



Located on the windward slopes of Haleakalā, Waikamoi Preserve is a high-elevation rainforest and alpine shrubland that is sanctuary for hundreds of native plants and 10 native forest birds, four of which are endangered. The native 'Ōhi'a Lehua tree (our state tree) makes up for over 80% of the rainforest and is considered the most precious tree culturally. Our guided hikes into Waikamoi Preserve are very popular. These hikes are designed to allow people the opportunity to enjoy the preserve and learn about conservation of our native forests.

Hike Guide(s) will assemble all hike participants to sign liability waivers, consent and release for photography, video and audio forms prior to accessing the preserve. Hike guide(s) will ensure all hike participants are equipped properly for hike with clean covered shoes. All hike participants are encouraged to listen to important information from hike guide before starting. The only restrooms are located at the first rest stop in Hosmer Grove and must be used prior to the beginning of the hike. Due to the growing concern of the 'Rapid Ōhi'a Death' (ROD), all hike participants must have clean gear and shoes that have not been on Hawai'i Island. Boot brushes and a spray of 70% isopropyl alcohol will be provided to ensure your shoes are clean of debris and sanitized before entering the preserve.

Please be courteous to other hike participants and your guide(s).

#### **BOARDWALK HIKE DESCRIPTION--THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S WAIKAMOI PRESERVE:**

This hike is rated between moderate and strenuous for some at the 6400ft elevation. Walking through the conifer plantation (planted in 1946) is relatively easy. Guide(s) will take hike participants on the 4WD road (¾ mile) which then veers off onto a single-file trail which goes all the way down to bottom of boardwalk. All hike participants should use caution while hiking on slippery, muddy, rocky and tree roots, which could cause tripping hazards. The Hike Guide will stop at various spots along the way for all to catch up, rest and look at available views or points of interest. **The multi-stepped boardwalk has no railings and has a few places that are 2-3 feet off the ground.** Hike leads to an area of *intact native forest with native bird viewing*. You'll see our dominant trees like the 'Ōhi'a Lehua (water resource and State tree) and Koa will inspire you. Other low canopy trees and shrubs like Ākala, Kōlea, Alani, Pūkiawe, Pilo and Ōhelo are abundant and provide food for our native birds like the 'Apapane, Āmakihi, 'Alauahio and I'iwi. If you're lucky you may even catch a glimpse of the elusive and endangered Kiwikiu and/or Ākohekohe. Walking through ferns is dreamlike and gives you an idea of how things were thousands of years ago. Our Hike Guides are trained and quite knowledgeable about Hawaiian natural history and the area, so please show consideration as they provide you interpretation. There is a platform at the bottom of the boardwalk with a seating area to rest, eat lunch and view native birds (if present) or just take in the beauty of the forest for approximately a ½ hour. After the break, all hike participants will start heading back up the trail. Group must remain together. No one can remain behind from the guide or group to bird watch or veer off the boardwalk. It's good to stop every 5 minutes to take a drink and catch one's breath due to the high elevation and allow the other hike participants to re-group during the steep ascent and continue trek back to where the hike began.

**TOTAL HIKE TIME:** 3 to 5 hours depending on hike participants abilities throughout the hike.

**TOTAL HIKE DISTANCE:** 3 ¼ miles

**TOTAL ELEVATION DESCENT/ASCENT:** 700 ft.