



Discover Hawai'i the Big Island

Discover the best of the Big Island

- HIGHLIGHTS
- ITINERARIES
- SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL
- EASY-TO-USE MAPS



Discover Hawai'i the Big Island

Contents



Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



The Best...

Lists for everything from beaches to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out

Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the maps:



Beaches



Eating



Sights



Drinking



Sleeping



Information

This edition written and researched by

Luci Yamamoto,
Conner Gorry

Contents

Plan Your Trip

This Is Hawai'i the Big Island	4
Hawai'i the Big Island Map	6
Hawai'i the Big Island's Top 15 Experiences	8
Hawai'i the Big Island's Top Itineraries	20
Get Inspired	25
Hawai'i the Big Island Month by Month	26
Need to Know	28

On the Road



Kailua-Kona	31
Itineraries	32
Highlights	33
Around Kailua-Kona	56
Keauhou Resort Area	56
Holualoa	62



Kona Coast	67
Itineraries	68
Highlights	69
South Kona Coast	70
Honalo	70
Kainaliu	71
Kealahou	73
Captain Cook	76
Honaunau	83
Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau National Historical Park	84
Ho'okena & Around	87
Miloli'i	88

North Kona Coast	88
Honokohau Harbor	89
Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park	93
Keahole Point	94
Kekaha Kai State Park	95
Ka'upulehu	97
Kiholo Bay	98



Kohala & Waimea	101
Itineraries	102
Highlights	103
South Kohala	104
Waikoloa Resort Area	104
Mauna Lani Resort Area	111
Puako	116

Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area	118
Mauna Kea Resort Area	119
Kawaihae & Around	120
North Kohala	124
Akoni Pule Hwy (Hwy 270)	125
Hawi	127
Kapa'au	130
Pololu Valley	132
Waimea (Kamuela)	134



Mauna Kea & Saddle Road	145
Itineraries	146
Highlights	147
Around Mauna Kea	160
Mauna Loa	160
Saddle Road Hikes	160



Hamakua Coast	163
Itineraries	164
Highlights	165
Honoka'a & Around	166
Kukuihaele	171
Waipi'o Valley	172
Kalopa State Recreation Area	179
Laupahoehoe	180
Hakalau	181
Honomu	182
Onomea Bay & Around	184



Hilo	187
Itineraries	188
Highlights	189

In Focus

Survival Guide



Puna 217

Itineraries 218

Highlights 219

Kea'au & Around 220

Pahoa 221

Highway 132 227

Red Road (Highway 137) 229

Highway 130 235



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park 237

Itineraries 238

Highlights 239

Around Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park 264

Volcano 264



Ka'u 271

Itineraries 272

Highlights 273

Pahala 274

Punalu'u 275

Whittington Beach Park & Around 276

Na'alehu 278

Wai'ohinu & Around 279

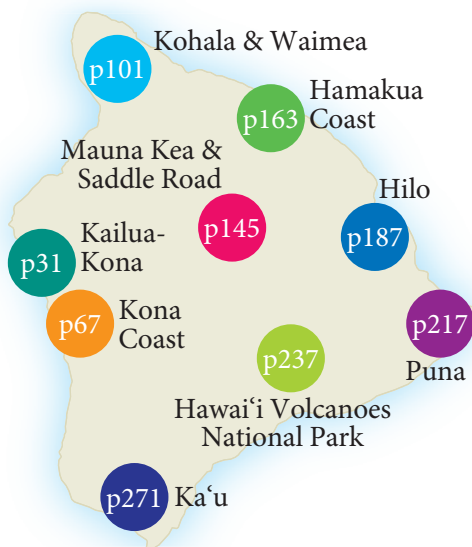
South Point (Ka Lae) 280

Ocean View 284

Road to the Sea 286

Manuka State Wayside Park 287

The Big Island Today	290	Directory	344
History	292	Transport	351
People of the Big Island	302	Glossary	356
Big Island Cuisine	306	Behind the Scenes	361
Hawaiian Arts & Crafts	315	Index	362
Family Travel	319	How to Use this Book	375
Green Big Island	322	Our Writers	376
Outdoor Activities & Adventures	330		
Lei	340		





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 mega resorts, from snow-capped peaks to sandy beaches, you'll experience tropical splendor backed by an epic history. Hawai'i is twice as big as the other Hawaiian Islands combined, and its dramatic terrain will surprise you and take you to extremes.

At 800,000 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 since 1983. Circumnavigate the 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 North Kohala. Hula and *oli* (chant) are powerful forms of living history, and the Big Island has spawned legendary hula masters and the celebrated Merrie Monarch Festival.

Plantation days are long past, but not the colorful legacy. The 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, easygoing manner and deep love of the 'aina (land).

Hawai'i is surprisingly untouristy. And thanks to its sheer size, there's lots of legroom. While the South Kohala Gold Coast caters to travelers en masse, most island towns are rural and cater to residents. Even the capital seat, Hilo, is a former plantation town that's still slow-paced and populated by *kama'aina* (born-and-raised Hawaiians). 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
”

