

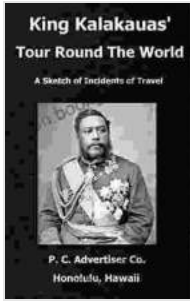
King Kalākaua's Historic Round-the-World Tour: A Transformative Journey



King Kalakauas' Tour Round The World: A Sketch of Incidents of Travel, with a Map of the Hawaiian Islands

by Alena Schröder

★★★★★ 5 out of 5



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In 1881, King Kalākaua of Hawaii embarked on a groundbreaking journey that would forever change the course of his kingdom. His ambitious round-the-world tour took him across continents, immersing him in diverse cultures and exposing him to the latest advancements in industry, technology, and statecraft. This extraordinary voyage would have a profound impact on Kalākaua, his people, and the world stage.

As the first reigning monarch to circumnavigate the globe, Kalākaua became a symbol of Hawaii's modernization and eagerness to embrace the wider world. His tour sparked international interest in the Hawaiian Kingdom, fostered diplomatic relations, and laid the foundation for future partnerships and collaborations.

Planning and Preparations

The idea for a round-the-world tour originated from Kalākaua's desire to strengthen Hawaii's ties with other nations and to showcase its potential for growth and development. He carefully planned the itinerary, which included stops in the United States, Europe, and Asia. The king assembled a delegation of government officials, business leaders, and cultural experts to accompany him on this historic journey.

Before departing, Kalākaua commissioned the construction of a custom-built steamship named the SS Likelike, which would serve as his floating palace throughout the tour. The ship was equipped with luxurious accommodations, a state-of-the-art engine, and a spacious ballroom for receptions and entertainment.

The Journey Begins: The United States

On December 20, 1881, the SS Likelike set sail from Honolulu, embarking on its epic voyage. The first leg of the tour took Kalākaua and his delegation to the United States, where they were warmly welcomed. In Washington, D.C., the king met with President Chester A. Arthur and other high-ranking officials, discussing matters of diplomacy, trade, and investment.

During his stay in the United States, Kalākaua visited major cities such as New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, where he attended industrial exhibitions, business meetings, and cultural events. He was impressed by the country's technological advancements, its vast industries, and its vibrant urban centers.

Across the Atlantic: Europe

From the United States, the SS Likelike crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. Kalākaua's itinerary included stops in England, France, Germany, and Italy. In England, he met with Queen Victoria, solidifying diplomatic ties between Hawaii and the British Empire. He also visited Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, where he was greeted with great enthusiasm.

In France, Kalākaua was received with royal honors. He attended a lavish ball at the Élysée Palace, hosted by President Jules Grévy. In Germany, he

met with Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, with whom he discussed international affairs and the future of diplomacy.

Encounters in Asia

The next phase of the tour took Kalākaua and his delegation to Asia. They visited Japan, China, and India, where they were met with both curiosity and admiration. In Japan, Kalākaua was impressed by the country's ancient culture, its modernization efforts, and its growing industrial power.

In China, the king visited the Forbidden City in Beijing, an awe-inspiring symbol of imperial grandeur. He also traveled to Shanghai and Hong Kong, two vibrant trading centers where he gained insights into East Asian commerce and diplomacy.

The Return Home

After spending over a year abroad, King Kalākaua and his delegation returned to Hawaii in December 1883. They were greeted with triumph and celebration, as the people of Hawaii recognized the historical significance of their king's journey.

Upon his return, Kalākaua shared his experiences and insights with his people. He implemented reforms inspired by his observations, modernizing Hawaii's government, economy, and educational system. He encouraged the development of tourism and agriculture, seeking to diversify the kingdom's economy and strengthen its ties to the global market.

Legacy and Impact

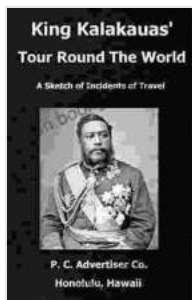
King Kalākaua's round-the-world tour was a watershed moment in Hawaiian history. It marked a turning point in the kingdom's relations with

the rest of the world and laid the foundation for its future prosperity and modernization.

Kalākaua's diplomatic efforts resulted in new treaties and agreements, strengthening Hawaii's international standing and fostering trade and investment. He promoted cultural exchange, introducing Hawaiian music, dance, and art to global audiences and bringing back foreign influences that enriched Hawaiian society.

The tour also had a profound personal impact on Kalākaua. He emerged as a symbol of Hawaiian resilience and ambition, a monarch who embraced modernity while preserving his kingdom's traditions. His legacy as a visionary leader continues to inspire Hawaiians to this day.

King Kalākaua's round-the-world tour was a monumental undertaking that transformed the Hawaiian Kingdom and its place in the world. It was a journey of diplomacy, discovery, and modernization, a testament to the visionary spirit of a remarkable monarch. Through his experiences and leadership, Kalākaua forged connections, shared knowledge, and left an enduring legacy that continues to shape Hawaii's destiny.



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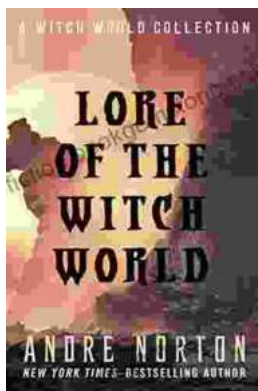
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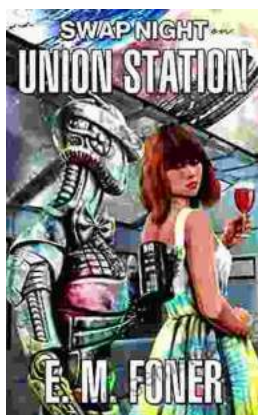
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