

Hilo, Hawaii - Hawaii Cruises

The Big Island is also known as the Volcano Island, as the 14,000-foot peaks of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea create a backdrop of uncompromising beauty. Another nickname, the Orchid Isle, hints at the abundant flora within its rich rainforests, while macadamia nut plantations add their mark to the patchwork landscapes. Amidst all this, Hilo greets you with a sedate friendliness and delightful clapboard buildings.

Excursions

Please note: The shore excursions listed are typical for this port. The full programme of shore excursions available for your cruise will be displayed on Cruise Personaliser at least 12 weeks prior to departure.

- ### Hawaiian Culinary Home Visit

What's it like to live in paradise? 'Go local' in the homes of three 'Big Island' residents and enjoy a delicious progressive island brunch. [Hide](#)

On this exclusive tour to three Kama'aina (local-style) residences, you will enjoy an inside look at various types of island homes, whether they are mauka (mountain-side) or makai (ocean-side) and immerse yourself in the local culture.

Our knowledgeable guides will share the stories and history of life in paradise, as well as giving you interesting local trivia and information about each home. The three homes visited will be selected from our repertoire of over a dozen families to give you a real "taste of Hawaii lifestyle".

At every stop, a scrumptious course is served, showcasing fresh and local ingredients and you'll be given a fresh Hawaiian fruit demonstration.

The brunch is served in three courses: fresh breakfast breads, Kona coffee, local pineapple and fresh squeezed guava juice start your meal. An organic green salad with shrimp, chicken and macadamia nut salad in papaya, and avocado and salmon salad, combine to make your generous second course. At your third stop, you are served an array of fabulous island desserts.

This tour is an exclusive insight into island life in private homes and gardens and a truly memorable experience.

Tour code

ITO_010

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW

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MEAL INCLUDED

Duration

4 HOURS

- ### Waves & Waterfalls

See the breathtaking Rainbow Falls, visit the Pacific Tsunami Museum, Shinmachi Memorial, and learn about the King Kamehameha. [Hide](#)

Breathtaking views await you at Rainbow Falls, a beautifully dynamic waterfall on the Wailuku River. The falls get their name from the colourful rainbows that can often be seen in the mist that rises from the circular collecting pool 80 feet below.

At the Pacific Tsunami Museum you will watch an interesting film about the awesome power of the tsunami, including real footage of the tsunami of 1946 that devastated so much of Hilo. You will also have a chance to listen to informative talks given by local docents.

You will visit the beautiful Shinmachi Memorial, erected in honour of the many residents of Hilo who lost their lives to the Tsunami of 1946. This visit will be even more powerful, as you will understand the magnitude of the devastation caused by the powerful tsunami.

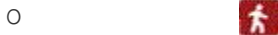
No visit to the 'Big Island' would be complete without a stop to the Big Island Candies Store. Here, you will be able to stock up on world famous handmade Hawaiian treats.

Before returning to the ship, you will pass the King Kamehameha Statue, the most beloved and illustrious of Hawaii's heroes.

Tour code

ITO_005

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW



SHOPPING

Duration

4 HOURS

• Kilauea Volcano Bicycle Adventure

Hop on your bicycle for an adventure with a difference. Experience the Kilauea Crater Volcano up close and personal.

[Hide](#)

Enjoy the sights during your drive from Hilo to the Visitor Centre at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Here, you will receive a detailed orientation and safety briefing, and be fitted with a 21-speed mountain bicycle and safety equipment.

Your 8 mile bicycle ride around the Kilauea Caldera is on paved roads and takes place over mostly level terrain with scenic view stops. You will take short walks to see the Kilauea Iki Overlook, Thurston Lava Tube, Pu'u Pua'i Overlook and the Halema'uma'u Overlook. The ride includes 2 short uphill sections, but if you do not wish to ride the hills, you can hop in the van at any time. After your bicycle ride, you will stop at the Jagger Museum to see videos of the volcano erupting.

A fantastic adventure, and a great way to see the wonderful sights of the 'Big Island'.

Tour code

ITO_006

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

6 HOURS

• Best of Hilo

Experience some of the best of Hilo with volcanoes, spectacular views, botanical garden and the Macadamia Nut factory.

[Hide](#)

Hawaii Botanical Garden features over 2,000 different species of flowers, fruits and plants. Explore the trails independently for approximately one hour. The Orchid Garden is a photographer's paradise.

Continue to the King Kamehameha Statue, located in downtown Hilo and stop for lunch at a Hilo hotel overlooking the beautiful Hilo Bay.

You will visit Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory and learn how macadamia nuts are processed. Sample the nuts and browse the gift store for souvenirs.

Your next stop is the Volcanoes National Park. Drive through portions of the Crater Rim that circles Kilauea's summit caldera and craters. You will make frequent stops and experience the beauty of Hawaii's volcanoes. View smooth and jagged lava, lava tubes, sulphur banks and take a short walk through a rain forest path leading to the famed Thurston Lava Tube, a natural wonder unique to Hawaii.

