



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Randy Son Of Robert

# Kilauea Volcano

## Hilo, Big Island (Hawaii), 4 Days

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** This trip is designed to give a well rounded sensory understanding of Volcano's and Volcanic knowledge. We start at a magical beach where the green sand glistens in the sunshine. The sand is a result of ancient lava activity. From there we check into the Volcano National Park and continue our education learning everything from heat sources to plate techtonics to the names for the different kinds of lava. On our la\*t evening, we take the trek out to see the actual volcanic lava flowing into the ocean. This trip keeps its' focus and on that note, be sure you have a good camera with a great focus mechanism so you can capture photos of the lava flows. They are worth their weight of your' golden trip.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Big Island (Hawaii)



**Volcano House**  
Hawaii's oldest hotel

**DAY NOTE:** Before arriving on The Big Island, please book a reservation ahead of time at Ramshallah or Kalani, two unique overnight experiences. Ramshallah only has some 8 quarters under one beautiful piece of architecture, while Kalani is spread about the Kalani retreat, which means Heaven in Hawaiian. Please see my places for the links. If you stay at one of these places, you are in the primo location to see the lava flow.

## Day 2 - Big Island (Hawaii), Hilo



**Crater Rim Scenic Drive**  
Around the rim of the Kilauea Caldera



**Jaggar Museum**  
Museum for active volcanoes



**Volcano Art Center Gallery**  
Inside Volcanoes National Park



**Volcano's Lava Rock Cafe**  
Inexpensive, laid-back eatery



**Volcano Winery**  
Truly exotic flavors



**Chain of Craters Scenic Drive**  
See several volcanic formations



**Thai Thai Restaurant**  
Unexpected Thai cuisine



**Volcano House**  
Hawaii's oldest hotel



### Isaac Hale Beach Park

A beach park without much sand. The park offers several swimming areas, a warm pond, surfing, picnic and camping areas, bathrooms, lifeguards, and a playground.

## Day 3 - Big Island (Hawaii)



**Halemaumau Trail**  
Through the Kilauea Caldera



**Akatsuka Orchid Gardens**  
Pink, red, white...all orchids!

## Day 4 - Hilo

# Day 1 - Big Island (Hawaii)

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QUICK NOTE

**contact:**

tel: +1 808 967 7321  
fax: +1 808 967 8429  
<http://www.volcanohousehotel.com/>

**location:**

CRATER RIM DRIVE  
Hawaii Volcano National Park HI  
96718

## 1 Volcano House

**DESCRIPTION:** The establishment was originally built in 1846, making it the state's oldest hotel. It has since been renovated nine times. The key attraction is its location-it is situated within the grounds of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, offering views of Kilauea Caldera and Mauna Loa. Common space includes a lava-stone fireplace, a necessity in this chilly region of the Big Island. A restaurant and a lounge are available onsite. © wcities.com

**MY NOTE:** After a swim at Mahana Beach, you can head to the National Park, check into the Lodge, set a dinner reservation at the fabulous Kilauea Lodge restaurant in Volcano town and have a HIKE ON KILAUEA IKI TRAIL, FOLLOWED BY A little walk through Thurston Lava Tube before Sunset.



Hotels.com

# Day 2 - Big Island (Hawaii), Hilo

QUICK NOTE

**contact:**

tel: 808-985-6000  
fax: 808-985-6004  
[www.nps.gov/havo/](http://www.nps.gov/havo/)

**location:**

P.O. Box 52  
Captain Cook HI 96718

1

## Crater Rim Scenic Drive

**DESCRIPTION:** Crater Rim Drive is an eleven-mile loop road that encircles the summit Caldera, passes through the Ka'u Desert and tropical rain forest and provides access to well-marked scenic stops and short walks. This road provides access to Kilauea Visitor Center, Jaggar Museum, Halemaumau Overlook and Thurston Lava Tube. Several trails are accessible from this route, including Crater Rim Trail, Devastation Trail and Ka'u Desert Trail. You should allow one to three hours to tour this scenic drive, depending on how often you stop. Turn to the left as you enter Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and follow signs toward the Kilauea Visitor Center. This is the beginning of Crater Rim Scenic Drive.

