smoke-Free Law prohibiting smoking in partially or enclosed facilities that are owned by the state, or open to the public including private businesses such as restaurants and bars. No smoking is allowed within 20 feet of doorways, windows, and ventilation intakes, nor allowed in Hawai`i airports from cabin to curb. Smoking is prohibited in classrooms and on busses and other conveyances.

Hotels and motels may designate up to 20 percent of rooms as smoking allowed. As many Road Scholar participants are non-smokers, we try to ensure that smokers and non-smokers are not assigned as roommates. If there is no other option than to assign a non-smoker and a smoker as roommates, the smoker is asked to refrain from smoking in the shared room. In the event that a guest has smoked in a non-smoking room, there may be a cleaning fee assessed by the hotel upon check-out.

As a general courtesy, smoking is only permitted outside and away from the group. Group leaders, drivers, and other staff are expected to observe non-smoking areas.

PORTERAGE AND TIPPING

Standard portorage and tipping are included for hotel arrivals and departures within the program, restaurant service, and group bus transfers. Tipping for housekeeping service is at your own discretion. Tipping for arrival and departure to and from accommodation, portorage at the beginning and end of the program, bar service, or any other personal service is not included.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEMS

In Hawai`i, the dress is casual. The weather is pleasantly warm year-round, averaging in the mid- to upper-80's during the day and low to mid-70's at night. Gently blowing trade winds help keep the temperature comfortable. We suggest **LIGHTWEIGHT COTTON** or cotton/poly clothing. A light rain poncho (disposable types are sufficient) or umbrella is recommended for tropical showers, and a light jacket or sweater is recommended for the evenings. Sunscreen, a hat, and mosquito repellent are also important for outdoor activities. **We encourage you to pack lightly** and to consider bringing a luggage cart or luggage with wheels for ease of travel. Laundry facilities are available at the hotel in which you will be staying during the program.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST:

FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN

- Medications
- Sunscreen and insect repellent

- Personal items such as toiletries

- Sunglasses
- Cap, sun visor, or hat

- Daypack for field trips
- Umbrella and/or lightweight rain poncho
- Reusable water bottle for field trips
- Motion sickness medication, ginger candy, and/or wristbands
- Lightweight jacket and/or light sweater
- Swimsuit and beach towel
- Comfortable, sturdy athletic shoes appropriate for hiking (good tread and ankle support)
- Sandals or flip-flops/thongs
- Reef shoes for water activities

- Road Scholar passport (optional)
- Walking Stick (optional)
- Travel Alarm Clock (optional)
- Camera

FOR MEN

- Lightweight trousers for evening

- Walking shorts
- Shirts (Hawaiian or aloha, sport or golf shirts for evening, and T-shirts for day)

FOR WOMEN

- Lightweight cotton pants, shorts, and/or skirts
- Swimsuit Cover up
- Cotton blouses, casual tops or T-shirts
- 1-2 Dresses (loose-fitting cotton sundress-style) or Hawaiian mu`umu`u for evening

