

# Best Nature Walk from Ala Moana Park to Kapi'olani Park Walking Across Waikiki with Minimal Traffic-Light Street Crosswalks

Duration: 60 minutes

Distance: 2 miles

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*Confused by those historic and mysterious 'Lei Of Parks' signs when walking back from Ala Moana Park? The arrows direct you all over the place and often away from Waikiki. We have devised a new **Outdoor Circle Cross-Waikiki Nature Walk** so you can see glorious trees, views and historic sights as you walk towards Kapi'olani Park. It's impossible to avoid some street crossings, however, but we give specific instructions on how to cross them safely.*

**(A)** Cross at the divided lights at the bus stop shelter opposite the Ala Moana Center and turn right. **(B)** Cross Atkinson Drive. There is a traffic island in the middle but you can get right across on one 'Go' light. **THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS INTERSECTION FOR PEDESTRIANS.** Even if you have the Walk light you **MUST** look both ways to avoid speeding drivers ignoring the lights. Continue up a short distance along Ala Moana Blvd. sidewalk until you see a ramp leading down to the Ala Wai Promenade with many heritage monkeypod and ficus trees overhead. When you reach the end of the beautiful canalside Promenade, turn right and cross the historic Kalakaua Ave. Bridge **(C)** Cross easily Ala Wai Blvd and continue walking down Kalakaua Ave. with many mahogany heritage trees in the median island. **(D)** Cross at the Ena Rd. lights and continue until you reach **(E)** The lights of the Ala Moana Blvd double crossing **TAKE GREAT CARE TO LOOK FOR TURNING VEHICLES.** Then enter into the newly rebuilt pathway into Fort DeRussy Military Reserve with two large trees on the left. Continue along past the front of the 'Asia Pacific Center For Security Studies' and cross the traffic-free street, taking the left path right around this most beautiful tranquil tree-filled parkland. The path curves right until you reach the entrance to the parking lot on the left. **(F)** Ahead you will cross Saratoga Rd with a mid-traffic island and see Trump Tower on your left. Continue across Beach Walk and then walk left after you cross Lewers St. Stroll past all the shops and cafes until you reach Kalakaua Ave. **(G)** Turn right and walk all the way past the many shops, restaurants and hotels of this very busy but attractive tree-lined tourist zone. After passing the iconic gray Moana Surfrider hotel on the right it's a delightful beach-side walk all the way down into Kapi'olani Park. A short distance after Monserrat Ave. on the left you can cross at the double crossing (**LOOK BOTH WAYS**) where you will finish the walk at the two magnificent Indian Banyan trees beside the famous Gandhi statue.



### (1) Ala Wai Boulevard / 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 south-western bank, is lined with fabulous weeping ficus trees and is a hidden gem for walkers.



### (2-3) Fort DeRussy Military Reserve

Right in the center of Waikiki, this beautiful parkland is a must-see for all tree lovers. Kept to perfection by the US Army's adjacent Hale Koa hotel park staff, you will see a huge variety of tropical trees, an Army Museum, Hawaiian historic markers and one of the best local beaches



### (6-7) The Sacred 'Stones of Life'

These Stones are said to contain the mana (power) of four healers who came to Oahu from Tahiti a long time ago, possibly around 400 A.D. It is said that Princess Likelike, the sister of King Kalakaua, used to place a flower lei on the stones before she went swimming at Waikiki



### (8-9) Indian Banyan Tree at Waikiki Beach

This large protected 'Exceptional' Tree, right on Waikiki Beach is a favorite place for visitors to gather and marvel at its size and prolific aerial roots. Once these roots reach the ground they grow into woody trunks. The tree is considered sacred in India and temples are often built beneath. Due to the large size of the tree's canopy it provides useful shade in hot climates.



### (9) Waikiki Beach

The famous beach is actually fairly short, with half of it marked off for surfers. For some distance into the ocean the water is quite shallow, although there are numerous rocks on the bottom. As with most ocean beaches the waves can have some force, particularly on windy days. The surf at Waikīkī is known for its long rolling break, making it ideal for surfing.



### (8) Duke Kahanamoku Statue

The Native Hawaiian competition swimmer who popularized the ancient Hawaiian sport of surfing, his statue is always crowded with visitors who drape it with leis and take photos in his memory. Though not of the formal Hawaiian Royal Family, his parents were from a prominent Hawaiian family. Kahanamoku died of a heart attack on January 22, 1968, at the age of 77



## Waikiki Branch

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