



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Randy Son Of Robert

Discover the Hidden Side on Hawaii Holiday

Big Island (Hawaii), 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: It's not all about resorts, luaus and umbrella drinks. One can explore the hidden gems the Big Island has to offer. Include one of these "off the beaten path" items to your trip and you will discover a bit of what makes the island tick. Explore, discover, enjoy and be amazed and when it's time to return to the resort, that umbrella drink will be calling your name.

contact:

tel: 800-GOHAWAII
fax: 808-924-0290
<http://www.hawaiitrails.org/trail.asp>

location:

Onomea Rd
Pepeekeo HI 96783

1 Onomea Trail

DESCRIPTION: Located on the eastern side of the island, this 0.5 mile easy trail follows the alignment of the old government road into the Hawaii Tropical Botanical garden and splits at Alakahi Stream; one branch turns right to Kukulu Bay and the other continues directly across the garden to the east side of Kahali'i Stream. The stream may be forded at this point to connect with the Donkey Trail. Mosquito repellent needed. Donkey Trail goes directly to the point between Kenenuue and Kahali'i Bays. It is steep, with the tread uneven and often slippery. Use caution. Donkey Trail is part of a Hawaiian Kingdom government cart road used for hauling goods from the landing at Onomea. Mosquito repellent recommended. Trail starts from the old Hawaii Belt Road (4 mile scenic route between Papaikou and Pepeekeo off Highway 19) about 0.5 mile on the Hilo side of the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden Office. Limited parking.



Photo courtesy of Onomea Trail

contact:

tel: +1 808 929 7343
<http://www.punaluubakeshop.com>

location:

off Mamalahoa Highway
Na'alehu HI 96722

hours:

9a-5p

2 Punalu'u Bakeshop & Visitor Center

DESCRIPTION: Gourmands and sweet tooths (or is that sweet teeth?) won't want to miss this one. It is a bakery so large and famous that it's a genuine landmark. After viewing the commercial bakery, guests are invited to sample the end product: fresh-baked bread that has become an island institution. Cookies and other treats are also available to sample. Once tastebuds are whetted, stop at the lunch counter for sandwiches, ice cream, cookies and more. The gorgeous tropical gardens that surround the bakery are open to the public, and a picnic area is available. © wcities.com



photo courtesy of Punalu'u Bake Shop

contact:

tel: +1 808 964 5233
fax: +1 808 964 1338
<http://www.htbg.com>

location:

27-717 Old Mamalahoa Highway
Papaikou HI 96781

hours:

8:30a-5p

3 Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden

DESCRIPTION: Some visitors hail this as the most beautiful area in Hawaii. Visitors can expect to see rushing rivers and trickling streams, vivid orchids and delicate hanging ferns, birds and flowers in every color of the rainbow. Waterfalls, lily ponds and several miles of coastline add to the astonishing aesthetic beauty of the garden. A gift shop is onsite and umbrellas are loaned out free of charge when it rains, which adds even more to the tropical setting. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 808 961 5797

location:

End of South Point Road
South Point HI 96777

hours:

24 hrs M-Su

4 South Point

DESCRIPTION: The southern tip of the Big Island is also the southernmost place in the entire United States. Plenty of people make the journey to see it, though there isn't a whole lot to see on the way. There is something to hear, however: the windmills at Kamoia Wind Farm. Definitely take time out to stop at Mahana Beach, known for its green sand, along the way. The view once you get to South Point is quite pretty - definitely worth a picture. A warning, though: do not ever go in the water. Every local guide will warn you about this spot's perilous currents. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 808 959 7224 / +1 808
959 9233 (Gift Shop)

fax: +1 808 961 8411

<http://www.hilozoo.com/>

location:

25 Aupuni Street
Hilo HI 96720

hours:

9a-4p M-Su, Petting Zoo:
1:30-2:30 Sa,

5 Panaewa Rainforest Zoo

DESCRIPTION: This is the only natural tropical rainforest zoo in the U.S. It is a home to more than 80 species of animals! All you animal lovers can come see animals like the endangered white Bengal Tiger and the Nene. You can shudder at the slithery reptiles or take a regal walk amidst peacocks in the zoo grounds. If you visit on a Saturday, definitely head to the Petting Zoo, where you can get up close and personal with different creatures. Let out your animal side at this wild wonderland - from lush and exotic plants to squawking birds and excitable primates, you'll find them all here. Admission is free. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Panaewa
Rainforest Zoo

Big Island (Hawaii) Snapshot

Local Info

The island of Hawaii is a collection of contrasts, and extremes. This island is not only the furthest south in the Hawaiian Island chain, it happens to be the location of the southernmost point in the United States. In contrast it is also the location of the highest mountain in the world. Mauna Kea rises 33,000 feet when measured from the sub-oceanic base. Mauna Kea is also home of the highest freshwater lake in the United States. Lake Waiau sits just over the 13,000 ft level near the summit of Mauna Kea. Mauna Kea is also where the clearest air is found on the planet, hence many of the world's largest telescopes are located on the summit.

