



**USA: HAWAII – ABA AND ENDEMIC BIRDING IN THE  
PACIFIC**

**TOUR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**



*Akiapolaau has an amazing, specialized beak.*

## PASSPORT AND VISA

For US citizens, no visas or passports are required. You will need to bring along a government issued ID as they are sometimes required for hotels.

Non-United States citizens will require a valid passport to enter the country, and some may require a tourist visa. Please consult with your local US Embassy for more details and information. You may need to show your ID/passport at various hotels and for the boat departures on this tour.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly encourage you to purchase trip cancellation or interruption insurance in case you have to cancel due to illness or for any other reason, as tour payments are non-refundable as per our terms and conditions. **We advise you to get a plan which covers all your medical care and evacuation back to your country of residence, repatriation, and trip cancellation due to illness just prior, or for any other reason.**

## HEALTH

Hawaii does not pose any major health risks. Its warm and humid climate as well as sometimes muddy terrain are the largest issues. Water will be available throughout the tour and please feel free to bring your own reusable bottle to refill throughout the tour. A good pair of hiking shoes/boots will help with the trails. We also recommend bringing along a walking stick/hiking poles if needed.

## MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Please make sure that you are covered by medical insurance in case of an emergency while on this trip. Without insurance the cost of medical care can be extremely high. Please notify us at the time of registering for this tour of any medical conditions you think we should know about (including allergies, heart conditions, epilepsy, etc.). This will greatly help us to cater to your needs and update emergency services if required.

## WEATHER/CLIMATE

Daytime temperatures are generally warm 70–80 °F (21–27 °C), however temps will cool off considerably as we climb to higher altitudes on some days. Layers and jackets are a must to help with the wide range of conditions and wind. It is likely to rain at least once while on tour and we will be boarding a pelagic with cool wind blowing off the water. Waterproof and rain gear are essential to ensure comfort while on the tour.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

We will be staying at comfortable hotels and resorts, as is the way on Hawaii.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Our hotels should have decent access to Wi-Fi throughout the trip and phone service is typically reasonable near these areas and in the larger more populated cities. There are times throughout the trip where we will be out in the wilderness (on certain islands) so do expect to lose coverage in some places.

## PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PACE OF TOUR

Our tour of Hawaii covers three islands in only ten days however, the pace is more comfortable and relaxed overall with plenty of time to search for all target species. There are two flights involved as we island hop, so we will be dealing with airports which are typically a non-issue. Early morning starts are consistent with other birding tours, typically around 6 am. There are no evening/night birding events scheduled on this tour.

Most of the walking is along either roadsides or well-kept trails, completed at a relaxed pace. Terrain on a few trails can be rocky and muddy depending on the weather conditions so walking sticks/hiking poles are recommended, if needed. The majority of the hiking/walking is two miles/three kilometers or less but does involve some altitude and steeper climbs on certain days as we bird in the mountainous regions searching for endemic species. There will always be options to sit out certain hikes or mornings depending on how you might be feeling and your own personal capabilities.

## WHAT TO BRING

**Please kindly read the general list of what to bring on a birding tour, [here](#).**

Layers and rain gear are always a good idea when preparing for a wide variety of weather conditions, and we consider them essential on this tour. We also do recommend bringing Dramamine or other motion sickness medications, if you need them, as there are a few longer drives in the vehicle and a pelagic trip. Also, please bring along a face mask (or a few) to ensure we are able to follow local guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic as they will be required in certain areas.

**Do not forget** – Binoculars, prescription drugs (also bring the generic names for these drugs), toiletries, prescription glasses (and a spare pair), sunglasses, camera, batteries (for electronic equipment and chargers for re-chargeable batteries, if required), alarm clock, money pouch, field guide(s), daypack.

**Key documents and cash** – Passports, your travel or health insurance cards, photocopies of which can be carried by the tour leader in case of emergency, Covid-19 vaccine card, photos/screenshots of vaccine card, credit cards (see info above). US dollars for drinks, gifts, tips, items of a personal nature, etc., which are not included in the tour cost.

**LUGGAGE**

There should be enough space for each participant to bring one medium-sized suitcase as well as a personal bag to keep at their seat with them. Please do be mindful with large cameras or tripods if you choose to bring these along.