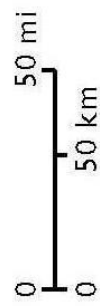
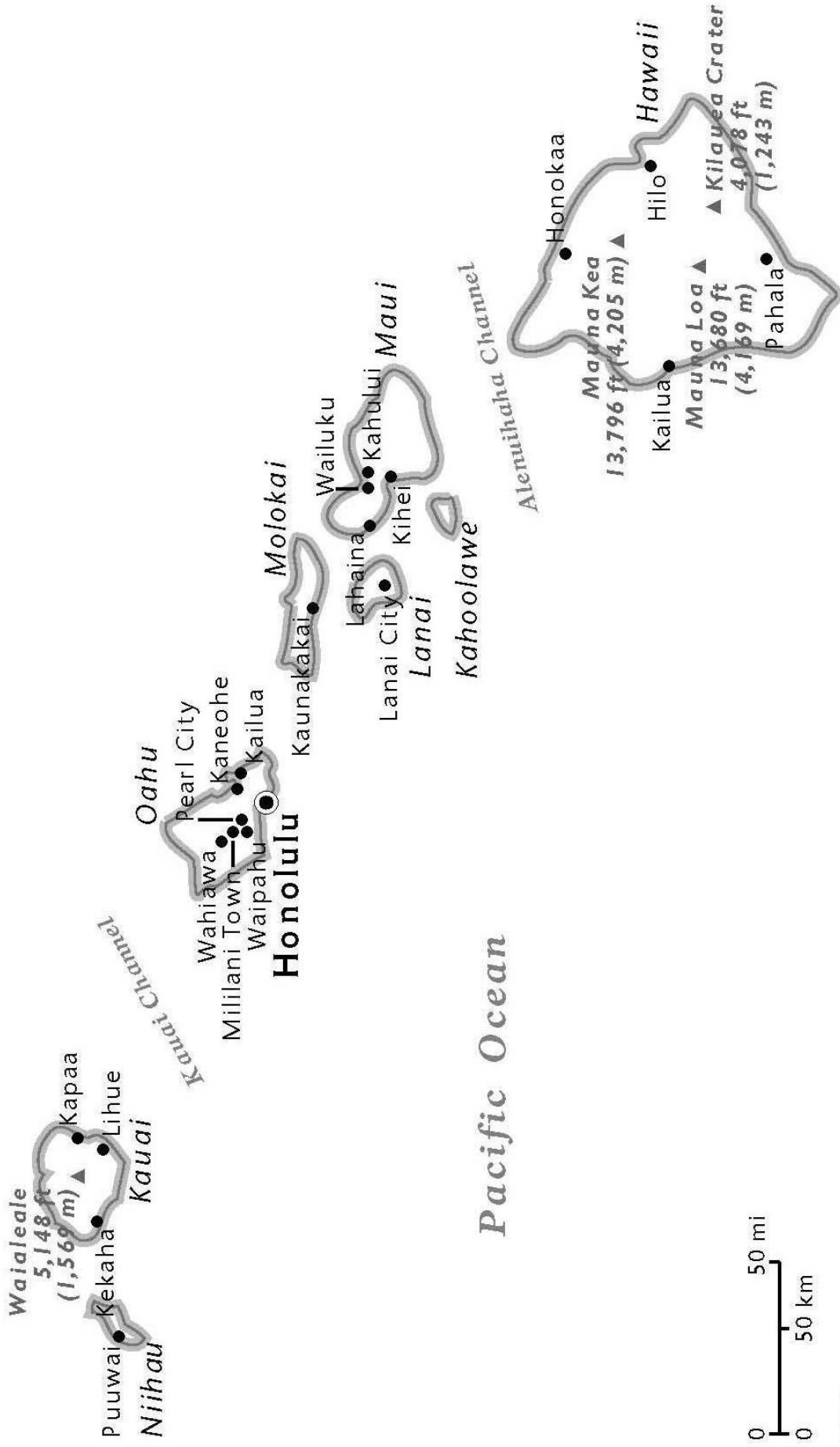
HAWAII CONTACT INFORMATION

During the program, you may be reached at the following:

Day 1 – 7 (Maui):

“Your Name”
PII Road Scholar Program
C/o Maui Beach Hotel
170 Ka`ahumanu Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732
Ph: (808) 877-0051 or (888) 649-3222
Fax: (808) 871-5797

Please do not call or write the hotel for Road Scholar program information. We are only in residence during the program sessions.



Hawaii

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

This schedule is intended to give you a general idea of how the program will flow. The order of the elements may vary from program to program. You will receive a sample schedule in your Final Packet and a complete daily schedule upon arrival at your program registration.

