

Big Island Activities, Beaches, and Points of Interest

From the remarkable diversity of the landscape to the blend of luxury and affordable accommodations, the Big Island of Hawaii offers guests a truly unique experience, where one can travel from the ice-covered peak of Mauna Kea to the desert of Ka'u in a single day. In fact, the Big Island has almost every ecosystem known to man. One of the most impressive attractions is the Volcanoes National Park located on the east side of the Island, including Kilauea, the only active volcano on the island and the longest continuously erupting volcano in the world. Among many natural and cultural attractions, visitors can also see the Panaewa Rainforest Zoo, drive the spectacular Hamakua coastline, take part in the Island Breeze Luau, or simply enjoy the serenity of the island. The seasonal whales that frequent the coast also provide a truly spectacular site.

The exciting activities and sites of interest offered on the Big Island are endless. Here are some great ideas from which to choose:

- **ACTIVITIES**
 - Fishing
 - Golf
 - Helicopter Tour
 - Hiking
 - Kayaking and Canoeing
 - Luau
 - Parasailing
 - Snorkel, Scuba, and Dive
 - Surfing

- **BEACHES**
 - Around Kona
 - West side of Island - Waikoloa, Kohala, Hamakua
 - East side of Island - Hilo, Puna, Ka'u

- **FARMER'S MARKETS**

- **POINTS OF INTEREST**
 - Around Kona
 - West side of Island - Waikoloa, Kohala, Hamakua
 - East side of Island - Hilo, Puna, Ka'u
 - Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
'Spectacular experience not to be missed'
Click here for information and printable document

Link for all activities:

www.konaweb.com

ACTIVITIES

Fishing

Big game fishing, specifically marlin fishing, is year round off the Kona Coast. The Kona Coast has perfect weather and deep waters close to shore making it the very best fishing destination. Fishing competitions are offered throughout the year.

Links for more fishing information:

www.alohazone.com

www.konaseasports.com

Golf

Golfers will find that the Big Island offers beautiful and challenging links in settings as varied as the island itself.

Mauna Kea Golf Course



There are 15 courses on the island, and two are consistently rated among the world's top courses by golfing magazines: Mauna Kea Beach Hotel's course, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr.; and the Mauna Lani Resort's Francis H. I. Brown Course. The latter is actually comprised of two championship courses that are the home of the PGA Senior Skins Tournament each January.

Other fine resort courses on the west side of the island include the Arnold Palmer-designed Hapuna Golf Course, beautifully landscaped with indigenous plants and trees, and two Waikoloa links designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr.: the Waikoloa Beach Resort Golf Course and the Waikoloa Village Golf Course.

Another Waikoloa course, the King's Course, was carved out of a lava field by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Moorish. It's for those duffers who really like to give themselves a hard time.

Kona Country Club



A number of very fine country club courses are found around the island. Among the most beautiful are the ocean side Kona Country Club and the pastoral Makalei Hawai'i Country Club up the hill. Excellent courses can also be found at Hamakua Country Club, Discovery Harbor Golf and Country Club in Ka'u, Waimea Country Club in Kamuela, and Naniloa Country Club Golf Course in Hilo.

Strong coastal breezes are a factor at Sea Mountain Golf Course on the slopes of Mauna Loa, and wet weather may waterlog the lovely Volcano Golf and Country Club at Volcanoes National Park. It can also get pretty soggy at the Hilo Municipal Golf Course, but greens fees are low and the views are great.

Links for more golf information:

<http://www.hawaiiivacationlink.com/subcategory.aspx?sid=2036>

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

Helicopter Tours

One of the most exciting ways to see Hawaii is from the air by helicopter. It is also the only way to see many parts of the islands. The Big Island is magic, and a helicopter, like no other form of travel, provides a perspective of this ever-changing and diverse volcanic island. A lot of hidden Hawaii is indeed found on the back roads, but a helicopter can take you soaring above remote places that you can't reach on foot or by car. By far the most popular destination is the volcano. Kilauea's eruptions have been entertaining, and sometimes threatening, residents and visitors alike since January 3, 1983. Madame Pele is a fickle volcano goddess, and one never knows when she will spit, sputter, or shout, so there's no guarantee you'll see red, hot lava on your air tour, but you will get a tremendous bird's eye view of the past devastation. Helicopter companies fly out of Kona, Waikoloa and Hilo.