**MY NOTE:** Enjoy a morning outing around the rim, with wonderful stops along the way. Check out the Steam Vents, the Craters, and be sure to stop in the Jaggar Museum and Visitor Center.



Photo courtesy of Crater Rim Scenic Drive.

**contact:**

tel: +1 808 985 6000  
fax: +1 808 985 6004  
<http://www.volcanogallery.com/Jaggar.htm>

**location:**

Highway 11  
Hilo HI 96785

**hours:**

8:30a-5p daily

2

## Jaggar Museum

**DESCRIPTION:** Located inside of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, this museum offers a number of displays and exhibits related to science, geology and, in particular, the active volcano. Several different kinds of lava are displayed, along with full-color photographs of past volcanic activity. Other exhibits show the equipment and gear that was used to study volcanoes in the past, along with more modern equipment. A seismograph and a tiltometer, two crucial pieces of equipment in any volcano study, are both on display. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Volcano Gallery

**contact:**

tel: +1 808 967 7565  
fax: +1 808 967 7511  
<http://www.volcanoartcenter.org/cgi-bin/vac>

**location:**

Crater Rim Dr  
Volcano HI 96718

**hours:**

9a-5p Mon-Sat; 10a-4p Sun

3

## Volcano Art Center Gallery

**DESCRIPTION:** This gallery is inside Volcano House Hotel and features the work of the island's most skilled artists and crafters. Emphasis is placed upon selling functional art, which means that you'll find plenty of home accessories and furnishings (many of which are fashioned of Koa wood.) A variety of media are showcased, including glass, metals, clay, fiber and woodwork. Both wall art and sculpture are available. If you're spending the day at Volcanoes National Park, be sure to stop in and see what the gallery has to offer you. © wcities.com

**MY NOTE:** Be sure to check this gallery out at the Hotel. It may just provide you with a memento to take home. A\* well, a\* you drive into Volcano town for lunch at Lava Rock Cafe, check out any number of Art



Photo courtesy of Volcano Art Center Gallery

Galleries a\* Volcano town is really a series of Art Galleries along the one main road.

**contact:**

tel: +1 808 967 8526  
[http://www.volcanovillage.com/Volcanoes\\_Lava\\_Rock.htm](http://www.volcanovillage.com/Volcanoes_Lava_Rock.htm)

**location:**

Old Volcano Road  
Waikoloa HI 96785

**hours:**

7:30a-4p Su, 7:30a-5p M,  
7:30a-9p Tu-Sa

**4 Volcano's Lava Rock Cafe**

**DESCRIPTION:** When a burger and a milkshake is preferable to fusion cuisine and cocktails, stop by this down-home deli. Billed as the place where the locals eat, it's a friendly, no-frills diner in Volcano Village. Menu items include stir-fries, burgers, sweet-bread french toast and super-gooey chocolate cake. The macadamia nut cookies are the toast of the town. This place offers live entertainment on weekend nights and Internet access all the time. © wcities.com



Volcano Village

**contact:**

tel: 808 967 7772  
fax: 808 967 7679  
<http://www.volcanowinery.com/>

**location:**

99-1621 Piimauna Drive  
Volcano HI 96785

**5 Volcano Winery**

**DESCRIPTION:** Imagine wine made with tropical fruits like yellow guava and the exotic jaboticaba berry, yet blended with traditional wine grapes to capture the essence of the aloha spirit. You can find it at the Big Island's only winery, and enjoy a wine tasting before you ship it home.

If you are taking a day trip up to the cool Volcano climate, or staying in the area, Volcano Winery is a tasty must stop location. The winery has created two award winning wines made with the Symphony grape, and offers the oh so tasty Macadamia Nut Honey Wine, made with blossoms from the island's macadamia nut trees.

