



ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

PACIFIC BRANCH

Aloha - We are excited to welcome you to Hawaii this spring.
Below are some great travel tips and planning guidelines from a local!

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Transportation



The closest Airport is [Kona International Airport](#). It is 18 miles from the [Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort and Spa](#). [Car Rentals](#) are recommended if you are planning on venturing out on the island, it is called the Big Island for a reason. If you prefer rideshares and will be staying at the resort, the Island has Uber, Lyft and Taxi's to and from the airport. Keep in mind there may be less availability in ride-shares and taxi's especially during peak hours.

Dining Options



Once at the hotel, there are many good places to eat nearby. Below are some of the options available. The resort also offers a full concierge service that will make recommendations as well as reservations if needed. Both locations below offer stores, great for gifts and souvenirs.

[The Kings Shops Shopping Mall](#) - 700 ft from the Marriott

- A-Bay's island grill
- Island Fish and Chips
- Island Vintage Coffee
- Original Island Shave Ice Co.
- Tropics Ale house (Not in King shops but close by)

[The Queen's Marketplace](#) - Just a quick 10 minute walk

- Romanos Macaroni Grill
- Starbucks
- Charley's Thai Cuisine
- Waikoloa Pizza
- Sansei Seafood & Sushi
- Kuleana Rum Shack

Beachgoers



Between the airport and Waikoloa, the stretch along lava fields to the east and ocean to the west, there are many beautiful beaches.

1. **49 Black Sand Beach** - 6.1 miles away from Marriott
This is one of the few black sand beaches on Kona side. The east side (often referred to as the Hilo side) has majority black sand beaches, where Kona side has majority white sand beaches.
2. **Anaeho'omalu Bay (A-Bay)** - 0.5 miles from the Marriott.
This is a local favorite beach, with the added bonus of being very close to the hotel. It has a wonderful restaurant on the beach called Lava Lava. Enjoy a Mai Thai (invented in Kona) right on the sand looking out at the crystal blue waters. You are likely to see sea turtles if you walk along the beach. Remember it's the law to keep a 10 ft distance between you and any sea turtles. This beach is great for Stand-Up Paddle boarding if you get there early in the morning before the winds pick up. It is great for swimming and clear green-blue waters are beautiful. There are also fishponds, a form of aquaculture-native Hawaiian tradition starting around 1200 AD.
3. **Kua Bay** - 15 miles from the Marriott
Another beautiful beach that is often frequented by locals for its beautiful snorkeling.
4. **Pine Trees Beach Park** – 22 miles from the Marriott
It is a great beach for both beginning and advanced surfers. There are three bays at the beach. The bay farthest south is great for beginners. The bay farthest North is for advanced surfers. Across the highway is Pine-trees shopping center with lots of great places for coffee or lunch.
5. **Makalawena Beach** – 14 miles from the Marriott
This is a beautiful white sand beach great for swimming and snorkeling. It has deep turquoise and blue waters but requires hiking to get there.

The list above is not exhaustive and there are many other beaches along the west coast of Hawaii to explore.

Fun tourist activities



Even us locals love being tourists in our own town. As you can imagine, staycations are popular here in Hawaii. Below are some activities that are unique to Hawaii.

Snorkel with the Mantas - 32 miles (~50 min from Marriott)

You can take a tour to snorkel with manta rays that come inches from your face. This is a night snorkel. Please keep in mind the impact these tours have on the wildlife and ocean there. We suggest a socially and ecologically responsible company for tours that doesn't have giant boats

with large motors. Instead, you get to experience it from an outrigger canoe, where you paddle to Manta Point to do your viewing. Visit Anaelakai Adventures for more details (<https://www.anelakaiadventures.com>). Please note, some people experience sea sickness on this adventure as you are on a boat, resting in the ocean for 1.5 hours. Dramamine is recommended for those who experience motion sickness.

Volcano National Park – Is located on the other side of the island (East). Kilauea is the active volcano located in the park. It erupts on and off periodically throughout the year and can sometimes see the red glow at night and get views of lava filling the Halema'uma'u crater. Additionally, there are many things to do and see in the park. It is difficult to see it all in one day. Some favorites include Thurston's lava tube, Sulfur works, Petroglyphs, and sea arch. A favorite hike is Kilauea'iki trail, with beautiful overlooks and can walk across an old lava lake/crater. There is a restaurant located in the park at the Volcano house, or a great restaurant located in the town of volcano (Kilauea lodge, reservations recommended).

Mauna Kea Summit – Mauna Kea means white mountain, as it often gets snow a few times a year. It requires four-wheel drive to reach the top of Mauna Kea and rental vehicles will not be able to go to the top, but you can go to visitor's center. At the visitor's center you there are many trail heads, and you can see the highly endangered plant endemic to the island of Hawaii, "Argyroxiphium sandwicense" aka Mauna Kea silversword. This beautiful silvery plant is considered the 'crown jewel' of Mauna Kea and severely impacted by the introduction of hooved animals. From the visitor's center you can also get a great view of Mauna Loa (Long Mountain) and the 2021 lava flow.

Pololū Valley – This valley offers spectacular views and a chance to hike down to a remote black sand beach. It is the most northern of the chain of valleys carved into the Kohala volcano. Additionally, the drive to Hawi is beautiful and it is home to many cattle ranches and Parker Ranch. Gill's Lanai restaurant located in the heart of Hawi has some of the best fish tacos.

Hawaiian Values



Native Hawaiians and locals really appreciate when guests and visitors to the islands educate themselves on the history and values of Hawaiian culture. We must remember we are visitors to these lands and treat them with respect.

Knowing and understanding some of these Hawaiian values ahead of your visit will be very helpful and appreciated by those residing in Hawaii.

You will often hear Mālama 'Āina or Aloha 'Āina, which means to take care of and respect the land we inhabit. During your visit, please remember that these Hawaiian values and live aloha.

Please refer to the following link for more information: www.aokhcc.org/about/hawaiian-values/

- **Aloha** - Caring, compassion for others, love, affection (often used as a hello or goodbye statement but also often used to mean love or caring).
- **Kuleana** - Responsibility, privilege
- **Mālama** - caring, nurturing others, to protect.
- **Pono** - right, good, moral, fair, just
- **Ohana** - family
- **Āina** – Land
- **Mahalo** - Thanks, gratitude, admiration, regards, or respects.

Additional recommendations and resources are available at the Marriott Waikoloa Concierge desk. Mahalo!

Additional Resources for a Successful Trip:

[Hawaii Packing List](#)

[5 Can't Miss Unique Big Island Experiences](#)

[Driving Guide on the Big Island](#)