Other favorite air tours are the Hilo, Hamakua and North Kohala coastline. Fly above charming Hilo town, nestled along the huge crescent of Hilo Bay, with the magnificent Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa mountains in the background. Then travel along the verdant Hamakua coastline to the Waipi'o and Waimanu valleys, and the majestic North Kohala Mountain Range.

Links to more information about helicopter tours:

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

<http://besthawaiihelicopters.com/tour/bigisland.asp>

http://sunshinehelicopters.com/sunshinetours/hawaii/bigisland_tours/hawaii/bigisland.html

Hiking

Hawaii is an outdoor paradise and a marvelous place to hike. You'll experience Hawaii close-up and learn what makes Hawaii the special place that it is. You may want to spend at least part of your time camping out. Some of the state's best camping facilities are located here, and they are less likely to be crowded than other islands.

More information about hiking on the Big Island:

<http://www.lets-go-hawaii.com/hiking/>

Kayaking and Canoeing

Kayaking and canoeing are very popular on the Big Island of Hawaii. It is a way to discover the protected bays and pristine coral reefs, sandy beaches, and endless stretches of shoreline.

More information about Kayaking and Canoeing:

<http://www.alternative-hawaii.com/activity/bisrps.htm>

http://www.hawaiiactive.com/bigisland/htmls/activities/bigisland-kayak.html?utm_id=1

Adventures in Paradise is just a few miles south of Kona: www.bigislandkayak.com

Flumin Da Ditch

On a hot summer days on the old plantations, the most daring kids would grab an inner-tube or anything that floats and go "fluming in the many ditches and flumes throughout the state. The Kohala area in the town of Hawi which is about 1 ½ hours north of Kona offers this exciting activity.



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

Luau



A luau is a huge party, overflowing with food, music, song, and dance. Back in the old days of Hawaii, when royals and commoners -- as well as men and women -- ate their meals apart, the tradition was called "aha-aina" (gathering for a meal). In 1819, King Kamehameha II abolished the customs that separated the people at mealtimes, allowing the creation of a new shared meal, the luau. Try this website for more about this popular feast on the Hawaiian Islands: <http://www.luauparadise.com/big-island/luau.php>

Island Breeze, Kona's only beachfront luau, is the ideal opportunity to experience the charm and grandeur of old Hawaii. They come by it honestly -- their authentic variety of feasting and fun in undertaken at the old capitol of Kamakahonu, where kings Kamehameha I and II held court. You'll be "lei'd" with a fine garland of seashells as you arrive, and invited to take part in old Hawaiian arts and crafts. Location: King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel, Kailua-Kona, Local: (808) 329-8111.
<http://www.islandbreezeluau.com/>

Another popular luau is at the Royal Kona Coast. Journeys of the South Pacific - A breathtaking backdrop of a vibrant sky setting over fabulous Kailua Bay frames the background for the festive Royal Kona Resort Luau. The dramatic oceanfront setting highlights the extraordinary energy and appeal of this dynamic and popular Polynesian show. Location: Royal Kona Coast Resort, Kailua-Kona, Local: (808) 356-1800
<http://www.royalkonaluau.org/>

Parasailing

Parasailers floating across the scenic coastline can be seen from the lanai of this Kona Isle condo or from a ringside seat on the sandy beach. Flying can be done individually or with a second person. Boats depart from Kailua Harbor which just a couple miles north of Kona Isle. UFO Parasail is the only operator in Kona. (808) 325-5UFO.

"For a quiet, peaceful, yet exciting experience, consider being suspended in the air above Kailua town in Kona. Kailua is a great place for parasailing, with good weather year

round. Here the water is so clear you can almost see the ocean floor. The Hi-Tech winch boats provide absolutely dry takeoffs and landings, so no matter what you're wearing, or where you are headed, you can choose to parasail at the spur of the moment. The ride is designed for everyone, from 3 years old to 90.”

