



Hamakua Coast

808

Includes →

Honoka'a	184
Waipi'o Valley	188
Laupahoehoe	191
Hakalau & Around	192
Honomu	193
Pepe'ekeo to Papaikou	194

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Gramma's Kitchen (p185)
- ➔ Papa'aloa Country Store & Cafe (p192)
- ➔ Honoka'a Farmers Market (p185)
- ➔ Waipi'o Cookhouse (p190)
- ➔ Cafe il Mondo (p188)
- ➔ Sea Dandelion Cafe & Awa Bar (p185)

Best Farm Tours

- ➔ Hamakua Mushrooms (p191)
- ➔ Mauna Kea Tea (p184)
- ➔ Onomea Tea Company (p194)
- ➔ Hawaiian Vanilla Company (p185)
- ➔ Long Ears Coffee (p184)

Why Go?

Stretching from Waipi'o Valley to Hilo, the Hamakua Coast combines rugged beauty and bursting fertility. Here you'll find rocky shores and pounding surf, tropical rainforests and thunderous waterfalls. The color green takes on new meaning, especially in Waipi'o Valley, which you can explore on horseback or on a steep, exhilarating hike.

On the slopes of Mauna Kea, farmers grow vanilla, tea, mushrooms and other boutique crops, modernizing and diversifying island agriculture. Visit these small-scale farms for a close-up look at island life (and to sample its delicious bounty). Sugarcane once ruled the Hamakua Coast, with acres of plantations and massive trains chugging along the coast and across towering bridges spanning the tremendous gulches. Stop at old-time museums and delve into the rich history here. Pause to imagine the 'old plantation days.' Go slow, explore the back roads and step back in time.

When to Go

May–Sep Less chance of rain, especially if hiking in Waipi'o Valley (although the windward Hamakua Coast can see showers year-round).

Dec–Feb Accommodations will be pricier and booked well in advance during the winter high season.

Mar–Apr The Laupahoehoe Music Festival offers genuine Hawaiian music and community spirit.



Hamakua Coast Highlights

- 1 Waipio Valley Hike** (p178) Struggling down the steep road to Waipio's black-sand beach.
- 2 Hawaii Plantation Museum** (p194) Viewing fascinating artifacts from the days when sugar was king.
- 3 Hamakua Harvest Farmers Market** (p185)

- Shopping for locally grown items in neighborly Honoka'a.
- 4 Hamakua Mushrooms** (p191) Touring the efficient indoor farm that produces Hawai'i's famous Ali'i Oyster mushrooms.
- 5 'Akaka Falls State Park** (p193) Taking an easy stroll

- through soaring rainforest to the touristy yet impressive 420ft falls.
- 6 Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden** (p194) Strolling nicely landscaped gardens with eye-popping foliage.