The Big Island is also a contrast of fire and ice. Snow covers the peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa during winter months while the volcanic eruption at Kilauea Volcano has been continuously active for over 15 years.

North and South Kona

Most visitors to the Big Island first arrive at the Kona International Airport at Keahole. Located in the North Kona, the architecture of the airport is definitively Polynesian. Ticket counters and gate areas are a collection of small buildings resembling groupings of village huts. The open-air setting is unique and provides easy one level access to everything from check-in kiosks to baggage claim and ground transportation.

Turn south from the airport and you will be well in the area that encompasses North and South Kona. This area includes the majority of the original town and tourist district of Kailua-Kona along with the largest business, industrial and commercial area on the Leeward side of the Big Island. Here you will find doctors, big box stores, restaurants, cultural sites, and many shops and boutiques. Some of the must-sees are Laaloa Beach Park, Ahu'ena Heiau and Hulihe'e Palace which are both along the waterfront. Also along the waterfront is the main thoroughfare called Alii Drive. It is the place to browse shops, dance the night away, watch the green flash over a local larger or have a romantic sunset dinner for two.

North and South Kohala

Named after the oldest mountains on the island, the landscape of the Kohala Coast is sunny, hot and dry with beautiful sunset and endless ocean views, numerous lava fields and only a few white sand beaches. There are fabulous views of not only Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, the Kohala Mountains and Hualalai, but on a clear day views of the eastern slope of Haleakala can be seen in the distance. Some of the best and more opulent resorts in the state are located along this coast. The Hilton Waikoloa village is probably the most fantastic followed by the very opulent Mauna Lani, the Fairmont Orchid and the Mauna Kea Beach and Hapuna resorts farther north.

Also noteworthy in the area is Spencer Beach Park and Hapuna Beach Park. These two beach parks are one of the best in the state not to mention the island. If there is one thing that brings people from around the world to the Kohala Coast, it is the golf. Most area courses rank among the top 100 in the United States. Hapuna Golf Course, Francis Brown I & II and the Waikoloa Village Golf Courses are all world-renowned.

One of the more interesting areas in South Kohala is Waimea. Located at the 2500 foot elevation, Waimea town is unique in all Hawaii. Breezy sunny days and cool nights, Waimea is a combination of cowboys, scientists and upscale island homes and not just another sleepy Hawaii plantation town. Waimea, or Kamuela as it is sometimes referred to, is a ranching town. It sits adjacent to one of the largest working cattle ranches in the country, Parker Ranch, and is steeped in tradition, culture and history. Waimea is also the location of the administrative support for the Keck and Canada France Telescopes that sit on the summit of Mauna Kea in full view from the heart of town on a clear day.

Hamakua

From the sleepy town of Honokaa to the tiny town of Paauilo, the Hamakua coast is known for beautiful ocean vistas, waterfalls, valleys and lush tropical landscapes. Life is slow, unhurried. It is a place where relationships mean more than time and the beep of a car horn is more of a greeting than a reproach. Just a few miles north from the center of Honokaa Town is Waipio Valley. A tour is recommended to visit the

valley floor where streams, taro patches and waterfalls can be viewed, otherwise, a stop at the lookout to enjoy the valley vistas is something is simply not to be missed. Also a part of Hamakua is the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area. Accessible via Saddle Road from either Kona or Hilo, a visit to the summit would necessitate a four wheel drive and a call to the check on the area weather conditions.

A drive along the Hamakua coast will take you through eucalyptus forests, pasture lands over bridges and through valleys. It is a relaxing experience and one of the more special parts of the island.

North and South Hilo

Located just south of Hamakua along the windward side of the island the Hilo area encompasses the area from Ookala to the quiet waterfront town of Hilo. The area is much like the Hamakua Coast to the casual untrained eye, a closer look will reveal some of the most beautiful waterfalls, picturesque parks and charming towns in the state. There are no championship golf courses, wide white sand beaches or mega resorts here, but there is a unique charm just under the thick canopy of tropical vegetation and giant hapuu fern trees. A stop in Laupahoehoe can take just a few minutes, but in those minutes one can visit the historical train museum or visit the lovely seaside park complete with tide pools and beautiful rocky coast line. A short stop in Ninole town cannot be complete without a photo opportunity at the post office. Delightful and charming, it is the smallest in the state and certainly one of the smallest in the country.