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

Beaches

The Big Island has many beaches with unbelievable clear blue waters and breathtaking views offering you extraordinary snorkeling, scuba, swimming, surfing, and sunbathing opportunities . There are several beaches in Kailua-Kona area and other beaches are within ½ to an hour’s drive north and south of the town. Expanding around the Island, North Kohala and the Hamakua Coast have some of the best beaches in all of the Hawaiian Islands.

BEACHES Around Kona

Ho’okena Beach Park. You'll feel like an adventurer when you come upon Ho’okena, at the northern end of Kauhako Bay. When Mark Twain visited, 2,500 people populated the busy seaport village. You can still find gas lampposts dating from the early 1900s. This dark-gray coral-and-lava-sand beach offers good swimming, snorkeling, and bodysurfing. Rest rooms, showers, and picnic tables are available at the park. The access road is narrow and bumpy. It's a two-mile drive down a road bordered by remains of a stone wall off Hwy. 11, 23 miles south of Kailua-Kona. Off Hwy. 11, 23 miles south of Kailua-Kona, PHONE: 808/961-8311.

Kahalu'u Beach Park. This is one of the best snorkeling spots on the Big Island, with a huge variety of fishes in clear shallow waters. Swim with schools of colorful fish in these protected waters; don't forget your underwater camera! The north end of the beach is where the waves break and is best for body boarding and surfing. Check the water conditions; with ocean swells, the water can be murky. Facilities include a pavilion, rest rooms, showers, a lifeguard tower, and limited parking. A narrow path takes you directly to the Resort's Beach Bar & Grill, which serves sandwiches and plate lunches. 5½ miles south of Kailua-Kona on Ali'i Dr., PHONE: 808/961-8311.



Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park. Part of a new 1160-acre park, two beaches, rich in archeology and good for swimming, are down the road from Honokohau Harbor. 'Alula is a slip of white sand, a short walk over lava to the left of the harbor entrance. Honokohau Beach, a ¼-mile stretch with ruins of ancient fishponds, is north of the harbor. At the north end of the beach, a historic trail leads mauka across the lava to a freshwater pool. A Hawaiian settlement up until the 19th century, the park is rapidly being developed as a cultural and historical site. For information about the park visit its headquarters, a 5- to 10-minute drive away. The park is off Highway 19, at Honokohau Harbor; or use the park access between Mile Markers 96 and 97. Park Headquarters, Kaloko New Industrial Park, 73-4786 Kanalani St., #14, PHONE: 808/329-6881, www.nps.gov.



Kamakahonu Beach. The "King Kam" beach is a popular spot for visitors and locals alike. This beach is conveniently tucked away between the Kailua pier and the King Kamehameha hotel right on Alii Drive. The surf is calm so this is a great beach for children. The sand is white, the trees are shady, and the snorkeling is good - especially outside on the cove. This is also a popular spot for SNUBA, dive instruction, and swimming



Kona Coast Beach Park (Kekaha Kai).

In an austere setting, this sandy white beach nestles in a bay with gentle surf. It has a limited number of picnic tables shaded by coconut trees fed by bubbling fresh-water springs, but no drinking water. Portable toilets are the only additional facilities. Sign about 1 mile north of Keahole-Kona International Airport, off Hwy. 19, marks rough 1½-mile road to beach. Sign about 1 mile north of Keahole-Kona International Airport, off Hwy. 19. PHONE: 808/974-6200.

Napo'opo'o Beach Park. The best way to enjoy this marine preserve is to take a snorkel, scuba, or glass-bottom boat tour from Keauhou Bay. A 27-ft white obelisk indicates where Captain James Cook was killed in 1779. While this six-acre beach park has a picnic pavilion, the beach consists of rocks, making access into the water difficult. Kealakekua Bay.

Old Kona Airport Park. The unused runway -- great for jogging or running -- is still visible above this beach at Kailua Park, which has picnic tables, showers, bathroom facilities, tennis courts, and palm trees strung out along the shore. The beach has a sheltered, sandy inlet with tidal pools for children, but for adults it's better for snorkeling than swimming. An offshore surfing break known as Old Airport is popular with Kona surfers. North end of Kuakini Hwy., Kona, PHONE: 808/327-4958 or 808/974-6200.