The tasting room is open every day of the year from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The winery ships to certain U.S. states, and can package up the wine so it can be brought on the plane in checked baggage.

Volcano itself is a beautiful area at 4,000 feet elevation, with nearby views of both volcanoes.

Symphony wines- The Symphony grape is a white grape that is a cross between Muscat of Alexandria and Grenache Gris. It was created at UC Davis in California, and was chosen for planting because of its ability to grow well in Volcano's climate. The Symphony grape has a bouquet of peach, apricot, and lychee and our award-winning wines are a fine accompaniment for dinner.

Fruit blended wines- Volcano Winery blends local island fruits like yellow guava and exotic jaboticaba with grapes to create their original Hawaiian fruit blended wines. Volcano Red, Volcano Blush, and Hawaiian Guava Wine are their 3 fruit-blended wines, each capturing its own distinctly Hawaiian twist. Jaboticaba and yellow guava fruit from the island are blended with grapes, resulting in light, fruity wines that are as original as they are bursting with the flavors of the island.

Honey wine- 100% Macadamia Nut honey is used to make their signature honey wine. Honeybees pollinate the blossoms



Photo courtesy of Volcano Winery

on the island's macadamia nut trees, resulting in pure Hawaiian honey from the island which is used to make the popular honey wine. A sweet delight for locals, visitors, and anyone who wants a sip of Hawaiian honey wine from the Big Island.  
© NileGuide

**contact:**

tel: 808-985-6000  
fax: 808-985-6004  
www.nps.gov/havo/

**location:**

P.O. Box 52  
Captain Cook HI 96718

**6 Chain of Craters Scenic Drive**

**DESCRIPTION:** This road begins at Crater Rim Drive and leads 20 miles along the southeastern slopes of Kilauea to the Puna coast. Along the way it descends 3,700 feet and provides sweeping views of lava flows and coastline. The road ends abruptly where a 1995 lava flow crosses it. Depending on changing volcanic activity, there may be opportunities for viewing active lava flows. No food or fuel is available along the Chain of Craters Road. Follow the signs for Crater Rim Drive in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Chain of Craters Road leaves Crater Rim Drive between Thurston Lava Tube and Halemaumau Overlook.

**MY NOTE:** Ga\* up in Volcano town before you head off to Chain of Craters Scenic Drive. It is interesting and may fill in any gaps of your' understanding of Volcanic activity, eruptions and flows. If you are super hearty, wear some hiking boots, cover yourself from the sun, and hike out where the road dead ends. Along the way, you may form your' own comprehensions about lava flow, a\* it is an endless hike across lava. You can see the ocean and possibly see hints of the PRESENTLY (July 2008 ) active flow dropping into the ocean water just around the coa\*t from there.



Photo courtesy of Chain of Craters Scenic Drive

**contact:**

tel: 808-967-7969  
[http://national.citysearch.com/profile/3212059/volcano\\_hi/thai\\_thai\\_restaurant.html](http://national.citysearch.com/profile/3212059/volcano_hi/thai_thai_restaurant.html)

**location:**

19-4084 Old Volcano Rd  
Waikoloa HI 96785

**hours:**

Daily 5pm-9pm

**7 Thai Thai Restaurant**

**DESCRIPTION:** Tasty curries, stir-fries and salads in a wholly unexpected locale adjacent to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

**MY NOTE:** After dinner at Thai Thai, partake in a nighttime gallery opening or head back to the Hotel and see any hula or music going on within the Park that night.



<http://media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-s/01/25/48/b2/thai-thai-restaurant.jpg>

**contact:**

tel: +1 808 967 7321  
fax: +1 808 967 8429  
<http://www.volcanohousehotel.com/>

**location:**

CRATER RIM DRIVE

**8 Volcano House**

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Hotels.com

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Hawaii Volcano Natio HI  
96718

Big Island. A restaurant and a lounge are available onsite. ©  
wcities.com

**MY NOTE:** After a swim at Mahana Beach, you can head to the National Park, check into the Lodge, set a dinner reservation at the fabulous Kilauea Lodge restaurant in Volcano town and have a HIKE ON KILAUEA IKI TRAIL, FOLLOWED BY A little walk through Thurston Lava Tube before Sunset.

