

## The Best Way to Spend a Market Day (Wed-Sun) in Kailua-Kona



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This day trip will introduce you to historical and cultural sites as well as touristy places in Kailua Kona. This is a park-and-wander experience, so take your time and enjoy the day.

Note: It can get toasty in Kailua-Kona. Wear sunblock and carry a bottle of water.

### Restrooms Along the Way

You will find restrooms at most of the stops on this day trip.

### 1. Start the Day Trip Here

Park for free in the lot at Ali'i Sunset Plaza, which is located on the ocean side of Kuakini Road about 1/4 mile south of the intersection of Kuakini and Hualalai Road, and across the street from the Mazda dealer.

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### 2. Best Breakfast in Kona

Walk towards the ocean and look for Island Lava Java on the ocean side of the shopping center next to apartment building. Snag an outside table and start the day with a coffee and pastry or a full breakfast. There's a lot of traffic on Ali'i Drive, but ignore the noise and enjoy the view.



### 3. We're Walking...

Cross the street at the crosswalk and walk north on the ocean (makai) side of Ali'i Drive. Make a mental note Bubba Gump Shrimp Company on the left and the farmers market (the white tents in a parking lot across the street (#3 on your map). You will stop at both later in the day.

### 4. Hawaii's First Christian Church

Cross Ali'i Drive at the intersection with Hualalai Road and continue north on the mountain (mauka) side of the street. Pause to visit the Mokuaikaia Church, the first Christian Church built in Hawaii and the oldest in the state. Marvel at the koa wood interior and peruse the interesting exhibit in the vestibule that describes its history.

### 5. Danes in Hawaii?

Exit the church heading north and stop at nearby Scandinavian Shave Ice (yes, that's its real name!) for a cold refreshment before strolling north to the King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, which is next to the pier at the far end of Ali'i Drive.

### 6. A History Lesson

Go inside the hotel lobby to get a quick overview of Hawaiian history in air-conditioned comfort. Museum-quality exhibits in the lobby and the shopping arcade will quickly bring you up to speed with a thousand years of Hawaiian history and culture. (I marvel at the feather capes and ceremonial hats).

### 7. King Kamehameha's Home

While you are there, stroll out to the beach behind the hotel and take a look at the Ahu`ena Heiau, the restored former residence of King Kamehameha the Great. Consider that he could have lived anywhere in the Hawaiian islands, but chose this spot to end his days. That says a lot about Kona and The Big Island. This is your turn-around point.

### 8. Stop for lunch

We suggest you try The Fish Hopper (you passed it them on the way to the hotel) Wait for a streetside table with an unobstructed view of the ocean and pier. Sip a Mai Tai, have lunch, and watch coming and goings at the pier and the tourists getting splashed by waves that crest the seawall.

### 9. Where the 1% Lived

Exit the restaurant, cross the street (don't get wet), and continue south on Ali'i Drive. Stop to view the exhibits at the Hulihe`e Palace. The Palace was once a vacation retreat for Hawaiian Royalty and contains furnishings which are authentic to the period.

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Open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am. until 4:00 pm. (Plan on arriving by 2:30 p.m. to allow time to tour the Palace). Closed major holidays including New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Restrooms are in a small outbuilding on the south side of the property. Look for the executioner's stone near the restrooms.

### **10. The Kona Inn**

Continue south on Ali'i Drive and wander through the shops in the Kona Inn Shopping Village (stop at Cuz'n's ice cream shop for a cool refreshment, find a table on their ocean-view deck and watch the boats coming and going). Continue south in the Shopping Village and step down into the lobby of the Kona Inn Restaurant to ogle the stuffed remains of a record setting 1,103 pound giant blue marlin.

The Kona Inn was built in 1928 by the Inter-Island Steamship Navigation Company to serve as a hotel for their passengers. It was designed to fit in with the palm fringed Kona shoreline, and still sets the example of quaint island architecture.

### **11. Farmers Market and a Frozen Lemonade**

Exit the Shopping Village and cross the street at the intersection. Kona's Farmers and Crafts Market (#3 on the map) is open for business Wednesday - Sunday from 7a.m. Till 4p.m. and is worth a visit.

Cross the street yet again and stop at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company for snacks and a beverage or for a sunset oceanside dinner. We like their frozen lemonade along with the Shrimper's Net Catch (messy peel-and-eat shrimp) and Mama Blue's Southern Charmed Fried Shrimp plate.

The restaurant is absolutely oceanfront. Wait for a table on the oceanside deck as close to the railing as possible and watch the fish and surfers in the waves. If you are there close to sunset, stay for dinner and watch the sun sizzle into the Pacific. You may want to come back again. Bubba Gump now serves breakfast on Saturday and Sunday from 8AM - 10:30AM

Exit Bubba Gump and continue south on Ali'i Drive. Cross the street at the crosswalk; the parking lot is behind Island Lava Java.

### **Finis**

This ends our Day Trip to Kailua Kona. If you have comments or suggestions, please email us at [theorchidisle@aol.com](mailto:theorchidisle@aol.com).