

KONA (HAWAII), HAWAII

Famous for deep sea fishing, IRONMAN™ and historic royal connections, Kona spans the west coast of Hawaii's Big Island. Just south of Kona is Kealahou Bay, which is where Captain James Cook first stepped foot on the Big Island... and where he was later killed

KEY INFO

Currency: USD

Population: 23,000 (186,700 Big Island)

Emergency #: Dial 911

Drinking water: Tap water is drinkable

ID Requirements: Photo ID

Languages: Hawaiian, English

Drive on the: Right

Pharmacy: Longs Drugs, 75 5595 Palani Rd, HI 96740

Time Zone: GMT-10 (Hawaii Standard Time)

Wi-Fi: Kona Coffee Café, Starbucks, Kona Library

PORT LOCATION

Ships anchor in Kailua Bay and tender to shore at Kailua Pier, in the middle of Kaiulua-Kona Village

Getting Around: It is possible to walk around the local town. For traveling further around Big Island, there is a free bus network (Hele On Bus) as well as private and sharable taxis

📍 www.heleonbus.org for maps, schedules and a journey planner

Smartphone App: Download **GoHawaii** for iOS and Android

Port Facilities: None

Port Address: Kailua Pier, Kaahumanu Pl, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

BEACHES NEAR KAHULUI

All beaches in Hawaii are public – even ‘private resort’ beaches. You can lay your towel on any beach

Kamakahonu Beach: The closest beach and great for snorkeling. 10-minute walk

Magic Sands Beach Park: Sometimes there's sand, sometimes there's not. 10-minute drive | bus line 201

Kahalu'u Beach Park: Easy surfing and popular for snorkeling. 12-minute drive | bus line 201

KONA COFFEE

Kona coffee is hand-picked on farms in the uplands of Hawaii's west coast. Its distinctive flavor is attributed to the rich volcanic soil and high elevation in which it grows. Several Kona coffee farms offer tours, including:

Kona Joe Coffee Farm www.konajoe.com

Kona Coffee Living History Farm www.konahistorical.org/kona-coffee-living-history-farm

Greenwell Farms www.greenwellfarms.com

Kuaiwi Farm www.kuaiwifarm.com/farm-tour

Hala Tree Coffee www.halatreecoffee.com/farm-tour

For more: www.gohawaii.com, www.lovebigisland.com, www.bigislandguide.com

IN TOWN

Hulihee Palace: Originally built in lava rock, this 1838 former-royal vacation home is now a museum showcasing Victorian artifacts from the era of King Kalakaua and Queen Kapi'olani. 10a-3:30p (Wed,Thu,Sat), 10a-2p (Fri) | Entry \$16 | 5-minute walk

📍 www.daughtersofhawaii.org/hulihee-palace

Ahu'ena Heiau: The final royal residence of King Kamehameha I, who lived here until his death in 1819. Now within the Kamakahonu National Historic Landmark. Open 24 hours | Free | 5-minute walk

📍 www.nps.gov/places/kamakahonu.htm

Moku'aikaua Church: The oldest Christian church in Hawaii, built in 1820. Still operating today as a Congregationalist church, with Sunday services. Sunday Service: 10a | Free | 10-minute walk

📍 www.mokuaikaua.com

Town of Holualoa: Venture upland to the region best known for Kona coffee. There are roughly 600 coffee farms in the Kona area with tours available and plenty of beans to buy. 10-minute drive

IN NATURE

Akaka Falls: Enjoy a half-hour trail along a footpath. \$5/car, \$1/person | 2-hour drive

📍 www.hawaii.stateparks.org

Kona Cloud Forest: Tours are required to visit the Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary. This cloud forest is the only cloud forest in the United States and is a unique ecosystem situated between 2,500 to 5,000 feet elevation. \$30-100 depending on tour | 20-minute drive

📍 www.konacloudforest.com

Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park: 1160-acre park, featuring National Historic Landmarked archaeological site the Honokohau Settlement, as well as two unique fishponds. 10-minute drive

Climb Mauna Kea: Drive from sea-level to 14,000 ft in just two-hours. On the way to the summit, take some time in the visitor's center at 9,200 ft. The drive takes you through pretty much every ecosystem on the island. 1-hour-40-minute drive