



**GUIDED
NATURE
ADVENTURES**

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Commitment to Sustainable Tourism

As a locally-owned tour operator, Hawaii Forest & Trail (HF&T) understands that the preservation of Hawaii's treasured natural resources is in best interest of everyone. Hawaii Forest & Trail seeks to ensure that Hawaii's incredible natural heritage remains intact to be enjoyed by our children and by generations to come. And define sustainable tourism as *tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place – its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents*. Hawaii Forest & Trail's guided nature adventures are designed with these principles in mind and strive to preserve, maintain, and enhance our island home.

Hawaii Forest & Trail is recognized at the local, state and international levels as a leader in sustainable tourism. Active members of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce's *Kuleana Program*, HF&T was recognized as an organization with a solid commitment to maintaining a healthy *triple bottom line* (people, planet, profit). Hawaii Forest & Trail was named to ISLANDS Magazine's Blue List and recommended as the *best in sustainable travel*. Hawaii Forest & Trail understands that both residents and visitors benefit from sustainable tourism. As such HF&T volunteers time at the local and state levels to develop standards and best practices for such organizations as the Hawaii Ecotourism Association and the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

In addition to sharing the incredible natural and cultural heritage of Hawai'i with guests, tours:

- Minimally impact the local environment. Where possible, HF&T incorporates voluntourism into experiences to create opportunities for guests to give back.
- Minimize the use of resources and reduce waste generation.
- Preference is given to re-useable or recycled items and waste generated from tours is sorted to ensure local landfills are minimally impacted. Fulfill resource use guidelines. HF&T works closely with local resource managers and landowners to ensure that our tours are operated within established land-use parameters.

Additionally, Hawaii Forest & Trail donates to and partners with local organizations focused on such areas as native species preservation, ecosystem restoration, and youth in nature programs. Partner organizations include Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Bishop Museum, and KTA Superstore's Kokua I Na Kula Program.

About World Heritage sites

World Heritage sites are places around the world that have been internationally recognized for their outstanding value as natural and cultural treasures. Sites currently on the World Heritage list include Independence Hall, Stonehenge, the Galapagos Islands, the wildlife reserves of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Great Wall of China. There are currently 878 World Heritage sites (679 cultural, 174 and 25 mixed properties) in 145 countries. All sites are protected by the 1972 World Heritage Convention, signed to date by 185 countries and administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is Hawaii's first World Heritage site and was inscribed in 1987. whc.unesco.org