



Kohala & Waimea

808

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Kohala Burger & Taco (p148)
- ➔ Merriman's (p161)
- ➔ Sushi Rock (p151)
- ➔ Anuenue (p148)
- ➔ Bamboo (p151)

Best Activities with Kids

- ➔ Horseback riding in Waimea (p159) or North Kohala (p155)
- ➔ Splashing around at Spencer Beach Park (p147)
- ➔ Ziplining in and around the Kohala canopy (p149)
- ➔ Exploring the Puako Tide Pools (p145)

Why Go?

The Kohala coast is a land of long deserts bending to bleached white-sand beaches, before giving way to the fuzzy grass hills of cattle country and the thick jungles of the north coast. Out here the wind howls a gale, the sun shines like a broiler, and a land of wild extremes waits to be discovered.

South Kohala is the archetypal sun-and-sea resort mecca. From Waikoloa to Kawaihae, Hawaiian history is preserved in ancient trails, heiau (temples), fishponds and petroglyphs – although all you'll see from the highway is stark lava desert and the edges of resort golf courses.

In counterpoint to the south's desert climate and man-made attractions, North Kohala is lushly otherworldly, with magnificent pastureland, quaint plantation towns and Pololu Valley's cascading cliffs. It proudly remains rural with nary a high-rise in sight. Waimea, a ranch town in between, is a central stop for cross-island travelers.

When to Go

Jun Celebrate the life of King Kamehameha with a North Kohala-style parade from Hawi to Kapa'au.

Feb In Waimea, the Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival is a must-see cultural event.

Sep The Taste of the Hawaiian Range brings out the best of local produce and livestock.



Kohala & Waimea Highlights

- 1 Hawi** (p149) Pottering around this quirky little town.
- 2 Kohala Mountain Road** (p155) Driving over one of the state's most beautiful roads.
- 3 Mo'okini Heiau** (p153) Making the trek to this ancient Hawaiian temple.
- 4 Hapuna Beach** (p144) This classically gorgeous

- beach does wonders for the Instagram feed.
- 5 Mahukona** (p153) A gorgeous snorkeling spot that's off the beaten track.
- 6 Mau'umae Beach** (p146) Another picture-perfect Kohala beach? Why not.
- 7 Pu'ukohola Heiau** (p148) Wandering around

- the base of this enormous Hawaiian temple.
- 8 Pololu Valley** (p156) Sheer cliffs plunge into this Edenic green sanctuary.
- 9 Beach 69** (p144) Guess what? We're not done with Kohala's gorgeous beaches.
- 10 Flumin' Kohala** (p151) Exploring a historic irrigation canal.