



Hawaii Island is a landscape under construction. From beneath magnificent Kīlauea, molten lava flows upward from the earth's core and then oozes down long slopes into the sea to further expand the shoreline of the largest and youngest of the Hawaiian Islands. Along with the wonder of the new, this Island has historic heiau (temples), rich culture and timeless beauty. Wide-open spaces and uncrowded natural landscapes invite exploration as the sweet tropical air invigorates body and spirit. There is no place on earth like Hawaii Island.

ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS

Kona Side

NELHA

Learn about Hawaii Island aquaculture, ocean thermal energy conversion, ocean water desalination and more at the Natural Energy Laboratory Hawaii Authority.

Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park

The 1,160-acre park seeks to preserve, protect and interpret the traditional native Hawaiian activities and culture that thrived on the site.

Historic Kailua Village

Depart on sport fishing charters or stroll Ali'i Drive to find a variety of attractions beyond the shops and restaurants. Don't miss Hulihe'e Palace. Once a summer vacation residence of Hawaiian royalty, the Palace features beautiful koa wood furniture from the past and the grounds feature a Hawaiian fishpond. Moku'aikaua Church, built in 1820 (Hawaii's earliest Christian Church), is located right across the street.

Kealahou Bay State Historical Park

Preserved as a Marine Life Conservation District, this bay is popular with divers, snorkelers and kayakers. The Captain Cook Monument is located at the north end of the bay, at the site of his death in 1779.

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park

Restored to its early 1700s appearance, step back into time and explore the many archaeological sites including Keone'ele Cove, the royal canoe landing, as well as heiau (sacred place of worship), halau (long house for canoes) and fishponds.

Ka'ū & Puna

Ka Lae (South Point)

Here is the southernmost point of land in the United States. To reach the rocky shoreline, take the narrow South Point Road 12-miles past open plains and windmills.

Punalu'u Black Sand Beach

The black sand at Punalu'u, located between the towns of Nā'ālehu and Pāhala, is formed from hardened lava that has been weathered and crumbled into tiny particles.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Dramatic, diverse, vast (more than 333,000 acres) and still growing, the Park has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage site. A trip to Hawaii would not be complete without a visit to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Explore Puna

The easternmost land section of the Hawaiian archipelago, Puna welcomes the rising sun. It was considered the source of regenerative energy in ancient times, a view that many feel still holds true today. Visit funky Pāhoa town, then take a leisurely circular drive on Highways 130, 137 and 132, including stops at Ahalanui Thermal Springs Park and Lava Tree State Park.

Hilo Side

East Side Gardens

Hilo has several parks among its many attractions, including the pristine Japanese-style Lili'uokalani Gardens and Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden on the four-mile scenic route approximately eight miles north of Hilo. Guided and self-guided tours are available at World Botanical Gardens, 16 miles north of Hilo. Just a few miles south of town at the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo, 100 varieties of Palm join more than 75 animal species in the only tropical rainforest zoo in the United States.

'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawaii

Located on a nine-acre campus above the University of Hawaii at Hilo, the center explores the connections between Hawaiian cultural traditions and the science of astronomy.

Downtown Hilo

Hilo is a flourishing capital city and cultural hub with Downtown Hilo at its center. The centuries-old storefronts, galleries, historical and cultural sites, shops and restaurants can all be explored on foot including: Hilo Farmers Market, Moku'pāpapa Discovery Center for Hawaii's Remote Coral Reefs, Lyman Museum and Mission House and the Pacific Tsunami Museum.

'Akaka Falls State Park

Perhaps the most famous of the Island's many waterfalls, 'Akaka Falls is easy to reach and the short, circular trail takes you through lush rain forest and past two waterfalls.

Waipi'o Valley Overlook

Drive to the end of Highway 240 to reach the Waipi'o Valley Overlook. There is a road into Waipi'o Valley accessible by four-wheel drive or you can hike it. There's also a shuttle and tour available.

Kohala Side

Waimea

The upland town of Waimea is paniolo (Hawaiian cowboy) country. Several area ranches offer the opportunity to ride the range in a guided tour of the pastures with spectacular views of the coastline and peaks.

Hāwi and Kapa'au

Located at the northern tip of the island, the once-plantation towns of Hāwi and Kapa'au are home to a number of boutiques, restaurants and art galleries with works by local artists.

Lapakahi State Historical Park

Take a self-guided tour of this partially restored fishing settlement, located about 12 miles north of Kawaihae. Dating back more than 600 years, the 262-acre park offers a glimpse of how native Hawaiians lived.

Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site

This massive stone temple has been carefully preserved, and it is believed to be one of the last sacred structures built in the Hawaiian Islands before western influence.

Kohala Coast

Luxury resorts, great golf and shopping, white and black sand beaches, and a number of historical sights coexist harmoniously along this sunny stretch of Hawaii Island.