DAY 1		DAY 4 (cont'd)	
Afternoon	Registration	Afternoon	Picnic lunch aboard boat
Evening	Dinner Introductions	Evening	Dinner Class
DAY 2		DAY 5	
Morning	Breakfast Orientation Class	Morning	Breakfast Field trip to museum Free time in Lahaina
Afternoon	Lunch Whale Watch	Afternoon	Lunch on own Whale Watch
Evening	Dinner	Evening	Free evening, Dinner on own
DAY 3		DAY 6	
Morning	Breakfast Field trip to aquarium	Morning	Breakfast Tidepool Field Trip
Afternoon	Lunch Class Field trip to whale sanctuary	Afternoon	Picnic lunch Class
Evening	Dinner Class	Evening	Aloha Dinner
DAY 4		DAY 7	
Morning	Continental Breakfast on boat Snorkel/Whale-watch	Morning	Breakfast Hotel check-out & individual departures

PII ROAD SCHOLAR PROGRAMS

Pacific Islands Institute also offers other Road Scholar Programs in Hawai`i and the South Pacific. You may wish to consider one of these before or after your program or another time in the future.

In the Road Scholar U.S. & Canada catalog:

Service Learning: Maintaining "Mighty Mo" in Pearl Harbor (#2617): Walk the decks of the historic USS Missouri – the "Mighty MO" – and feel its storied history as the site of the Japanese World War II surrender, a veteran of four wars, and the last battleship to be active in any navy in the world. On this 6-night program, become a part of the Mighty Mo's history as you join the ship's "Teak Crew" of this magnificent vessel.

Hawai`i's National Parks (#2810): A 15-night program in which participants visit national parks, historic sites, wildlife refuges, and state parks on five islands.

Hawai`i's Humpback Whales and Marine Environment - Maui (#12140): This 6-night program on Maui, Hawai`i's most popular island has a focus on Maui's humpback whales (Dec-Apr).

Adventure programs are for those who enjoy a more physically active program. Courses include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, and surfing.

Hawaiian Water Adventure: An Intergenerational Marine Exploration (#4827): This 8-night active program will bring you and your grandchild to O`ahu for 5 nights and to Kona for 3 nights. Swim, surf, sail, and snorkel together and learn about Hawai`i's glorious undersea world and its bountiful ocean treasures.

Maui/Big Island Snorkeling (#18116): Explore Hawai`i's underwater world on this 9-night program with 5 nights on Maui followed by 4 nights in Kona

Paradise Adventure From Mountains to Sea - O`ahu/Maui/Kaua`i (#12294): An 11-night Adventure program with 3 - 4 nights on each island. Focus is on active exploration of Hawai`i's outdoor environment.

In the International Road Scholar catalog:

The Atacama Desert (Chile) & Easter Island: Different Worlds (#3892): Spend 20 days exploring Chile's natural beauty and Easter Island's awe-inspiring monoliths, the moai. This program focuses on the history & culture of the ancient peoples that inhabited these diverse lands.

Below and Above Blue Waters – Snorkeling and Exploring in Fiji (#17863): Learn about Fiji's spectacular coral reefs by snorkeling them and through classes provided by marine experts on this 12- night program. Savusavu is a wonderful easy place to snorkel with its clear warm waters, teeming fish and coral life.

NEW! Easter Island: The Majesty and Mystery of Rapa Nui (#16342): At the turn of the millennium, the island of Rapa Nui — later named Easter Island by a Dutch explorer — flourished with the communities of early Polynesians. Delve into their legacy and history on this 9-night program as you explore Easter Island and relish in an opportunity to study the monolithic moai that

still exist. Meet archaeologists and historians who study these ancient peoples as well as local residents who continue to call this sub-tropical island their home.

Documenting the Past: The Easter Island Archaeology Project (#16289): Join archaeologists and other researchers for a hands-on exploration of one of the world's most mysterious and fascinating places. Learn archaeological research techniques and contribute to a growing body of research to bring the mysteries of Rapa Nui into view.

Dive in and Discover: Snorkel Palau and Yap (#18535): Strung across the Western Pacific like a thousand green emeralds on a sea of blue are the islands of Micronesia, or "little islands." These islands are steeped in ancient traditions and fascinating legends, and also offer some of the best snorkeling in the world. Dive in and discover two of these sparkling gems — Palau and Yap on this 14-night program.

