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Learning adventures visit island natural habitats

Explore spectacular natural habitats in Hakalau, Kohala, Ka'upulehu and off the Kona coast on four unique learning adventures designed by The Kohala Center. Local cultural and scientific experts lead these adventures into natural, cultural and spiritual landscapes of Hawai'i Island.

Trek the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge with wildlife biologist, birder and award-winning photographer Jack Jeffrey on Saturday, June 28. This 32,733-acre refuge on the eastern slopes of Mauna Kea is the native montane rainforest habitat of the endangered Hawaiian bat, 14 indigenous and 13 migratory birds, and 29 rare plant species.

Sojourn from mountain to the sea through the dry-land forest of Ka'upulehu with naturalists and oral historians Yvonne and Keoki Carter and friends on Saturday, August 26. See this landscape on the slopes of Hualalai through a historical lens, visit sacred sites and discover some of the rarest native plants in the world.

Experience Kohala's dry forest and rainforest habitats of the Waiakamali Gulch with conservation biologist Melora Purell and her assistant Brad Lau of the Kohala Watershed Partnership on Saturday, September 13. Hike in protected dry forest, spend an hour pulling invasive plants in a mesic (moist) forest remnant and enjoy lunch at the top of the gulch before exploring the rainforest of Pu'u O Umi Reserve.

Learn about manta rays from the experts of the Manta Pacific Research Foundation and spend the afternoon and evening diving or snorkeling along the Kona coast reef with Jack's Diving Locker on Sunday, October 5. Observe the manta rays, one of the largest animals in the ocean and cousins of sharks. But, lacking lack teeth and tail stingers, mantas are considered shy and completely harmless.

For cost and registration information or to download the reservation form, visit Kohala Center “Learning Events” under “Calendar” at www.kohalacenter.org, e-mail info@kohalacenter.org or call 808-887-6411. The Kohala Center is an independent academic institution for teaching and research *about* and *for* the environment. The Center designs innovative teaching and research programs in environmental studies, ocean sciences, alternative energy and global health to enhance our island environments, serve island communities and produce knowledge of global value. The Center sees Hawai'i Island as the world's most vibrant laboratory and classroom for humanity. These learning adventures are offered to The Kohala Center's Circle of Friends to thank them for their support and to introduce them to this very special Island that we call home.

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