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# Day 3 - Big Island (Hawaii)

QUICK NOTE

**contact:**

tel: 808-985-6000  
fax: 808-985-6004  
www.nps.gov/havo/

**location:**

P.O. Box 52  
Hawai'i National Park HI  
96718

## 1 Halemaumau Trail

**DESCRIPTION:** Halemaumau Trail begins at the Kilauea Visitor Center in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, descends 400 feet through rain forest, crosses the desert-like Kilauea Caldera and ends at Halemaumau Overlook. The trail is three and a half miles long, one way and rated as moderately difficult by the Park Service. The return trip may be made via Crater Rim Trail or another combination of short paths. Interesting volcanic formations along the path include: pahoehoe lava flows, steam vents, spatter ramparts and craters. The trail continues into the Calera from the Halemaumau Overlook.

**MY NOTE:** Learn the different types of Lava and hike through different flora and fauna and across the desertlike terrain. This hike will expand the knowledge you have gathered and get you ready for the hike out to the live volcano soon. This hike is from an hour to three hours, up to your' choosing.



Photo courtesy of Halemaumau Trail

**contact:**

tel: +1 808 967 8234 / +1 888  
967 6669 (Toll Free)  
fax: +1 808 967 7140  
<http://www.akatsukaorchid.com/>

**location:**

Highway 11, PO Box 220  
Big Island of Hawaii HI 96785

## 2 Akatsuka Orchid Gardens

**DESCRIPTION:** This garden has over a 1000 species of orchids grown and tended to by Moriyasu Akatsuka, an expert in the plantation of this exotic flower. The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is in close proximity, so you may plan your garden visit accordingly. Award-winning robust orchids are on display, and the gift shop is worth dropping by too - stocking stuffers, bath-products, T-shirts, fragrances, and the like are available. © wcities.com

**MY NOTE:** Don't miss this. There are a remarkable variety of Orchids on display here. You will see these Gardens on your' right a\* you take Highway 11 Ea\*t from Volcano National Park.



Photo courtesy of Akatsuka Orchid Gardens

# Day 4 - Hilo

## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Before arriving on The Big Island, please book a reservation ahead of time at Ramshallah or Kalani, two unique overnight experiences. Ramshallah only has some 8 quarters under one beautiful piece of architecture, while Kalani is spread about the Kalani retreat, which means Heaven in Hawaiian. Please see my places for the links. If you stay at one of these places, you are in the primo location to see the lava flow.

**location:**  
Kapoho-Kalapana Rd  
Hilo HI 96778

## 1 Isaac Hale Beach Park

**DESCRIPTION:** Known to locals as Pohoiki (Po-hee-kee), Isaac Hale Beach Park lies on the Puna coast along Highway 137 and encompasses two acres. Activities at this park include swimming, snorkeling, body surfing, board surfing, camping and picnic tables, a warm pond, and a playground.

The beach consists of small lava rocks and black sand. High surf often deters swimmers from entering the water on the north side known as Shacks, but the south side where the boat ramp is, known as First Bay, offers a mellow swimming area right on the boat ramp. This is the only boat ramp in this region of the island.

Weekends are usually a busy time at this park with locals spending the day at the beach. Snorkelers should enter the water at the boat ramp, and the area is generally fit only for very experienced surfers. The whole area usually has a strong current, so use your best judgment and don't swim out far. The portable toilets have recently been replaced with "real" restrooms and showers. There is a new lawn and picnic tables that can be a good place to take a break from a long drive. People generally like to sunbathe on the pier due to the lack of sand. There is a small warm pond on the First Bay side if you walk past the boat ramp through a trail along the edge of the jungle. The play ground is located on the Shacks side of the park, you can't miss it.

