Touring “The Big Island of Hawai’i” (nearly twice the size as all the other islands combined) is a real adventure. This vast size has produced a wide variety of climates and attractions.

The Kona International Airport is the gateway to the Big Island's resorts on the sunny, leeward side, while Hilo Airport serves as the gateway to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Hilo curves around a graceful bay. Surrounded by fields of orchids and anthuriums, it is the floral center of the Islands.

The outside cooled first while the inner stream flowed on, leaving an eerie cave.

After exploring these awesome wonders of nature primeval, swing south along the coast to the famous beaches of black sand then around to The Big Island’s leeward side and the Kona Coast. It was down these sandy stretches that defeated warriors once raced for their lives toward the Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge), now a National Historical Park.

The calm ocean is perfect for fishing and

**Points of Interest**

- **‘Akaka Falls** - North of Hilo, plunges over 420 feet in a sheer drop over a volcanic cliff.
- **Black Sand Beaches** - Made up of pulverized lava, located on the southeastern shoreline.
- **Captain Cook Monument** - At Kealakekua Bay, is a tribute to the British navigator who opened the Hawaiian Islands to the western world. Captain Cook was killed on the shoreline here in 1779.
- **Moku‘aikaua Church** - The first Christian church at Kailua-Kona, was erected by American missionaries who first landed in Hawai‘i in 1820.
- **Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park** - The number one visitor attraction in all Hawai‘i, has an array of unique volcanic formations, forests of giant tree ferns, steaming craters and a volcanological museum which screens free

**Lil‘uokalani Park/Banyan Drive** - The largest Yedo-style gardens outside of Japan.

**Lyman Mission House and Museum** - In the city of Hilo, contains a collection of historic Hawaiian relics.

**Orchids and Anthuriums** - Grow in profusion in Hilo and Puna for export to far ports of the world.

**Painted Churches** - At Hōnaunau, St. Benedict's is one of the oldest Catholic churches on the island, constructed in 1875. The church has brilliantly hued murals depicting biblical scenes on the interior walls. Murals in the Star of the Sea Catholic Church at Kalapana were painted by a priest a half century ago.

**Parker Ranch** - Located in the Waimea-Kamuela district and established in 1947, is one of the oldest and largest ranches in the country.