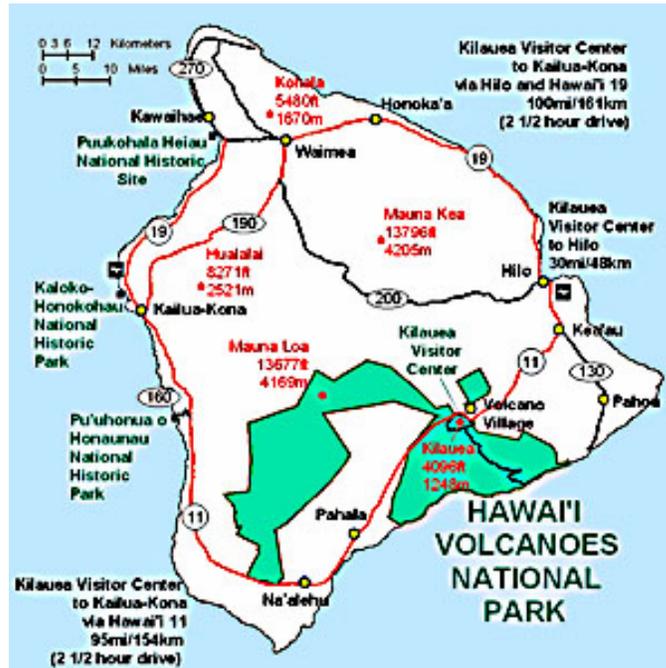


Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Kilauea Volcano has been erupting since 1983. It is one of the most exciting sites on the Big Island. The park can be toured by car. Over night lodging is available along with camping, hiking, and biking. There are also spectacular helicopter tours available to see the volcanic activity and area which is not accessible from land. Blue Hawaiian is one helicopter company that offers tours. www.bluehawaiian.com Visit the Volcanoes National Park website for current volcano activity and events; <http://www.nps.gov>.

Visit the Park



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is a fascinating world of active volcanism, biological diversity, and Hawaiian culture, past and present. Use these pages to help plan a "real" visit to the Park. Visit their website: <http://www.nps.gov>

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is located on the Big Island of Hawai'i. From Hilo: 30 miles southwest on Highway 11 (a 45 minute drive); from Kailua-Kona: 96 miles southeast on Highway 11 (2 to 2 1/2 hour drive), or 125 miles through Waimea and Hilo via highways 19 and 11 (2 1/2 to 3 hours).

Hilo and Kona Airports are served by inter-island carriers. Some major airlines have direct flights to Kona from the continental U.S. Rental cars may be reserved at both airports. At various locations the public bus (Hele On Bus) ph# (808) 961-8744, commercial tour buses, taxis, motorcycles, and bicycles are available. No rental vehicles or bicycles may be obtained in the park.

Operating Hours

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is open 24 hours a day year-round. Kilauea Visitor Center is open daily from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Jaggar Museum is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. "Born of Fire... Born of the Sea" is the featured 25 minute film that is shown in the Kilauea Visitor Center on the hour throughout the day, starting at 9:00 a.m. with the last film shown at 4:00 p.m.

Volcano Art Center Gallery, located adjacent to the Kilauea Visitor Center, is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Volcano House, located across the street from the Kilauea Visitor Center, operates a hotel, restaurant, snack bar, and gift shops.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park – (continued)

Weather

Expect changeable weather. Weather at Kilauea's summit (4000' elevation) fluctuates daily and can be rainy and chilly any time of the year. Temperature varies by elevation and it is generally 14 degrees cooler at the summit than it is at sea level. The coastal plain at the end of Chain of Craters Road is often hot, dry, and windy. Come prepared. Bring rain gear, sturdy shoes, hats, water bottles, sun glasses, and high UV factor sunscreen.

Fees and Park Passes

The entrance fee to the park (a seven-day permit) is \$10.00 per vehicle, \$5.00 for pedestrians or bicyclists. Fees for those arriving by commercial bus or tour vary by passenger capacity. Persons holding a valid Golden Age Passport (available to U.S. citizens or residents 62 years of age or older for a one-time fee of \$10.00), Golden Eagle Passport, or National Park Pass (\$50.00 pass is good for 1 full year from date of purchase and allows entrance to any national park that charges an entrance fee) are admitted free of charge. An annual tri-park pass may be purchased for \$20.00 which allows access for 1 full year from date of first use at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Haleakala National Park, and Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park.

Drive the Park



Steam Vents along Crater Rim Drive.

Start your visit at the Kilauea Visitor Center located just beyond the park's entrance station. The Park is open 24 hours a day year round. Kilauea Visitor Center is open daily from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Here, you will receive the latest information on trails, ranger-led activities, road conditions, and safety precautions. Because of the dynamic nature of the two active volcanoes in the park, conditions can change rapidly.

"Born of Fire, Born of the Sea" is the featured 25 minute film that is shown in the Kilauea Visitor Center on the hour throughout the day, starting at 9:00 a.m. with the last film shown at 4:00 p.m..

If you have only one to three hours, explore the summit of Kilauea Volcano via Crater Rim Drive, an 11-mile road that encircles the summit caldera, passes through desert, lush tropical rain forest, traverses the caldera floor, and provides access to well-marked scenic stops and short walks.

