

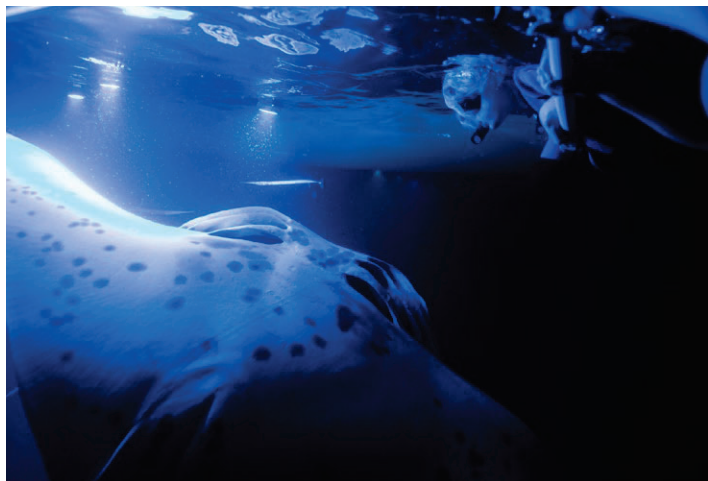
# Aloha Kona

TABS ON  
**TRAVEL  
TODAY**

Fri 06 Dec 24

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## Kona's Manta Ray Options For All



No visit to the Kona coast is complete without taking in the resident manta rays from land, boat or sea.

Originally attracted by the spotlights from the resort which is now the Outrigger Kona, these gentle giants visit every night to feed on the plankton.

Resort guests can watch these graceful creatures (which have no teeth and no barbs) 'dance' gracefully in the ocean from the manta viewing area, or those with rooms looking over the rocks can watch the mantas feed from their lanai (deck).

For clients looking to get closer to the action there's a number of operators offering manta swimming experiences.

### ...Bucket List Trip

But for those looking for a sustainable, small-scale experience run by locals, suggest Anelakai Adventures.

The one-hour manta experience is for up to six people, and participants paddle the outrigger canoe for around five minutes to the

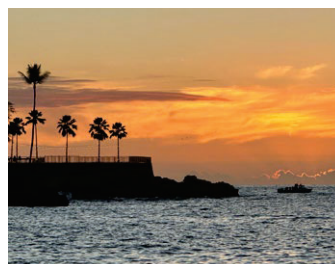


point. Then it's time to don ankle floats (to ensure there's no contact with the mantas) and a mask and snorkelling before slipping into the water. Sitting almost on the water and quietly paddling out is an experience in itself (suggest the sunset option to add to the ambiance).

Once in the water there's a bar to hold on to, and for those comfortable in the water, it's an incredible experience to float just metres away from these graceful rays.

Clients who want to watch but not get in the water can easily stay in the canoe and still get great views on the mantas. Plus, Anelakai can take mobility impaired passengers by prior arrangement. See details [HERE](#).

## Escape To Kona Deal



Outrigger Kona Resort has an Escape to Kona package for clients staying four nights or more.

Prices vary, depending on dates, but the package includes daily breakfast for two, two Feast & Fire lu'au tickets for those staying in a club room, and free self-parking.

Terms and conditions apply check availability [HERE](#).

## Kona Int'l Events

The Island of Hawaii is home to a number of well-known annual events, including the *Iron Man Kona* which continues to attract a number of Kiwi participants each year. For keen anglers the *Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament* is held in Kona every Aug.

See details on the fishing [HERE](#). And for a full events calendar, see [HERE](#).

## Getting There



Hawaiian Airlines operates a number of daily services to Kona ex Oahu and the other islands. Clients can add-on a neighbour island flight to the HA fare. See more details [HERE](#).

## Hapuna Beach Drive



Hapuna Beach, located about 40 mins drive from Kona, is an easy drive through the lava landscape, and one of Nick Dew from Hawaiian Airlines' favourite spots for a local's beach experience.

Hapuna was rated the "Best Beach in America" several times by *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine and is a long white sand stretch with surf for boogie-boarding and it is life-guard patrolled.

It's also a short drive from the popular *Lava Lava Beach Club* beachfront restaurant and bar in Waikoloa. See more on Lava Lava [HERE](#).

## Farmer's Market

The *Hōlulu Community Farmers & Artisan Market* is staged adjacent to the Outrigger Kona, by the Keahouu Marina on Wed and Fri 0900-1400. There's range of local produce and crafts—and urge clients to sample the local Kona coffee beans covered in chocolate.

## Cook Memorial

Kealahou Bay near Kona is where Captain James Cook first set foot on the island in 1778 and where he was eventually killed.

There is a waterfront monument to Captain Cook, but the easiest way to access is by boat. Numerous operators offer snorkelling tours, just off the monument, and the volcanic topography makes for great visibility. Otherwise it's a 5km-plus hike each way, down and back to and from the site.

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