At the Jaggar Museum, view videos of volcanic eruptions and working seismic equipment relating to the Volcano Observatory.

Finally visit the Big Island Candies Store. Here you will be able to stock up on world famous handmade Hawaiian treats.

Tour code

ITO_002

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



MEAL INCLUDED



SHOPPING

Duration

8 HOURS

• Circle of Fire Helicopter

Take to the Skies on a helicopter adventure of a life time.

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Explore the most geologically active volcano environment on earth—the legendary Kilauea Volcano, which has been continuously erupting since 1983, making Hawaii's Big Island the world's youngest land mass.

Your expert pilot is also a State of Hawaii certified tour guide, and with 2 way communication between pilot and guests, your exploration of Madame Pele's spectacular, fiery wonders will be a powerful learning experience and an experience not to miss.

Fly over the most current areas of volcanic activity, search for lava flows and view black-sand beaches, lush tropical rain forests and small cascading waterfalls while being enriched with fascinating facts about the history and culture of Hawaii.

Upon return to the heliport you'll have some free time to review your DVD (available for purchase) or shop for souvenirs, before heading back to the pier.

Tour code

ITO_009

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW

Duration

2 HOURS

• Hilo & Kilauea Volcano

Experience the diversity of Hilo the 'Big Island', the flower capital of the world and visit the Kilauea Volcano.

[Hide](#)

Enjoy a drive through charming Hilo town and into the lush tropical forests of the Volcano National Park, 4300 feet above sea level. Here you will enjoy the spectacular the Kilauea Volcano. From the many viewpoints, you will experience the wonder and unique beauty of Hawaii's volcanoes. See 2 kinds of lava, smooth and jagged, lava tubes, sulphur banks, and bleak desert areas.

After your volcanic experience you will have worked up quite an appetite. Enjoy a buffet lunch at Nani Mau Gardens.

During your tour of the island you will make a brief stop at the charming Rainbow Falls and Akatsuka Orchid Garden. Here you can photograph the enchanting falls, beautiful flora and fauna, and capture the many colours of the showy blooms in the orchid garden. Enjoy the calming atmosphere of this serene location.

You will visit the popular Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory for shopping and take a look at the production facility.

Tour code

ITO_001

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

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MEAL INCLUDED

Duration

7½ HOURS

• Rainbow Falls Farm & Orchards

Go off the beaten track to explore remote treasures nestled above the historic town of Hilo on this small group option.

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This adventure will take you to the hidden treasures of OK Farms opposite the famous Rainbow Falls. Travelling parallel to the Wailuku River, take in the outstanding views of expansive lush greenery and beautiful hidden vistas.

Adventure through the 100 acre farm in a comfortable air-conditioned touring van. You'll explore a wide variety of tropical crops that are cultivated on the land and you can see, taste, and feel the experience of being on a Hawaiian farm.

Taste delicious samples of fresh seasonal produce grown and processed on the farm, such as tropical fruit, coffee, macadamia nuts, and fresh heart of palm. While visiting the farm you will be enticed with captivating views, cool breezes, and pure Hawaiian beauty.

As you take in the gorgeous view at the private Rainbow Falls overlook, you'll have a hands-on experience in cracking and tasting raw macadamia nuts, while you relax in the shade. You'll even have the opportunity to come face to face with a Hawaiian boar at the feral pig exhibit and learn about how animals interact with the land.

Held within the tropical landscape of the farm, you will have a glimpse at what our ancient Hawaiian ancestors experienced. Your local guide will tell stories of Hawaiian culture. It will be an adventure for your senses, as you spend the day experiencing one of Hilo's most exclusive treasures!

Tour code

ITO_013

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

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SHOPPING

Duration

3½ HOURS

• Hilo Bay Kayak

Explore the waters of Hilo Bay and take in spectacular views of the Hamakua coast, on this guided kayaking adventure.

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Your adventure begins from a black sand beach in the heart of Hilo, just a short distance from the cruise ship pier. After a safety briefing and instructions, you'll kayak across the bay for approximately one mile to reach the Wailuku River.

Continue upstream and paddle your way under the 'Singing Bridge' and up the Wailuku River, which takes you to a beautiful waterfall where you'll have the opportunity to cool off or just enjoy the mist coming from the waterfalls.

Enjoy a couple of hours on the water, with fun guides and amazing views. Look out for a glimpse of the Mauna Kea Summit. Hilo is situated in a portion of Hawaii's rainforest country, so be prepared for plenty of rainbows and a lush tropical coastline.

Tour code

ITO_011

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

Duration

2½ HOURS

• Kilauea Volcano Hiking Adventure

Experience a thrilling hike through rainforests and off the beaten track to the Kilauea Volcano Crater and explore the Jaggar Museum's seismographs.

[Hide](#)

Begin your adventure with a 45 minute drive to the Volcanoes National Park. Follow your experienced guide on a 5 mile hike through the lush rainforests alive with native birds, incredible foliage and a crater floor that erupted only 50 years ago.