White Sands, Magic Sands, or Disappearing Sands Beach Park. Now you see it, now you don't. Overnight, winter waves wash away this small white-sand beach on Ali'i Drive just south of Kailua-Kona. In summer you'll know you've found it when you see the bodyboarders and surfers. A volleyball net, rest rooms, showers, a lifeguard tower, and a coconut grove create a favorite and convenient summer hangout. This beach is officially called La'aloa Bay Beach Pak. 4½ miles south of Kailua-Kona on Ali'i Dr., PHONE: 808/961-8311

BEACHES
Waikoloa, Kohala, Hamakua



Anaeho'omalu Beach, at Outrigger Waikoloa Resort. This expansive beach on the west coast, also known as A-Bay, is perfect for swimming, windsurfing,

snorkeling, and diving. Some equipment is for rent at the north end. Be sure to wander around the ancient fishponds and petroglyph fields. Follow Waikoloa Beach Dr. to Royal Waikoloan Resort, then follow signs to beach right-of-way to south. Follow Waikoloa Beach Dr. to Royal Waikoloan Resort.

Hapuna Beach State Park. This beach, part of a 61-acre park, forms a ½-mile crescent of glistening sand guarded by rocky points at either end. The surf can be hazardous in winter, but in summer the gradual slope of the beach can stretch as wide as 200 ft into a perfectly blue ocean -- ideal for swimming, snorkeling, and body surfing. State cabins are available, and there is a convenient snack bar. Lifeguards are not always on duty, so take care. Between Mauna Ke'a Beach and Mauna Lani resorts, off Hwy. 19, PHONE: 808/974-6200.



Holoholokai Beach Park. A rocky beach of black-lava formations and white-coral clinkers is fine for surfers and snorkelers, and a small grassy area is available to sunbathers. Bathrooms, picnic tables, and barbecue grills are nicely maintained. Just before the beach park, you can explore historic Puako Petroglyph Park: Malama Trail meanders [7//10] miles through brush and kiawe trees to an area of lava covered with the ancient etchings of Hawaiian figures and animals. Off Hwy. 19 at Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows.

Kauna'oa Beach at Westin Mauna Ke'a Beach Hotel. It's a toss-up whether this or neighboring Hapuna is the most beautiful beach on the island. Kauna'oa unfolds like a white crescent, and it slopes very gradually. It's a great place for snorkeling. In winter, however, the powerful waves can be dangerous. Amenities are hotel-owned. Public parking places are limited, and it's first-come, first-served. Entry through gate to Mauna Ke'a Beach Resort, off Hwy. 19.



Spencer Beach Park. This spot is popular with local families because of its reef-protected, gently sloping white-sand beach, and it's safe for swimming year-round. Snorkel with the sea turtles here! Close to large shade trees are cooking and camping facilities, showers, abandoned tennis courts, and a large covered pavilion with electrical outlets. You can walk from here to the Pu'ukohola and Mailekini heiaus. Entry road off Hwy. 270, uphill from Kawaihae Harbor, PHONE: 808/961-8311.

BEACHES Puna and Ka'u



Punalu'u Beach Park. The endangered Hawaiian green sea turtle nests in the black sand of this beautiful and easily accessible beach. Fishponds are just inland. At the northern end of the beach near the boat ramp lie the ruins of a heiau and a flat sacrificial stone. Hwy. 11, 27 miles south of Volcanoes National Park, PHONE: 808/961-8311.

Snorkel, Scuba, and Dive

Snorkel: For those of you who enjoy the freedom of snorkeling at your own pace, there are several beaches located in Kona for the perfect snorkel experience. Witness spectacular marine life while keeping an eye out for the dolphins, manta rays, and resident turtles, as you venture to Kona's most unique snorkel destinations. If you do not have your own snorkel gear, there are several outfitters in town that can rent the proper fitting equipment. These three beaches provide excellent opportunities for your adventures.