If you have three to four hours, you may also explore the East Rift and coastal area of the Park via Chain of Craters Road. This road descends 3,700 feet in 20 miles and ends where a 2003 lava flow crossed the road. Depending on changing volcanic activity, there may be opportunities for viewing active lava flows from the end of the road. No food, water, or fuel is available along the Chain of Craters Road

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park – (continued)

View Lava Safely!



"Like a leaky faucet ... " lava drips into the ocean..

Where can we see red lava?

View from the end of Chain of Craters road: After nightfall (7:15 p.m.), visitors may see spots of red incandescence on the distant hillside from the "steam plume" viewing area, a 1/2 mile walk on the roadway from the ranger station at end of Chain of Craters Road and 5 minute walk on a trail. Lava is currently entering the ocean in multiple places and from the viewing area at the end of this moderate walk, one may see glow or lava from a distance. Binoculars would be useful at this viewpoint.

To view lava up close, visitors must hike out from the end of the road (see hike information below). Lava viewing conditions are constantly changing. Check with rangers at the Kilauea Visitor Center or at the ranger station at the end of Chain of Craters road for the most current report.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park – (continued)



There are many dangers. Cliff edges are prone to collapse.

I want to hike out to see lava: If you plan to hike out beyond the end of the road to see lava flows, do not hike during the heat of the day (10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.). This is a difficult hike and visitors should prepare well for the trek over the rugged, steep, and sharp terrain. There are NO marked trails. The hike to the closest lava flow is 6 miles roundtrip (4 hours) from the ranger station near the end of Chain of Craters road, over a rough, uneven, fractured lava landscape. This hike is not for everyone. Hikers need to be sure-footed, physically fit, and well prepared.

There are many dangers and several considerations to keep in mind:

- Don't venture out onto the new land and black sand beaches created when lava enters the ocean. See information about coastline collapse below.

Stay away from the fume cloud/plume created when lava enters the ocean. These fumes drift on the whim of the wind and contain hydrochloric acid and volcanic glass. If you have asthma or any other pre-existing breathing or heart problem, these fumes can be life-threatening.

Sea cliffs in this area are 80 feet high, very unstable, crumbling, and prone to collapse. Stay well back from the cliff edge and at least 1/4 mile away from the steam/fume cloud produced when lava enters the ocean.

During the day, temperatures soar into the high 90s. At times, the radiant heat off the active lava flow combines with high humidity to make it feel like a sauna. Carry and drink 3 to 4 quarts of water per person. The elderly, infants, and those taking antihistamines and certain types of medication for high blood pressure or depression are especially at risk for heat exhaustion or heat stroke. The Heat Equation: High Temperature + High Humidity + Physical Work = Heat Illness or Death.

Bring a reliable flashlight and extra batteries. There are no lights to light your way back to your car after dark.

Wear sensible shoes, long (lightweight) hiking pants, and lightweight garden gloves to give added protection from falls on lava (50% silica - it's glass!).

Check with Park Rangers for current conditions and location of active flows before embarking on this trek. Visitors should be physically fit and capable of hiking for miles on hummocky (lumpy/uneven) surfaces with cracks and shards of razor-sharp rock. See the safety information posted below to prepare yourself for viewing lava safely.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park – (continued)

Weather at the coast: It may be extremely hot, humid, windy, or rainy in the area. Bring rain gear and take plenty of drinking water (2 or more quarts per person) if you hike beyond the end of the road. There are no services in this remote area except for a pit toilet at the turn-a-round point near the end of Chain of Craters road.

What do we take on the hike? What do we wear?

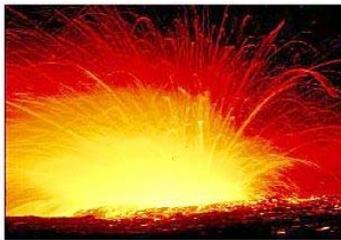
Flashlight 1 for EACH person with extra batteries - if you will be viewing lava after 6:00 pm. Headlamps are helpful.	Clothing Long lightweight hiking pants and gloves (gives added protection in case you fall), raingear, and hat.
Binoculars to see lava from a safe distance.	Boots or other sturdy closed-toed shoes
First Aid Kit The slightest fall can cause deep cuts. Falling on lava is like falling on broken glass.	Water 2 to 3 or more quarts/liters, per person
Sun Screen SPF 15 or greater	Food You will be gone from your car for several hours. Food gives you energy.



VOLCANIC FUMES

Volcanic fumes (VOG) are hazardous to your health. Persons with breathing and heart difficulties, pregnant women, infants, and young children are especially at risk. All persons should avoid breathing these fumes. They contain hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, and glass particles

STEAM AND EXPLOSIONS WHERE LAVA ENTERS THE OCEAN



Lava enters the ocean at 2,100°F (1,140°C). Sea water explodes into steam and boiling water. Molten lava and rocks blast skyward. Blocks the size of microwave ovens are tossed hundreds of yards/meters inland. Ocean waves wash on hot lava and flash to steam. In June 1998, large violent steam explosions began without warning, throwing molten lava in all directions. Falling debris built a 30 foot (10 m) spatter cone at the lava entry within 15 minutes.

ALOHA AND ENJOY!