

Hilo, Hawai'i (Big Island), US

- Docked 7:00AM to 10:30PM on Sunday Feb 6, 2022
- Cruise terminal ~2.5 miles to downtown Hilo
- Tourist Info
 - <https://www.gohawaii.com/islands/hawaii-big-island>
 - <https://www.lovebigisland.com/hilo/activities/>
- Weather
 - High 70s/low 80s during day and mid 60s night
 - Rains often (over 100"/year) - mostly at night but can have short-lived, but intense rain during day
 - Cooler temperatures in Volcanoes National Park
- Bring mosquito repellent, umbrella, and lightweight raincoat

Essentials

- Money – USD
- VISA – None
- Safety – Normal Precautions; some homeless & drug issues
- Internet – Widely available
- Cell Service – All major providers (limited in VNP and Volcano Village)
- Taxis – Available at cruise terminal
- Shuttle bus – Possibly free shuttle to Walmart and one to Farmer's Market
- Bus – Hele On Bus doesn't run on Sundays
- Car rentals – All major companies at Hilo airport (~3.4 miles from cruise terminal); should be shuttle bus from cruise terminal to rental agencies; some companies may service cruise port from 80 Kuhio St (walking distance)



Cruise Terminal



Shopping

- Many shops in downtown Hilo are typically closed on Sunday (perhaps they will open on cruise ship day?)
- Walmart/Target ~2.8 miles from cruise terminal
- Safeway ~3.1 miles from cruise terminal
- Large Farmer's Market
 - ~2.5 miles from cruise terminal in downtown Hilo
 - Corner Kamehameah Ave & Mamo St
 - Go early!
 - Bring cash

Hilo Restaurants

- Paul's Place - <https://paulsplcafe.wixsite.com/paulsplacecafe>
- Moon and Turtle - <https://www.facebook.com/moonandturtle/>
- Hawaiian Style Café - <http://hawaiianstylecafe.us/>
- Jackie Rey's Ohana Grill - <https://www.jackiereys.com/>
- Naung Mai Thai Kitchen - <http://www.naungmaithai.com/>
- Sombat's Fresh Thai Cuisine - <http://www.sombats.com/>
- Hilo Bay Café - <https://hilobaycafe.com/>
- Tina's Garden Café - <http://www.tinasgardencafe.com/about-us.html>
- Café Pesto Hilo Bay - <https://www.cafepesto.com/>
- Hilo Burger Joint - <http://hiloburgerjoint.com/>

Attractions (1)

- Volcanoes National Park (VNP) - <https://www.nps.gov/havo/index.htm>
 - This is the STAR attraction on The Big Island!
 - ~45 min drive from Hilo
 - Was severely damaged a few years ago – starting to reopen trails/facilities. Jagger Museum still closed (likely will not reopen in time for our cruise)
 - Lots of great hiking and sights
 - Check website for up-to-date info on lava flows, trail openings, and other data
 - Kīlauea Visitor Center – interesting exhibits and excellent advice from park rangers
 - Limited restaurants in VNP and Volcano Village
 - Bring flashlights and jackets if stay after dark (to see lava glow)
 - Can be cooler there than in Hilo
 - Air quality at Kīlauea is affected by volcanic sulfur dioxide gas and particulate matter. Unhealthy levels of these pollutants can occur within the park. People with pre-existing respiratory conditions are especially sensitive to poor air quality
- Helicopter
 - Highly recommend <https://paradisecopters.com/>; Hilo airport; \$335 or \$400 doors off; 1 hr
- Cave tours
 - Kazumura Cave Tours - \$45; 2 hrs; may not be open on Sun; <https://kazumuracave.com/>
 - Kula Kai Caverns - \$28 for 1 hr lighted portion & \$60 for extended tour; <http://www.kulakaicaverns.com/>

Attractions (2)