- White Sands Beach: This beach is officially called La'aloa Bay Beach Pak. 4½ miles south of Kailua-Kona on Ali'i Dr., PHONE: 808/961-8311
- Kahalu'u Beach Park: Facilities include a pavilion, rest rooms, showers, a lifeguard tower, and limited parking. A narrow path takes you directly to the Resort's Beach Bar & Grill, which serves sandwiches and plate lunches. 5½ miles south of Kailua-Kona on Ali'i Dr., PHONE: 808/961-8311
- Spencer Beach Park: Spencer Beach is popular with local families because of its reef-protected, gently sloping white-sand beach, and it's safe for swimming year-round. Calm, protected bay ideal for families and snorkelers. Snorkel with the sea turtles here! You can walk from here to the Pu'ukohola and Mailekini heiaus. Entry road off Hwy. 270, uphill from Kawaihae Harbor (North of Kailua-Kona) PHONE: 808/961-8311.

Great snorkel guide: <http://www.lets-go-hawaii.com/snorkeling/kona.html>

Great scuba and dive guide: <http://www.lets-go-hawaii.com/diving/>

Great surfing and windsurfing guide:

<http://www.surfguidehawaii.com/big-island-hawaii-surf-map.htm>

<http://www.alternative-hawaii.com/activity/bisrsw.htm>

FARMER'S MARKETS

Ali'i Garden's Marketplace: Stroll, shop, and enjoy the Aloha in a beautiful garden setting planted with native Hawaiian trees. Daily events include Na Kapuna Hula dancing, free Ukelele and Hula lessons, lei making, ukulele jam sessions and many other local and cultural activities. Relax over shavaed ice, a cold drink or sample local foods. This marketplace is conveniently located across from Kona Isle on Ali'i Drive and a short walk of about 100 yards.

Kailua Village Farmer's Market: Flowers, produce, macnuts and coffee. It is held every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This market is located in downtown Kona across the street from the Hale Halawai

More information on farmer's markets: <http://www.konaweb.com/konaweb/farmer.shtml>

SITES OF INTEREST

The Big Island of Hawaii features a wide variety of places to visit and a great selection of things to do, and fortunately many of the places and things can be enjoyed for FREE. This is just a sampling and we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity they afford to have fun while learning about Hawaii and the Big Island.

More than any other island, the Big Island is steeped in history. The birthplace, resting place and political center of King Kamehameha I, the landing site of the first missionaries,

the site of Captain Cook's untimely death, the playground of Kings, are just some of the Island's historic claims. And with 11 of the world's 13 climactic zones represented on the Island, and an endless variety of flora and fauna, no place on earth is more fascinating to explore. So fill the gas tank (ok, we know that's not free!) and head on out.

SITES OF INTEREST Around Kona

Ahuena Heiau - Kona

While in Kona, be sure to take the time to visit this site as you walk through Kailua Village. The Ahuena Heiau temple, perhaps the most significant historical site in Hawaii, is the place from which King Kamehameha I ruled his united Hawaiian nation. This sacred ground is also where he died on May 8, 1819. North end of Ali'i Drive in Kailua-Kona behind the King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel.



Coffee Country – South Kona

The only coffee grown in the United States is grown in Hawaii, and most of that is grown in Kona, so be sure and visit a coffee farm for a tour. You'll learn about the fascinating and labor intensive process involved in creating that world famous cup of Kona Coffee. The Greenwell Farm is between mile marker 111 & 112 on the west side of route 11 in Kealahou. Bayview Farm is just south of the Painted Church below Captain Cook.

Holualoa Village - South Kona

Drive up the winding Hualalai Road to the cool, quiet town of Holualoa and you can see a little bit of old Hawaii. Park your car and stroll through the many shops and galleries featuring unique and impressive work from local artisans and craftspeople. Stop by Paul's Place store or the local café for some refreshment and aloha. You'll find most galleries open Tuesday-Saturday. Route 11 south to left on Hualalai Road, left at top on 180.



Kona Brewing Company - Kona

Come visit Hawaii's #1 Micro Brewery. We offer free tours and tasting Mon-Fri, 9-5 and tasting Sat, 10-4. Sample Pacific Golden Ale, Fire Rock Pale Ale and Lilikoi Wheat Ale made with Big Island Passion Fruit). Our tasting room manager, Canny Sam, will treat you in the old Hawaiian style. We also carry a wide variety of Kona Wear. Behind Zac's Photo, North Kona Shopping Center. Be sure to ask for Kona Brew when dining out. 334-1133.