Follow Highway 11 (Volcano Road) southward to Keaau. A short distance past Keaau bear right on Highway 130 (Keaau-Pahoa Road). Follow this into Pahoa. Shortly after passing through Pahoa proper the road splits. Follow the left fork, which is Pahoa-Kapoho Road. This will bring you to the Nanawale Forest Reserve. After passing the reserve and the entrance to Lava Trees State Park, bear right, following Pohoiki Road. This will bring you to Isaac Hale Beach Park. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** This can enlighten your understanding of the Big Island's past potential, pre-Kalapana lava flow in the 1970's. Before, there was a huge, beautiful beach that offered all this place has and more, located down where it is all black lava ground now, where you will see the active volcano come dusk. It was Kalapana Beach and was a jewel of a beach known throughout the islands for its beauty and bounty. While at Isaac Hale Beach, we suggest you stick to what you know, be



Photo Courtesy wikimedia.org

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it surfing, snorkelling, swimming or just viewing. Even old pro's take a tumble here now and then.

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# Big Island (Hawaii) Snapshot

## Local Info

The island of Hawaii is a collection of contrasts and extremes accented with the aloha spirit. This island is not only the furthest south in the Hawaiian Island chain, it happens to be the newest of the main islands and the location of the southernmost point in the United States. In contrast it is also the location of the highest mountain in the world that offers stunning sunset views. Mauna Kea rises 33,000 feet when measured from the sub-oceanic base and is also home of the highest freshwater lake in the United States. Lake Waiau sits just over the 13,000 ft level near the summit of Mauna Kea and served as an important site for the newborn of Hawaiian royalty. The mountain has been proven by anthropologists to have provided a source of obsidian to make stone tools during the traditional Hawaiian times. Mauna Kea is also where the clearest air is found on the planet, hence many of the world's largest telescopes are located on the summit.

The Big Island is also a contrast of fire and ice. Snow covers the peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa during winter months while the volcanic eruption at Kilauea Volcano has been continuously active for over 15 years and is still creating new land in the Kalapana area below Volcano National Park. Visitors are free to experience the winter snow, which usually follows a substantial rain fall, by driving up the mountain in a four wheel drive vehicle.

### North and South Kona

Most visitors to the Big Island first arrive at the Kona International Airport at Keahole. Located in the North Kona, the architecture of the airport is definitively Polynesian. Ticket counters and gate areas are a collection of small buildings resembling groupings of village huts. The open-air setting is unique and provides easy one level access to everything from check-in kiosks to baggage claim and ground transportation.

Turn south from the airport and you will be well in the area that encompasses North and South Kona. This area includes the majority of the original town and tourist district of Kailua-Kona along with the largest business, industrial and commercial area on the Leeward side of the Big Island. Here you will find doctors, big box stores,

restaurants, cultural sites, and many shops and boutiques. Some of the must-sees are Laaloa Beach Park, Ahu'ena Heiau and Hulihe'e Palace which are both along the waterfront. Also along the waterfront is the main thoroughfare called Alii Drive. It is the place to browse shops, dance the night away, watch the green flash over a local larger or have a romantic sunset dinner for two.

### North and South Kohala

Named after the oldest of the five mountains on the island, the landscape of the Kohala Coast is sunny, hot and dry with beautiful sunset and endless ocean views, numerous lava fields and only a few white sand beaches. There are fabulous views of not only Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, the Kohala Mountains and Hualalai, but on a clear day views of the eastern slope of Haleakala can be seen in the distance. Some of the best and more opulent resorts in the state are located along this coast. The Hilton Waikoloa village is probably the most fantastic followed by the very opulent Mauna Lani, the Fairmont Orchid and the Mauna Kea Beach and Hapuna resorts farther north.

Also noteworthy in the area is Spencer Beach Park and Hapuna Beach Park. These two beach parks are one of the best in the state not to mention the island. If there is one thing that brings people from around the world to the Kohala Coast, it is the golf. Most area courses rank among the top 100 in the United States. Hapuna Golf Course, Francis Brown I & II and the Waikoloa Village Golf Courses are all world-renowned. To the south of Hapuna Beach Park down a dusty, bumpy, yet two wheel drive road is Sixty-Nine Beach. Off the beaten map lies the secluded beach that is much smaller than Hapuna, yet big enough to get some privacy on white sand and enjoy swimming in clear water dotted with colorful tropical fish.