In the Adventures Afloat catalog:

Hawai`i on the Horizon: A Transpacific Voyage Into Island Culture and Nature (#16225): On this 16 day program, discover the treasures of this idyllic Hawai`i without the hassle of flying. Onboard lecturers lay the groundwork for your Hawaiian discoveries, as you voyage across the Pacific enjoying the amenities of a full-service ocean cruiser, Holland America's *MS Zaandam*. As you venture to Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park, the USS Arizona Memorial, Haleakala National Park and more, experts introduce the people and nature of Hawai`i and the fiery geology that sustains them.

Tropical Splendor: Exploring the Hawaiian Islands (#11513): Spend 3 nights on O`ahu followed by 7 nights on Norwegian Cruise Line's *Pride of America* visiting Maui, the Big Island (Hilo and Kona), Kaua`i, and studying Hawai`i's history, culture, natural environment, and people. Spend days in port and cruise at night.

Submarines, Volcanoes & Tropical Forests: Intergenerational Hawai`i (#12426): With 2 nights on O`ahu followed by 7 nights on Norwegian Cruise Lines' *Pride of America*, visit Maui, the Big Island (Hilo and Kona), and Kaua`i while studying Hawai`i's volcanoes, marine life, culture and traditions with your grandchild.

NEW! A Polynesian Adventure: The Society Islands, Tonga & Fiji (#20360): More than 1,000 years ago, brave navigators set out in ocean-going canoes to explore what lay beyond the horizon of the wide blue Pacific. Recreate their journey on this 17 night program in luxury aboard the *MS Paul Gauguin* as you venture to distinctive islands including the Society Islands, the remote Kingdom of Tonga and three Fijian isles.

NEW! Deep Into French Polynesia: Marquesas, Tuamotus & Society Islands (#20359): Journey through French Polynesia, beginning in Tahiti then sailing aboard the *MS Paul Gauguin* to the Tuamotus and an island so pristine it is considered a biosphere reserve. Explore the mist-covered Marquesas, discovering waterfalls, wild stallions, tiki sculptures and other delights. Plus embark on spectacular shore excursions in the Society Islands.

Following Captain Cook: The Cook Islands & Society Islands (#19387): On this 15- night South Pacific odyssey, spend 3 nights in Tahiti first and then set sail on the *MS Paul Gauguin* to discover the isle of Huahine, renowned for its spectacular rainforests, experience the unique majesty of the

Cook Islands, then return to the Society Islands of French Polynesia for days in alluring Bora Bora, Tahaa, Moorea and Tahiti.

Intergenerational South Pacific: The Future of the Oceans (#19388): On this intergenerational adventure starting with 3 nights in Tahiti and then cruising for 7 nights to the French Polynesian islands of Bora Bora, Tahaa, Raiatea, and Moorea, you and your grandchild — or even three generations if their parent(s) wish to enroll — will have a hands-on, interactive experience of French Polynesia’s marine and island ecosystems. Explore coral reefs, hike rainforest trails and much more. This voyage on the *MS Paul Gauguin* is specially designed to be an exciting and memorable learning experience for all ages.

Heart of French Polynesia: Tahiti & the Society Islands (#19384): Spend your first 3 nights in Tahiti exploring and learning about French Polynesian culture. Then soak in nature’s beauty as you sail for 7 nights on the *MS Paul Gauguin* from Tahiti to the French Polynesian islands of Raiatea and its reef-bound lagoon, its companion island Tahaa, beautiful Bora Bora and Moorea.

Voyage Through French Polynesia: The Islands of Tahiti, Marquesas, And Tuamotu (#14177): Spend 13 days on the *Aranui* freighter, and 4-5 days in Tahiti exploring the archaeology, history, cultures, and natural history of this fascinating part of Polynesia.

French Polynesia Below the Surface: The Society Islands & Tuamotus (#19386): On this 14-night program, experience life below the waves in the Tuamotus, a snorkeler’s paradise where the warm, crystal-clear waters are home to rays, dolphins, sharks and brilliantly colored reef fish. Learn about life onshore in French Polynesia including Tahiti and two lesser-known isles, Huahine and Raiatea as you sail on the *MS Paul Gauguin*.

