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Why You'll Never Forget This Hawaiian Vacation



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Travel

I cover adventure, luxury and family travel.

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Travelers to Hawaii can volunteer in different capacities in order to have a more mindful impact ... [+]
HEATHER GOODMAN

Let's face it, people go to Hawaii for many different reasons: adventure, relaxation, romance, culture, family fun, cuisine and more. They leave with wonderful memories of their vacation, but now they can deepen their

connection to these beautiful islands through a new program called Malama Hawaii.

The word “malama” is Hawaiian for “taking care of” it’s used in terms of taking care of the earth, each other and ourselves. If the covid pandemic has taught us anything, it’s how precious and important it is for us to really connect and care for our fellow humans and our environment.

Now that people are traveling again, Malama Hawaii gives us a whole new perspective on how to travel.

What is Malama Hawaii?



The word "malama" means "to care for" in Hawaiian and that's exactly that travelers are doing when ...
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Hotels and volunteer organizations based in Hawaii have worked together to create a partnership where travelers can give back to the destination while they are on their vacation. Volunteer projects range from reforestation and tree planting to self-directed beach cleanups, ocean reef preservation, and even creating Hawaiian quilts for the kupuna (elders).

The idea behind Malama Hawaii is that travelers will have a more mindful experience that creates a positive impact not only on the destination, but also the traveler. A vacation becomes much more impactful and a deeper connection is created when travelers give back during their stay.

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So, here's how it works. Hotels partner with a local non-profit or include a volunteer opportunity on property. The hotel then offers travelers a bonus: if they partake in the malama activity they will receive a discount or a free night's stay. Each hotel has its own program so check [Malama Hawaii](#) to see the available options.

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What's really nice is that it's a win-win for everyone: travelers make a positive contribution by volunteering; hotels reward the travelers with either a discount or free night stay; both visitors and hotel partners form a deeper

connection with the culture, land and people of Hawaii. Travelers leave Hawaii with a better understanding of what it means to give back and why it's so important.

AD



Here are a few examples of hotels participating in the Malama Hawaii program.





Whether you're traveling solo, with friends, or with your family, there are plenty of opportunities ... [+] HEATHER GOODMAN

The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua

This beautiful hotel offers plenty for travelers: golf, spa, amazing cuisine and now it also offers a way to give back through the Malama Hawaii program. The [Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua](#) hopes people will reconnect, rediscover and rethink how they travel by slowing down and getting involved on another level. The property offers guests a complimentary fifth night when they book the Malama package and participate in a voluntourism experience to help regenerate the natural beauty and culture of Hawaii.

Grand Wailea, a Waldorf Astoria Resort

This luxury resort welcomes couples and families to find a deeper connection to both the Hawaiian people and the land through [Grand Wailea's Malama Hawaii](#) program. Guests who book the Malama Hawaii Package will have the opportunity to work alongside the coastal preservation team at Hawaii Land Trust, a 501 non-profit and nationally accredited land trust that is dedicated to protecting fragile lands. In return, Grand Wailea will say mahalo (thank you) by offering a sixth night free.

Ko'a Kea Hotel & Resort

This tranquil oceanfront property also welcomes guests to give back to the island and encourages visitors to leave Hawaii better than when they arrived through its [Ko'a Kea Malama](#) package which includes a fourth night free when guests volunteer to do a beach clean-up activity. Also, the resort will give a \$10 donation to the Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit environmental organization that works to protect and preserve the world's oceans.

Timbers Kauai

Timbers Kauai a 450-acre resort featuring golf, an organic farm, a spa, and a variety of beach activities has partnered with Sustainable Coastlines for volunteerism. Additionally, guests are welcome to volunteer at the Farm at Hokuala (planting, weeding and harvesting) to help on-site community programs. The resident farmer teaches guests hands-on techniques to plant, tend to and harvest crops, as well as the history and heritage of Hawaii's Canoe Crops and the importance of carrying on the island state's agricultural tradition.

Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii

Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii, a luxury Hawaii Island resort located on the Kohala Coast is also participating in the Malama Hawaii program. Book three consecutive nights and the fourth night is free, plus you'll get complimentary breakfast for two when you volunteer with one of the property's partners including **Waikoloa Dry Forest Reserve**, **Hawai'i Wildlife Fund**, and **Hawaiian Legacy Reforestation Initiative**. You can also participate in a beach cleanup on your own.

Giving Back





There are a lot of volunteer opportunities including planting trees. HEATHER GOODMAN

No matter which hotel or organization you participate in, the feeling really is the same. It's giving back and providing a deeper travel experience. The old adage used to be leave no trace behind, but now it's more about leaving a positive impact, whether it's planting seeds in a dry forest, cleaning up a beach, or working on a farm. Hawaii is known for its aloha spirit and it has always been a welcoming and hospitable place for travelers. Now travelers can do their part to get to know these islands on a deeper level and the impact for both Hawaii and the traveler is sure to be profound.

Check out my [website](#).



Judy Koutsky

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