

Hawai'i Volcanoes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Hawaii National Park, Hawaii



Explore the Summit of Kīlauea Volcano Along Crater Rim Drive

Passing through desert and rain forest, this 11-mile loop road provides access to well-marked scenic stops and short walks. Allow 1 to 3 hours, depending on how often you stop.

Visitor Centers

Kīlauea Visitor Center is open daily from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. See the park movie on the hour, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other movies and auditorium talks are offered on the half-hour. Rangers are available to help you plan your visit. Ask about guided activities. Restrooms, water and phone are available.

Jaggar Museum is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibits feature the volcano goddess Pele and methods geologists use to monitor Hawaiian volcanoes. Gaze across the summit caldera from the overlook. Restrooms, water, and phone are available.

Scenic Stops

Sulphur Banks, Steam Vents, Kīlauea Overlook and picnic area, Jaggar Museum, Southwest Rift Zone, 1982 Lava Flow, Keanakāko'i Crater, Pu'u Pua'i, Kīlauea Iki Overlook

Short Walks

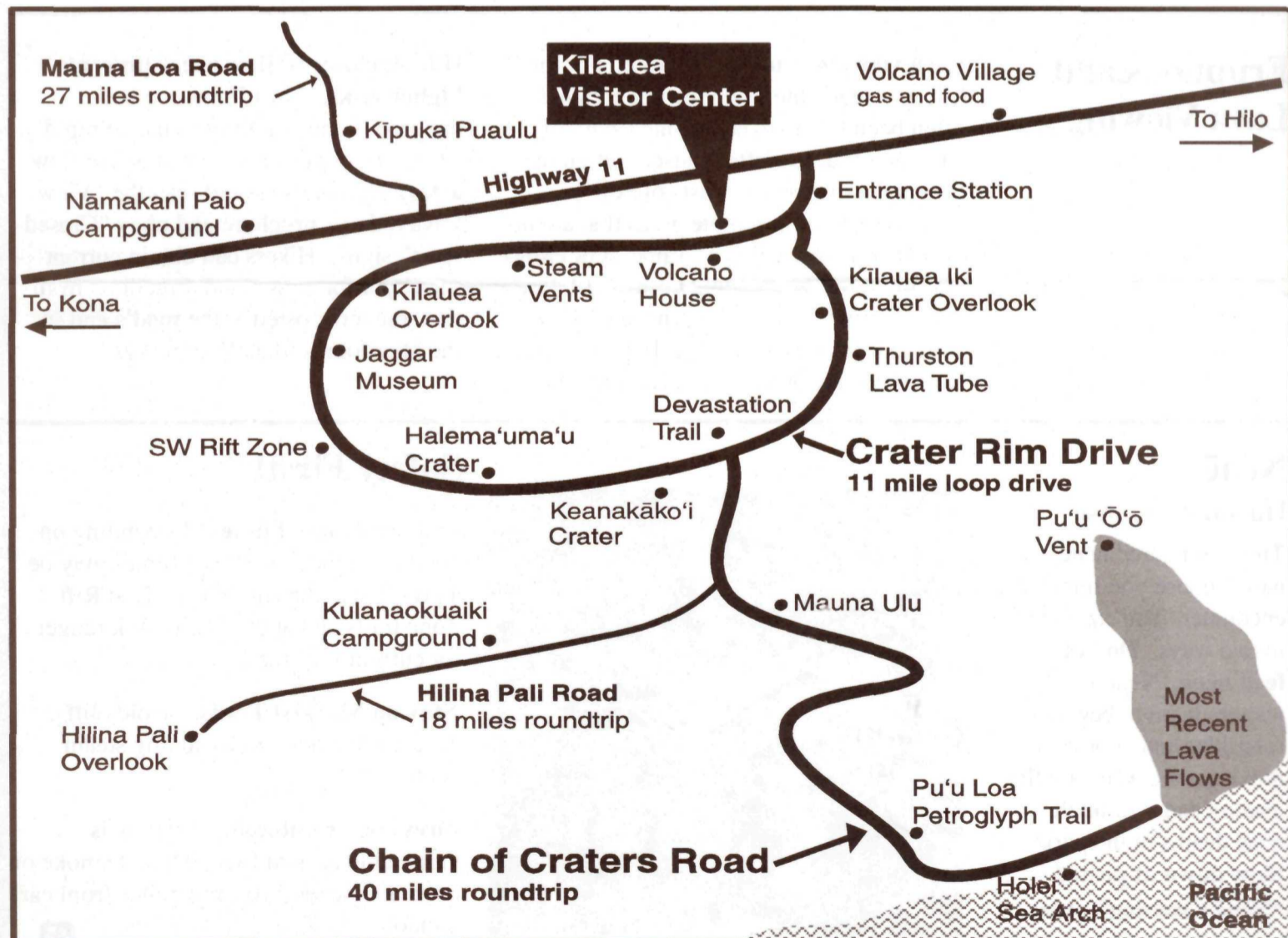
Halema'uma'u Crater Overlook - Walk 10 minutes to the rim of this steaming crater, the heart of the volcano. Native people of Hawai'i practice their ancient traditions at Halema'uma'u. Please respect this sacred site. Do not build rock piles or leave anything that may desecrate this area. (½ mile roundtrip) **Warning!** Visitors with heart or breathing problems, and infants, young children and pregnant women should avoid this area and Sulphur Banks due to volcanic fumes.