North Kohala feels like a world of its own, dotted with older plantation homes along the coast, and a small historic town with galleries, eateries, and a sense of culture. North Kohala makes for a perfect day trip of shopping in the quaint town, and most importantly, a visit to Pololu Valley, the birthplace of the notorious King Kamehameha, with a steep hike and a beautiful black sand beach.

One of the more unique areas in South Kohala is Waimea. Located at the 2500 foot elevation, Waimea town is cool and green. Breezy sunny days that can have the hint of a chill, and cool nights, Waimea is a combination of local cowboys known as paniolos, scientists and upscale island homes and not just another sleepy Hawaii plantation town. Waimea, or Kamuela as it is sometimes referred to, is a ranching town. It sits adjacent to one of the largest working cattle ranches in the country, Parker Ranch, and is steeped in tradition, culture and history. Waimea is also the location of the administrative support for the Keck and Canada France Telescopes that sit on the summit of Mauna Kea in full view from the heart of town on a clear day.

### Hamakua

From the sleepy town of Honokaa to the tiny town of Paauilo, the Hamakua coast is known for beautiful ocean vistas, waterfalls, valleys and lush tropical landscapes. Life is slow, unhurried, and is lived by a combination of the young and old settled in for a lifestyle of peace and tranquility. It is a place where relationships mean more than time and the beep of a car horn is more of a greeting than a reproach. Just a few miles north from the center of Honokaa Town is Waipio Valley. Exploring the valley to view the streams, taro patches, waterfalls, and black sand beach is an island highlight. Valley tours are available to see the valley, as well as a stop at the lookout up top, a strenuous and very steep walk down and up, or a four wheel drive cruise into the valley only to be piloted by skilled drivers. Also a part of Hamakua is the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area. Accessible via Saddle Road from either Kona or Hilo, a visit to the summit would necessitate a four wheel drive and a call to the check on the area weather conditions. The Saddle Road is a site in its own, with views of both Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, various cinder cones, open land and pastures, and state park for cabin stays and picnics, and a general feeling of being in another world.

A drive along the Hamakua coast will take you through eucalyptus forests, pasture lands over bridges and through valleys. It is a relaxing experience and one of the more special parts of the island.

### North and South Hilo

## Big Island (Hawaii) Snapshot continued

Located just south of Hamakua along the windward side of the island the Hilo area encompasses the area from Ookala to the quiet waterfront town of Hilo. The area is much like the Hamakua Coast to the casual untrained eye, a closer look will reveal some of the most beautiful waterfalls, picturesque parks and charming towns in the state. There are no championship golf courses, wide white sand beaches or mega resorts here, but there is a unique charm just under the thick canopy of tropical vegetation and giant hapuu fern trees. A stop in Laupahoehoe can take just a few minutes, but in those minutes one can visit the historical train museum or visit the lovely seaside park complete with tide pools and beautiful rocky coast line. A short stop in Ninole town cannot be complete without a photo opportunity at the post office. Delightful and charming, it is the smallest in the state and certainly one of the smallest in the country.

Not to be missed is a stop at the Akaka Falls State Park. The paved trails wander through thick vegetation under a tropical canopy. The park is actually home of two of the longest waterfalls in the state. Akaka Falls is the longest more well-known and neighboring Kahuna Falls is almost as long.

Hilo is the largest community on the island and has a long and interesting history that has been shaped by natural events. Hilo has been threatened by lava flows, wiped out by tsunami, hurricanes and earthquakes. Today, it is home to a wonderful farmer's market that takes place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, several museums, botanical gardens, a wonderful astronomy center, and the largest and most renowned hula competition in the world, the Merrie Monarch. Hilo is scattered with delicious eateries, local style boutiques and shops, a mall, several health food stores, and several big box stores.

