

Hawai`i Volcanoes Institute 2009

## *Holoholo Hualālai with Forest & Trail guides*

February 7, Saturday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM



Expect a rocky scramble in Hawai`i Forest & Trail's rugged, fast, and fun Pinzgauer vehicles – up the cool misty lavascape slopes of Hualālai to its seldom visited summit. Our off-road journey with F&T experienced driver/guides will take us to one of Hawai`i's most fascinating volcanic areas. We will travel to magnificent coastal viewpoints and stunning lava formations, stopping to explore the mountain on foot. We will walk through a forest of native birdsong and investigate a lava tube. This special all-day tour has been designed especially for the **Hawai`i Volcanoes Institute** and goes beyond the regular Hualālai route, which does not generally include the spectacular summit areas. This very special excursion is hosted by Hawai`i's award-winning ecotourism company, Hawai`i Forest & Trail.

### *Your Leaders:*

Forest & Trail guides are among the best-trained and most experienced in the ecotourism business. Each has a broad general knowledge of the areas we will visit, as well as their own particular fields of expertise. They are eager to offer their knowledge and engage those who travel to these special island sites.

### *Seminar agenda:*

The trip begins at the Forest & Trail headquarters in Kona. We will **check in at 8:30 AM** for a 9 AM departure. The trip up the flanks of Hualālai includes several stops as the terrain changes with elevation. A morning snack is provided enroute to the summit. Lunch is provided when we reach the top and there is time to explore the varied terrain and enjoy the views at that 8,000 ft elevation. The return route includes explorations of additional volcanic features in that rugged terrain. Expect to **return by 3:30**.

*Who should attend?:* Those with an interest in geology and the varied ecosystems of Hualālai's slopes will find this mountain journey fascinating. Children should be 10 years or older, accompanied and supervised by an adult.

***Level of physical difficulty:***

Riding in these open-air vehicles (top covered, sides open) requires passengers to hang on tightly to support rails over the many rough patches. *This jostling is not recommended for anyone with back or neck problems.* This tour **moderately challenging** and includes a 2-3 mile walk over uneven terrain and short climbs. The summit elevation is about 8,000 feet. This is a full day of adventure in rough and fascinating terrain.

***What to bring?:***

Kona is generally warm, but it gets much cooler as we gain elevation. We are likely to encounter rainy patches. Bring layers, including a wind/rain shell. Bring sunscreen, hat, camera, and (optional) binoculars and snacks. Wear close-toed walking shoes or boots.

***What is provided?:***

Our Forest & Trail host will provide snacks of fresh baked goods and fruit, as well as water, juice and soft drinks. Your box lunch includes a deli sandwich (choice of turkey, tuna, ham, roast beef or veggie), chips and cookies. Raingear and walking sticks are available, as needed.

***Transportation:***

Participants provide their own transportation to Forest & Trail headquarters in Kona where there is a parking area for your car. A map is found on their website: <http://www.hawaii-forest.com>. From this point, eco-friendly Pinzgauer vehicles carry us upslope - 12 passengers per vehicle on bench seats - take us to places we would not bring our own vehicles! The ride is sometimes bumpy and rough. This is **not for people with back or neck problems**.

***Tuition:*** Friends' members - \$100 Non-members - \$125

(Note that F & T generally charges \$165 for their Hualālai trip, which is less extensive and does not go to the summit. This is a very special opportunity and price.)

***Timeline for payment/cancellation:***

Because vehicles must be reserved, reservations and payments are due two weeks before the trip, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The refund deadline is also January 24.

***To register:***

Call the Friends' office at (808) 985-7373. The office is staffed part-time, so leave a message and your call will be returned. Or e-mail your enrollment information to [ainahou2@aol.com](mailto:ainahou2@aol.com).

