



# Aloha Hōkūleʻa

The story of *Hōkūleʻa*, a traditional 62-foot Polynesian voyaging canoe, is one of exploration and rediscovery. She was built and launched in the 1970s, in the midst of a renaissance of authentic Hawaiian culture, in an effort to revive the Hawaiian legacy of exploration and ingenuity.

*Hōkūleʻa*, meaning *Star of Gladness*, was built and is sailed in the traditional ways of ancient Polynesian voyagers. She was created with Hawaiian rope lashing techniques, and is sailed using only the stars, sun, and ocean currents to navigate.

In 1992, Lacy Veach, the second astronaut from the state of Hawaii, planted the idea within the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) to sail around the world in a traditional canoe – to explore the way their ancestors had in an effort to explore their own heritage.

Twenty-two years later, they embarked on their first worldwide journey in the name of Mālama Honua – “Caring for Island Earth.” PVS launched *Hōkūleʻa* to travel around the world, learning from environmental experts and sharing this knowledge of how to better take care of Earth and its limited resources.

Before continuing on the last leg of her journey home to Hawaii, *Hōkūleʻa* visited The Mariners’ Museum and Park for her last major dry-dock of this worldwide voyage. Upon her arrival on October 17, 2016, Fairlead Integrated and Hampton Roads Crane & Rigging worked together to safely hoist *Hōkūleʻa* by crane onto a trailer and tow her to The Mariners’ Museum.



*Hōkūleʻa*’s visit was only possible with the generosity of Fairlead Integrated and Hampton Roads Crane & Rigging.

For three weeks, the canoe’s crew and dry-dock team worked diligently to restore the canoe in preparation for the remainder of their journey. Working out of the Museum’s boat building, many of the crew worked tirelessly every day – sanding, varnishing, and inspecting the rigging of the canoe to ensure her safe return home. The canoe itself was parked behind the USS *Monitor* Center, allowing Museum guests the privilege to see *Hōkūleʻa* up close and engage directly with crew members as they worked.

Now on the last leg of their worldwide voyage, *Hōkūleʻa* and her crews left a lasting imprint on the Museum community through their stories, culture, and purpose of maritime exploration.

## Polynesian Voyagers Exhibition at The Mariners’ Museum Now through June 11, 2017

In conjunction with *Hōkūleʻa*’s visit, the Museum opened its newest exhibition *Polynesian Voyagers*, featuring the time-honored navigational skills of traditional Polynesian voyagers. Several educators from the Polynesian Voyaging Society will visit the Museum for educational programming throughout the duration of the exhibition. *Polynesian Voyagers* features a model of *Hōkūleʻa*, navigational methods and techniques, and ancient Polynesian chanting.

