

35 FUN THINGS TO DO ON THE BIG ISLAND OF HAWAII

1. Make your mark with "Big Island graffiti" -- white coral on black lava.
2. Paint a picture on a coconut and mail it home to your friends.
3. Look for the rainbow at Rainbow Falls in Hilo.
4. Meet the humpbacks on a fun whale-watch cruise, from December-May
5. Visit the Ellison S. Onizuka Space Center at Kona Airport.
6. Tour elegant Anna Ranch and Parker Ranch in paniolo (cowboy) country, Waimea.
7. Visit the Kona Coffee Living History Farm.
8. Enjoy St. Benedict's Painted Church in Captain Cook.
9. Take a picture with a tiki at Pu'uhonua O Hōnaunau Place of Refuge
10. Visit Lapakahi State Park, a restored Hawaiian fishing village on the Kohala Coast.
11. Watch the movie and explore the grounds of Pu'ukoholā National Historic Site.
12. Wiggle your toes in the back sand beach.
13. Learn to hula and sing "the Hukilau Song" at Mauna Kea Resort Lu'au.
14. Take a helicopter "flightseeing" tour over a live volcano.
15. Visit the Thomas A. Jaggar museum at Volcanoes National Park the Volcano - and make an earthquake with your feet.
16. Stargaze with a professional astronomer and telescope at Hapuna's Coast Grille Restaurant.
17. Try a papaya! Visit the Farmers Markets for fresh fruits and vegetables, tropical flowers, local coffees and much more.
18. Cheer for the Ironman Triathlon that starts and finishes in Kailua-Kona (October).
19. Look for the green flash from Hāpuna Beach.
20. Walk through the rainforest to see Akaka Falls.
21. Go to Hilo during the world's most prestigious hula competition: The Merrie Monarch Festival.
22. Swim with the dolphins; snorkel with the turtles, stroll down to see the manta rays.
23. Make a petroglyph "etching."
24. Take a hike, kayak tour or birding adventure with Hawaii Forest and Trail.
25. Go skiing when it snows on top of Mauna Kea.
26. Explore local antique shops and art galleries in the smaller communities island-wide.
27. Visit a macadamia nut factory and taste for yourself!
28. Tour Hulihee Palace, home of Hawaii's last monarchy, on Ali'i Drive in Kailua-Kona.
29. See Hawaii's first ordained Christian church, Mokuaikaia.
30. Visit Lyman House Museum and Mission House in Hilo.
31. Read about Hawaii's royal ladies at Queens' MarketPlace.
32. Be wowed at 'Imiloa Astronomy Center and planetarium in Hilo.
33. Go after a "grander" (1000-lb fish) off the Kona Coast.
34. Learn how to boogie board, paddle board or kayak from Hāpuna or Kauna'oa Beach.
35. Fly through the trees with ease on a zipline tour in North Kohala.