



Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau

A Views of the National Parks virtual experience



The National Park Service (NPS) is charged “... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein... as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (NPS Organic Act of 1916). Preservation and protection of historic cultural sites such as the landscapes and archaeological treasures at Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park (NHP) will provide for visitors a gateway into traditional Hawaiian ways of life.

The Natural Resource Program Center (NRPC) has teamed up with the University of Denver, NPS Pacific Islands Support Office, and the staff at Pu'uhonua o Honaunau NHP to give users of this program opportunities to experience the beautiful scenery of the park, and also learn about the natural and cultural resources that shape the story of ancient Hawaii.

This virtual experience was designed by NRPC to incorporate the major themes of interpretation at the park. There is an

overview of the park's history and resources, brief sections on natural and cultural resources, and three separate virtual trails with interpretive stops through the park.

Features

The virtual experience of Pu'uhonua o Honaunau NHP was designed to complement the interpretive program at the park, both to enhance the experience of visitors at the park, and to provide an educational tool for classrooms.

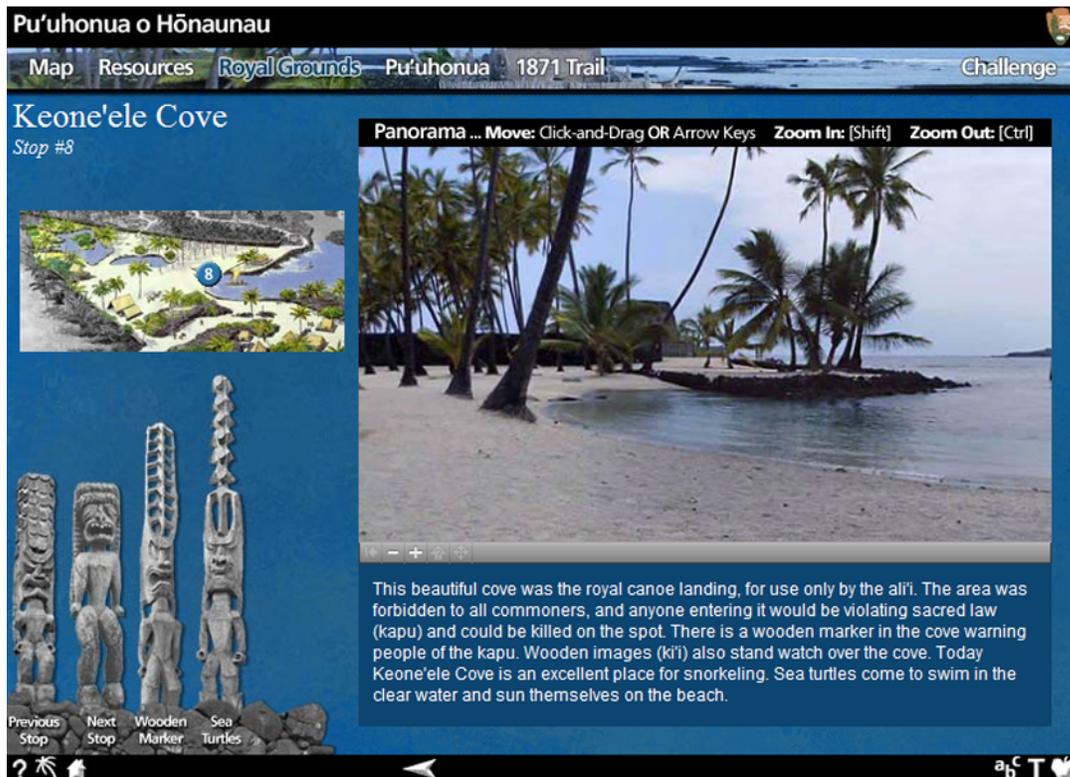
- **About the park**
A brief section about the history of the park - establishment, acreage, primary resources, and attractions
- **Tour the royal grounds**
Users navigate through this tour via an interactive map. In this section, information on the lives of the ruling chiefs, the ali'i, of Honaunau is presented.
- **Explore the Pu'uhonua**
Interactive guided tour of the place of refuge. Also develops the concepts of the Hawaiian sacred law, or kapu, system and the practice of offering asylum.

Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park, located on the island of Hawaii 22 miles south of Kailua Kona, is a meeting place of the cultural history of the original inhabitants of Hawaii with the natural resources of the island. (NPS Photo by Erika Matteo)

The place of refuge (pu'uhonua) at Honaunau was the most continuously active, perhaps the largest, and certainly one of the most important pu'uhonuas in the Hawaiian Islands.

— Pu'uhonua o Honaunau NHP
Master Plan, 1977

Explore the royal grounds of the chiefs or the place of refuge to learn about the history and cultures of the Hawaiian people.



This is the place of refuge - no blood could be shed inside the pu'uhonua, and within its walls, the guilty could be given a second chance.

— Pu'uhonua o Honaunau virtual experience

- **The 1871 trail to Ki'ilae village**
This section provides access to an aspect of the park that is frequently missed by visitors due to time constraints and limitations of physical ability. The 1871 Trail is part of an historic trade route. Along the way, travelers can learn about geologic and archaeological features.
- **Natural resources**
The natural landscape and available resources influences the culture that develops in an area. Learn how the Hawaiian resources affect life on the island, and also some current environmental issues faced at the park.
- **Cultural resources**
The park is rich in cultural resources, enabling visitors to learn about the past of Honaunau and the lives of the people that thrived there.

Uses

This virtual experience is designed to be versatile and compatible with interpretive programs at the park or classroom curricula. The program may be run from a CD or over the Internet. Having the virtual experience available in the park visitor center will help to give visitors a larger, more informed sense of the park. It can also expose visitors to areas of the park, such as the 1871 Trail or the interior of the Pu'uhonua, that many may not be able to reach. Teachers can use the virtual experience in their classrooms to bring to life Hawaiian history and ancient Hawaiian

cultural practices such as government, the kapu law system, and the concept of refuge or pu'uhonua. The virtual experience will also be available online to allow students and the general public access for use in research or recreation.

Partners

The support, cooperation and collaboration of many people has made the development of this virtual experience possible. Many thanks to

- Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park resource managers, interpreters, and volunteers
- NPS Pacific Islands Support Office
- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
- University of Denver

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Visit Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park online:
www.nps.gov/puho