



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ōhelo Café (p257)
- ➔ The Rim Restaurant (p253)
- ➔ Thai Thai Restaurant (p256)
- ➔ Kilauea Lodge Restaurant (p257)

Best Volcanic Resources

- ➔ USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (<http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov>)
- ➔ Hawai'i County Civil Defense (www.hawaii.gov/civil-defense)
- ➔ Trail & Road Closures (www.nps.gov/havo/closed_areas.htm)
- ➔ Air Quality (www.hawaii.so2network.com)

Why Go?

From the often-snowy summit of Mauna Loa, the world's most massive volcano, to the boiling coast where lava pours into the sea, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is a micro-continent of thriving rainforests, volcano-induced deserts, mountain meadows, coastal plains and geological marvels in between.

At the heart of it all is Kilauea – the earth's youngest and most active shield volcano. Since 1983 Kilauea's East Rift Zone has been erupting almost nonstop from the Pu'u Ō'o vent, adding nearly 500 acres of new land to the island.

The national park staff excel at managing this chaotic landscape. Their education programs deftly blend modern science with ancient beliefs and customs, and their outreach feels boundless. Ample interpretive signs, unusually informative trail guides, a slew of well-thought-out ranger-led hikes, living history programs and a weekly lecture series all provide visitors with a solid connection to the park and the people of Hawai'i.

When to Go

Jun–Aug The summer Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Cultural Festival is crowded, but for good reasons: free park entrance and ample activities for the whole family.

Aug & Sep Clouds and rain are a fact of life (this is a rainforest after all) but August and September tend to have more clear days on average.

Eruptions Volcanoes don't follow schedules; try to keep yours flexible enough to take advantage of short-notice lava-viewing opportunities.



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Highlights

- 1 Halema'uma'u Viewpoint** (p244) Looking into the glowing heart of the earth and paying respects to Pele.
- 2 Mauna Loa Trail** (p238) Submitting the sculptured rock flanks of the world's largest above-water volcano.
- 3 Kilauea Iki Trail** (p238) Imagining the rolling chaotic waves of lava that flooded this crater floor not too long ago.
- 4 Kazumura Cave Tours** (p255) Exploring the surprisingly beautiful plumbing of a volcano while hoping it doesn't decide to flush you out.
- 5 The Rim Restaurant** (p253) Watching the sun set over a steaming post-apocalyptic landscape while sharing drinks or a meal.
- 6 Kilauea Visitor Center** (p244) Trying to find a question the rangers haven't been asked, and don't know the answer to.