

APPLE VACATIONS®

HAWAII ISLAND OR BUST

There's no other island in the world that has a massive blend of contrasting environments, history and fiery drama than Hawaii Island. It's nicknamed "The Big Island" for one simple reason—it's the largest of all the Hawaiian Islands. In fact, its area is larger than all the other islands put together and it's still growing! It's common to call the island of Hawaii by its nickname "The Big Island" to avoid confusion with the name of the entire chain.

Kohala Coast

Rugged jet-black and rust-red lava rock fields surround green oases full of world-class accommodations, fine dining and some of the state's best golf courses. South Kohala receives less than nine inches of rainfall annually, making this resort area ideal for soaking in the sun on the white sandy beaches.

Kailua-Kona

The sunny Kona District stretches for about 60 miles from Kona International Airport to beyond Kealahou Bay on the island's lava-lined western coast. Along this expansive area, you'll find everything from coffee farms to historic Hawaiian landmarks.

Because of Kilauea volcano's constant lava flow, the island expands 42 acres per year. The most recent and longest-lived major eruption at Kilauea, began in 1983 and is still active. Since 1994, 491 acres of new land have been created.

Deep on the ocean floor eighteen miles off the southeast coast, another volcano, Loihi, is erupting and will become the newest Hawaiian Island and eventually attach itself onto Kilauea! Unfortunately, that will take tens of thousands of years to be seen.

There are two basic kinds of lava found on Hawaii: the rough, chunky type is called aa (ah-ah), and the smooth and swirly kind is known as pahoehoe (pa-ho-ay-ho-ay).

Hawaii Island is also home to the Parker Ranch, one of the largest cattle ranches in the country. It's located on 175,000 acres of land in and around the town of Waimea.

The paniolo, or Hawaiian cowboys, learned to herd cattle from Spanish herders who were imported to teach them. The Hawaiian word paniolo was derived from the Spanish language.

average temperatures
70°F to 83°F
lows highs

The Big Island's climate is so varied that it offers 11 of earth's 13 recognized climate zones. No freezing Arctic or sweltering hot desert-like Saharan temps. During the winter it can snow on Maunakea, where all in one day you can ski on the slopes and snorkel in the warm waters of the Big Island!

Having united all the islands under his rule, King Kamehameha the Great gave the name of the island where he grew up to the entire group of islands that he now ruled: Hawaii.

Hawaiians believed that Kamehameha the Great had the gods on his side. During a battle on the Big Island, Kilauea unexpectedly erupted and many of his enemies were killed. It was obvious to early Hawaiians that the fire goddess Pele, who is said to make her home on Hawaii's Big Island, had come to the support of King Kamehameha.

Petroglyph fields were used as "game boards" for an ancient Hawaiian version of checkers.

Kona coffee is known throughout the world for its unique, robust flavor. Today, this award-winning coffee is grown in many parts of the island including land once used for sugar cane production.

Quick Facts

Capital: Hilo
Main airports: Hilo and Kona International Airports
Population: 175,784
Color: Red
Flower: Red ohia lehua blossom
State fish: Reef triggerfish

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Hotels with Apple Vacations

Hawaii Island is the largest island in the U.S. and the 76th largest island in the world.

In Kealahou Bay there is a 5,682-square-foot area that was deeded to England for a monument to Captain James Cook. You can literally swim from Hawaii to England in Kealahou Bay!

In one week, Kilauea volcano produces enough lava to fill a football arena!

15 courses

Maunakea (white mountain) is the tallest sea mountain in the world, more than twice the base-to-peak height of Mount Everest. This dormant volcano is considered the most sacred. An ancient law allowed only high-ranking tribal chiefs to visit its peak.

Maunaloa (long mountain) is the most massive mountain in the world, covering half the island. It is an active volcano, but has not erupted since 1984.

The Mauna Kea Observatory has become one of the most important in the world because of its outstanding observational conditions. Rising 13,796 feet above sea level, 13 telescopes representing 11 countries are watching the solar system and making discoveries beyond our imaginations.

Hilo

Blessed with dramatic waterfalls, lush rainforests and blooming gardens, Hilo is the geographic flipside of the Kohala Coast. Home to Hilo International Airport, this vibrant town is also the gateway to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park located 45 minutes south.

TOP TOURS

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Helicopter Tour

Manta Ray Night Snorkel

Maunakea Stargazing

View the night sky via telescope at 9,000 feet!

