



# Puna

POP 40,000 / 📞 808

## Includes ➔

Kea'au .....	226
Pahoa .....	227
Red Road .....	230
Kalapana Area.....	231
Kapoho Area .....	234

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pele's Kitchen (p229)
- ➔ Pahoa Fresh Fish (p229)
- ➔ Paolo's Bistro (p229)
- ➔ Kaleo's Bar & Grill (p229)

## Best Scenic Views

- ➔ Molten lava by land (p232) or by sea (p231)
- ➔ Marine life in Kapoho Tide Pools (p235)
- ➔ People-watching at Kehena Beach (p230)
- ➔ Tree Tunnels along the Red Road (p230)

## Why Go?

Hawai'i's eastern corner is a challenging place to live. Often drenched by rain, occasionally scorched by lava, and somewhat disconnected from the rest of the island, Puna attracts a unique assortment of free-spirited characters who enjoy living on the edge.

This is the home of hippies, funky artists, alternative healers, Hawaiian sovereignty activists, *pakalolo* (marijuana) growers, organic farmers and off-the-grid survivalists. A nickname for all these folks, which they enthusiastically embrace, is Punatics. Collectively they embody a disconcerting blend of laid-back apathy to the world and intense emotion.

But even if you prefer to keep your mana (spiritual essence) more on the down-low, you'll still find plenty of compelling reasons to explore the land where the sun rises: from warm springs and world-class snorkeling to yoga centers and a couple of fine surf breaks. Go now, before Pele decides it's time to hit the reset button.

## When to Go

**Apr, May & Sep** Crowds and prices dip before and after summer vacation. Mild and sunny days.

**Oct & Nov** Moderate number of visitors, with decent prices on airfares and accommodations. Expect increased crowds and business closures around Thanksgiving Day.

**Dec–Mar & Jun–Aug** Accommodations rates double or triple. In Easter, the area around Hilo is jammed during the Merrie Monarch Festival.



## Puna Highlights

- 1 Lava Viewing** (p232)  
Being hypnotized by Pele's awesome power as she creates the Earth before your very eyes.
- 2 Kapoho Tide Pools** (p235)  
Chasing schools of fish through an endless maze of ponds and pools.

- 3 Uncle Robert's Wednesday Night Market** (p233)  
Meeting Puna's cast of characters at a weekly festival of food, friends and fine music.
- 4 Cape Kumukahi** (p234)  
Feeling one of the world's

cleanest breezes blowing across your face at the eastern edge of the island.

- 5 Pohoiki Bay** (p230)  
Watching local talent tame the ocean at Puna's most happening surf break.