

HILO (HAWAII), HAWAII

On the east of Hawaii Island, Hilo is the largest city on the island. From its roots as a farming and fishing region, Hilo became a commercial hub in the 1800s in response to the sugar industry. Downtown Hilo is, today, bustling with museums, shops, galleries and restaurants

KEY INFO

Currency: USD

Population: 45,200 (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, 555 Kilauea Ave, Hilo, HI 96720

Time Zone: GMT-10 (Hawaii Standard Time)

Wi-Fi: Pana'ewa Park, Safeway, McDonalds, Library

PORT LOCATION

Ships dock at the edge of Downtown Hilo, about 2-miles from the town center

Getting Around: It is possible to walk from the port to downtown, but easier to take the Hilo On Bus from Kalaniana'ole St (outside port entrance). Stay on the bus until you reach the end of the route at the Mooheau Bus Station. Taxis are also available from the port

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

Smartphone App: Download [GoHawaii](#) for iOS and Android

Port Facilities: None

Port Address: Port of Hilo, 80 Kuhio St, Hilo, HI 96720

BEACHES NEAR HILO

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

Hilo Bayfront Beach Park: The closest beach, at the base of downtown. 7-minute drive

Carlsmith Beach: Another local option with calm waters for swimming and snorkeling. 5-minute drive

Honoli'i Beach Park: On the far side of the bay from the port. 12-minute drive

FOOD & DRINK

Pla Rad Prik: Authentic Thai dish made with freshly caught local fish. Go to [Moon and Turtle](#), by the Pacific Tsunami Museum, for a uniquely Hawaiian twist on the traditional recipe. 9-minute drive

Hilo Brewing Company: The largest independently owned craft brewer in the State, with a tasting room and gift shop, open from 12p, in Downtown Hilo. 7-minute drive

📍 www.hilobrewingco.com

IN TOWN

Lili'uokalani Gardens: Japanese-style gardens with fishponds, pagodas and rock gardens in a beautiful bayside setting. Free | 35-minute walk or 6-minute drive

Panaewa Rainforest Zoo: The only rainforest zoo in the United States, with exotic plants, animals and exhibits. See Bengal tigers and nene geese (Hawaii's State bird). 10a - 4p Daily Free | 15-minute drive
📍 www.hilozoo.org

Lyman Museum & Mission House: Natural history museum specializing in the local region A couple of blocks inland from the Pacific Tsunami Museum. Max 30 visitors. 10a-4:30p | \$7 entry | 10-minute drive
📍 www.lymanmuseum.org

Pacific Tsunami Museum: Hilo experienced significant tsunamis in 1946 and 1960. This museum is a living memorial to those events and promotes tsunami education through preserving history. 10a-4p Daily | \$15 entry | 8-minute drive or Bus Line 101 (30-minutes)
📍 www.tsunami.org

Imiloa Astronomy Center: Established by the University of Hawaii-Hilo. Learn about the heavens and how they were used as a navigational tool by ancient Polynesian navigators. Home to one of the best 3D, fully-immersive planetariums in the world. Wed-Sun 9a-4:30p | \$19 entry | 13-minute drive

OUT OF TOWN

Wailuku River State Park: Just beyond Hilo Downtown, visit this park famous for its 80 ft Waianuenue (rainbow falls), which creates mystical colored mists as it falls over the entrance to a lava cave, said to be the home of the ancient Hawaiian goddess of the moon, Hina. Free | 13-minute drive

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park: With a range of rainforest trails, as well as the mighty volcanic peaks of Kilauea and Mauna Loa (two of the world's most active volcanoes), this is one of the top outdoor attractions of Big Island. \$15-30 entry | 45-minute drive
📍 <https://www.nps.gov/havo/>

Kaumana Caves: Descend into the 25-mile long lava tube created by the 1881 eruption of Hawaii's imposing Mauna Loa. Caves have experienced some internal collapse, so exercise caution if exploring. Free | 17-minute drive or 1-hour bus (102 > 101)

FUN FACT

The street lights in Hilo are a specially selected yellow LED light so as not to interfere with the important astronomy work taking place at the top of Mauna Kea