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Private Hilo Shore Excursion Waterfalls and Botanical Garden

5 hrs 30 min · Private · from Hilo

Check availability & book online »



At a glance

Start	6:00 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM
Duration	5 hrs 30 min
Pickup	Pickup is included from the listed pickup points — choose yours when you book. Pickup is up to 45 minutes before the start time; we confirm your exact pickup time before the tour.
Cancellation	Free cancellation up to 24 hours before the tour starts.

Itinerary

>

Start

Hilo
Starts at 6:00 AM, 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM · pickup up to 45 min earlier

1

Rainbow Falls

Feast your eyes on the breathtaking beauty of Rainbow Falls (Wai?nuenue), an iconic 80-foot natural waterfall that plunges over an ancient lava cave into a sparkling turquoise pool below. According to Hawaiian legend, the cave beneath the waterfall was the sacred home of Hina, mother of the demigod Maui. Surrounded by lush tropical rainforest, this spectacular site gets its name from the vibrant rainbows that dance across the mist on sunny mornings.
A short paved pathway offers effortless access to the viewing platform, making it easy to capture perfect postcard-worthy photos of one of the Big Island's most beloved natural wonders. For those who want to explore further, a staircase leads to the top of the falls where a hidden pathway through lush vegetation reveals a grove of magnificent ancient banyan trees.

2

Pepeekeo Scenic Drive

Experience the breathtaking old-world charm of the Pepeekeo Scenic Drive. This legendary 4-mile stretch of the Old Mamalahoa Highway winds from one scenic spot to another through a dense, canopy-covered tropical rainforest, far removed from the busy main highway. As you navigate the gentle curves and cross charming old bridges, look out at towering banyan trees, lush giant ferns, and vibrant tropical flowers. Along the way, stunning glimpses of beautiful Onomea Bay and rugged volcanic coastline give you a front-row seat to the untouched wild beauty of the Big Island's coast. Halfway through the drive, the world-famous Hawaii Tropical Bioreserve and Gardens — home to over 2,000 species of rare and exotic plants — awaits as a breathtaking bonus stop.

3

Hawai‘i Tropical Botanical Garden

Step into a living paradise at the Hawai'i Tropical Botanical Garden, a stunning nature preserve nestled in the scenic Onomea Valley, just 8 miles north of Hilo along the Big Island's beautiful Hamakua Coast. This lush 40-acre sanctuary is home to over 2,000 species of rare and exotic tropical plants, representing more than 125 families and 750 genera from around the globe — including nearly 200 species of towering palms, vibrant orchids, and dramatic heliconias. Walk down a 500-foot landscaped boardwalk into the lower garden trails, where tranquil streams, hidden waterfalls, and breathtaking coastal views await. Follow the trail to the stunning three-tiered Onomea Falls before the path opens up to spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean where the rainforest dramatically meets the sea. It is an unforgettable and deeply peaceful look at the true botanical magic of the Big Island.

4

Honomu

Take a delightful step back in time as you explore Historic Honomu Town, a charming plantation-era village nestled along the beautiful Hamakua Coast. With its history dating back to 1876, this quaint town was once a thriving sugar cane plantation hub with its own theaters, shops, and bustling community life. Today, its beautifully preserved early 20th-century wooden storefronts and plantation-style architecture tell the story of old Hawaii. Stroll down the main street to browse eclectic art galleries, hunt for unique handmade souvenirs, and stop at local shops selling plantation-era antiques and locally crafted gifts. Don't miss Mr. Ed's Bakery — a beloved local institution famous for its giant cinnamon rolls, sticky monkey bread, and over 150 varieties of tropical jams and jellies. It's the perfect slice of authentic small-town Hawaii charm before continuing your adventure.

5

Liliuokalani gardens

Immerse yourself in the serene beauty of Lili?uokalani Gardens, the largest authentic Edo-style Japanese garden outside of Japan, spanning 24 acres along Banyan Drive in Hilo. Dedicated in 1917 as a tribute to Hawai?i's first Japanese immigrants who worked the Big Island's sugar cane fields, this stunning oceanfront park was made possible by Queen Lili?uokalani — Hawaii's last reigning monarch. Stroll along winding footpaths to discover koi ponds, stone pagodas, lanterns donated by 14 Japanese prefectures, and a traditional teahouse.
A charming footbridge leads to Coconut Island — Moku Ola, or "Island of Life." Once home to an ancient Hawaiian healing temple, today it offers a peaceful retreat in Hilo Bay with panoramic views of the historic waterfront and lush green mountains.

6

Hilo

After a beautiful day exploring the best waterfalls, tropical gardens, and scenic coastlines of the Big Island, we will begin our relaxed drive back to Hilo. Relax and enjoy the passing landscapes as your guide drops you off directly at your original pickup location.

o

Drop-off

Back in Hilo
About 5 hrs 30 min in total

For reference only – the order and timings can change on the day. Your confirmed details come with your booking.

What’s included

+ Pickup/Drop off
+ Expert Guide
+ Bottled water
+ Air-conditioned vehicle
+ Private transportation

Not included

- Tips & Gratuities
- Foods & drinks

Know before you go

- Stroller / pram accessible
- Public transportation is nearby
- Infant seats available

Custom pickup & drop-off

We can arrange a custom pickup and drop-off location. Pickup and drop-off at most downtown hotels and the cruise terminal are free. Pickup or drop-off at the airport, or outside the city limits, costs extra – contact us to arrange airport pickup and drop-off.

Contact us for airport pickup »

Rated 4.6 out of 5 by 801 travelers **Read reviews ›**

Ready to book?

Pick your date online: barbiltours.com/tour/hilo-shore-excursion-waterfalls-botanical-private-tour/

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