

# Hawaii Big Island Photo Workshop

February 19-25, 2023



## Highlight Photo Tours

Aloha! My name is René Bastien, founder of Highlight Photo Tours. The concept for Highlight Photo Tours evolved from two of my passions, photography and travel planning. The focus of the company has been to introduce photographers to the beauty of my country, Canada. Partnering with world-renowned photographers with established teaching skills, we offer inspirational travel photography experiences for beginner and advanced photographers alike.

The Hawaii Big Island photo workshop will be the first activity planned for 2023 (more details at <https://www.highlightphototours.com/>). It will also be the first workshop held outside of Canada! I did an extensive scouting trip to the Big Island in March 2022, which served as the basis to prepare the itinerary proposed here. We hope you will be able to join us.

Highlights of the Hawaii Big Island workshop include the Mauna Kea summit at sunset (pictured above), the Volcanoes National Park, a whale watching tour, and much more! Come and join us to discover the Big Island of Hawaii, the 50<sup>th</sup> American state with dramatic history, spectacular vistas, sculpted by the sea, the wind and Pele! Reed and I are looking forward to meeting you in Kona in February 2023.

## Our Mentor: Reed Hoffmann



The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two with jobs at newspapers in the Midwest, South and East. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a sixteen-year career teaching The Nikon School of

Photography, creating and teaching the classes and managing the other instructors. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend outings in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. These include workshops by Highlight Photo Tours, in Quebec City, the Canadian Rockies and Nova Scotia. Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/>.

## Proposed Itinerary

### Day 1, Saturday February 18

- Possibility to fly in one day early. Reed and I will!
- Participants fly in Kailua Kona airport (KOA).

### Day 2, Sunday February 19

- All participants should arrive and check in by 5 PM local at the latest.
- Transfer to our hotel (King Kamehameha hotel in Kona).
- Welcome meeting and Luau.

### Day 3, Monday February 20

- We will start late-ish today as it will be a long evening.
- Visit the Wawaloli Beach Park (lava pools).
- Greenwell Farms-Kona coffee with tour. <https://www.greenwellfarms.com/big-island-kona-coffee-tours/>
- Lunch in Kailua village. Walk around the village.
- Mauna Kea observatories visit and night shoot, from 2 to 10 PM. Snacks for dinner on the bus. Note: it will be New Moon, moonset at 18:10, sunset at 18:22. If weather cooperates, it is expected that the Milky Way will be visible.
- Back to our hotel.

#### Day 4, Tuesday February 21

- Late breakfast.
- Leave for Hilo
- There are a few vistas on the way: views of Mauna Kea, the ranch.
- Stop for lunch in Waimea.
- Waipi'o Valley Overlook <https://www.lovebigisland.com/waipio-valley/> This is one of the iconic valleys on the northeast side of the island. The viewpoint is from above.
- Akaka Falls State Park <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/parks/hawaii/akaka-falls-state-park/> . Beautiful waterfall in a tropical setting.
- Hawaii Tropical Bioreserve & Garden <https://htbg.com/plan-your-visit/#directions>. This is one of the most beautiful tropical gardens I have ever seen.
- Check-in at the SCP Hotel, dinner downtown Hilo.
- Optional photo review in the evening

#### Day 5, Wednesday February 22

- Sunrise shoot; Liliuokalani Gardens (just by the hotel, on foot) and shoot the architecture of the waterfront. Sunrise is at 6:44.
- Back for breakfast.
- Honolii Beach Park, surfing shoot. This sector is popular with surfers, with some of the best waves on the island.
- Akatsuka Orchid Gardens <https://akatsukaorchid.com/contact-us/>
- Kehena Black sand beach. The black sand beaches are formed as basalt is ground by the waves. It is very different.
- Pohoiki Beach, for surf shots and thermal ponds (in Isaac Hale Beach Park).
- Return to Hilo. 70 minutes.

