

Aloha! You are about to enter one of the most stunning wilderness areas on earth. Nā Pali Coast State Park possesses astounding natural beauty. It also contains a collection of wonderfully preserved historic features - fragile remnants of Hawai'i's past which we need your help to preserve.

Hawai'i's Cultural Resources are Protected by Law. There are severe penalties for taking artifacts or damaging archaeological sites or burials on State land. Fines of up to \$10,000 per offense can be levied under HRS §6E-11, in addition to confiscation of tools, equipment and vehicles used in committing the offense. Additional restitution for restoration of sites damaged may also be exacted.

STATE OF HAWAII

KALALAU TRAIL

Protecting Hawai'i's Cultural Heritage



**NA PALI COAST STATE
WILDERNESS PARK**

State of Hawaii
Department of Land & Natural Resources
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
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NA PALI IS A TRULY HAWAIIAN PLACE.

It remains much as it was when the last native Hawaiians left the area nearly a century ago. However, deliberate and inadvertent activities of park users are taking their toll on the land. Every year, thousands of people enjoy the beauty of Nā Pali, hiking and camping in its lush valleys. Many do not realize that for about a thousand years, Hawaiians lived here, farming, fishing and worshipping. Look carefully as you hike and camp, and you will see traces of their culture: irrigation ditches, terraced fields, house platforms, *heiau* (temples and shrines), and graves. The design of these places took into account the natural topography and environment, and as a result these ancient sites often blend into the landscape. The aspects of the land that Hawaiians sought for their sites--level ground, ocean access, and availability of fresh water--are also valuable to today's park users, and so modern people find themselves treading on ancient sites.

Simply walking the trail does not usually damage a site, but it is up to you to be careful and respect the heritage of the Hawaiian people. Here are a few ways that you can help protect cultural sites so that they can last another thousand years.

Stay on the Main Trail. You will often see small side trails and short cuts, but you should also notice the impact of such trailblazing: erosion, damage to terraces and walls, and the spread of alien vegetation. Please avoid using side trails or making new ones, and you will be protecting the environment and sites (not to mention decreasing the odds of your getting lost or hurt).

Pack out what you pack in. Every year, Parks staff and volunteers haul out thousands of pounds of garbage and things left behind by careless campers. These special trips use resources that could otherwise be spent on improving Nā Pali. You are responsible for taking out what you bring in. After all, on the way out the load will be lighter, since you will have eaten food, consumed fuel, etc. Consider what you really need, and do not bring things that are unnecessary. The practice of

“stashing” food and equipment are a major problem; Kalalau and other places are littered with everything from beans to propane tanks, left behind by people who either did not care enough to remove them, could not remember where their stash was, or never came back to use them. In this tropical climate, sun, salt spray, and rain make most stashes unusable in a short time, and they end up as many small hazardous dumps on the land. People who make stashes do not consider the cumulative effect of the many other people like them.

Use Established Camping Areas and Toilets. Lots of people come to Nā Pali to get away from it all, and some choose to get a little more away by creating their own campsites. But by clearing vegetation, moving stones, and customizing a new campsite, you are often damaging cultural sites, as well as creating inroads for weeds and increasing the erosion hazard. Legal campsites extend from the first major dry stream to the west of Kalalau's permanent stream, to the waterfall--an area roughly defined by the extent of the sand beach in summertime. Camping is prohibited in the valley, in caves and along Kalalau Stream. The same holds true for using the toilet--defecating on the ground is unsanitary, and digging a pit can damage irreplaceable ancient sites, not to mention defiling sacred places.



Cave dwelling in Kalalau, circa 1900



Land Grants in Kalalau Valley, 1856-57

Do not Make Fireplaces. Open fires are prohibited in the park. However, many stone fire rings in the camping areas have been made by taking stones from ancient Hawaiian sites. Please do not dismantle our heritage by taking stones from terraces or walls. Also, never make a fire up against a rock wall or in a cave, as this can damage a site.

Leave Things Where They Are. Occasionally, hikers will find a rock or artifact, and want to take it home as a souvenir. Not only is this illegal, it is extremely inconsiderate of Hawaiians past and present. In addition to cultural materials, it is illegal to remove plants and other materials from the Park.

Be Vigilant. Take note of your surroundings, and appreciate the accomplishments of the ancient stone wall builders. Please encourage others to respect the sites as well, and if you see recent damage to rock walls or other features, report them to the State Parks archaeologist, (808) 587-0286.