

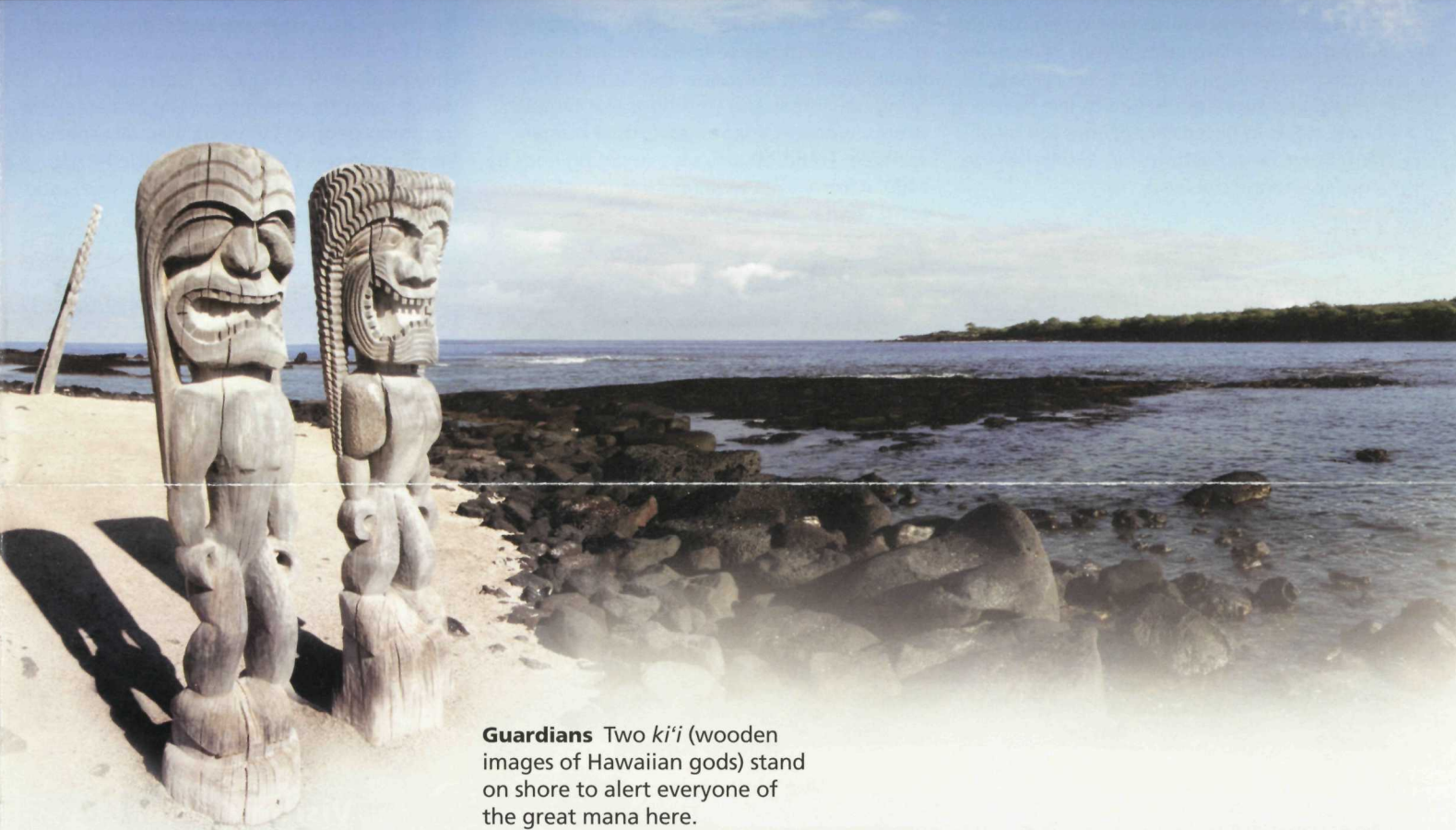


SPIRIT, POWER, AND SAFETY In the time of ancient Hawai'i, this place possessed extraordinary *mana* (spiritual power). It came in part from 23 *ali'i* (chiefs) whose bones were protected in Hale o Keawe, the *heiau* (temple) shown above. The Royal Grounds were a center of power, open only to *ali'i* and those serving them. Beyond the Great Wall, the Pu'uhonua served as a place of refuge for those who broke *kapu*, the sacred laws and beliefs by which all lived. These *wahi pana* (legendary places) and ancient Hawaiian culture endure here as Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park.

ROYAL GROUNDS

The sound of a *pū* (conch) announces the approach of *ali'i*. Skilled paddlers maneuver *wa'a* (canoes) around the lava rocks to land at Keone'ele Cove. *Ali'i* step onto the Royal Grounds with their advisors and priests. For the next several months, they will hold ceremonies and host gatherings. They might engage in negotiating war or peace, meeting in the shade of a *hālau* (thatched shelter). They participate in amusements like *kōnane* (a board game) or the sport

he'e hōlua (sled riding). Attendants and servants perform daily tasks, hurrying between *hale* (houses), serving the *ali'i* or perhaps preparing fish taken from the royal fishponds. Priests consult with the *ali'i* on matters of spirituality, and conduct rituals here, at Hale o Keawe, and in the Pu'uhonua.



Guardians Two *ki'i* (wooden images of Hawaiian gods) stand on shore to alert everyone of the great *mana* here.