Mokuaukaia Church - Kona

This is the site of the first Christian church in Hawaii established in 1820. The present structure of lava rock and mortar made from coral, was dedicated in 1837. The serene interior is constructed

with the handsome native Hawaiian woods ohia and koa. The steeple is a familiar landmark in picturesque Kailua Village. Inside the church is a model of Thaddeus, the ship that brought the first missionaries to Hawaii. N. Ali'i Dr., Kailua-Kona.



Painted Church - South Kona

Formerly known as St. Benedict's Church, Father John Berchamans Veighe painted elaborate scenes from the Bible in the interior of this Gothic-style structure. During his ministry, around 1900, the Belgian Father used these illustrations to explain Christianity to the Hawaiians who could neither read nor write. Route 19 south to Route 11, then right on Route 160, left on Middle Keel Road, right on Painted Church Road.

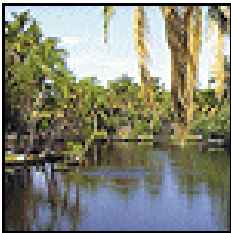


SITES OF INTEREST

Kohala and Hamakua

Ancient Fish Ponds - Kohala

The owners of Mauna Lani Resort have done a wonderful job restoring and maintaining the ancient Hawaiian fishponds at Kalahuipua'a. Take a leisurely walking tour around the ponds and you can see how the native Hawaiians used aquaculture and worked with nature to feed themselves. Also on the property are interesting trails through the lava fields. Route 19 to Mauna Lani Drive, follow signs to public access parking.



Humpback Whale Center - Kohala

This newly opened exhibition at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott Hotel, adjacent to its tennis center, features extraordinary photographic images and video footage of humpback whales taken by renowned nature photographers and videographers in Hawaiian and Alaskan waters. Educational materials developed by the National Marine Whale Sanctuary and local marine naturalists provide insight into the underwater world of these magnificent mammals. - Call 886-6666x3 . Waikoloa Resort.



King Kamehameha Statue - Kapa'au

Hawaii Five-O fans may remember seeing the King Kamehameha statue in the show's opening. That statue is in Honolulu and it's only a copy of the original which is in the town of Kapa'au. Given that King Kamehameha's birthplace was in Kohala, it's only fitting that the original statue be displayed prominently close to his home. The nearby village of Hawi is a neat little town and well worth a stop. Route 19 north to Route 270.



Lapakahi State Historical Park - Kohala

Visiting Lapakahi State Historical Park is like traveling back in time to an ancient fishing village. It's easy to imagine island life 600 years ago as you take a self-guided walking tour through this restored park. Situated on the Kohala coast, you can often see Haleakala on the island of Maui, and seldom hear anything but the wind and the waves. Open daily, 8:00AM - 4:00PM. Route 19 to Route 270, just before mile marker 14.

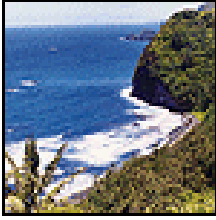


Mauna Kea Visitor Center - Mauna Kea

At the 9500' level on Mauna Kea, the Visitor Center is as far as you can go without a four wheel drive. The center is open on the weekends and Friday afternoon, and features stargazing on Friday and Saturday evenings. A small but interesting museum is housed in the Center with regular showings of an excellent video on the development of the mountaintop observatories. Call 961-2180 for information. Saddle Rd. Rt. 200 to John Burns Way

Pololu Lookout & Kamehameha Rock - Kohala

Rain and wind have eroded away the northeastern part of the island, creating the dramatic Pololu Valley and distant islets. Experienced hikers might venture down the trail to the black sand beach, but take note: it can get knee-high muddy. Between mile markers 25 & 26, watch for Kamehameha Rock on the east side of the road. It was carried out of Pololu Valley by Kamehameha I, phew!. End of Route 270.