#### Day 6, Thursday February 23

- We will spend the day in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Lunch at Volcano House. The plan is to do the 2 proposed drive, one which goes to the sea and one which circles the Kilauea crater (active at the time of preparing the itinerary).
- Return to Hilo.
- Optional photo review in the evening

#### Day 7, Friday February 24

- Leave for Kona.
- Stop at an artisan shop, 2400F, for a glass blowing demonstration.
- Stop at Punalu'u black sand beach, where we may see the famous green turtles.
- Lunch in Naalehu.
- Travel to the southern tip of the island. Visually very appealing. Pakini Nui Wind Farm and satellite dishes close by: <https://sscspace.com/ssc-worldwide/ground-station-network/south-point-satellite-station/>.
- Stop at Pu'uuhonua o Honaunau National Park. Interesting visually and culturally, short visit on the way. <https://www.nps.gov/puho/index.htm>
- Back to the hotel in Kona (King Kamehameha).

- Final dinner and farewell for those leaving.

## Day 8, Saturday February 25

For those leaving today:

- Hawaiian Adventures whale watching tour, 7 AM sailing. A few minutes away.  
<https://www.hawaiianadventureskona.com>
- Leave after 1 PM from KOA.

For those leaving tomorrow

- Optional activity, not included in the base fare: heli-tour of the Big Island. Leaves from the airport. Proposed tour <https://paradisecoasters.com/tours/island/kona-volcano-kohala-landing> Limited to 5 guests for window seats; we may share the flight with others. Leaves at 7AM
- Whale watching tour at 3 PM (Hawaiian Adventures).
- Dinner. Late night flights from KOA possible as well.

## Day 9, Sunday February 26

- Leave from KOA at your leisure.

## Things to Know

Expect the daily maximum to be around 80F, with the overnight around 65F. However, it will be bitterly cold when we go up Mauna Kea; the tour company we will be using will provide parkas. It will also be cooler and breezy when at sea for the whale watching cruise.

The Big Island is notorious for its multiple micro-climates. It will generally be dry in February, but showers should be expected late in the day around Hilo.

Power is 110 volts, 60 cycles, as throughout North America. Cell coverage is quite good.

Our first hotel will be the Courtyard By Marriott King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel; more information can be found here <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/koacy-courtyard-king-kamehamehas-kona-beach-hotel/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>.

Our second hotel will be the SCP Hilo Hotel; more information can be found here <https://scphotel.com/hilo/>.

Hawaii is in the Hawaii-Aleutian time zone, GMT-10.

## Contact Information

René's cell phone: 613-276-4763

Reed's cell phone: 913-568-8444

Email: [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com)

## Pricing

- All prices are in US\$. Please inquire if you would like to pay using a different currency.
- Price is US\$5,400, taxes included. Single occupancy: add US\$1,700.

- Payment through PayPal.
- Deposit of US\$1,000 required to reserve your seat.
- The deposit is fully refundable until 90 days before the start of the workshop.
- Full payment is required 90 days before departure; payment is non-refundable.
- Minimum of 6 attendees required for the trek to be confirmed.
- Maximum 12 attendees.

## Reservations

To reserve seats, please send an email to [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com). You will be invoiced through PayPal.

### Included

- Accommodations as listed above, double occupancy, from February 19 to 26.
- All guide and photo instructor services
- Photo reviews and critiques from your mentor
- All transportation with the group, from Day 3
- Park or other entrance fees
- Water and in-field snacks while in the vehicle

### Excluded

- Additional nights at our hotels (at cost).
- Flights to/from Kailua Kona (KOA).
- Transit to/from the hotel/ airport.
- Visas if required.
- All meals and beverages, including alcoholic beverages. Note that the Luau is included.
- Participants are expected to purchase travel insurance that will cover their costs if it becomes necessary to cancel after final payment, or to be repatriated for medical or other reasons. Once final payment is made, it is not possible for us to refund you as expenses have been made on your behalf.
- Additional/optional excursions not listed in the itinerary.
- Gratuities for the bus driver.

## Photos from the Scouting Trip

Please see the slide show here: <https://vimeo.com/710175036>

Mahalo! See you in Kona in a few months!

