



Discover  
**Hawai'i, the  
Big Island**

Experience the best  
of Hawai'i, the Big  
Island

**This edition written and researched by**


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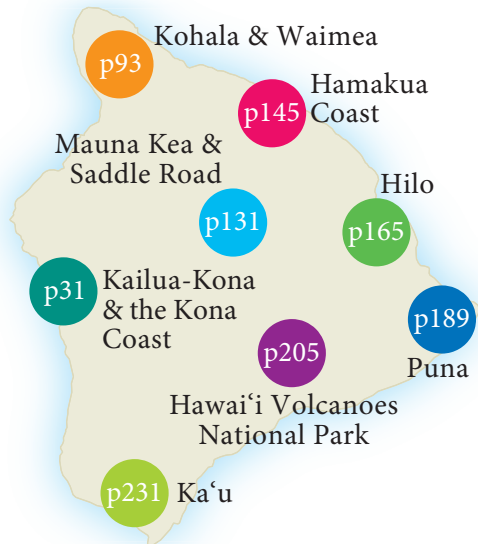
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# This is Hawai‘i, the Big Island

We doubt it's possible to get 'island fever' on Hawai'i. The aptly named Big Island is fantastically diverse, with miles of highways and – better yet – byways to explore, from age-old fishing villages to modern megaresorts, from snowy peaks to sandy beaches. Hawai'i is twice as big as the other Hawaiian islands combined, and its dramatic terrain will surprise you and take you to extremes.

## Less than half a million years old, Hawai'i is a baby in geologic terms.

It's here you'll find the Hawaiian Islands' highest and largest volcanic mountains – and the world's most active volcano, spewing molten lava continually since 1983. Circumnavigate the Big Island and watch stark lava desert morph into rolling pastureland and misty valleys, weathered by rain, waves and time.

## Ancient history looms large on Hawai'i, a place of powerful *mana* (spiritual essence).

The first Polynesians landed at Ka Lae, where the windswept coast remains pristine and undeveloped, and Kamehameha the Great was born in Kohala. Hula and *oli* (chant) are powerful forms of living history on the Big Island, which has birthed legendary hula and Hawaiian music masters, as well as the celebrated Merrie Monarch Festival.

Plantation days are long past, but not their colorful legacy. Waves of immigrants who labored in the cane fields added their languages, foods and cultures to the mix. Today, there's no ethnic majority and common bonds are intangible: the pidgin vernacular, an easygoing manner and deep love of the *aina* (land).

Hawai'i is untouristy. Thanks to its sheer size, there's lots of legroom. While Kona caters to travelers en masse, most island towns are rural and made for residents instead. Even the capital seat, Hilo, is a former plantation town that's still slow-paced and populated by *kama'aina* (people born and raised in the Hawaiian Islands). Wherever you go, there's a sense of freedom and frontier. The Big Island is a guaranteed *big* experience.

“  
Wherever  
you go,  
there's a  
sense of  
freedom  
and  
frontier  
”



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