Devastation Trail - Stroll 30 minutes through a stark landscape from Kīlauea Iki's 1959 eruption. See life returning through the cinders along this paved trail. (½ mile one way)

Thurston Lava Tube - Walk an easy 20 minute paved trail through giant tree ferns, a symphony of rain forest birds, and an old lava cave. Restrooms and water are available. (½ mile loop)

Longer Hike

Kīlauea Iki - Descend 400 feet through native forest, into a crater and across lava flows still steaming from the 1959 eruption. Begin this two hour hike with a spectacular view at the Kīlauea Iki Overlook parking lot. (4 mile loop)



Explore Recent Lava Flows and Windswept Sea Cliffs along the Chain of Craters Road

The 40-mile roundtrip drive intersects with Crater Rim Drive, descends 3,700 feet to the coast and ends where lava blocked the road in 1995. Allow 3 or more hours, depending on how often you stop.

No food, phone, water or gasoline are available. Restrooms are located at Mauna Ulu and at the end of the Chain of Craters Road.



Scenic Stops

Pit Craters, Mauna Ulu Lava Shield, Lava Flows from 1969-1974, Kealakomo Overlook and picnic shelter, Ocean Views, Hōlei Sea Arch, and the most Recent Lava Flows from the Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō eruption.

Hikes

Pu‘u Huluhulu Cone - Hike over 1973-1974 lava flows to the top of a 300 foot cone for views of the East Rift Zone, Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō, Mauna Loa, and the Pacific Ocean. The trailhead is located four miles down the road at the Mauna Ulu parking lot. (3 miles roundtrip, two hours). Restrooms are available, but water is not. *Note: The Nāpau Trail begins at Mauna Ulu. Hiking beyond Pu‘u Huluhulu requires a free permit, available only at the Kīlauea Visitor Center.*

Pu‘u Loa Petroglyphs - Hike one hour roundtrip to see a multitude of ancient images carefully etched in lava (geometric, human, and animal). Petroglyphs are fragile so do not walk on them. The trailhead is 16 miles down the road. (1½ miles roundtrip)

Eruptions and Lava Viewing

Lava viewing is unpredictable. For the last few years, the best viewing area has often been from the end of the Chain of Craters Road, just after sunset. Often the lava is flowing under crusts of newly formed rock, or in remote areas that are not visible from any roads or trails. **Ask rangers for updated viewing conditions.** Enjoy the informative exhibits at the end of the road to learn more about volcanic eruptions. Restrooms are available, but water is not.

Hiking closer to flow areas presents higher risks. Lava flows can be dangerous and conditions change rapidly. There are usually no trails to active flow areas. All hikers should read the “View Lava Safely” brochure and obey “Closed Area” signs. Hikers can obtain current activity information and directions from park rangers posted at the road’s end in the afternoon and early evenings.

Nēnē

Hawaiian Goose

The endangered nēnē is a native goose you might encounter. You can help in two ways. **Do not feed nēnē.** Nēnē fed by visitors learn to beg along roadsides and approach moving cars. Cars are the leading cause of adult nēnē deaths in the park. **Slow down at posted “Nēnē Crossing” areas.**



Safety First!

Avoid Volcanic Fumes. Depending on wind conditions, volcanic fumes may be a problem at the summit, on East Rift Zone trails and at the coast. Ask rangers for current information.

Stay on Marked Trails. Avoid cliffs, deep earth cracks and scalding steam vents.

Fires are Prohibited. Our park is vulnerable to wild fires. Do not smoke on trails and never throw cigarettes from car windows.