- Waterfalls
 - Rainbow Falls - 80'; wheelchair friendly; ramp to lower part of falls; stairs to upper portion of falls
 - 'Akaka Falls - 442'; \$5 entrance fee; not wheelchair friendly; 0.4-mile loop path with lots of stairs
- 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i - <https://imiloaHawaii.org/> \$19 admission; ~4.7 miles from cruise terminal
- Lyman Museum - <https://lymanmuseum.org/> \$7 admission; downtown Hilo
- Bayfront Park & Lil'uokalani Gardens – free; dedicated in 1917, this 30-acre park showcases Edo-style gardens, koi ponds & a Japanese teahouse; wheelchair friendly, but some bridges with stairs
- Hawai'i Tropical Botanical Garden - <https://htbg.com/>; \$25 admission; ~9 miles from cruise terminal; 40-acre valley with over 2,000 species of tropical plants. Visitors follow trails through a tropical rainforest filled with streams, waterfalls, spectacular vegetation, and views of the Pacific Ocean; lots of walking; bring bug spray and umbrella
- Akatsuka Orchid Gardens - <https://akatsukaorchid.com/>; \$30 admission; 45 min tour; indoors; features many different varieties of orchids spread over 8,000 square feet
- Nani Mau Gardens - <https://www.nanimaugardenshilo.com/>; 22 acres of many species of tropical flowers and an unusual Japanese bell tower made of 20,000 boards held together without any nails or screws; admission fee?; restaurant on premises
- Don't recommend going to Kona or Kohala Coast – 2+ hr drive; sometimes road closures along Saddle Rd and Hamakua Coast

Private Tours

- Hawai'i Forest & Trail - <https://www.hawaii-forest.com/big-island-hawaii-tours/>
- Ricky's Tours - <https://www.rickystourshawaii.com/>
- Gil and Tina Nelson - <https://www.ainatours.com/index.html>
- Tours By Locals - <https://www.toursbylocals.com/Hilo-Tours>
- Polynesian Adventure - <https://www.polyad.com/tour-destination/big-island/>
- Hawaii Activities - https://www.hawaiiactivities.com/en/hawaii/big_island/ctg/193326:private_guided_tours/
- The Volcano Van - <https://thevolcanovan.com/>
- <https://www.destinationhilo.com/activities/tours/>

Volcano Village Restaurants

- The Rim at Volcano House (in VNP) - https://hawaiivolcano.com/?page_id=913
- Tuk Tuk Thai Food Truck - <https://www.facebook.com/Tuk-Tuk-Thai-Food-786098578071369/>
- Café Ono - <https://www.cafeono.net/>
- Kilauea Lodge Restaurant (fine dining) - <https://highwaywestvacations.com/properties/kilauea-lodge#restaurant>
- Ohelo Café - <https://www.ohelocafe.com/>
- Thai Thai Bistro & Bar - <http://www.lavalodge.com/ThaiThaiRestaurant.htm>
- Eagles Light House - <https://eagleslighthouse.com>

HAL Tours - Easy

- Culinary Hawai'i Home - \$200; 4.5 hrs
- Private Car - \$800; 7 hrs
- Private SUV - \$1100; 7 hrs
- Private Van - \$1000; 7 hrs

- Culinary Hawai'i Home - visit 3 homes for progressive brunch

HAL Tours – Moderate* (1)

- Explore Hilo's Highlights - \$80; 3.5 hrs
- Hawai'i Tropical Botanical Gardens - \$80; 2.5 hrs
- Hawai'i VNP & A Taste of the Big Island - \$170; 6.5 hrs
- Hawai'i VNP & Orchid Garden - \$170; 4.5 hrs
- Hawai'i VNP & Waterfall Explorer - \$200; 7 hrs
- Highlights of the Hamakua Coast, Waterfalls & Hawai'ian BBQ - \$180; 7.5 hrs
- Hilo's Waterfalls & Gardens - \$150; 7 hrs

