

**I finally made it to Hawaii!!!** What a day!

up to Bethlehem, PA to join John & Barbara Marciano. We spent the 23rd hanging out together, getting ready. Then Saturday the 24th, we traveled to Newark Airport via car service and bus. Once we checked our baggage for the bus at Lehigh Valley Airport, we didn't see it again until we got on board the ship.

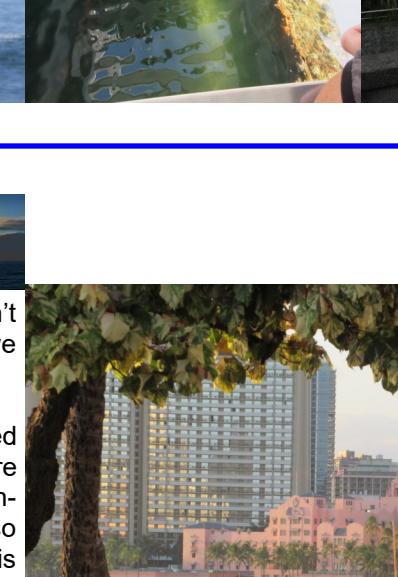
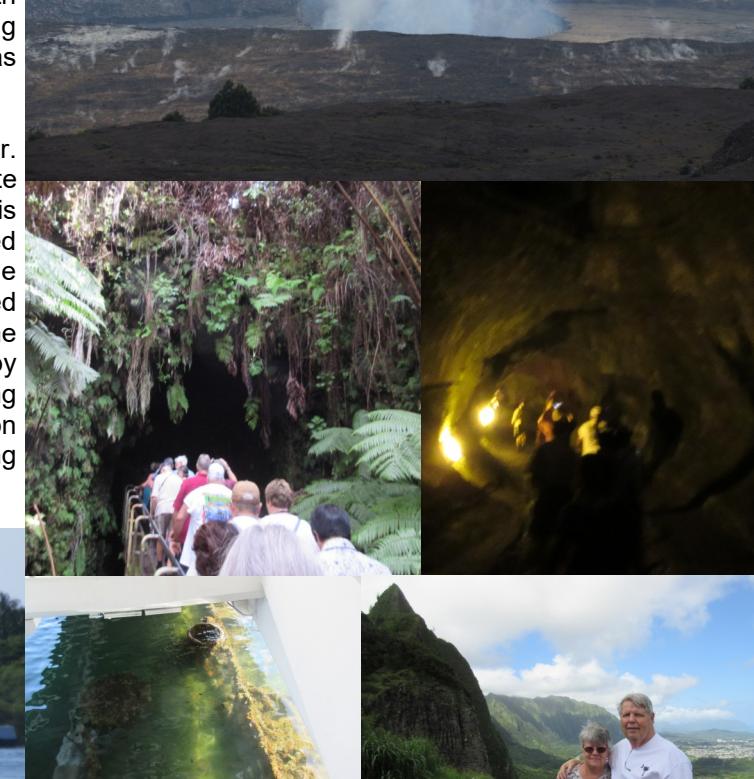
We were at sea for four days before stopping at four Hawaiian Islands. The first one was Hilo (Hawaii), the second was Honolulu (Oahu), then Nawiliwili (Kauai) and the fourth was Lahaina (Maui). On the return trip we stopped at Ensenada, Mexico, which was a puzzle, until we learned about a law established in the mid 1800's that required ships sailing between US ports to make at least one stop at a foreign port. We stopped there for only 4 or 5 hours, before returning to SF. We did not get off the ship.

This is Kilauea's Eastern Slope, the East Rift Zone where there are many craters and cones. There seemed to be steam coming out of the earth everywhere. The next adventure was walking through the Thurston Lava Tubes. Amazing!!

The second stop, **Honolulu**, on Oahu, had much to offer. The tour we selected, took us to the *Pali Outlook*, the site of the Battle of Nu'uanu, uniting the Islands in 1795. It was also on the Pali Road Cliff Trail (1800's) which was used to travel between Honolulu and Kaneohe, located on the windward side of the Island. The original road is close to gone now. The Island is also the site of the Memorial for the USS Arizona and Pearl Harbor which was bombed by Japan in 1941. Their were 1,177 men on board during the attack. The remains of deceased crewmen remain on board the Arizona as part of the memorial. Very moving.

A photograph of the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. The memorial is a large, white, curved structure built over the sunken remains of the USS Arizona. It features a prominent American flag flying from a tall pole. The water in front of the memorial is slightly choppy, and the background shows lush green trees under a clear blue sky.

A photograph of Waikiki Beach at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, golden-yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow over the ocean. The water is visible in the foreground, with some gentle waves.



"Fern Grotto" comes from the long Boston Sword

A photograph of a luau performance. Five people are on stage: three women in patterned dresses and two men in white shirts and leis. They are singing and gesturing. Behind them is a yellow-paneled wall with a white diamond-shaped sign that says "SMITH FAMILY GARDEN LUAU".



A photograph taken from the deck of a ship, looking out over a calm sea towards a distant shoreline. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow and long shadows across the water. The sky is filled with dramatic, layered clouds. In the upper right corner, the dark silhouette of the ship's superstructure and lifeboats is visible against the bright sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and captures a classic seascape.



A wide-angle photograph of a starry night sky. The foreground is filled with numerous small, white stars of varying brightness. Several larger, more prominent celestial bodies are scattered across the scene, emitting a distinct blue glow. These include a cluster of stars on the left, a single bright star near the center, and a series of stars forming a horizontal band on the right. The overall composition suggests a deep space observation or a simulated planetary system.