Downtown Hilo is a wonderful spot to browse through the small shops, have lunch after a morning at the volcano and pick up some fresh orchids or anthuriums. Bayfront, the area of downtown Hilo located along, you guessed it, the bay, is a place where sightseers can start at either Banyan Drive or the new Tsunami Museum to explore an area of town that boasts some of the most hip places to dine and shop. There's also the East Hawaii Cultural Center and Lyman Museum. For

information on these attractions and on the outlying areas, visit the Hawaii Visitor's Bureau.

### Puna

The Big Islands district of Puna has been known in the past as the "Wild West," even though it is on the east side of the island. With the small former plantation towns of Keaau and Pahoa that are nearer to the ocean than the small towns of Mountain View and Volcano on the slopes of Kilauea, Puna offers everything from chilly nights, forests of ferns and ohia lehua trees to the inexpensive acre lots with ocean views and the sounds of coqui frogs at night. Puna has evolved through a history combining plantation life, strong native Hawaiian culture, a strong hippie culture in Pahoa, and the reputation through decades as one of the largest marijuana cultivating locations.

Shipman Beach, a white sand bay where sea turtles and monk seals come to rest is located as the base of the neighborhood paradise park, and is a must see. Lower Puna, the area below Pahoa, offers various hot ponds, steam vents, tide pools, and fresh and hard lava. Puna can look a little rough at first site but a deeper look will discover hidden treasures that cannot be found anywhere else in Hawaii.

### Kau

To mention Kau, is to refer to Hawaii's last frontier. Kau is certainly the most rural area on the entire island with miles and miles of wide open land with just a single road bisecting it from South Kona to the entrance of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This area is home to small country communities, natural beauty and historical significance that has yet to be documented. A drive from Kona to the volcano will treat you with glimpses of wild untouched coastline, low-land forests, off the map black sand beaches, cold water ponds, and green sand beaches. Once at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park a visit to the Kilauea Visitor Center, Volcano Art Center and Jaggar Museum along with a short hike through the Thurston Lava Tube are not to be missed. A visit to the semi-famous Punalu'u Bakeshop and Visitor Center for lunch and the Punaluu Black Sand Beach is also a must-do.

To experience the Big Island is to experience Madame Pele's fiery fury at

Kilauea, to venture up to snow capped summit home of the Hawaiian Goddess Poliahu at Mauna Kea, to warm up on the sunny leeward shores, to drive through miles and miles of open countryside, hike to gorgeous waterfalls, sit in natural steamy saunas, visit green and black sand beaches, and take in a variety of cultures. The Big Island is a place where direction to the intriguing and exotic sites helps and visitor, and travelers can get lost in the beauty and culture and Hawaii's largest island.

© NileGuide

## Fun Facts

### Hawai'i(Big Island)

State: Hawaii

Country: United States

### Hawai'i(Big Island) by the Numbers:

Population: 148,677

Elevation: 18 feet

Highest Point: 13,796 feet(Mauna Kea)

Average Annual Rainfall: Ranges from 10 inches at Kawaihae to 128 inches at Hilo Airport

Average January Temperature: 73 degrees F

Average July Temperature: 76 degrees F

### Quick Facts:

Major Industries: tourism/hospitality/recreation, sugar, coffee, cattle

Landmarks: Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kealakekua Bay, Kailua-Kona, Kawaihae, Parker Ranch, Waipio Valley

Ethnic Mix: 30.2% Hawaiian, 23.2% Caucasian, 14.1% Japanese, 10.5% Filipino

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT-10

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 808

### Did You Know?

Hawaii's Big Island is the youngest in geologic age, as well as the largest of the Hawaiian Islands and continues to increase

## Big Island (Hawaii) Snapshot continued

in size because of Kilauea, the world's most active volcano that is highly active due to its location of the Pacific hot spot.

Hawaii's Big Island is located amongst the Hawaiian Islands in the central Pacific Ocean.

**Orientation:**

©