Bik e route s

Plan Ahead

Planning is important to ensure a safe and enjoyable bicycle trip. Use your official park map in addition to this guide to help plan your trip. Stop at the Kilauea Visitor Center for current road, weather, and eruption updates. Note that traffic is often heaviest between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Supplies

The newest bike shops are located in Hilo, 30 miles (50 km) from the park. Secondary bike supplies, including food and snacks, can be found at the Volcano House Hotel and in Volcano Village, 1.8 miles (3 km) from the park entrance. Drinking water and restrooms can be found at various locations throughout the park. Check your official park brochure for locations.

Fees and Permits

Park entrance fees are $8 per bicyclist or $15 per vehicle and valid for seven days. Groups participating in commercial bike activities require a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) before doing business in the park. Contact (808) 985-6000 for more information on commercial use authorization permits.

Overnight Camping

Camping at either Nāmakanipaio or Kulanaokuaiki campgrounds is a possibility, fees apply. For additional water and camp fire information contact (808) 985-6011 or inquire at the visitor center.

Weather

Expect extremely varied weather in the park—everything from cold, rainy, and windy, to hot, sunny, and dry. Depending on what part of the park you access, the weather will often vary greatly throughout your ride. Come prepared.

Volcanic Gasses

Be aware of volcanic air pollution (VOG) and elevated levels of sulfur dioxide gas fumes in the park. Check at Kilauea Visitor Center for current closures, conditions, and hazards as they are important for a safe trip. People with heart or breathing problems, pregnant women, and young children and infants should avoid these fumes.

Kilauea Visitor Center to Waldron Ledge

Plan this ride for a quick visit. It’s one of the easiest bike routes to navigate in the park.

Easy to Moderate Rides

Permits are not required to bike in the park, but a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) is required for commercial bike activities. Please review the Commercial Use Authorization Information for more details. Biking Mauna Loa volcano provides a very different experience.

1 Kilauea Visitor Center to Waldron Ledge

Step 1: Start from the Kilauea Visitor Center, 808 985-6017, to check on road status as this road is seasonally closed.

1.5 mi / 2.4 km one way

Distance:

Park in Kilauea Visitor Center’s parking lot. Bike directly across Crater Rim Drive along a road marked “service vehicles.” Proceed through a stone wall gap and continue along the Evacuation Trail to Crater Drive.

End Point:

Kilauea Visitor Center

2 Kilauea Visitor Center to Jaggar Museum

Experience a steamy lava landscape with breathtaking views into the active Kilauea Caldera and Halema‘uma‘u Crater; the “heart” of Kilauea Volcano. Please respect this sacred landscape as it is considered by native Hawaiians to be the home of Pele.” Hoomaluhia (Pele’s home). The nearest bike shops are located in Hilo, 30 miles (50 km) from the park. In some areas, you will climb as much as 2,000 feet in 6 miles (100 m in 50 km).

Distance:

2.5 mi / 4.0 km one way from Kilauea Visitor Center to Jaggar Museum

Distance:

2.5 mi / 4.0 km one way from Kilauea Visitor Center to Jaggar Museum

Step 2: From the visitor center, bike Crater Drive to KMC. Once at KMC, cross Crater Rim Drive to connect to the paved section of Crater Rim Trail heading westward to Jaggar Museum.

3 Mauna Loa Road

Discover the varied mountainous environments of Mauna Loa volcano. Looming over Kilauea at a wondrous 13,677 ft near the Mauna Loa Volcano Visitor Center. This difficult-to-find road begins 0.4 mi (0.7 km) above the spur road on the Mauna Loa Road.

Distance:

0.8 mi / 1.3 km one way

This route is to bike on a rough, bumpy road that requires your full attention.

Mu a Loa Road

Distance:

1.5 mi / 2.4 km one way

Prep for a technical, but fun downhill ride. Start at the Mauna Loa Superintendent’s Office at the base of Kilauea Volcano. This route is to bike on a rough, bumpy road that requires your full attention.

Mu a Loa Powerline Road

Distance:

0.3 mi / 0.5 km one way

Prep for a technical, but fun downhill ride. Start at the Mauna Loa Superintendent’s Office at the base of Kilauea Volcano. This route is to bike on a rough, bumpy road that requires your full attention.

Mac a Loa Spur Road

Distance:

1.0 mi / 1.6 km one way

Prep for a technical, but fun downhill ride. Start at the Mauna Loa Superintendent’s Office at the base of Kilauea Volcano. This route is to bike on a rough, bumpy road that requires your full attention.

Mauna Loa Six Tanks Road

Distance:

0.3 mi / 0.5 km one way

Easy to Moderate Rides

Please Note: The black numbered circles refer to the trailhead locations indicated on the included map.
Escape Road to Mauna Ulu

4

Moderate

This grassy, somewhat rough and slippery, truck trail descends through a dense rain forest, across a 1973 lava flow to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. Start either at the Thurston Lava Tube one mile east of the park entrance on Highway 11, opposite Old Volcano Road.

Note: Close the gate near the Thurston Lava Tube. It is used to keep pigs from entering and damaging the rain forest. Rain gear is highly recommended.

Distance: 12.5 mi / 20 km loop

Start this ride either at the beginning of the Hīlina Pali road or at the campground 4 miles down the road (if you are interested in a shorter ride). There is a shelter, for resting, and a restroom at the overlook. There is a shelter, for resting, and a restroom at the overlook.

Prepare for a steep ascent and descent with variable weather. Reflective vests are recommended as roadways are narrow. Consult your park map for restroom locations. Biking is not allowed in Kīpukapuaulu.

Bike the open sections of Crater Rim Drive. Bike through hab rain forest, to the Jaggar Museum, or to the Devastation Trail parking area all the while stopping along the way for short walks or incredible views of Kīlauea Caldera and Mauna Ulu Volcano.

Distance: 11 mi / 17.6 km loop

Prepare for variable weather conditions. The best time to make this ride is early morning of late afternoon when vehicular traffic is light.

Summit to Sea

Descend 3,700 ft (1.1 km) from the summit of Kīlauea to the Jaggar Museum, or to the Devastation Trail of Crater Rim Road intersection.

Distance: 36 mi / 58 km round trip

Prepare for a long day—bring water and food. Consult your park map for restroom locations. Biking is not allowed in Kīpukapuaulu.

Ascend Mauna Loa Volcano

Ascend, 6,600 ft (0.8 km) up the slopes of Mauna Loa Volcano along a historic roadway through lowlands and over prehistoric lava flows. Start this bike ride by parking at Kipukapuaulu, 13 miles (21 km) up the Mauna Loa Road. Check with rangers first—this road is sometimes closed due to high fire danger. Watch your speed as you descend this narrow, curvy road as cars often cut blind corners.

Distance: 11.5 mi / 18.5 km loop

Prepare for a long day—bring water and food. Consult your park map for restroom locations. Biking is not allowed in Kipukapuaulu.

About the map

Printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink

The computer-generated map above looks northwest across the Island of Hawai‘i. Because of perspective, areas in the foreground appear larger than comparably sized areas in the background. Island of Hawai‘i. Because of perspective, areas in the foreground appear larger than comparably sized areas in the background.

Vertical exaggeration is used. These areas are closed due to high amounts of dangerous sulfur dioxide gas.

The black numbered circles refer to the trailhead locations indicated on the included map.

Please Note: The black numbered circles refer to the trailhead locations indicated on the included map.

Entrance fees were used to produce this publication.

Your Fee Dollars at Work

These areas are closed due to high amounts of dangerous sulfur dioxide gas.