

HAWAII NEWS

An update on the Discover Hawaii's Active Volcano trip July 2026

Funding ideas

While we can't provide additional financial support, I know that many teachers who have participated in previous trips I have led have had part or all of their trips funded using the following methods.

1. Fund For Teachers- Teachers who receive a grant through Fund For Teachers have all of their expense paid. .

2. Your school or school district. Often funding is available - but not widely advertised. Ask, ask and ask again. Even a small amount can make a difference -The worse they can say is no.

3. Local chapters of service clubs (Lyons, Rotary etc). Be ready to offer them back a talk at a meeting with slides of what you did, saw, and how it will enhance your student's experience in the classroom

4. Rural Trust's Global Teacher Fellowship website. Up to 25 fellowships are awarded to support the professional and personal development of rural teachers.-

[Click here for more information and ideas.](#)



Why join us?

Almost every year since the 1990's I have been leading trips to the Big Island of Hawaii with one goal in mind - to share my wonder and enthusiasm for active volcanoes with teachers of all levels from around the globe so that they can take those experiences back into their classrooms. While I can't promise I will change your life, I promise that I will do my hardest to provide you an experience that you will not quickly forget.

Things we do in the field...

Here are just of the activities we do in the field:

- ✦ Model the taking of great field notes and recording data.
- ✦ Discuss geological history using visible evidence.





So who normally participates?

Our trips cater to teachers of all backgrounds - you don't have to be an Earth science expert to enjoy and learn on our trips. People with no geology knowledge are especially welcome.

Teachers of all levels are welcome. We have had kindergarten teachers through to college faculty.

Teachers from around the world have participated. Teachers from USA, Canada, Australia, Iceland, UK, Barbados, New Zealand and more have joined us.

Spouses, partners, and friends are welcome to join u and be an active part of the group.

Sorry, people under the age of 16 can't join these teacher trips for insurance reasons. If you want to bring your younger family with you, we suggest that you arrange lodging for them close by in Hilo.

- ✦ Map volcanic structures.
- ✦ Map lava flows.
- ✦ Map inside a wild lava tube.

We also aim to see these things-

- ✦ Volcanic activity.
- ✦ Green sand and black sand beaches
- ✦ Engineering solutions to hazards
- ✦ Evidence for tsunamis
- ✦ Cinder cones, spatter ramparts, fissures, shield volcanoes, lava flows, ash deposits and so so much more.

Where do we stay?

We stay in a lodge on the outskirts of Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii. It is a basic but fun place that is clean and very 'Hawaiian'. We share rooms and apartments and use communal areas for our talks and breakfasts. It is less than a five-minute walk to the ocean. You will have access to a small refrigerator, toaster and microwave. But as breakfasts are provided, lunches are in the field and many dinners are included, we are at the lodge really just to sleep!

How do we get around?

We travel around in fifteen-seater vans for the week. They are air-conditioned and have plenty of space. They also allow us to get into places the larger buses can't go, making us able to get off the tourist routes and see more amazing things.

What about meals?

A continental breakfast (fruit, cereal, muffins, bagels etc) is provided every morning. Three dinners are provided during the week. Lunches need to be taken into the field each day and we stop at a large supermarket every few days so you can pick up items for lunch. Other evening meals you purchase will be in places with options. We cater to any dietary needs if you inform us prior to the trip.

Other Q&A?

What if I want my own room?

We can arrange for you to have your own room for a supplement fee of US\$1050. Spouses, partners and friends can all share an apartment.

Can I earn professional development credits on this trip?

We offer 64 professional development hours for all participants and will provide you with a certificate showing these and their 6.4 CEU equivalent. Please check with your school system if these will be accepted. We do not offer college credits.

Can I bring my children?

These trips are designed for teachers and their partners. Our insurance will allow us to bring family members who are 16 years and older. We are sorry, but we can't cater to children who are younger. Our suggestion is if you want to make this a family trip, is for you to arrange lodging nearby in Hilo then join them when the trip is over. We can't have families following us in cars/vans during the trip.

How fit do I need to be?

This trip involves a few small hikes - the longest being two miles. You do not have to be crazy fit, but we suggest that you prepare for those hikes by starting to walk for a month or so beforehand so you are ready. If you can't do these walks, we can arrange for you to sit and wait for the group. Most of the walking is easy, fairly level and on good trails. Occasionally we go off trail.

Will I see red flowing lava?

We make every attempt for you to see the current volcanic activity. That said, we always take the advice of the authorities and monitor the eruption activity on a regular basis. Over the last 25 years most groups have been able to see the glow of lava when the eruption was active. It is very rare for the group to be able to stand next to an active lava flow as it can be extremely dangerous. Your safety is ALWAYS our greatest concern.

What will the weather be like?

The weather in Hawaii on the coast can be beautiful . 80F (27 C) warm days and pleasant evenings. However, Hilo where we stay is the wettest city in the USA, so you can expect rain in the evenings and mornings. We will be climbing up volcanoes and into cooler weather on some days.

What gear will I need to bring?

We will provide you with a packing list for the trip - but we always suggest you dress in layers on our trip so you can peel off and layer on as the weather changes. You will need strong and sturdy hiking boots (joggers are not good on the lava flows) You will need to bring your own snorkeling gear, a headlamp and LOTS of enthusiasm.

Will I have internet and call phone access on trip?

In the mornings and evenings we have internet access at the lodge. Cell phone service is spotty on the island and we request that you don't make calls during the working day.

Got more questions?

Drop me an email at gary@geoetc.com and I am happy to answer them for you.

Registration

These trips are extremely popular and often fill more than a year out from the trip date. We hate that people miss out each year, and so to guarantee a place we suggest you register early. Registration requires a refundable deposit (see the refund policy below).

It is easy to do online.

REGISTER ONLINE

What to expect after you register



We keep in contact with you via regular newsletters that provide you with a load of information right up till the trip. We provide you with packing information, more trip details, interesting reading, tips and tricks to get the most out of your Hawaii experience and more.

**What are you waiting for?
Come join us in 2026**

Refund policy – Hawaii's Active Volcanoes for teachers July 2026

Your deposit is fully refundable, minus a US\$50 administration fee ,up until 90 days after you register - called your Deposit Refund Date - or 30 November 2025, which ever comes first. After this date you forfeit your deposit.

Full payment is due before January 31, 2026. There are no refunds after this date. It strongly recommended that you will take out travel insurance to cover cancellations due to your health or other circumstances.