



The Exceptional Trees of Kapi'olani Park & Paki Avenue Walk to See A World-Class Collection of Hawaii's Heritage Trees

Duration: 60-90 minutes **Distance: 1.5 miles** Copyright © The Outdoor Circle Waikiki Branch

On the eastern side of Waikiki, beachside Kapi'olani Park is loved by both visitors and residents for its huge collection of famous Exceptional and Heritage Trees. You will also see the Mahatma Gandhi Statue along with the Kahi Hali'a Aloha Hawaiian Burial Memorial.

(A) Start at the grove of Ironwood trees located off the large (& free) parking lot off Monserrat Ave. (bus routes 8, 23 & 24). Pass by the imposing Bandstand & pond, continue to the end of the tree grove and turn right towards the beachfront, crossing Kalakaua Ave. with its many more Ironwood trees. At the beach walk **(B)** enjoy glorious views of Waikiki and its beaches. Continue on the beach walk and maybe stop at the café and restrooms. Further on you will see an excellent Indian Banyan tree **(C)**, then cross Kalakaua Ave. at the pedestrian crossings and you will see two famous giant Banyan trees. Adjacent is the revered Mahatma Gandhi Statue. Walk near the corner of Kapahulu Ave. to see the sacred *Kahi Hali'a Aloha* Hawaiian Burial Memorial **(D)**.

Continue walking up Kapahulu Ave. past the extensive parking lot (fee) and its many large trees. At Paki Ave. turn right and behold the breathtaking "Tunnel of Exceptional Monkeypod Trees" along this street **(E)**. Go to the corner of Monsarrat Ave. then cross over to the left side to visit the beautiful Queen Kapiolani Hibiscus Garden which was established by The Outdoor Circle in 1926. Here you will find some nice specimens of Ohia trees that are rarely found on Oahu. Cross back and enter the Monsarrat Ave. parking lot to return where you began Ohia trees that are rarely found on Oahu. Cross back and enter the Monsarrat Ave. parking lot to return where you began **(A)**



Indian Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*)

Native to India and Pakistan, this member of the Fig family can reach over 100 feet in height with diameters of over 600 feet. This extraordinary diameter is achieved as a banyan drops many aerial roots from its canopy, each of which begins to form a new “trunk” once embedded in the ground. For Hindus, the Indian Banyan represents “eternal life” and is said to be the tree that Brahma transformed into. As a result of these associations, this tree has long been revered in the Hindu religion.



Monkeypod (*Albizia saman*)

Native from Mexico to Brazil and introduced to Hawaii in 1847, the Monkeypod is one of the most common and popular trees throughout the islands. Reaching over 80 feet, this large canopied tree is a fantastic addition to parks where it is used as a shade tree. From April-August Monkeypods are in bloom with a mixture of pink and white “puff” blossoms.



Ironwood / Casuarina (*Casuarina glauca*)

Native to Australia, and introduced to Hawaii in 1882, this tree is commonly referred to as an Ironwood, although there are eleven species throughout the State. This evergreen tree thrives in landscapes that have been heavily eroded and has the ability to fix nitrogen which allows soil to become much more fertile, resulting in future growth of other vegetation. The red sap of the tree spurred the creation of Hawaiian legends which depicted that Ironwoods “sprang from the bodies of slain warriors”. In 1890, the grove of Ironwoods along Kapiolani Park were planted as a windbreak by Archibald Cleghorn, who was the father of Princess Kaiulani.

Other Trees to Watch For in This Park: *Plumeria, Coconut, Papaya, Ohia, Hala*

ADDITIONAL SIGHTS:

Kapiolani Bandstand

This Victorian-style bandstand was dedicated on Independence Day in 2000. The roof has roll-down security shutters to protect the interior when not in use. The Royal Hawaiian Band plays here on Sunday afternoons. The adjacent duckpond reflects earlier days in the park when there were many ponds and even a lake where the zoo is today.

Beachwalk

The views of the ocean and Waikiki are spectacular from here. To the left you can see the Aquarium and further on the World War I Memorial Arch of the Natatorium, first opened in 1927.

Hawaiian Burial Memorial

Kahi Hali'a Aloha “The Place of Loving Remembrance” is a burial place of ancestral remains, many of which were unearthed during modern Waikiki constructions. The memorial is a place for rest and contemplation for the lineal descendants. Its design is an eight-sided pyramid-shaped mound and the memorial is a sacred, respected and quiet location.

Mohandas (Mahatma) K. Gandhi Statue

Shaded by the two giant Banyan trees, this Steven Lowe memorial statue to the great Indian leader (1869-1948) states “It is possible to live in Peace” and was erected in 1990. It honors his basic values of humanitarian assistance and message of positive social change through non-violent means.



Waikiki Branch

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