*Inconsistent warnings in HAL brochure about uneven surfaces/stairs

- Explore Hilo's Highlights - panoramic drive through Liliuokalani Garden, Big Island Candies, Farmer's Market, Rainbow Falls, macadamia farm, & black sand beach
- Hawai'i Tropical Botanical Gardens – 1.5-2 hrs on own; lots of walking; no wheelchairs
- Hawai'i VNP & A Taste of the Big Island – 12 people per group; leisurely stroll; picnic lunch at Volcano Garden Arts gallery; Big Island Candies; stairs and walking on uneven surfaces
- Hawai'i VNP & Orchid Garden – VNP & Akatsuka Orchid Nursery
- Hawai'i VNP & Waterfall Explorer – 13 people per group; picnic lunch incl; 'Akaka Falls, Rainbow Falls; Akatsuka Orchid Nursery; VNP; no guests with heart problems; 1.5 mile nature walk; brief shopping stop in Hilo
- Highlights of the Hamakua Coast, Waterfalls & Hawai'ian BBQ – drive along very scenic Hamakua coast; stop at Tex Drive-in for malasadas; Waipio Valley (great view from overlook); Laupahoehoe Point (1946 tsunami monument); 'Akaka Falls; stop in Hilo for BBQ lunch; Rainbow Falls; shopping stop in Hilo; uneven terrain & stairs
- Hilo's Waterfalls & Gardens – drive through Liliuokalani Gardens; Rainbow Falls;

'Akaka Falls; Nani Mau Gardens; buffet lunch at their restaurant

HAL Tours – Moderate* (2)

- Mauna Kea Summit Adventure - \$170; 5.75 hrs
- Rainbow Falls, Kaumana Cave & Black Sand Beach - \$100; 3.5 hrs
- The Land of Frozen Fire - \$100; 5.5 hrs
- Ultimate Hilo Coast & Botanical Garden - \$130; 4 hrs
- Waterfall, Volcano Winery & Black Sand Beach - \$180; 6.75 hrs
- Waterfalls Spectacular: 'Akaka Falls & Rainbow Falls - \$100; 3.5 hrs

*Inconsistent warnings in HAL brochure about uneven surfaces/stairs

- Mauna Kea Summit Adventure – Rainbow falls; Kipuka Pu’u Huluhulu Native Tree Sanctuary; Onizuka Center for International Astronomy along summit road; Mauna Kea summit (13,796’); Keck Telescope/Observatory closed on weekends; light lunch; very rough summit road; not advisable for guests with respiratory, back, neck, or heart problems or mobility limitations; jackets provided
- Rainbow Falls, Kaumana Cave & Black Sand Beach - small group tour; extensive walking over uneven terrain; near vertical staircase of 20 steps to access cave; Big Island Candies; Richardson’s Beach
- The Land of Frozen Fire – Puna (Transfer Station, Sea Arch, & Painted Church); Rainbow Falls; downtown Hilo; walking 200 yards over uneven surfaces
- Ultimate Hilo Coast & Botanical Garden – Rainbow Falls, Hawai’i Tropical Botanical Garden; 'Akaka Falls; shopping stop
- Waterfall, Volcano Winery & Black Sand Beach – Hilo Coffee Mill; Akatsuka Orchid Gardens; Punalu’u black sand beach; lunch at Volcano Winery; Hilo; need to be able to walk over uneven terrain and climb stairs
- Waterfalls Spectacular: 'Akaka Falls & Rainbow Falls – 13 guests; Rainbow Falls;

'Akaka Falls; shopping stop in Hilo

HAL Tours - Strenuous

- “Circle of Fire” Volcano Helicopter Experience - \$400; 2.25 hrs
- Big Island Grand Fire & Falls by Helicopter - \$460; 7 hrs

- “Circle of Fire” Volcano Helicopter Experience – helicopter tour; wheelchair accessible; 50% surcharge for guests over 260lbs; don’t know why this is listed as strenuous
- Big Island Grand Fire & Falls by Helicopter – helicopter tour; 50% surcharge for guests over 260lbs; VNP; BBQ lunch at Volcano Winery