



## PLACES TO VISIT ON THE BIG ISLAND

The town of [Waimea](#) is nestled in the Kohala mountains with a rich history of cattle ranching and world-famous paniolo (Hawaiian cowboys). Waimea is minutes away from spectacular beaches, wonderful hiking opportunities, and cool breezes. Listed below are a few websites for visitors interested in exploring novel adventures on the island of Hawai'i, which is also home to several state and national parks.

[Island of Hawai'i Visitors Bureau](#)

[Lonely Planet - Hawai'i - the Big Island](#)

[Big Island Revealed](#)

[Big Island Travel Guide](#)

## NATIONAL PARKS

### [Pu'ukohala Heiau National Historic Park \(Northwest\)](#)

Where else can you walk in the footsteps of a king, or stand on a beach and watch as sharks pass over a submerged temple, where a stranded sailor rose up to become a great chief over an entire island?

### [Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park \(Southeast\)](#)

This park protects some of the most unique geological, biological, and cultural landscapes in the world, and encompasses the summits of two of the world's most active volcanoes - Kīlauea and Mauna Loa.

### [Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historic Park \(West\)](#)

This park offers you the chance to enjoy and learn about the Hawaiian culture and the natural history of Hawai'i. Many programs and special events are offered throughout the year.

### [Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park \(Southwest\)](#)

Imagine you have just broken the sacred laws, the kapu, and the only punishment is death. Your only chance of survival is to elude your pursuers and reach the Pu'uhonua, a place of refuge. The Pu'uhonua protected the kapu breaker, defeated warriors, as well as civilians during the time of battle.

### [Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail \(North-West-Southeast\)](#)

This 175-mile corridor and trail network was established in 2000 for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of traditional Native Hawaiian culture and natural resources. It traverses through hundreds of ancient Hawaiian settlement sites and over 200 ahupua'a (traditional land divisions).

## STATE PARKS

['Akaka Falls State Park](#)

[Hāpuna Beach State Recreation Area](#)

[Hulihe'e Palace](#)

[Kalōpā State Recreation Area](#)

[Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park](#)

[Kekaha Kai State Park](#)

[Kīholo State Park Reserve](#)

[Kohala Historical Sites State Monument](#)

[Lapakahi State Historical Park](#)

[Lava Tree State Monument](#)

[MacKenzie State Recreation Area](#)

[Manukā State Wayside](#)

[Wailoa River State Recreation Area](#)

[Wailuku River State Park](#)