Waipi'o Valley State Park - Waipi'o

This spectacular rainforest valley to the sea is surrounded by 2000 foot cliffs. Fresh water streams crisscross and waterfalls lace the edges of this wondrous area with a beautiful gray sand beach, taro fields and wild horses. Waipi'o Valley was the seat of the Hawaiian monarch for hundreds of years. Access to the valley floor is by four-wheel drive vehicle or extremely able bodies. Route 19 to Honoka'a, then 9 miles north on 240.



Parker Ranch

Ride the range across a 225,000 acre working cattle ranch. Mauna Kea Stables give a rare opportunity to see Hawaii ranching up close on the world famous Parker Ranch. It boasts over 300 horses and over 35,000 cattle. It is open daily with wagon rides, museum tours, historic homes, shopping, and dining. For more information: <http://www.parkerranch.com/>



SITES OF INTEREST

Hilo, Puna, and Ka'u

Akaka Falls State Park - Hilo

It wouldn't be a trip to the Big Island of Hawaii without absorbing the splendor of some of the island's waterfalls. 440' high Akaka Falls, main feature of the 65 acre Akaka Falls Park, is at the end of an enchanting but occasionally strenuous ½ mile walk through the rainforest. Also in the park is Kahuna Falls. Picnic tables, drinking water and restrooms are available. Route 19 to Route 220 north of Hilo, 5 miles to park.



Akatsuka Orchid Gardens - Hilo

When in Hilo, stop by Hawaii's largest cymbidium orchid farm, and see what mother nature has been up to with a little help from her human friends. You'll see orchids in an array of shapes, sizes and colors on display and for sale. Many plants are already inspected and ready to board the plane or be shipped to the mainland. Open daily, 8:30AM - 5:00PM. Route 11, between mile markers 22 & 23, Glenwood area south of Hilo.



Liliuokalani Park and Banyan Dive - Hilo

This lovely Japanese garden park was built over 100 years ago and sits elegantly on the edge of Hilo Bay. Walk along the footpaths, past the lanterns, and over the bridges to Coconut Island and get a different perspective of Hilo. An authentic Japanese Tea house is featured in the garden. The stately Banyan trees adorning and shading Banyan Drive were planted about 50 years ago by visiting celebrities. Route 19 to Banyan Dive in Hilo.



Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory - Hilo

Drive through groves of Macadamia nut trees to the factory where you can take a tour and watch skilled workers create their many delicious treats. Remember Lucy and Ethel on the candy factory assembly line? You can purchase a variety of their creations in the visitor center, and be sure to make time for a stroll through the nature walk. Open daily from 9:00AM - 5:00PM. Route 11 to Macadamia Road, 3 miles south of Hilo.

Panaewa Rainforest Zoo - Hilo

Welcome to the only tropical rainforest zoo in the United States. Residing in the lush habitat of the Panaewa Rain Forest are many species of animals, birds, reptiles and endangered Hawaiian birds. The beautiful plants are native to Hawaii and enhance this peaceful park like zoo. Visit our unique gift shop after your journey. Open 9:00AM-4:00PM daily, except Christmas and New Year's. Route 11 to Mamake Street, a few miles south of Hilo.

Rainbow Falls - Hilo

Another wonderful waterfall is in the middle of Hilo. Rainbow Falls is a few steps from the parking area. It's a visual treat any time of day, but particularly impressive early in the morning. The falls are part of the Wailuku River State Park which includes several falls and pools, called the Boiling Pots, formed from the river's flow over ancient lava beds. A rough trail follows the river. Route 19 to Route 200 Waianuenue Avenue.



South Point & Green Sand Beach -Ka'u

The southernmost point in the United States is not in Florida, but on the Big Island of Hawaii and if you visit South Point, you can say "I've been there!" The Green Sand beach is about five miles east of South Point, and you can get there with a four-wheel drive vehicle or if you're hale and hearty, by hiking with your own two feet. PLEASE don't take any sand away with you. Route 11 to South Point Road



Volcano Winery

While visiting Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, don't miss FREE wine tasting at the world's most unique winery. Home of tropical Hawaiian wines such as half grape-half tropical fruit wines called tropical fruit blends and tropical honey wines no grapes! Open 365 days a year from 10:00 until 5:30.

