



PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA
Marine National Monument

July 31, 2010

Aloha World Heritage Tour and Travel Provider,

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument has been inscribed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the first mixed (natural and cultural) World Heritage Site in the United States—one of only 26 mixed sites in the world. Papahānaumokuākea is the first site nominated by the United States in more than 15 years, and is one of the largest World Heritage site on the globe.

We are reaching out to individuals and organizations involved in the promotion, marketing, protection, support of, and travel to World Heritage sites. Our goal is to ensure that there are realistic expectations in the travel industry so that when you, the travel professionals, are approached for information about the first marine World Heritage site in the United States, you have accurate reference material at hand.

The Monument's management philosophy and regulations have always been designed to "bring the place to the people" through education, virtual experiences, and extremely limited visitation—restriction on human access and activity being the only way to ensure that the near pristine ecosystems and cultural heritage of this remote region are preserved for future generations.

As such, all access to and activities within the Monument are by permit only. By regulation, the only area that allows public visitation is Midway Atoll and even then, only under strict carrying capacity guidelines. The following information applies to potential Midway visitors:

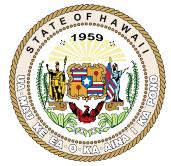
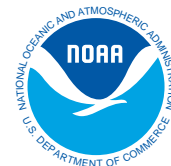
- Access to Midway Atoll is through the standard Monument permitting process that applies to all human activity in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. For more information, visit: <http://papahanaumokuakea.gov/resource/permits.html>
- Midway Atoll is only accessible via chartered aircraft or vessel
- Limited small tour group access is also available through private operators
- Accommodations are double occupancy rooms with private baths
- Management of Midway Atoll is guided by the Midway Conceptual Site Plan contained within the Monument Management Plan, which can be accessed at: <http://papahanaumokuakea.gov/management/mp.html>

As you prepare publications and other information for your clients and customers, please review the enclosed Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Fact Sheet or contact the Visitor Services Manager, via e-mail at tracy_ammerman@fws.gov, or call +1-808-954-4814.

Sincerely,

Monument Management Board

Enclosures:
Visitor Fact Sheet





PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA

Marine National Monument

Visitation Fact Sheet

- Three thousand miles from the nearest continent, Papahānuamokuākea spans a distance of 1931 km (1,200 mi) across the North Pacific Ocean in the Hawaiian Archipelago and is approximately 185 km (115 mi) wide
- Composing the Northernmost three-fourths of the Hawaiian Archipelago, Papahānuamokuākea has become Hawai‘i’s second World Heritage Site. The first, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, was inscribed in 1978.
- The remote reefs, islands and waters of Papahānuamokuākea are home to more than 7000 species, approximately 25% of which are found nowhere else in the world.
- The Monument Management philosophy is to “*Bring the place to the people,*” through a variety of media and web-based interactive experiences in order to help limit the human footprint on the remote region’s near pristine ecosystems and cultural heritage for future generations.
- The Monument’s Mokuapāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo on the island of Hawai‘i offers virtual visitor opportunities to Papahānuamokuākea through exhibitry, events, and educational programs.
- With the Monument philosophy in mind, and by regulation, all access to and activities within the Monument are by permit only.
- Strict carrying capacity guidelines limit visitor access and restrict it to Midway Atoll.

For more information about visitation please contact the Visitor Services Manager, via e-mail at tracy_ammerman@fws.gov, or call +1-808-954-4814.

For general information visit the Monument’s web site: www.papahanaumokuakea.gov