Not to be missed is a stop at the Akaka Falls State Park. The paved trails wander through thick vegetation under a tropical canopy. The park is actually home of two of the longest waterfalls in the state. Akaka Falls is the longest more well-known and neighboring Kahuna Falls is almost as long.

Hilo is the largest community on the island and has a long and interesting history that has been shaped my natural events. Hilo has been threatened by lava flows, wiped out by tsunami, hurricanes and earthquakes. Today, it is home to a wonderful farmer's market, several museums and botanical gardens a wonderful astronomy center and the largest

Big Island (Hawaii) Snapshot continued

and most renowned hula competition in the world.

Downtown Hilo is a wonderful spot to browse through the small shops, have lunch after a morning at the volcano and pick up some fresh orchids or anthuriums. Located on the waterfront. Sightseers can start at either Banyan Drive or the new Tsunami Museum. There's also the East Hawaii Cultural Center and Lyman Museum. For information on these attractions and on the outlying areas, visit the Hawaii Visitor's Bureau.

Puna

The relatively small area of Puna is the most diverse areas on the island. From the small former plantation towns of Keaau and Pahoa near the ocean to the small towns of Mountain View and Volcano on the slopes of Kilauea, Puna offers everything from chilly nights, forests of ferns and ohia lehua trees to the inexpensive acre lots with ocean views and the sounds coqui frogs at night. A visit to Puna would certainly include a visit to the active lava flows. In the late afternoon and early evening.

Kau

To mention Kau, is to refer to Hawaii's last frontier. Kau is certainly the most rural area on the entire island with miles and miles of wide open land with just a single road bisecting it from South Kona to the entrance of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This area is home to small country communities, natural beauty and historical significance that is really yet to be documented. A drive

from Kona to the volcano will treat you with glimpses of wild untouched coastline, low-land forests and more. Once at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park a visit to the Kilauea Visitor Center, Volcano Art Center and Jaggar Museum along with a short hike through the Thurston Lava Tube are not to be missed. A visit to the semi-famous Punalu'u Bakeshop & Visitor Center for lunch and the Punaluu Black Sand Beach is also a must-do.

To experience the Big Island is to experience Madame Pele's fiery fury at Kilauea, to venture up to snow-capped summit home of the Hawaiian Goddess Poliahu at Mauna Kea, to warm up on the sunny leeward shores, to drive through miles and miles of open countryside, hike to gorgeous waterfalls and much more. There is so much to see and what's more is the Big Island gets bigger everyday.

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Fun Facts

Hawai'i(Big Island)

State: Hawaii

Country: United States

Hawai'i(Big Island) by the Numbers:

Population: 148,677

Elevation: 18 feet

Highest Point: 13,796 feet(Mauna Kea)

Average Annual Rainfall: Ranges from 10 inches at Kawaihae to 128 inches at Hilo Airport

Average January Temperature: 73 degrees F

Average July Temperature: 76 degrees F

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: tourism/hospitality/recreation, sugar, coffee, cattle

Landmarks: Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Kealahou Bay, Kailua-Kona, Kawaihae, Parker Ranch, Waipio Valley

Ethnic Mix: 30.2% Hawaiian, 23.2% Caucasian, 14.1% Japanese, 10.5% Filipino

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT-10

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 808

Did You Know?

Hawaii's Big Island is the youngest in geologic age, as well as the largest of the Hawaiian Islands and continues to increase in size because of Kilauea, the world's most active volcano.

Orientation:

Hawaii's Big Island is located amongst the Hawaiian Islands in the central Pacific Ocean.

©

Big Island (Hawaii) Snapshot continued

Weather

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature C												
Average High	26	26	26	26	27	27	27	28	28	28	27	26
Average Mean	21	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	24	23	22
Average Low	17	17	18	18	19	20	20	20	20	20	19	18
Temperature F												
Average High	79	79	79	79	81	82	82	83	83	83	81	79
Average Mean	71	71	72	72	74	75	75	76	76	76	74	72
Average Low	64	64	65	66	67	68	69	69	69	69	67	65
Rainy Days	17	17	23	25	25	25	27	27	24	24	23	21
Rain Fall (cm)	24.7	22.5	36.4	31.9	20.5	18.7	27.2	24.8	23.2	24.5	39.6	26.7
Rain Fall (in)	9.7	8.9	14.4	12.5	8.1	7.4	10.7	9.8	9.1	9.6	15.6	10.5

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