NEW! Connected Cultures: New Orleans and the Caribbean (#20409): New Orleans has been described as a city whose identity is as much Caribbean as it is American. Experience this cultural connection in the pounding drums, exciting flavors and unique celebrations of the Crescent City. Then explore the Caribbean for yourself during a voyage on a Norwegian cruise ship to ancient ruins and modern communities of Mexico, Belize and Honduras.

NEW! The Great West: California to Canada by Sea and the Rocky Mountaineer (#20450): Experience the majesty of the west on a journey up the coast by sea and through the Canadian Rockies by rail. Encounter First Nations people and Vancouver’s thriving Chinese community. Then take an incredible journey on the Rocky Mountaineer, a luxury train that operates during the day so you enjoy every spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains, lakes, forests and wildlife through its large picture windows.

If any of these programs interest you, please contact Road Scholar at (877) 426-8056 or www.roadscholar.org for further information. PII Road Scholar can be reached at (808) 732-1999 or explorethepacific.com but other organizations in Hawai`i also offer Road Scholar Programs.

GENERAL ROAD SCHOLAR INFORMATION

INSURANCE

As explained in the “Welcome to Road Scholar” brochure that was included with your enrollment notice, your program cost includes the Road Scholar “Travel Assistance & Insurance Plan.” The primary purpose of this plan is to provide 24-hour assistance for medical and other emergencies. In addition, this plan provides insurance coverage in the event of accidental death or dismemberment. This plan also provides limited, supplemental, medical, and baggage insurance. Please read the Road Scholar brochure carefully to understand what is involved.

You should review your personal insurance policies and the scope of this insurance plan to determine whether, together, they provide adequate coverage for your individual needs. The Road Scholar “Travel Assistance & Insurance Plan” applies for the program dates published in the catalog or subsequent notices. Independent travel (before, during, or after the published program dates) is not covered.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Many people cooperate to make Road Scholar programs a success. Following are the roles and responsibilities of key organizations and individuals involved.

Program Coordinator: the organization(s) that develops and administers programs under Road Scholar guidelines. Your Program Coordinator is Pacific Islands Institute (PII). PII is responsible for the quality and performance of all program-related staff and for all program content and related activities.

Group Leader: the person who travels with, and oversees, the group throughout the program. The Group Leader accompanies the group during scheduled activities, assists with rooming, participant concerns, emergency situations, and provides assistance with logistics as needed to both participants and program staff. While well-informed, the group leader is not usually part of the program’s educational staff.

Educational Staff: lecturers are drawn from the local community on each island and are selected for their expertise on the subject area being studied, as well as for their communication skills. Lecturers have a wide range of backgrounds.

Road Scholar Participants: program participants also have certain responsibilities. We have endeavored to present sufficient information in the catalog and on Road Scholar’s website (www.roadscholar.org) for participants to make intelligent decisions as to which programs are suitable for your personal health condition and individual circumstances. These preparatory materials contain detailed information regarding academic and non-academic aspects of the program including health and safety considerations.

Since Road Scholar does not conduct screenings for fitness prior to enrollment, it is your responsibility as a participant to inquire about any aspects of the program that may be of doubt or concern and to consult your health care provider(s) as appropriate regarding your ability to deal with the demands involved. It is also your responsibility to prepare for the program by carefully reading the preparatory materials and following any recommendations.

ROAD SCHOLAR MISSION STATEMENT

Road Scholar is the new name for the programs developed and offered by Elderhostel, Inc., the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. Our mission is to empower adults to explore the world's places, peoples, cultures and ideas, and in so doing to discover more about themselves. A fellowship of learning and the joy of discovery are the hallmarks of the Road Scholar experience.

