



Ala Moana Park, Convention Center & Ala Wai Promenade Walk to See World-Famous Magic Island Views, Beach & Trees

Duration: 60-90 minutes **Distance:** 3.5 miles

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Not-to-be-missed sunset walking and photography experience. This 76-acre “People’s Park” is the best place to see Exceptional Trees, beautiful birds, local families having outdoor fun, swim at one of the largest and safest beaches and also watch breathtaking ocean sunsets. Finish with a look at the stylish Hawai‘i Convention Center and then take a canal-side walk down the tree-lined Ala Wai Promenade.

(A) Start at the end of the Magic Island parking lot (if it's full you can park in the Ala Moana Center garage opposite). Standing alone here is the 2001-planted International Friendship Tree (a Monkeypod). Follow the left side path all the way and see the best canal front views of Diamond Head in the distance. Turn right at the lagoon and follow the path until you reach the large Indian Banyan tree (**B**). This is where many visitors and locals gather each afternoon to gaze at the glorious sunsets. Continue around the path and see the sweeping views of protected Ala Moana Beach and the new towers under construction in the distance. Turn left when you reach the road and walk under the many trees. If you have time, keep walking until you reach the McCoy Pavilion (**C**) and go in to see its duck ponds, murals and meeting rooms, and surrounding tennis courts. If you are short of time or breath, skip the McCoy and

cross the park until you reach a perfect collection of trees including large protected Exceptional banyans and baobabs (**D**) and (**E**). Walk right along the winding pathway past the Panama tree (**F**). After you cross the lovely little bridge turn left and, at the traffic lights, cross over the busy divided boulevard. Walk right along the sidewalk in front of the shopping center. Cross at the double set of lights and turn left up Atkinson Drive until you reach the beautiful Hawai‘i Convention Center (**G**) with its fine Shige Yamada “Gift of Water” bronze statue out front. Continue along the sidewalk and turn right at the corner until, just before the bridge (**H**), you will enter the wide and shady Ala Wai Promenade with its tunnel of protected Benjamin ficus trees. There are benches to rest at and look out over the Ala Wai Canal. Walk back to the main boulevard lights and return to park start.



Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*)

Recognizable by their sometimes-massive trunks that can store hundreds of gallons of water, Africa's iconic "Tree of Life" can grow to great heights and ages. It is deciduous and can produce fruit continuously - these brown ovoid "dead rats" contain many seeds inside a powdery white flesh and can be very nutritious to both man and animals. With their massive trunks, crooked branches and furry fruit, baobabs have adapted to dry and hostile environments throughout history and feature in many movies.



Benjamin Ficus "Weeping Fig" (*Ficus benjamina*)

These large fast-growing stately trees with glossy dark leaves are most often cultivated as potted house plants or hedges. Their small red fruits look fig-like when split open. In Hawaii, they can be seen as huge Banyan trees that develop massive pillar-like trunks with huge, invasive root systems.



Panama Tree (*Sterculia apetala*)

The Panama tree gives a majestic impression. The word "panama" is from the Indian language, meaning abundance of butterflies and fish. The gigantic Panama tree is related to the cacao-tree. It can grow extremely tall and have a very wide trunk diameter. The crown is beautiful, wide and round-shaped. Thanks to the support pillars growing on the lower part of the trunk, the Panama tree can be identified from far away. The flowers are lovely, small and bell-shaped with a dark red centre, growing in clusters. The fruits grow in clusters and when opening, look like giant clovers. Each "clover leaf" is shaped like a heart.

Other Trees to Watch For in This Park: Monkeypod, Indian Banyan, Sausage Tree, Milo, Coconut

ADDITIONAL SIGHTS:

Magic Island

This man-made 36 acre peninsula built in the early 60's from reef dredgings, was originally proposed for the creation of a private "Magic Island" resort of hotels, theaters and pools. But after a huge public outcry, in 1970 the area was set aside for public recreation. This magical place has become the city's most beloved site for wedding photos, with spectacular views of Waikiki, Diamond Head and sunsets.

McCoy Pavilion

This large city-run events facility and tennis court complex is worth a visit to see its unique architecture and hidden courtyard with duckpond and large banyan trees. It has large and medium sized meeting halls that can be booked for a wide variety of events. The surrounding tennis courts are lit at night.

Hawai'i Convention Center

An award-winning 25-year-old Hawaiian architectural gem, this 1.1 million square foot center features soaring glass roofs and stunning artwork. During the day the lobby is often open for visitors to wander about (and has the best restrooms in town). Out front is the stunning 1997 bronze statue "Gift of Water"

Ala Wai Promenade / Ala Wai Canal

Completed in 1927 to drain the marshy natural terrain of Waikiki, this broad waterway is now a favorite spot for canoe paddlers as it opens to the ocean. The Ala Wai Promenade, along the canal's southwestern bank, is lined with fabulous weeping ficus trees and is a hidden gem for walkers.



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