



# Hawai'i's Big Island

Aloha Spoken Here

Touring "The Big Island of Hawai'i" (nearly twice the size as all the other islands combined) is a real adventure. This vast size has produced a wide variety of climates and attractions.

The Kona International Airport is the gateway to the Big Island's resorts on the sunny, leeward side, while Hilo Airport serves as the gateway to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Hilo curves around a graceful bay. Surrounded by fields of orchids and anthuriums, it is the floral center of the Islands.

On the nearby coastal plains you will wander through immense orchards of macadamia nut trees and lush groves of succulent papaya.

From Hilo you can drive 30 miles to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and gigantic Kīlauea Crater. Kīlauea is the legendary home of Madame Pele, Hawaiian goddess of fire. Steam billows from deep fissures in the scorched earth, charcoaled trees attest to past volcanic furies, ancient lava flows mark the Island's growth. You can stand on the rim of Halema'uma'u Firepit in the Kīlauea Caldera and with luck watch Pele at play as lava fountains spring up from the firepit floor. You can even walk through a long lava tube, created by a molten stream centuries ago.

The outside cooled first while the inner stream flowed on, leaving an eerie cave.

After exploring these awesome wonders of nature primeval, swing south along the coast to the famous beaches of black sand then around to The Big Island's leeward side and the Kona Coast. It was down these sandy stretches that defeated warriors once raced for their lives toward the Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge), now a National Historical Park.

The calm ocean is perfect for swimming and boating, but the big lure of Kona is deep-sea fishing for the mighty Pacific Blue Marlin. The colorful Kailua-Kona fishing fleet awaits you. Each summer the world's best anglers converge on Kailua for the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament.

The Big Island, the golf capital of Hawai'i, offers scenic resort courses that challenge every level of play. These golf courses have been strategically built around the entire island. The distinctive Kona coffee bean, sought by connoisseurs, grows on the lower slopes of Mauna Loa and Hualālai. Kona coffee is the only gourmet coffee grown commercially in the United States. A little further north and upcountry, you will likely meet your first Hawaiian cowboy, or paniolo, at the world-famous Parker Ranch.

The State's finest hunting is found on the slopes of Mauna Kea and Hualālai, which teem with pheasant, chukkar partridge, wild boar, goat and sheep. Almost any sort of vacation you want is for the asking on the "Big Island."

## Points of Interest

**'Akaka Falls**-North of Hilo, plunges over 420 feet in a sheer drop over a volcanic cliff.

**Black Sand Beaches**-Made up of pulverized lava, located on the southeastern shoreline.

**Captain Cook Monument**-At Kealahou Bay, is a tribute to the British navigator who opened the Hawaiian Islands to the western world. Captain Cook was killed on the shoreline here in 1779.

**Moku'aikaua Church**-The first Christian church at Kailua-Kona, was erected by American missionaries who first landed in Hawai'i in 1820.

**Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park**-The number one visitor attraction in all Hawai'i, has an array of unique volcanic formations, forests of giant tree ferns, steaming craters and a volcanological museum which screens free movies daily.

**Honoka'a**-Once the home of the sugar industry on the Hāmākua Coast, Honoka'a is now more than a century old—an architectural, historical and cultural treasure.

**Hulihe'e Palace**-In the village of Kailua-Kona, was once the summer home of Hawaiian royalty and now houses a rare collection of Hawaiiana.

**Ka Lae** (South Point)-The southernmost point of land in the United States — truly the end of the road.

**Kamehameha Statue**-In Kohala, was lost at sea during shipment to Hawai'i and later recovered after a replica had been made and erected in Honolulu. In Hilo, dramatic and accessible on Hilo's Bayfront Highway, a perfect photo opportunity.

**Lapakahi State Historical Park**-North of Kawaihae, was once an ancient Hawaiian fishing village.

**Laupāhoehoe**-Which literally translated means "leaf of lava," is one of the Hāmākua Coast's many scenic and historic spots.

**Lava Tree State Park**-Site of the hollowed tree forest created by hardened lava encapsulating tree trunks.

**Lili'uokalani Park/Banyan Drive**-The largest Yedo-style gardens outside of Japan.

**Lyman Mission House and Museum**-In the city of Hilo, contains a collection of historic Hawaiian relics.

**Orchids and Anthuriums**-Grow in profusion in Hilo and Puna for export to far ports of the world.

**Painted Churches**-at Hōnaunau, St. Benedict's is one of the oldest Catholic churches on the island, constructed in 1875. The church has brilliantly hued murals depicting biblical scenes on the interior walls. Murals in the Star of the Sea Catholic Church at Kalapana were painted by a priest a half century ago.

**Parker Ranch**-Located in the Waimea-Kamuela district and established in 1847, is one of the oldest and largest ranches in the country.

**Pololū Valley**-In Kohala, was once the locale of a number of ancient Hawaiian heiau (temples).

**Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge)**-A National Historical Park, is said to have been built at the Hōnaunau location in the 12th century to provide political and religious asylum.

**Pu'ukoholā Heiau**-Near Kawaihae, was built by Kamehameha the Great and is now a National Historical Site.

**Rainbow Falls**-One of the Big Island's loveliest waterfalls, is located in Hilo.

**Waipi'o Valley**-North of the town of Honoka'a, was once the home of kings of old Hawai'i.

**White Sand Beaches**-At Hāpuna State Beach Park, 'Anaeho'omalu Beach, and Magic Sands Beach, Kailua, all on the western side of the island.

