

# ISLAND OF HAWAI'I - KĪLAUEA QUICK FACTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A STATE OR ISLAND MAP

[www.hawaiiourismauthority.org/news/special-alert](http://www.hawaiiourismauthority.org/news/special-alert)

## KĪLAUEA VOLCANO

- An active shield volcano, erupting nearly consistently for the past 35 years (since January 1983).
- 90 per cent of the volcano's surface is covered by lava flows younger than 1,000 years.
- About 20 per cent of those flows are less than 200 years old.
- The summit, located within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is home to Halema'uma'u Crater. Halema'uma'u filled with magma in 2008, its glow a popular visitor attraction for 10 years (the magma retreated this year).
- The island of Hawai'i is the youngest and largest (4,028 square miles) in the Hawaiian Island chain and still growing!

## CAN I VISIT THE ISLAND OF HAWAI'I?

- All airports and flights are operational.
- Local businesses and tour companies, outside of the active areas (summit and lower east rift zone/Lower Puna) are open.
- 2/3 of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is closed, the Kahuku Unit remains open.
- Park rangers are available at the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center in Downtown Hilo.
- No other island in the Hawaiian Islands is affected.

## IS LAVA EVERYWHERE?

- The total lava flow area is less than 10-square miles, about 0.2% of the entire island.
- In early May 2018, new fissure eruptions began in the Lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) of Kīlauea Volcano.
- The LERZ fissures are producing lava flows which are locally destructive, however, the flows and fissures themselves, are not directly affecting any other part of the island or State.
- At Kīlauea's summit, the level of the lava lake within Halema'uma'u Crater has dropped. Intermittent ash emissions are occurring.

## SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT VOG OR LAZE?

- Consider Kīlauea has been erupting for 35+ years - with ocean entries on several occasions. Vog, is therefore, not something new. However, with the current increased activity, may be more pronounced than usual depending on wind strength and direction.
- **VOG:** also known as volcano smog, reaches different areas of the island depending on wind direction and speed.
- **LAZE:** a byproduct of lava-ocean interaction; forms as hot lava boils seawater to dryness. This process results in a localized white plume of laze. Laze is dangerous at the site; however it does not travel around the island or float to other areas.
- **SO<sub>2</sub>:** sulfur dioxide occurs in concentration near active lava flows. Anyone working near the vents (e.g. scientists) must wear gas masks to protect themselves from the concentrated fumes.
- **ASH:** generated by steam- and/or gas-induced eruptions as magma drops and interacts with the water table.
- Persons with compromised respiratory disorders or cardiovascular disease can learn about the possible health impacts and who is most likely to be affected at: <https://vog.ivhnh.org/health-effects-vog>.
- Interagency Vog Information Dashboard: <http://www.ivhnh.org/vog>
  - ▶ [EPA Air Monitoring Viewer](#)
  - ▶ [Current conditions](#) (statewide)
  - ▶ [Vog forecasts](#)
  - ▶ [Ashfall forecast](#) (model)

## HOW CAN I SEE THE LAVA?

- **BY LAND** - No Access. Road blocks are in effect for everyone's safety. Violators risk fines and arrests. Please respect the residents of the Lower Puna area who are going through difficult times.

*As no one can guarantee what the lava will be doing at any given moment (e.g. it could stop in an hour, a day, a month, a year, etc.), it is best to contact your preferred activity partner directly to check availability, pricing, cancellation policies, etc.*

- **BY AIR** - please check with helicopter and air tour companies for availability and more information. FAA flight restrictions are currently in place. Absolutely no drones are allowed. A few options can be found [here](#).
- **BY SEA** - there are four permitted / Coast Guard approved operators; but not all are in operation at this time. Please contact them directly.
  - ▶ Lava Ocean Tours: [www.seelava.com](http://www.seelava.com) 808-966-4200
  - ▶ Moku Nui Lava Tour: [www.mnlavatour.com](http://www.mnlavatour.com) 808-938-1493
  - ▶ Kalapana Cultural Tours: [www.kalapana-cultural-tours.com](http://www.kalapana-cultural-tours.com) 808-345-4964
  - ▶ Hawaiian Lava Boat Tours: [www.hawaiianlavaboattours.com](http://www.hawaiianlavaboattours.com) 808-640-0806