PU'UHONUA Place of Refuge

In the time of *kapu*, a woman eats with a man. A *maka'āinana* (commoner) casts his shadow on an *ali'i*. Someone catches a fish out of season. Break these or any other *kapu*, and you face the ultimate punishment of death. Your only chance of survival is to elude your pursuers on foot, make your way to the coast, and swim to the Pu'uhonua. If you make it—and many do not—you may be absolved by a priest.

During times of war, the Pu'uhonua served another role—as sanctuary for children, elders, and other noncombatants. Defeated warriors could also seek safety in the refuge. When the battle ended they were free to return home and resume their lives regardless of the battle's outcome.

The Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau, like all pu'uhonua in the islands, served Hawaiians for hundreds of years until *kapu* ended in 1819. It remains a sacred place of peace, calm, and refuge to Hawaiians, open to all who find their way here.



Could someone swim to safety? Coming by ocean might seem easy—but the distance is great, the currents strong, the waves powerful, the lava sharp.

2 Explore Two Sides of Hawaiian Life

Follow numbered posts on a half-mile self-guiding tour through the Royal Grounds and the Pu'uhonua. Check the regulations and safety tips on the other side of this brochure before you begin. Please be respectful of this sacred site.

Red = stops in the Royal Grounds
Yellow = stops in the Pu'uhonua

1 Royal Grounds Here, in ancient times, you would have seen workers pound *kalo* (taro), take fish from the ponds, or prepare the grounds for *ali'i*. On the far side of the Royal Grounds is the Great Wall (stop 7), the boundary of the Pu'uhonua.

Follow the sandy path to the right.

2 Temple Model This structure is a small reconstruction of Hale o Keawe, the *heiau* at stop 8. This model shows details of the *heiau*. Its frame is *ōhi'a* wood, the roof is thatched with *ki* leaves, and the trim is of *ama'u* (fern).

3 Kōnane This Hawaiian strategy game is played with black and white pebbles on a *papamū* (stone playing surface). *Papamū* can be any size and are carved into a lava surface. If you would like to play *kōnane*, ask for rules at the visitor center.

4 Kānoa These bowls, carved into rock, may have been used for drying *kapa* (bark cloth), tanning fishing nets, or pounding 'awa root to make a ceremonial drink.

5 Tree Mold When hot lava surrounds a living tree, moisture in the tree causes the lava to harden before it burns. Sometimes this leaves tree molds like you see here. Many molds in the park are of *loulou* palms. *Loulou* were once abundant, but now are endangered.

6 Keone'ele This protected cove was *kapu*; only *ali'i* could land canoes here. At times, *honu* (sea turtles) rest on the shore. Please watch them from a distance; they are protected by law.

7 The Great Wall Up to 12 feet tall, 18 feet wide, and over 950 feet long, this wall defines the sacred space of the Pu'uhonua. The wall was constructed over 400 years ago using *uhau humu pohaku* (dry-set masonry)—stones fitted without mortar.

8 Hale o Keawe This *heiau* was a royal mausoleum housing bones of 23 *ali'i*, including Keawe-ī-kekahi-*ali'i*-o-ka-moku, Kamehameha's great-grandfather. These bones give the *heiau* immense *mana*. Hawaiians still revere this place and sometimes leave *ho'okupu* (offerings) on the *lele* (tower). The wooden images are *ki'i* representing Hawaiian gods.

9 Pu'uhonua Imagine scrambling out of the waves onto the rough lava. Although exhausted and out of breath, now you are safe. In a few days you will be absolved by a priest and can go home.

10 Keōua Stone According to local tradition, this was a favorite resting place of Keōua, a high chief. Holes in the lava surrounding the base may have supported a coconut leaf canopy.

Walk back to the sandy path to continue the walking tour.

11 'Āle'ale'a This may have been a principal *heiau* long before Hale o Keawe (stop 8). The platform was built in seven stages. After Hale o Keawe replaced this *heiau*, oral tradition describes *ali'i* relaxing and watching hula on the platform.

12 Ka'ahumanu Stone Legend holds that Queen Ka'ahumanu, a favorite wife of Kamehameha, swam to the Pu'uhonua after they quarreled. She hid under this stone, but her barking dog revealed her location. Fortunately, she and her husband reconciled.

13 Papamū Small *poho* (depressions) were carved into flat lava rock to create this surface for playing *kōnane* (stop 3). The skills mastered in this game could be used in battle or other pursuits.

14 Old Heiau Site Long ago, another *heiau* was built here. It may have been the first *heiau* for the refuge. Ravaged for centuries by ocean waves, only remnants remain. They are among the oldest structures in the park.

The path now leads back toward the Royal Grounds. Just before the Great Wall, you pass a pond on the right. It is an *anchialine* (an-kee-uh-line) pool, fed by a freshwater spring and the ocean. The tour continues through a modern opening in the wall.

15 Royal Fish Ponds These anchialine pools held fish to be eaten by the *ali'i*.

The next stop is the large thatched shelter.

16 Hālau In ancient times, this structure would have been made of *ōhi'a* wood tied with cord and thatched with *pili* grass. Today it serves as a *hālau wa'a*, or canoe house. Artisans work in the smaller *hālau*.



KĪPAIPAI 'IA I KA 'OIA'I'O
Become Inspired by the Authentic

Today the Hale o Keawe, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau, Royal Grounds, and surrounding lands remain a center of traditional Hawaiian life. This long tradition has been perpetuated by the National Park Service since 1961. At the park's cultural festival, held every summer, you can become immersed in Hawaiian culture.

Chants and drumbeats lead dancers in hula.



Hawaiians maintain traditions like making *kapa* (below left), carving wood (below), and preparing to gather fish (right).



Only *ali'i* wore helmets and capes embellished with feathers.