The hike will take you up and down the crater walls by way of 'switchback' trails and you'll cover the expanse of the crater floor. It is an amazing way to 'feel the heat' of an active volcano below your feet. Witness the explosive power of Halema'uma'u Crater and walk across new lava formations to actually see the rebirth of the native Hawaiian rainforest in its first stages of life.

Afterwards you 'll make a stop at the Jaggar Museum, located near the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. This museum offers panoramic views of Kilauea Caldera and Halema'uma'u Crater, with its real-time seismographs, eruption footage and beautiful displays of lava and Hawaiian geology. Embrace this natural wonder which is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tour code

ITO_012

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH



MEAL INCLUDED

Duration

6½ HOURS

• Gourmet Volcano Adventure

Awaken your senses and entice your taste buds with Hawaiian coffee and gourmet treats.

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Start the day with a cup of locally grown, freshly roasted Hawaiian coffee at the famous Hilo Coffee Mill, on your way to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Upon arrival your guide will host you on a stroll through the lush rainforests of the National Park, alive with native birds, incredible foliage and a 'walk through' lava tube. Venture off the beaten path and witness the explosive power of Halema'uma'u Crater. Cross new lava formations and discover the rebirth of the Hawaiian rainforest in its first stages of life. Explore the Jaggar Museum with its real time seismographs, eruption footage and displays of lava and Hawaiian geology.

Enjoy a picnic style specialty lunch and a complimentary glass of wine on the lush grounds of Volcano Garden Arts, a fine art gallery showcasing Hawai'i artists. A definite treat for the senses!

The gourmet finale is completed with a stop at Big Island Candies Store known for their macadamia nut shortbread cookies dipped in chocolate.

Tour code

ITO_008

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH



MEAL INCLUDED



SHOPPING

Duration

6½ HOURS

• Kilauea Volcano

Take in the mystery and magic of Hilo's most visited attraction, the mighty Kilauea Volcano.

[Hide](#)

Take an amazing drive along a portion of the Crater Rim, which circles the Kilauea Volcano summit, caldera, and craters. You will make frequent stops to experience the wonder and mystique of Hawaii's volcanoes. See smooth and jagged lava, lava tubes and bleak lava fields.

After your drive, take a short walk through a rain forest path leading to the famed Thurston Lava Tube, a natural wonder unique to Hawaii.

The Thomas A. Jaggar Museum is located 3 miles inside the National Park and offers a fascinating insight into the history of the volcanoes. Watch videos of volcanic eruptions; see geologic displays, and seismic equipment relating to the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.


There are spectacular overlooks into the Kilauea Caldera and Halema'uma'u Crater. Kilauea Caldera is 2 miles across and 400 feet deep in places. Smell the brimstone, and hear steam hissing out of fissures in the rock.

After leaving the park, you will visit the Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory to see the production of the nuts, and have the opportunity to purchase a variety of nut products.

Tour code

ITO_003

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH



SHOPPING

Duration

4½ HOURS

• Waterfalls, Cave & Black Sand Cove

Experience the beauty of Hilo and venture off the beaten track to explore remote treasures often unseen by the average traveller

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Visit local surf spots hidden rivers and a waterfall surrounded by 40-foot-tall Royal Palms. Enjoy the scenic views of Rainbow Falls while taking in the rich rainforest surrounding the lookout. Take a short ride by van to the Boiling Pots, where water from the Wailuku River rushes through old lava rocks and lava tubes creating a 'boiling' effect.

You'll have the option to navigate down 20 steep steps and over a natural trail to explore the mouth of Kaumana Caves. These natural wonders were formed by the 1881 eruption of Mauna Loa, the largest volcano in the world. Continue through historic Hilo to the rugged coastline and a black sand cove where you will be surrounded by unique lava formations and marine life.

Before your journey ends visit the delectable Big Island Trading Company where you will indulge in handmade Hawaiian Treats and 100% Hawaiian Coffee.

Throughout the day, your local guides will tell stories from long ago and show you breathtaking sights. Hilo's Hidden Treasures are sure to remain long in your memory.

Tour code

ITO_007

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

3½ HOURS

• Highlights of Hilo

Visit Three of Hilo's favourite attractions: Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory, Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Garden and breathtaking Akaka Falls.

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At the Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory, you will have the opportunity to sample the various macadamia nut flavours, and visit the popular gift shop, and snack bar. Macadamia is one of the islands premier exports, so see for yourself why these tasty treats are so popular.

Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo & Garden is the perfect destination to learn more about Hawaii's beautiful flora and fauna, for which it is famed. Sit in the shade of over 100 varieties of palm or stroll with peacocks amongst the extensive collection of orchids, bamboo and tropical rhododendrons. Enjoy the sights and breathe in the fragrance from the many tremendously coloured tropical flowers on display.

Enjoy the scenic journey en route to the Akaka Falls. On arrival, you will see one of the most stunning waterfalls on the island. Take a walk through lush tropical forests on the mile of circular pathways, which offer magnificent views of the 442-foot- high Falls.

During this scenic tour you will travel along the scenic Hamakua Coast.

Tour code

ITO_004

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

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SHOPPING

Duration

4 HOURS
