Document 6

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii is an ancient Hawaiian sacred site and 4,000-acre National Historic Landmark near Honolulu where Jurassic Park was filmed. Go World Travel is reader-supported and may earn a commission from purchases made through links in this piece. After spending a few days in Honolulu, you might yearn to escape the skyscrapers and concrete. Not to mention the sheer density of people roaming Waikiki. Fortunately, the island of Oahu offers plenty of spots where peace and serenity reign. The stunningly beautiful Kualoa Ranch Hawaii is one of those locations. Less than an hour’s drive from all the hustle and bustle of the city is Kualoa Ranch, a picturesque destination on Oahu’s windward side. A Private Nature Reserve and working cattle ranch, the 4,000-acre property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since the 1970s. Kualoa, which means “long back” in Hawaiian and refers to the ranch’s deep valleys and soaring mountainous peaks. These were sacred to ancient Hawaiians from the 13th to the 18th century. In 1850, American doctor and missionary, Dr. Gerrit Judd bought 622 acres of the land at Kualoa for $1300. He also bought the island of Mokoli’I, just offshore, from King Kamehameha III. Dr. Judd was the first person to translate medical journals into the Hawaiian language for the king and served as one of his advisors. As gratitude for his work, the king sold him the land. The doctor subsequently purchased several thousand more acres in the ensuing years. Along with his brother-in-law, Samuel Wilder, Dr. Judd started a sugarcane plantation and built a sugar mill at the ranch. But in a relatively short period of time, the farming ended and the mill closed due to low rainfall. Flash forward to WWII, when the U.S. military occupied the land and used it as the site of Kualoa Airfield. Post war, the ranch returned to the Morgan family, the owners and descendants of Dr. Judd. It has since remained in the hands of this family for seven generations. They continue their commitment to preserve the beauty and cultural and historical significance of this special place. As stewards, they work to enhance the natural scenery of the land, while developing sustainable recreational, agricultural and aquacultural enterprises that are compatible with the environment. Read More: Where to Stay in Hawaii: Our Editors’ Top Picks To this endeavor, the ranch has created a number of tours for  the public to explore this incredible destination. The offerings appeal to everyone from adrenaline junkies to film buffs and nature lovers and cover the ranch by land and water. Film aficionados might recognize parts of the ranch. It is known as Hollywood’s “Hawaii’s Backlot,” as hundreds of movies and TV shows have been filmed here since the 1950s. It is a sought-after location due to its breathtaking landscapes and diverse terrain, from tropical forests to dramatic mountain scenery.