Road Scholar programs bring together instructors and participants from diverse backgrounds to foster dynamic interaction, engaging discourse and warm camaraderie. In a world that seems to shrink smaller by the day because of technology, we believe that true insight and understanding are still sparked by hands-on experience and open discussions that stimulate the senses, energize the body and challenge the mind. We are committed to continually developing new program destinations, topics and formats to reflect the shifting realities and emerging trends of our ever-changing world.

THE ROAD SCHOLAR SPIRIT

We believe learning is a lifelong process – that sharing new ideas, challenges, and experiences is rewarding in every season of life. Participants come together as an assortment of diverse individuals who share a passion for learning. This common bond creates a rich environment for intellectual and personal growth, a supportive group spirit, and opportunities for making new friends. Some important things to remember:

- Road Scholar is educational – hostellers are considered students, not tourists.
- Programs are not for credit but for the enjoyment of learning.
- There is no homework and no exams or grades.
- No special educational background is needed or required.

At the core of our programs are liberal arts courses designed to stimulate your thinking and increase your knowledge. In addition to background lectures and discussions, we also provide fascinating field trips, excursions, and enrichment activities for a balanced schedule of active learning and doing.

Our budgetary guidelines are to seek the best value at the best cost. Just as you will be sensitive towards other cultures and customs, we trust you will be adaptable with respect to meals and accommodations that may be quite different from what you are used to at home. Accepting and dealing positively with such differences will greatly enhance your appreciation of the experience.

You will also encounter a wonderful diversity of people in the group who may span several generations and get to know folks with distinctive histories, interests, and levels of physical ability. Wherever you fit into the mix, you will be respected as an “elder” in the best sense of the word – someone who has attained wisdom and a wealth of life experiences. For these reasons, we look forward to your full participation and the enrichment it will provide. Should you find that some activities are beyond your abilities, you have the option of relaxing on your own.

There will some free time to pursue individual interests, take care of personal business, sightseeing on your own, shopping, laundry, etc. Because you are a vitally important part of Road Scholar, we ask that you undertake any independent touring or visiting friends/relatives either before or after the program.

Successful participants are friendly, active, adaptable; able to function independently and as members of the group; know how to deal flexibly with unexpected circumstances and changing conditions; are able to pace themselves and be tolerant of others who move at a different pace; and have a sense of humor. Having an attitude of openness towards new people, places, and customs may be the most significant factor in enjoying the program. On behalf of our staff and esteemed associates, best wishes for an outstanding adventure in lifelong learning!

SUGGESTED READING LIST

(Please note: *Some of the books may be highly specialized and some libraries may not carry them. We recommend checking online sites like amazon.com to check if they are available for purchase.)*

Daws, Gavan. *Shoal of Time*. University of Hawai`i Press.

Daws, Gavan. *The Illustrated Atlas of Hawai`i*. Island Heritage.

Macdonald, G.A., and Will Kyselka. *Anatomy of an Island: A Geological History of Oahu*. B.P. Bishop Museum Special Publication #55.

Oliver, Anthony Michael. *Recent & Historical Facts & Events in the 50th State*. Mutual Publishing.

Pukui, Mary Kawena, et al. *Place Names of Hawai`i*. University of Hawai`i Press.

Pukui, Mary Kawena and Samuel H. Elbert. *New Pocket Hawaiian Dictionary*. University of Hawai`i Press

Hawai`i's Humpback Whales and Marine Environment

Balcomg, Kenneth C III and Stanley M. Minasian. *The Whales of Hawai`i*. Marine Mammal Fund.

Gulko, David. *Hawaiian Coral Reef Ecology*. Mutual Publishing.

Gulko, David and Eckert, Karen. *Sea Turtles: An Ecological Guide*. Mutual Publishing.

Hoover, John P. *Hawai`i's Fishes*. Mutual Publishing.

Hoover, John P. *Hawai`i's Sea Creatures: A guide to Hawai`i's Marine Invertebrates*. Mutual Publishing.

Kaufman, Gregory D. and Forestell, Paul H. *Hawai`i's Humpback Whales*. Island Heritage.

Scott, Susan. *Ocean Watchers*. Green Turtle Press.